

CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
January 28, 2019
4:30 PM

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 2—(entered the meeting at 4:42 p.m.)

Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Brian Williams, Commissioner Ward 3

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Allen Tusing, Public Works Director

Amber LaRowe, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

1. UTILITY RATE STUDY INFORMATION/PRESENTATION

Mr. Freeman provided the Commission with a copy of the Presentation with updates as discussed at the January 7th Workshop Meeting. This Presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Two recommended options were presented. The first option was that as what was presented by the Consultant at the last Workshop. This included an April 1st increase to Water, Sewer, Reclaimed and Stormwater with a following increase in October. Based on the discussions, Mr. Freeman presented a second alternative option which would include a 4% increase on October 1st for Water and Sewer, a 7% increase on October 1st for Reclaimed Water and a 10% increase for Stormwater; annual indexing for each fund would follow every year thereafter at a rate of 2% Water/Sewer, 3.5% Reclaimed, and 5% Stormwater.

Staff recommends adopting a 10-year rate plan with periodic meetings to Commission to discuss any changes or needs relative to the rate study/plan.

A cost comparison was discussed showing other surrounding municipalities with a highlight discussing those municipalities that provide Water, Sewer, Reclaimed, and Stormwater.

Mr. Freeman displayed a chart that shows where the City customer is starting today and then a progression of their average bill over the next 10 years showing Option 1 as previously presented and then Option 2 as proposed this evening.

Commissioner Smith opined that this comparison is not accurate. He feels that a more accurate comparison would be of those municipalities whose salary average is the same as the City of Palmetto. He opined that there are more “richer” cities presented on this chart that can afford increases in their water bills. He requested to see the beach cities on this chart; Mr. Tusing informed Commissioner Smith that Holmes Beach, Bradenton Beach, and Anna Maria Island are serviced by Manatee County and receive a utility bill from the County. With that being said, there would be nothing to compare with those municipalities because they fall under Manatee County as presented in the comparison chart.

Commissioner Smith requested more municipalities represented on the comparison chart that are the approximate population size as the City of Palmetto. Mayor Bryant asked the Commissioners to email Mr. Freeman and/or Mr. Tusing with a list of cities they would like a comparison on.

Commissioner Varnadore is in favor of Option 1 and Commissioner Davis is in favor of Option 2.

Commissioner Smith would like to have a chart showing the increase over the last 10 years to an average resident of the City.

Additional information will be compiled and brought forward to the next Commission Workshop. The Commission was directed to email Mr. Freeman or Mr. Tusing regarding any municipalities they would like a comparison of so that can be forwarded to the Consultant.

Mayor Bryant discussed a spreadsheet handout regarding Palmetto High School and asked the Commission to review.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Mayor Bryant reopened the Workshop meeting at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the proposals for the Lincoln Park Pool.

Mr. Burton discussed a financing chart handout that outlines the cost of a \$3M, \$5M and \$7M pool. A copy of the handout is attached.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the pool and ensuring all adequate amenities are met for the price. Commission discussed the need for a diving well. Discussion continued with the Mayor indicating further discussion with Manatee County staff will continue.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: February 25, 2019

James R. Freeman

JAMES R. FREEMAN
CITY CLERK