

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ARCADIA
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010
6:00 PM**

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

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

Arcadia City Council

Mayor Roosevelt Johnson
Councilmember Keith Keene
Councilmember Sharon Goodman

Deputy Mayor Robert Heine
Councilmember Lorenzo Dixon

Arcadia City Staff

Interim City Administrator Shelly Baumann
City Recorder Dana Williams

City Attorney Jason Henbest
City Marshal Charles Lee

The Deputy Mayor gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call by the Mayor.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2010, WORKSHOP
2. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2010, REGULAR MEETING
3. APPROVAL TO DONATE TWO (2) ROUNDS OF GOLF TO THE DESOTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THEIR PIONEER DAY EVENT ON MARCH 20, 2010

On motion of Councilmember Keene and seconded by Councilmember Dixon, items #1 through #3 of the Consent Agenda printed above were unanimously, 5-0, approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. DISCUSSION ON DEP CONSENT ORDER REGARDING THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, JULIE KARLESKINT, HAZEN AND SAWYER

The Interim Administrator distributed a memorandum outlining four options for the water plant; namely retrofitting the current plant, constructing a new plant, purchasing water from DeSoto County in the short-term, and purchasing water for the long term. She also presented alternatives for funding assistance such as DEP Grants and SRF Loan Funds for the first two options as well as estimated costs for each of them; and noted that she had recently met with the County Administrator and County Utilities Director to discuss all these options.

Ms. Julie Karleskint of Hazen and Sawyer then provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on the water treatment plant issues and challenges. She reported the plant has reached the end of its serviceable life and must be replaced or rehabilitated. Ms. Karleskint also discussed the FDEP

Consent Order, which requires the City to develop options for the disposal of wastewater from the filter backwash and sludge system by December 31, 2010.

Regarding an upgrade to the existing facility, Ms. Karleskint estimated the cost to be \$6 million with a higher operating cost required to haul sludge to an alternate location. The cost of constructing a new facility was also estimated at \$6 million but would maintain a similar operating cost as is presently maintained. Two options for the purchase of water from DeSoto County were presented. First, a long term option with an estimated capital cost of \$1.5 million with possible grant and loan funding, but requiring an operating rate increase and limited control on future water rates. The second purchase option was proposed for a period of three-five years with an estimated capital cost of \$1 million and increase in rates to cover the County's bulk rate, but would allow the City to delay improvements temporarily to evaluate other options. Ms. Karleskint covered the estimated rate impacts saying a rate increase would be required for each of the alternatives; but an estimate of 4,000 gallon usage would be approximately \$1/month to construct a new facility if the City received a grant or \$2/month if it did not. Continuing, the impact to purchase water from DeSoto County would be about \$10/month with an additional cost for increased usage and would require a restructuring to account for DeSoto County's charge.

Funding sources in terms of a DEP Grant and SRF Loan were discussed and the impact on the City's current debt service. Ms. Karleskint stated however, that time was a sensitive issue and in order to comply with the time frame to seek grant and loan funding for this project, a decision must be made this evening so as to be considered "shovel ready" in the design plans submitted alongside the grant application. The Interim Administrator added that should the Council choose to pursue the option of purchasing water from the County, it would be important to note they would not have a voice on the Peace River Mansota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMWSA) board.

Councilmember Goodman clarified that with the retrofit or construction of a new plant, there would be a slight increase to the customer/citizens; but not an increase in debt service. The Interim Administrator and Ms. Karleskint answered that was essentially the case if the City were to pursue and receive the DEP Grant and SRF Loan, and that in fact were that to occur, there would possibly be a decrease the debt service over what is currently being paid, although it would extend the term of debt.

Councilmember Dixon asked when Ms. Karleskint learned of the deadline for the grant to which she responded just today. Dr. Dixon then stated he was led to believe the County would be willing to work with the City in any and every way possible and would like to see more of a cooperative effort between the entities. Councilmember Goodman agreed this was an opportunity to work together, noting that regardless of the decision, there would be costs involved and the constituents will have to understand that; but also that she is in favor of working with the County.

Councilmember Keene also expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of negotiating a better rate with the County, but added PRMWSA -- not the County, sets the rate and their water is allocated to its members so there is some uncertainty with additional water being allocated. The Deputy Mayor agreed, adding currently there is none allocated to Arcadia.

Mr. Bob Allen, 12 S. 12th Avenue, spoke against putting the City in debt for \$6 million for

construction or refurbishment of the water plant and requested the Council consider appointing Councilmember Keene as a representative to negotiate with the County. Councilmember Keene agreed to accept that role if it were the Council's desire, but added he was "all about options".

Discussion followed on the need of the storage tank and pumping station and the request to move forward with the SRF application in order to "keep [our] foot in the door."

On motion of Councilmember Dixon and seconded by Councilmember Goodman, the Council voted unanimously, 5-0, to appoint Councilmember Keene as the City's representative to discuss, explore, and negotiate with DeSoto County representatives, the options and cost of purchasing water from the County including but not limited to bulk rate, flat vs. fixed rates, future rate increases, and the value of existing city facilities.

The Deputy Mayor then made a motion to authorize Hazen and Sawyer, at a cost of \$65,000, to proceed with the preparation of a funding application and preliminary evaluation study for improvements to the water treatment plant and a new water supply well. Councilmember Keene provided a second to the motion, which passed 4-1 upon roll call vote. Councilmember Dixon cast the dissenting vote.

5. RESULTS OF THE TESTING AT THE LIVESTOCK MARKET CATTLE DIPPING VATS

The Interim Administrator reported she had received a report from Environmental Services, Inc. regarding the results of testing at the Cattle Dipping Vats located at the Livestock Market. She continued the firm recommends that additional testing be done including installing permanent monitoring wells in order to determine the vertical depth, horizontal extent, and direction of migration of the groundwater arsenic impacts; but that at this point she believes the City should seek the advice of their attorney regarding the need to spend additional funds or if the matter could simply be turned over to the State for their corrective action.

The City Attorney stated the State has accepted responsibility recognizing much of the contamination is due to their [the State's] regulations for the vats and the chemicals used within them. He recommended taking the information to the State to get it "on their radar" to begin the process of remediation; noting the State has many of these types of sites throughout Florida.

Councilmember Keene responded it is currently the DEPs' position that no action is necessary but if corrective action is taken, it must be to the state standards. He continued the biggest risk is to the water supply, acknowledging there is not a supply at that site but there has been some leaching action and he would like to put the Department of Agriculture on notice of possible contamination. Mr. Keene also noted that by taking this action it will prove due diligence on the part of the City in the future should that site be sold or otherwise used.

It was the consensus of the Council to direct the City Attorney to contact the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Environmental Protection, putting them on notice for mitigation and remediation at the cattle dipping vats site of the Livestock Market.

6. APPROVAL FOR SUMMER RATES AT THE GOLF COURSE TO BE EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2010

The Interim Administrator briefly covered the memorandum submitted from the Pro Shop Manager, which requested implementation of a summer rate schedule effective April 1, 2010.

On motion of the Deputy Mayor and seconded by Councilmember Goodman, the Council voted unanimously, 5-0, to implement the following rates at the Municipal Golf Course, effective April 1, 2010.

	Greens Fees	Cart	Total
18 Holes	\$9.00	\$6.00	\$15.00
9 Holes	\$6.00	\$4.00	\$10.00

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

7. CITY MARSHAL

The Marshal distributed his regular and code enforcement report noting a few of the numbers included therein. He also mentioned the house on 500 W. Oak Street had been sold and the new owner has promised to make repairs.

**8. ATTORNEY
A) AIR-CADIA LEASE PURCHASE**

The Attorney reported he had nothing other than the discussion of the 5:30 workshop, and that he will bring an agreement for the Council's action to the next meeting.

**9. ADMINISTRATOR
A) RECOMMENDATION AND REQUEST OF THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD**

The Interim Administrator covered the Planning and Zoning Board memorandum requesting the sign ordinance review be referred back to the City Council along with a recommendation to obtain the services of a professional planner with municipal experience as well as expertise in sign rules and regulations, to review the existing sign ordinance, review sign ordinances of surrounding counties, and present the findings of the professional planner to the P&Z Board to review prior to forwarding to City Council for adoption. She also stated that as a money saving measure in terms of advertising costs, previously interviewed applicants for the Planner position had been contacted to determine their continued interest in the position for whichever manner Council would decide to proceed. Councilmember Dixon felt the full time staff position should be deferred pending appointment of the new Administrator.

Councilmember Keene made a motion, which was seconded by Councilmember Goodman, to authorize a contractual agreement with a professional planner for the purpose of assisting and consulting with the Planning and Zoning Board on drafting sign regulations for the City; and whose rate shall be established at \$21 per hour.

The Interim Administrator also reported on the following:

- the asbestos on the side of the auction house at the Livestock Market had been removed and once the report comes back, she will proceed with securing a demolition permit; and
- a notice to proceed had been received from SFWMD on the Interconnect with the County

PUBLIC

Ms. Janie Watson asked who maintains the benches in downtown, noting that several of the memorial/honorary plaques are missing off benches that have been refurbished. The Interim Administrator stated the Parks & Recreation Department has been working to have the benches done and she would check with them on the status of replacing the plaques.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MATTERS

The City Recorder distributed a mark-up template for the design and layout of the City's new website.

She also reported that the embossing corporate seal is so old the plates have worn down and no longer make a readable imprint. She continued that she had contacted a retailer about getting a new seal; but without an image of the center artwork, which no one seems to have or can find, a new embosser cannot be made. The Recorder then asked if the Council had any objection to amending the centered design to coincide with the City seal used on its stationary, vehicles and plaque behind the dais. **It was the consensus of Council to proceed as needed with the new corporate seal.**

Lastly, the City Recorder reported there have been 40 applications received for the Administrator position and asked how the Council wished to proceed. Councilmember Dixon, wishing to expedite the hiring of a full-time Administrator, suggested that each Councilmember forward the names of their top candidates to the City Recorder in order to begin the interview process. **It was the consensus of Council for each Councilmember to submit a list of their top 2-3 names to the Recorder by the following Monday, who will secure a release for request of information from the chosen applicants, forward those names to the Marshal to begin background checks then schedule interviews.**

Councilmember Goodman would like to include on the next agenda, a discussion of whether or not a non-binding referendum should be included on the next ballot to gauge the citizens' desire to unincorporated.

Councilmember Dixon encouraged everyone to respond to the 2010 Census.

Councilmember Goodman made a motion to authorize Councilmember Dixon to work with the Marshal on background investigations for the Administrator candidates. The Deputy Mayor provided a second to the motion, which passed unanimously, 5-0, following a voice vote.

ADJOURN

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

APPROVED THIS 16th DAY OF MARCH 2010.

By:

Roosevelt Johnson, Ed.D., Mayor

ATTEST:

Dana L.S. Williams, CMC, City Recorder