

CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
May 7, 2018
4:30 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Jonathan Davis, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2—(Arrived at 5:12 p.m.)
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1—(Arrived at 4:32 p.m.)
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2
Brian Williams, Commissioner Ward 3

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Amber LaRowe, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION: PARK OPERATING HOURS

Chief Tyler informed Commission that he would prefer to leave the operating hours for the parks in the City as currently established. The Park Ordinance has been updated to allow for enforcement in the parks by the Police Department. In regards to Riverside Park West, Public Works has been locking the bathroom doors by end of day, this alleviates people hiding in the bathrooms at that pavilion.

2. SPECIAL MAGISTRATE CONTRACT DISCUSSION

Attorney Barnebey discussed the attached contract for a special magistrate to hear the City's code enforcement cases. The agreement is comparable to other surrounding jurisdictions that use a special magistrate. The hourly rate of \$225.00 as well as other compensation rates is what the current attorney for the Code Enforcement Board is willing to be compensated for being the special magistrate. Attorney Barnebey stated that he is proposing three potential magistrates, two from the Persson Law Firm (who currently handles the Code Enforcement Board cases), and Bill Lisch. No special magistrates have been confirmed because Mr. Barnebey wanted to give the Commission time to review the potential agreement first. In regards to a conflict, Attorney Barnebey clarified that the Florida Bar Association has strict rules regarding what is a conflict of interest and that is what the City will be following as well.

In regards to cost, Mr. Freeman stated that approximately \$225.00 per hour per meeting is budgeted, with approximately twelve meetings per year. Having a special magistrate may

increase the budget slightly; however, Attorney Barnebey does not foresee it being a drastic change from what is currently being budgeted and paid.

3. LINEAR PARK TRAIL DISCUSSION

Mr. Burton discussed the maps that were part of the agenda packet regarding the proposed trail. The trail is proposed to go all the way to Lincoln Park and through a majority of the existing parks. Due to the uncertainties about what will be done with Desoto Bridge, Estuary Park and Haben Boulevard clarity is needed before moving forward with the trail.

Commissioner Davis would like the Fair Board to discuss if they would be interested in putting a bicycle rack near their property to allow for people using the trail to travel to the Fair Grounds and have a place to lock their bicycle up. Mr. Tusing was asked to bring this idea up to the Fair Board at their next meeting.

Commissioner Williams expressed his opinions with the trail going along Riverside [east of 8th Avenue West]. He would like to see other drawings that propose this trail in different routes. Mayor Bryant stated that this is still a work in progress and asked Mr. Burton to bring forward the project as it is today to allow Commission to review and ask questions.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes approved: May 21, 2018

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk