

**AGENDA MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ARCADIA
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

The following minutes reflect action items of the City Council of the City of Arcadia. For a verbatim copy of the minutes, you may contact City Administration to obtain a copy of the recorded meeting.

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

The Mayor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. with the following members and staff present:

Arcadia City Council

Mayor Alice Frierson
Councilmember Robert R. Allen
Councilmember Keith Keene

Deputy Mayor Joseph E. Fink
Councilmember Robert W. Heine

Arcadia City Staff

Interim City Administrator Tom Slaughter
Lieutenant Kevin Joens
Lieutenant Gary Evans
Finance Director Beth Carsten

Code Enforcement Officer Carl McQuay
Steve Underwood
City Clerk Penny Delaney
City Attorney Thomas J. Wohl

Brian Russell, Pastor of Pine Level United Methodist Church, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

PRESENTATION

Agenda Item 1 – Retirement of Franklin “Tim” Boone – 30 years

This item was pulled from the agenda as Mr. Boone decided to not retire.

Agenda Item 2 – Retirement of Alice Carol Anderson

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Alice Carol Anderson in recognition of her five (5) years of service to the City of Arcadia.

Agenda Item 3 – Certificate of Appreciation to City Administrator Search Committee Members

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the members of the City Administrator Search Committee which included: Marsha Brown, Mary Kay Burns, Richard Fazzone, John Super and Mitchell Watson in recognition of their service to the City of Arcadia.

Agenda Item 4 – Day of Prayer Proclamation

A Day of Prayer Proclamation was presented to Brian Russell, Pastor of the Pine Level United Methodist Church and President of the DeSoto County Ministerial Association.

Agenda Item 5 – Obesity Awareness – Florida Department of Health in DeSoto County

Mary Kay Burns of the DeSoto County Florida Department of Health gave a presentation regarding obesity rates in the United States. She addressed the Long-term Recovery Plan in 2004, Greenway Bicycle and Sidewalk System Master Plan in 2008, and the Walkability Audit in 2009, the Improvement Plan in 2010 which she stated led up to the City having the opportunity of being named the Healthy Weight Community Champion. She then presented the City of Arcadia with the Healthy Weight Community Champion for 2014.

Agenda Item 6 – Strategic Plan Update

The Interim City Administrator stated that the notes from the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) Analysis and the community profile were included in the council packets. He asked Council to review same before the next council meeting. At said meeting, he advised additional thoughts and ideas would be presented and he also stated that Mandy Hines of DeSoto County would be attending that meeting. He advised the County is doing a community conversation which is very similar to the City's effort. He stated they are starting from two different funding sources and planning programs, but it leads to the same issue – residents providing input directly to both planners, council members, advisory board members and the ability to take that information and lay it out and from that point to start selecting alternatives and preferences and place those things into prioritization.

Councilmember Keene stated that he had reviewed it briefly and noticed a few corrections that needed to be made. He asked if those issues needed to be provided to the Interim City Administrator or to Mr. LaRue and Mr. Matthews. The Interim City Administrator suggested they be provided to both. He asked if the corrections were of subject matter or grammatical. Councilmember Keene stated that it was subject matter and he advised that he didn't see the water plant included. Mayor Frierson asked if anyone else had any questions or comments and no one spoke.

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Item 7 – City Council Minutes from April 1, 2014

Agenda Item 8 – City Council Special Meeting Minutes from April 7, 2014

Agenda Item 9 – Easter Sunrise Service – Heritage Baptist Church

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Agenda Item 10 – Team Arcadia – Car Show

Councilmember Heine made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 7-10 and Deputy Mayor Fink seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Agenda Item 11 – City Administrator Interviews Update

The City Clerk advised interviews had been scheduled for the top five (5) candidates. However, two (2) candidates, Michael G. Standley and Eric C. Rindfleisch, have contacted Administration to advise they have taken other positions elsewhere. She stated that leaves Stephen A. Holsinger scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at 5:00 p.m., and Paul H. Poczobut, Jr. scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. She further stated that both candidates have indicated they would be available via Skype or Facetime on those dates. Mayor Frierson asked Council how they wanted to proceed. Councilmember Keene stated that Council asked the committee to select five (5) candidates and he suggested the next two candidates be pulled from the list to be interviewed. Deputy Mayor Fink asked the City Attorney if they could do that without reactivation of the Resolution that would put the committee back into play. Councilmember Keene stated that he understood the committee ranked individuals that were considered so there should be a next in order. The City Attorney stated that as Council they could interview anyone they want and that they could interview people the committee didn't even consider. He further stated that if Council wants to pick number six and number seven then the committee wouldn't need to do that. Mayor Frierson advised that the City Clerk had the list. Councilmember Heine suggested the Council proceed with number six and number seven and see if they want to. Councilmember Keene stated that they had dedicated themselves to finding the best person and they had hand chosen a committee to assist the Council with it and he didn't want the business that they had carried out to go to waste. He further stated that it was unfortunate that a couple of people had dropped out, but that he wanted to keep it at five (5). Deputy Mayor Fink asked if Mr. Holsinger, Mr. Poczobut or the others do not have the ability, since they are intent on five (5), what do they do at that point? Councilmember Keene suggested Council proceed with number eight and number nine, etc.

Mary Kay Burns addressed Council from the public. She stated that she was on the committee when it was active and stated that individuals were ranked all the way down. She further stated that there is a point where some people scored so low that Council may wish to close it and readvertise it. Deputy Mayor Fink stated that if they need to readvertise, they may run into some serious legal problems as well because they applied in good faith and if Council does not follow through on what they do. He wanted to ensure they weren't at the bottom of the pool yet. Deputy Mayor Fink asked the City Clerk how soon she could anticipate having their applications to Council. The City Clerk advised that could be provided easily enough, but that it may take a day or so to compare the grids to determine number six and number seven. Councilmember Keene asked if individuals should be notified and advised they were not chosen. Council agreed that they should be notified.

Councilmember Keene stated that Council had agreed to put Mr. Slaughter in the top five (5) regardless of how everyone graded out. He further stated that he didn't know how he graded out because he had never seen the list and that it didn't matter because Council looked for the top five (5). He commented that he didn't want Council to cut themselves short. He stated that this is serious business and that they were looking for the best candidate and not the quick and easy version. Mayor Frierson suggested that while the Clerk is looking at number six and number seven to earmark number eight and number nine just in case. Deputy Mayor Fink pointed out the importance of the task at hand. Councilmember Keene made a motion that Council direct the City Clerk to go to six, seven, eight and nine; at least six and seven, to contact them initially to see if they are still interested and if they would be available for the next couple of weeks for an interview. Deputy Mayor Fink seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved.

Agenda Item 12 - Monthly Financial Update

Beth Carsten, the City Financial Director, reviewed the financial updates through April 8, 2014. She stated that they had collected 48.1% of revenues and had spent 34.4% of the expenses that have been budgeted as of April 8, 2014. She advised that they are taking in more than they are spending and likes the look of it. Ms. Carsten pointed out that workman's compensation is an expense they need to watch. There is still approximately \$30,000.00 to spend through the rest of the year and she stated that she calculates they will be over budget by \$12,000.00. She stated they knew that would be an issue. She advised health insurance stands as it was and still foresees they will not have a shortfall at the end of the year.

She advised the auditors will be leaving this Thursday after being here for four weeks and will do the rest of their work from their home office. She stated that they are projecting they will have a complete report by the end of May. She felt things have progressed very positively. She stated she didn't know what the audit would cost at this point.

Ms. Carsten addressed the issue of insurance and stated that she would like to put together an insurance committee made up of directors and managers and possibly other employees. She felt this would allow more than one person to look at the issues and this would allow employees to be put on the front line to understand why decisions are being made the way they are. She stated that she wasn't talking about a huge committee, but felt that it should be comprised of individuals from Finance, Administration, some department heads or have department heads nominate someone to be on it, and even someone from Council. The City Attorney asked if she was talking about a committee making recommendations to Council of which Ms. Carsten agreed. The City Attorney stated it could be done, but they would need to make sure the committee met according to the Sunshine Law and the meetings would need to be made public. He further stated that if Council was on board, he could look into it to see what the insurance issues would be.

Councilmember Keene asked Ms. Carsten what type of recommendations she would be expecting this committee to make. She stated the committee would be looking at the needs they have, i.e., health insurance which is very complex and the benefits are from many different

places which makes it hard to manage. Another need that she pointed out was liability insurance. She stated that the committee could meet on an as needed basis. She pointed out that a lot of insurance companies suggest you have an insurance committee for safety reasons, etc. Councilmember Keene stated that he felt it was something they should have the City Attorney look into and Council agreed. Councilmember Heine liked the idea of getting department heads involved in decision making. He made a motion for the City Attorney to look into the issue and Deputy Mayor Fink seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved.

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

12. CITY MARSHALL

Lieutenant Evans of the Arcadia Police Department addressed Council and advised that the police department had a total of nine (9) felony arrests. Of those nine (9), five (5) juveniles were arrested for the burglaries in the Gibson and Imogene area. He stated that due to luck and good police work, a gun, laptop computer and other items were recovered. He also advised they had arrested a sexual offender who had targeted a fifteen (15) year old girl. He further advised that a citizen was approached by two masked men who injured him and attempted to take his laptop computer. The victim was able to identify the two individuals and said individuals have been arrested. He also advised of a Facebook issue that ended in a confrontation at the Martin Luther King Park between two groups of females. One girl was stabbed in the chest and she was transferred to Fort Myers and will be okay. Lieutenant Evans advised there would be a big gathering at Martin Luther King Park on Easter and advised the police department will deploy more manpower in the park to make sure everyone is safe.

Lieutenant Joens of the Arcadia Police Department advised Council that he has been working with Ms. Carsten and she's the best finance officer he's ever worked with. He advised the department received a grant for computer hardware for the cars and they fell short around \$8,000.00 - \$9,000.00 of being able to complete everything they wanted to do. The department received a donation again this year of \$13,500.00. He advised he has the computers in his office and he's waiting on the stands. He stated that he and Lieutenant Evans have a meeting next week with the secure online site to run everything over the internet. He stated that he's hoping by June, they will have the computers in the cars and the officers will be able to print tickets, run identifications and driver's licenses, etc.

Lieutenant Evans asked if there were any questions from Council or the public. No questions were asked.

13. CITY ATTORNEY

NONE

14. INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

NONE

PUBLIC

Darrell Sally from the public addressed Council regarding his mother, Deoris Sally. Ms. Sally owns property located at 614 Harris Road, Arcadia, Florida. Mr. Sally advised that there is a lot in front of his mother's property that he has been told may be owned by either the Housing Authority or the City of Arcadia. He stated the lot overgrown tremendously and a lot of trash has been dumped on the property. He stated that inmates had cleaned the lot in the past, but he hasn't noticed that recently. He further stated that any help he could get in cleaning up the lot would be appreciated. The Code Enforcement Officer advised that he would get with the Streets Department Supervisor; he would check his budget, and try to get it cleaned up as soon as possible. Mr. Sally advised that last week he noticed a pine tree that fell across the end of the housing project area. He stated it rained that day and wires were sparking. He further stated the same thing had happened about a year ago. He also stated that there are two trees at the corner of Harris and Potter Street that are basically dead and leaning against other trees and they could fall. The City Attorney told him not to waste his money on a title search. He could go to the property appraiser's site and locate for his mother's name and there is a GIS map that could pull information as to who owns it, etc. Gary Frierson, from the public, advised that according to the property appraiser, that lot is owned by Arcadia Shelter, Inc. and its registered agent is the Arcadia Housing Authority.

Rose Williams of the Arcadia Mobile Home Park, from the public, addressed Council and expressed her appreciation of Carol Anderson and all that she has done for the residents of the park. She advised there was a meeting last Friday morning which was attended by Mayor Frierson, Steve Underwood and Carrie Taylor and some complaint issues were addressed and she expressed her appreciation for that as well. Mayor Frierson advised that she had spoken with the police department and they will meet the residents and answer questions the residents may have. She further stated that she had mentioned the Dart bus to see if someone could see why it was not going through the park since that is what the grant was for. She advised Council is working on the park's complaints.

Adrienne Daily of 5 Johnson Avenue, Arcadia, Florida, addressed Council regarding when the Code Enforcement Officer became the City Planner and if he was still the Code Enforcement Officer. The Interim City Administrator advised that Mr. McQuay still handles code enforcement duties, but he also handles planning issues. Mr. Slaughter advised that Mr. McQuay has an interim title and stated there were a number of changes in October 2013 with a number of staff vacancies that were unanticipated and as a result we had to spread staff around to cover management issues. He advised there were six (6) positions that the City had to quickly cover. He advised the City made permanent hires in both the City Clerk and Finance Director positions and is slowly working on restructuring the staff. Ms. Daily asked what the duties of the City Planner were. The Interim City Administrator stated that the City Planner maintains, by law, the comprehensive plan; he maintains the zoning code and all the other land development codes which code enforcement is a part of. He further stated that the City Planner is also involved in development and permitting, other special studies, and strategic planning as well.

She stated she also wanted to ask if Mr. Slaughter attended the county meeting. Mr. Slaughter asked if she was referring to the community conversations and if so he had an opportunity to attend the last one at Lake Suzy. She stated that she hoped that Council would take into consideration the cleanup of Arcadia by the City and County which was discussed at the community conversation. She felt Mr. McQuay was very conscientious, but was concerned that one code enforcement officer can do what needs to be done. The Interim City Administrator advised that on May 6, 2014, Mandy Hines from DeSoto County will be presenting some of their findings from the community conversation as well. He felt it would be a good opportunity to hear what the general public thinks of general services, the condition of the City, and the County government.

Jennifer Backer of 3991 NE Ashley Terrace, Arcadia, Florida, addressed Council regarding the work being done on Highway 17 as you enter the city across from the old Lee Tire. She stated she has noticed trees being cleared up and she really appreciated it.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Keene advised that he had attended a meeting with some of the folks regarding the Smith Brown Gym opportunity. He stated he was pleased that Council saw the wisdom in repairing the roof a year or two ago. He further stated that there are some very knowledgeable and enthusiastic folks that want to do something with the Smith Brown Gym. He advised that he will be meeting with Ashley Coone and the Interim City Administrator later this week regarding what opportunities there are there and is looking forward to great things to come from that.

He advised he was not able to attend the first two (2) meetings regarding the community conversations that were hosted by the County Commission and the Department of Economic Opportunity. He stated that he did attend the conversation meeting that was held at the Turner Center and was glad to see Mayor Frierson and her husband, Gary, there. He further stated that he's often blown away by folks that don't get it. Councilmember Keene stated that we are all citizens of the City of Arcadia, but we're also citizens of DeSoto County; you can't have one without the other. He advised there were lots of opportunities to have input by citizens and the Department of Economic Opportunity persons that were there spoke very knowledgeably. He advised this is an opportunity to get some things done. He further stated that the time for planning is over and it's time to take some action. He advised that he's looking forward to good things coming from this opportunity we have. He also is looking forward to Mandy being at the meeting to summarize all that has happened and he is looking forward to learning more from the Interim City Administrator's meetings that he has planned with other community members with the strategic plan. Mayor Frierson stated that she would like to follow up on Councilmember Keene's comments and pointed out that a public member made a statement that a lot of the points that had been discussed were the same points that were discussed fifteen to twenty years ago.

Mayor Frierson advised that former Councilmember Sharon Goodman is retiring at the end of this year in May. She stated that Mrs. Goodman has asked that the City recognize her for

her thirty-five (35) years in the education system in this county. Mayor Frierson advised that her retirement party will be June 5, 2014 and Mrs. Goodman will send out an invitation and hopes that all councilmembers will attend. Mayor Frierson also stated that Mrs. Goodman would also like to be recognized for her years on the Council as she was the first female councilmember and the first female mayor. Councilmember Keene made a motion that Council recognize past councilperson/past mayor Sharon Goodman for all her years of service to the Council, to the City of Arcadia, and to the children of DeSoto County. Councilmember Heine seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved.

ADJOURN

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF May, 2014

By:

Alice Frierson
Alice Frierson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Penny Delaney
Penny Delaney, City Clerk