

WORK SESSION
AUGUST 18, 2009

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on August 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members present were Dixon, Fazzone, Johnson, Goodman and Heine. Also in attendance were Administrator Rupp, Attorney Galvano and Finance Officer and City Recorder Baumann.

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Dr. Sharon Goodman. Dr. Goodman expressed the sympathy of the Council to Parks and Recreation Supervisor Don Water, and his family, in the recent loss of his daughter.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Fazzone called the Work Session to order stating the reason for the Work Session was to discuss the livestock market property and possible wage increases for employees.

City Administrator Rupp stated to the Council the City could not lease or use the property for any business at this time. The property is zoned Residential and would have to undergo Comprehensive, Zoning and Land Use changes in order to use the property for anything other than homes. Administrator Rupp suggested these changes be made and then the City could decide how to move forward with the land.

Mayor Fazzone asked for Public comments. Mr. Steve Game addressed the Council stating he felt sometime in the past a mistake had been made in zoning and believed the zoning is Agricultural. Administrator Rupp assured Mr. Game a mistake had not been made and the land was zoned Residential.

Attorney Galvano stated the property had to undergo changing the Comprehensive Plan as well as the Zoning. Mayor Fazzone stated he was against the property being developed until a market study had been completed. Councilwoman Dr. Goodman stated there were many ideas stated on the U.S.D.A. Visionary Tour today, for use of the property. Councilman Heine stated he agreed to follow the advice of the City Attorney. Councilman Dr. Johnson asked Administrator Rupp what were some of the suggestions for use of the property. Administrator Rupp stated the suggestions were from developing the land for a "state of the art" truck stop, an arcade or recreation complex with a pool or a movie theater. Administrator Rupp stated in addition to collecting money for leases, the tax base would be favorably impacted. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated after hearing the other Council members were not in favor of accepting the proposal by Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Game for leasing the live stock market property, he was in agreement to follow the advice of the Attorney to rezone the property and amend the Comprehensive Plan. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he "liked" Mr. O'Leary's idea for the live stock property. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated for the record, "I did not agree with Mr. O'Leary on the money". He stated the decision not to enter into a lease with Mr. O'Leary needed to be made clear to him. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he felt there was a double standard because some others had ideas and there were no problems with the zoning when it was leased as Agriculture. He stated the property needed to have the grass cut and cleaned up until that time when an agreement was reached on how the property would be used.

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Councilman Dr. Johnson stated he thought rezoning would be correct. Mayor Fazzone asked what type of zoning would be best. Administrator Rupp stated the most flexible zoning was M.2. Councilman Dr. Johnson asked if the buildings were usable or could be repaired. Administrator Rupp stated there were grants available for this purpose of repairing and rebuilding.

Heine moved to have the property and buildings looked at to see what is needed; seconded by Johnson and carried. Attorney Galvano advised the Council not to vote in this Work Session, but to wait until the Regular Meeting to proceed with motions. Deputy Mayor Dixon voted against the motion because there is an irregularity in the meeting, due to the fact it is a Work Session.

Finance Officer and City Recorder Baumann presented the Council with information pertaining to employees of the City making less than Ten Dollars (\$10) per hour. She stated a 5% increase in salary for these employees would equal Twenty Five Thousand Eight Dollars and Thirty-Six Cents (\$25,008.36) for one year. The second proposal for an increase of 10% would equal Fifty Thousand Sixteen Dollars and Seventy-Two cents (\$50,016.72) for one year.

Finance Officer and City Recorder Baumann suggested that in the transition from weekly to bi-weekly payroll, all employees making Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) or Fourteen Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$14.50) per hour, would be required to use a combination of sick, comp or vacation time in order to be paid during the transition week.

Councilman Dr. Johnson presented another proposal to the Council. He stated by giving a 5% increase, this would allow that increase be added to the base salary. He stated that in giving the remainder of the money as a bonus, employees would not think they got a reduction in pay the next year. Councilman Dr. Johnson stated the Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) was already available because of not giving that money to charitable organizations last year, but using it for the City employees. He stated the other available money was saved from the Police Department. He stated this money might not be available next year. He suggested giving that money in form of a bonus.

Mayor Fazzone asked the salary issue be tabled until the next Council meeting in order to give Council members more time to study the information.

Councilman Dr. Johnson stated he was appalled that employees working so long were still getting so little pay. He stated employees were living at or below the poverty level, and he had been fighting for each year for raises.

A member of the Public Terry Smith addressed the Council stating her brother and boy friend have been working for the City twenty five and twenty six years and were just over Ten Dollars (\$10.) an hour. She also stated being paid bi weekly was the way most businesses paid. She stated she worked for the State of Florida and that bi weekly pay has been in practice for a long time.

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Deputy Mayor Dixon asked that the employees listed on the sheet that worked for the City Police Department be removed. He stated he wanted to raise those people that were working in the hot sun, picking up garbage, and other labor positions. Deputy Mayor Dixon asked what happened to the salaries that were paid employees that are no longer with the City. Finance Officer and City Recorder Baumann stated that money had gone into the Reserve Account. She explained the Fund Balance decrease was an audit concern every year and needed to be built up. She stated the City did not have the reserve that was required in the Fund Balance.

Martha Craven, a member of the Public suggested the bonus be given to employees that performed beyond their job requirements.

Finance Officer and Recorder Baumann stated in order to be ready for bi weekly payroll; she would need a decision September 1, 2009 on how to handle the pay increases.

City Administrator Rupp presented a new job description for City Recorder to the Council. Councilman Dr. Johnson asked if this job description had been written in order to eliminate any candidate. She stated it was not. He asked if she considered schools a governmental agency. Administrator Rupp stated yes and no. Councilman Dr. Johnson disagreed with Administrator Rupp on what comprised a governmental agency.

City Administrator Rupp spoke to the Council and Public of the importance to the City and County, that census reports be done by everyone. She stated the County had lost billions of dollars due to the fact census reports had not been completed for everyone living within the County and City. Administrator Rupp urged everyone to work with local agencies, churches and other organizations to assist in having a correct census for the County.

Councilman Dr. Johnson informed the Council of his re-election to the Board of Directors for Four Hundred and Eleven Cities (411). He stated this was his Eleventh year on the Board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes as submitted by Francine Clark


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT