

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 19, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on June 19, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building as 23 North Polk Avenue. Council Members attending were Johnson, Goodman, Whitlock, Fazzone, and Heine. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, City Marshall Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewitt, Ms. Way, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Ms. Valerie Gilchrist.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 15, 2007 were adopted on a motion by Whitlock; seconded by Goodman and carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 937 repealing sections 18-4, 22-31, 22-32, 22-33, and 22-34 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Arcadia, Florida was presented on first reading. All Council Members had previously been given a copy of the proposed ordinance for review. Fazzone moved to waive the rules and read the proposed ordinance by title only; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 937

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA,
REPEALING SECTIONS 18-4, 22-31, 22-32, 22-33, 22-34 OF THE
CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA;
MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING REPEAL OF CONFLICTING
ORDINANCES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR
EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fazzone then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 937 on first reading; seconded by Heine. Mayor Johnson called for comments from the public. There were none. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Ayes: Whitlock, Fazzone, Goodman, Heine, and Johnson. Nays: None.

The Fines and Forfeitures report for the month of May, 2007 was presented showing \$3,195.40 for fines.

The Police Activity Report for the month of May, 2007 was presented.

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Marshall Lee reported that Sergeant Turner is now the Code Enforcement Officer. He then reported that demolition of the old Smith Brown School complex on Orange Avenue began today. Marshall Lee thanked Stan Abram for taking the necessary steps to bring this project to completion.

The Recorder's report of Revenues and Expenditures through May 31, 2007 was presented.

Administrator Strube addressed the Council to review the proposed site plan for the DeSoto County Homeless Coalition for a 17 unit multi-family structure on Baldwin Avenue. Administrator Strube stated that the City must sign off on certain areas of the grant application which require certification from the City for water, sewer, streets, and zoning. He has been able to sign off on most of the plan; however, there are some density issues to be completed. The current zoning would allow for 14 units per acre. The property in questions would then allow for only 8 units as it is only .065 acres. Ms. Valerie Gilchrist of the DeSoto County Homeless Coalition reported to the Council that this project is to be used as an emergency shelter for women and children that can not live in their current place of resident due to abuse or other emergency events. Ms. Gilchrist stated that the facility would not be just for homeless singles, but would also accommodate families as needed on a transitional basis for 18-24 months. Administrator Strube asked if the Housing Authority would be over seeing this project and he was informed that they would not. The Housing Authority can not qualify for the grant; however the Homeless Coalition can. Due to the limited funds of the DeSoto County Homeless Coalition, the Housing Authority will sell the property to the Coalition for \$1.00. The Housing Authority will manage the property which would include maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Council Member Goodman questioned what would happen when the people living in the emergency housing reached a time limit and had to move. Ms. Gilchrist reported there will be guidelines and goals set for this program and will be in place before the building is ready for occupancy. In addition, plans for other programs were being discussed and would also be put into place. At this point, the floor plans for the buildings were being submitted. Ms. Gilchrist asked if the City could contribute funds for the program using the "Pilot Program" which is the payment of taxes to the City by the Housing Authority. Administrator Strube stated that "Pilot Program" funds could be earmarked to go to the Homeless Coalition once the Housing Authority begins to pay taxes. Ms. Christine Engles, Director of the Housing Authority stated that they might be able to begin paying taxes in 2008. The taxes would be equal to 10% of the rental income and she estimates the amount to be about \$6,000.00. Heine moved to approve the site plan as presented to allow for the placement of 17 rental units on the East side of Baldwin Avenue, with the transfer of density from property owned by the Housing Authority and located near the City Wastewater plant; seconded by Goodman and carried.

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The Public Works Report for the Month of April, 2007 was presented.

Richard Bowers, President of the DeSoto County Community Development Corporation, addressed the Council to give an update on improvements at Louis Anderson Park. Mr. Bowers reported that since the Corporation joined with the PACE program and the DeSoto County Health Department many activities for the children have been held. He also reported on plans for improvement at the gym noting that he is hoping to copy the DeSoto County High School gym by displaying signs of businesses and supporters from the community. Mr. Bowers then presented pictures of barricades containing broken steel rods, and requested that the rods be removed so that children do not get hurt. Mr. Bowers stated he and others have been monitoring the park daily; however, there is still some vandalism occurring. He reported on the football camp which ran for a week. Council Member Goodman stated that the barricade was put in place for a reason and she is disturbed by pictures showing destruction of public property. She reported that she has been approached by residents living in the area of the park who were disturbed by loud music, foul language, and other inappropriate activities. Mr. Bowers stated folks must be educated on how to take care of property. Marshall Lee reported that his officers do spend a lot of time at the park however problems are still occurring. Mary Kay Burns, Director of the DeSoto County Health Department suggested the implementation of a web-cam for the area and having a Police sub station. Marshall Lee stated there was no one at the Police Department to monitor a web-cam during the weekend and he does not have enough officers to man a sub station.

The Golf Course reported for the month of May, 2007 was presented.

Bill Minnear of Air-Cadia addressed the Council to give a report of the Rods and Wings Event noting that it was a success. Mr. Minnear thanked Mayor Johnson for his opening presentation. He then presented checks in the amount of \$150.00 to the Police Department for extra patrol and to the Golf Course for the use of golf carts.

Administrator Coffey addressed the Council and thanked them for their support on the Adult Entertainment issue. He reported that the County would hold a public hearing on three (3) proposed ordinances concerning Adult Entertainment on June 26, 2007 at 6:30 P.M., and he asked the Council to attend.

Mr. Coffey reported that demolition of the old water plant is to begin next week.

Mr. Coffey then stated that the County is pursuing a series of grants for Mosquito Control. One of the grants is for \$34,000 and is also available to the City. He asked that the City apply for a grant in the amount of \$34,000.00 and that the City funds be

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combined with the County along with an additional \$12,000.00 for a total budget of \$80,000.00 for mosquito control of parks, daycare centers, nursing homes, churches, schools and other locations. The County is looking at partnering with the Health Department, \$5,000.00 would be used for education, and \$60,000.00 would be used to map out areas and develop a mosquito control program. Mr. Coffee asked that the Council authorize Administrator Strube to apply for the grant noting that the program would be at no cost to the City. The grant would cover a 3 year period and the deadline is July 15, 2007. Heine moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a grant application for Mosquito Control which will be at no cost to the City; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

Administrator Coffey then addressed the Council regarding the need to renew the Leachate Agreement. Administrator Strube stated that this agreement is tied to Interlocal agreements for animal control and building permits which he has been trying to get renewed since 1999. Administrator Strube feels that all of the agreements need to be addressed before this agreement is renewed. Administrator Strube stated that if the City can get a commitment from the County for renewal of the animal control and building agreements then he could agree to re-newing the Leachate Agreement. Mr. Coffey stated that the Leachate Agreement is an ongoing agreement and needs to be signed. Administrator Strube stated the other agreements were of importance to the City also. No action was taken.

DeSoto County Fire Chief Prescott then addressed the Council noting that it has been a year since the merger of the City and County Fire and Ambulance Departments and everything is going well. He wanted to address any rumors the Council may have heard stating that the Fire Chief is going to shut down some business due to lack of compliance with fire codes. Chief Prescott assured the Council that it is not their intention to close down any business and they are working with all cited business to try and resolve their issues and bring them up to code. Mayor Johnson asked what the maximum time limit is for the businesses to be in compliance to which Chief Prescott stated that there is not a specific time limit. He stated that he is working with business owners on a plan to meet the requirements noting that some could take over a year or more to complete. He did note that at some point these businesses will have to meet the fire code.

Chief Prescott presented the Council with a list of fire hydrants throughout the City that were in need of repair noting that eighty-nine (89) of the over four-hundred (400) City hydrants are broken. Of these thirty-seven (37) will not open, ten (10) caps are stuck and seventeen (17) are critical. These need to be looked at soon in order to maintain the current ISO insurance rating. Mr. Coffee stated that it is up to the City Utility staff to make the necessary corrections. Administrator Strube noted that he has discussed this with John Reed, Public Works Supervisor, and some of the hydrants have already been

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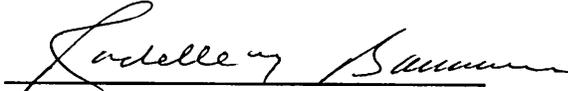
checked. Council Member Heine stated more testing and upkeep of the hydrants is needed and only a person experienced in hydrants would be familiar with how to release some of the valves. Some of the hydrants are non useable because of this problem. Mayor Johnson would like to see a maintenance plan for the hydrants. Heine asked how critical the downtown area was to which Chief Prescott stated that it is very critical. Administrator Strube reported that an action plan was being worked on.

Council Member Fazzone requests that Department Heads attend all Council Meetings.

Mayor Johnson encouraged all Council Members to attend the Florida League of Cities annual conference in August. He stated someone from the City should attend to represent Arcadia. Fazzone moved to appoint Roosevelt Johnson as a representative for the City of Arcadia; seconded by Heine and carried.

An invitation for a luncheon and tour of DeSoto Memorial Hospital was presented to the Council. All members will attend as a group on July 13, 2007, from 11:30 until 2:00.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT