

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING  
February 4, 2019  
4:30 PM**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2 (entered the room at 4:35 p.m.)  
Brian Williams, Commissioner Ward 3

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jeff Burton, CRA Director (entered the room at 5:00 p.m.)  
Cheryl Miller, Finance Director  
Scott Rudacille, Chief Assistant City Attorney  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police  
Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

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

**1. PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS 2019**

CRA staff member Mike Maholtz discussed a list of transportation projects composed by Allen Tusing and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff to be prioritized by the Commission. Priorities will be submitted to the MPO and eventually the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for future funding. The annual list of priorities can be amended. Mr. Maholtz suggested adding Intersection Improvements at Canal Road and 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the list, considering traffic growth near Detwiler's, Sanctuary Cove and the hotel. Commissioner Davis suggested adding a right turn lane heading west on 10<sup>th</sup> Street turning northbound on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Mr. Tusing opined taking the needed right-of-way would use almost all the parking from Webber plaza. Mr. Maholtz explained items A-E may be the top safety priorities, E-G deal with traffic movement and ease of mobility, items H-Q would be projects planned well into the future. Mr. Maholtz is anticipating the pedestrian overpass will be FDOT or Sun Trail grant funded. Mr. Tusing added that if walkover becomes iconic entry to the City, CRA will provide some funding. FDOT considers environmental, economic and safety issues during PD&E. Commissioner Cornwell asked to clarify funding for the different items. Letters were just labels for identification. The Commission is still being asked to prioritize the list. Commissioner Smith asked about Canal Road improvements. The City and County will be working together on improvements, utilizing ½ cent sales tax money. The corrected list of priorities will be brought back to the Commission at the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

**2. UTILITY RATE STUDY INFORMATION/PRESENTATION**

Mr. Tusing provided the third update to the Utility Rate Study with the addition of Holmes Beach, Safety Harbor, Arcadia, Plant City, and Temple Terrace. Staff recommends only doing the rate increases in October. Commissioner Williams asked if Palmetto rate increases could coincide with Manatee County increases. Mayor Bryant asked Mr. Tusing to find out when Manatee County typically raises their rates. Commissioner Smith asked for clarification of City and County rate increases over the past 10 years. He wants to know the County's average charge per unit. Mr. Tusing explained that Manatee County charges Palmetto a flat rate for the whole amount and then an additional charge per 1000-gallons. Palmetto buys County water and

then distributes. Bradenton Beach, Anna Maria Island and Holmes Beach are just being billed by the County. Mr. Tusing stated the rate increases over the last 5 years were 15% for the first two years, and 4% for each of the next three years. Mr. Smith asked for the average the City pays the County per unit and water rate increases over the past 10 years. Stantec Consulting was paid \$40,000 for the two studies, including attendance at one public meeting.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes approved February 25, 2019

*James R. Freeman*

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James R. Freeman, City Clerk