

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on March 18, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members present were Goodman, Fazzone, Johnson, Heine, and Dixon. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Public Works Supervisor John Reed, Marshall Lee, Ms. Way, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Councilman Heine.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

The Minutes of the Public Hearing of March 6, 2008 and the Regular Meeting of March 6, 2008 were adopted on a motion by Heine; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

A request for permission for the Seventh Cinco de Mayo Celebration Parade on Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. was presented to the Council by Mr. Rufino H. Rodriguez. Marshall Lee stated that his office has been notified and he has no problem with the date and time. Heine moved to approve the request to allow a Cinco de Mayo Parade on May 3, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; seconded by Dixon and carried.

A request by Joseph Pursell to give a presentation of information regarding public records obtained from the Arcadia Police Department was tabled as Mr. Pursell was not in attendance. Fazzone moved to table the presentation until Mr. Pursell requests to be placed on the agenda again; seconded by Heine and carried.

Mr. Joseph Fink, a previous North Port City Councilman and a member of the public, addressed the Council and presented them with a list of several issues that he believes needs to be addressed by the Council such as the hiring of a new City Administrator, cost effective government, Capital Projects, Charter changes, and a Council retreat. Mr. Fink believes that the Council should consider using an outside facilitator in order to develop a consensus on these issues. Council members thanked Mr. Fink for his interest in the City and for the information he had provided to them. Administrator stated that the City has never used a personnel services evaluation firm as there is very little leeway regarding staff salaries. Administrator Strube then noted that North Port is 102 square miles with 150,000 citizens as opposed to Arcadia at 4 square miles and 6,600 citizens. North Port is a very big government and it is difficult to compare what might work and be affordable in North Port to Arcadia.

The Fines and Forfeitures Report for the Month of February, 2008 was presented indicating fines in the amount of \$4,048.18.

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The Recorder's report of Revenues and Expenses through February 29, 2008 was presented.

The Planning and Zoning Board sitting as the Local Planning Agency (LPA) on March 11, 2008 recommend the following to the City Council:

That the 2006 Evaluation Appraisal Review Report (EAR) of the City's Comprehensive Plan as modified be approved and submitted to the State.

Administrator Strube stated that the EAR Report for 2009 is also being worked on and the State has contacted him and does not want to have the 2006 EAR report submitted and adopted at this time. He recommends that it be tabled with the possibility that both the 2006 and 2009 EAR Reports may be either combined or sent together when submitted.

The Planning and Zoning Board at their regular meeting of March 11, 2008 also recommended the following to the City Council:

That the request from DeSoto County to have a Building Department Office located at 126 North Hillsborough Avenue, be approved subject to the purchase of the property as the Board finds that this use would be compatible with the surrounding area and finds their necessity and desirability for public convenience.

Attorney Holloman advised the Council that this request is a quasi-judicial matter. Mr. Lester Hornbake of the Building Department was then sworn in by Attorney Holloman. Attorney Holloman asked the Council if anyone had received any written or verbal correspondence or had done a site visit. No one had anything to report. Mr. Hornbake then provided the Council with a map of the site. He explained that the Building Department has outgrown their current office and the proposed location provides convenience for the public as well as being in close proximity to the County Administration Building. Heine moved to approve the request subject to the purchase of the property to allow the De Soto County Building Department to locate an office at 126 North Hillsborough Avenue as the Council finds it compatible with the surrounding area and finds for their necessity and desirability for public convenience; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

The Airport Report for the month of January 2008 was presented.

The Golf Course Report for the month of February 2008 was presented.

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The Public Works Report for the month of February 2008 was presented.

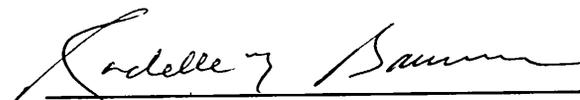
Mr. Joseph Fink, a member of the public addressed the Council regarding a request by Englewood Animal Rescue (EAR) to provide a non kill facility in DeSoto County. Mr. Fink asked if EAR could give a presentation to the Council and asked for the Council's support for the location of EAR in the County. Mr. Fink was informed that last year EAR did address the Council and gave a presentation to which the Council gave their support.

Recorder Baumann read into the minutes a motion that originated in the 5:00 p.m. Workshop whereby Johnson moved and was; seconded by Dixon and carried "to discontinue any work on changes to the Charter or Code until a new attorney and administrator are in place and to discontinue the 5:00 p.m. Work Sessions on this subject".

Administrator Strube provided the Council with information from the County Appraisers office projecting a lost in tax revenue to the City in the amount of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$170,000.00) due to the implementation of Amendment 1. He then stated that another issue could be the county wide devaluation of property noting that the total loss would not be known until the first appraisal is done in June. Administrator Strube also noted the possibility of a property tax cut of 25% across the board to be put on a ballot in November 2008. The State has suggested increasing the sales tax by one cent (1) to help offset the loss of property tax revenue. Administrator Strube wanted to inform the Council of some of the issues they will be facing during the budget sessions, noting that the Council will need to make some decisions as to what type of services the City can fund given the scope of the proposed loss of property tax revenue.

Administrator Strube reported that as of today, sixty percent (60%) of the street paving project is complete. He then stated that he is very pleased with the quality of work and speed of the project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT