

CITY OF POLK CITY

City Council Meeting

January 13, 2009

Polk City Government Center
123 Broadway Blvd

7:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Mayor Donald Penton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The invocation was given by Gene Kniffin, City Planner

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Penton.

ROLL CALL

Interim City Clerk Pam Peterson

Mayor Donald Penton, Vice Mayor Chris Denico-excused absence, Councilor Nancy Adorno, Councilor Dan Ames, Councilor Kristi Eilertsen-excused absence, Attorney Jeff Sullivan, City Manager Cory Carrier

A quorum was established.

Mayor Penton turned the meeting over to City Manager Cory Carrier.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mayor Penton to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adorno.

Roll Call: Councilor Adorno-aye, Councilor Ames-aye, Mayor Penton-aye.

3-eyes

0-nays

PRESENTATIONS AND/OR RECOGNITIONS

City Manager Cory Carrier advised the Mayor was being recognized by the Florida League of Cities for 30 years of Service. At this time Interim City Clerk Pam Peterson presented Mayor Penton with a plaque and pin from the Florida League of Cities.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

FY 2009 Rate Schedule for Water and Sewer

Mayor Penton opened the Public Hearing.

At this time City Manager Carrier gave some background information on the proposed increase in water and sewer rates. The City hired Burton & Associates to do an impact fee study and the annual rate study in regard to water and sewer rates. The sewer rate has not changed since 1997; the city was charging a flat rate, which is unfair to the lower-end water user. What the City tried to do in doing the study and new rates is to make it based on water consumption, which would be fairer. As an example, if a resident uses 1,000 gallons the current rates would be: Water-\$13.91, Sewer-\$38.96 for a total of \$52.87; 1,000 gallons under the proposed rate would be: Water-\$11.68, Sewer-\$26.33 for a total of \$38.01, which would be \$14.86 less than the current rate. Based on 4,000 the total would increase \$1.40, or two percent, per month.

Several members from the audience addressed the Council regarding the rate increases and when the effective date would be. An audience member asked if sewer was based on water usage; City Manager Carrier advised it was, but there were three components to sewer: the distribution lines in ground (cost of lines, maintenance, etc.), treatment portion of sewer (pumpage and treatment of sewer), and the administrative end (cost annually to print and send the bills). She also advised the water production cost is higher and that rate is going up (numerous problems with water breaks since took over the system from the County, and due to the lines being old there are numerous breaks).

Mr. Jesse Douthit, from Fantasy of Flight, addressed the Council about the recent water breaks and notifications (they suffered sand and mud up to three days after the break). City Manager Carrier advised one of the problems that occurred is that someone was vandalizing the lines near Fantasy of Flight and opened the fire hydrant, which caused problems. The City did a boil water notice order through the reverse 9-1-1 System and found out later that everyone was not notified; however, the City will now be paying a company to have this done and will use T.V. and radio stations.

Some audience members had questions about the City taking over the County System, and thought the City had taken out bond issue. City Manager Carrier advised the City has not taken out a Bond at this time. Discussion also took place regarding condition of lines and repairs. Mayor Penton asked whenever a resident sees a problem to please call it in. Mr. Kermit Weeks, Fantasy of Flight, then discussed the boil water issue.

When an audience member asked about the 25% surcharge; City Manager Carrier explained State Statute allows a 25% surcharge on customers outside of the city limits. City Manager Carrier also advised there is a three year moratorium on any rate increases in Mt. Olive Shores per the County Agreement; however, after three years the rates can be raised. Discussion also took place about annexations in the Mt. Olive Shores Sub-division.

When asked about the Assessment, Mayor Penton and City Manager Carrier advised that would be discussed at the Public Hearing on February 10, 2009. Mr. Joe LaCascia

commented on tax rates. Some audience members asked about solid waste disposal and calling City Hall.

After some other discussion, it was noted that the Ledger Article refers to the rate schedule presented by Burton & Associates through 2018; they will be present at the February 10 meeting.

When asked again about borrowing money; Mayor advised the WWTP is still in the design stages, and the city is looking for grants. Mr. David Swain suggested the city continue development and design, but not build right now; City Manager Carrier advised that was one of the options the Council is looking at.

Mayor Penton closed the public Hearing. Under Council review and discussion, Councilor Adorno would like to wait until the Vice Mayor and Councilor Eilertsen were present to get their input. Mayor Penton would like to wait and get rates to the people that need the rate adjustments explained; he suggested a special meeting. City Manager Carrier advised a motion would be needed to postpone the effective date.

A motion was made by Councilor Ames, to postpone the decision until March 1st. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adorno, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Penton announced that the rate increases would be postponed until after March 1st so that people can get answers to their questions, and have a better understanding of what the sewer and water rates will be.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Appointments

City Manager Carrier advised there were two letters of interest, and that Mr. LaCascia was interested in being full-time. She also advised that Mr. Ho-Shing and Mr. Bersey would like to be reappointed. Staff recommends Mr. LaCascia and Mr. Charles Wilson be appointed to the Planning Commission. Councilor Adorno asked if alternates were needed; City Manager Carrier advised there were two vacancies for alternate members.

A motion was made by Councilor Adorno to accept the two candidates as staff recommended (at this time Councilor Adorno thanked those people leaving for attending the meeting). The motion was seconded by Councilor Ames.

Roll Call: Councilor Ames-aye, Councilor Adorno-aye, Mayor Penton-aye.

3-ayes

0-nays

City Manager Carrier advised that staff recommends Mr. Ho-Shing and Mr. Bersey as alternates. A motion was made by Councilor Adorno to accept Mr. Ho-Shing and Mr. Bersey as alternates. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ames.

Roll Call: Councilor Adorno-aye, Councilor Ames-aye, Mayor Penton-aye.

3-eyes

0-nays

Letter of Intent to Purchase (Bryant Property)

Gene Kniffin, City Planner, went over the proposal for purchase of the Bryant Property off of Stevens Road with the City Council. The property includes 17 acres (not all usable), a house (used as an office), a concrete block building with two offices and two bays with roll-up doors, a pole barn, two storage sheds, etc.. It also includes an area to store equipment, dirt, lime rock, pipes, etc. A picture was put up on the screen for the Council to look at. The City is currently storing equipment at the old racquetball court. The owner will provide a survey to appraiser to have an appraisal done. Gene advised it is the perfect set up for Public Works and Utility Departments. He then advised the owner may be interested in financing, should the City purchase the property. Mayor Penton advised he had looked at the property, and it is a perfect location. The Attorney has reviewed and approved the Letter of Intent to Purchase.

Councilor Ames made a motion to move forward with this property. The motion was seconded by Councilor Adorno.

Roll Call: Mayor Penton-aye, Councilor Ames-aye, Councilor Adorno-aye.

3-eyes

0-nays

CITY MANAGER ITEMS

The City Manager had nothing to report.

CITY CLERK ITEMS

Interim City Clerk

City Manager Carrier advised Pam Peterson is now the Interim City Clerk, and the City now has an assistant who is very capable. City Manager Carrier asked the Council to appoint Patricia Jackson the Interim City Clerk to free up some of Pam's time; she is very familiar with requirements and doing a good job. She and Pam will need to focus their attention on new grants.

Mayor Penton made a motion to appoint Patricia the Interim City Clerk. The motion was seconded by Councilor Ames.

Roll Call: Councilor Adorno-aye, Councilor Ames-aye, Mayor Penton-aye.

3-ayes

0-ayes

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

The City Attorney had nothing to report.

COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

Councilor Adorno – Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She also congratulated Patricia.

Councilor Ames – Great to have turn out at the meeting; thanked everyone for attending.

Councilor Eilertsen – City Manager Carrier advised Councilor Eilertsen's Mother-in-Law passed away; she advised at the last meeting she was not doing well. The City sent flowers to services and sent condolences.

VICE MAYOR ITEMS

Vice Mayor absent.

MAYOR ITEMS

Mayor Penton welcomed Patricia aboard. He thanked everyone for coming; whenever there is a dispute you can discuss and work together.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/REQUEST

Mr. Swain addressed the Council about the trucks parking in the right-of-way in front of the Subway, as well as in front of City Hall; the Sheriff's Office is writing citations, but this is creating a safety hazard. Mr. Swain asked if something could be done. City Manager Carrier advised she has a request into the State to install barriers along the right-of-way in front of the Subway; she called the County and asked to put signs up in front of the City Hall. Some discussion took place regarding the Shell Station now being open 24 hours and the guidelines they are supposed to follow; Gene Kniffin will check into this.

Jesse Douthit offered the use of the conference center at the Fantasy of Flight for the meeting on February 10th, or he could bring additional chairs. Mayor Penton expressed his appreciation for the offer, and the City will get with him.

Mike Blethen asked if more information could be placed on the internet; City Manager Carrier advised we are attempting to get this done; however, the website administrator can't fix it the way we want it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

A motion was made by Councilor Ames and seconded by Councilor Adorno to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Patricia Jackson, Interim City Clerk

Mayor Donald L. Penton