PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 6, 2008

A Public Hearing of the Arcadia City Council was held on March 6, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were: Goodman, Fazzone, Johnson, Heine, and Dixon. Also in attendance: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the Public Hearing to order and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive concerns and comments from the citizens for having an elected Mayor.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Goodman addressed the Public to update them on the current status of a Weak Mayor or Strong Mayor type of government. Mayor Goodman stated the Council, at the previous Work Session on February 19, 2008, had come to a consensus to stay with the current form of City government. She stated the Council felt that the public should have input in deciding the form of government. Mayor Goodman explained this is not a campaign for an individual to become a strong mayor or to elect a mayor. She also stated if a mayor was elected, it might not be anyone on the Council at this time.

Mayor Goodman then called for input from the public.

Mr. Joe Fink, a member of the public, and previous Councilman for the City of North Port addressed the Council. Mr. Fink stated that the Council has all the power it needs at this time, noting that Administrator Strube cannot start or stop a project, pass a budget, or create new positions without the Council's approval.

Mr. Joe Cavanaugh, addressed the Council in favor of an elected Mayor.

Mr. Bob Allen, a former City Councilman and former County Commissioner addressed the Council stating he was not in favor of changing the current form of City government, nor voting for a strong mayor. He is in favor of reviewing the ordinances and codes however and suggested a group of citizens be appointed to a committee for this process.

Mr. Keith Markey, a local business man, addressed the Council stating that after speaking with several local citizens he was assured that several citizens would come forward to help in the process of reviewing the ordinances. He feels that people doing business with the City should be treated like customers, making sure that requests are processed in a timely manner and problems solved with courtesy. He stated changing the form of government would not alleviate those matters and that possibly the best thing to do at this time is nothing.

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Pastor Norris of Shiloh Baptist Church asked what the difference was between a Strong Mayor and City Administrator form of government. He then asked if the City Administrator answered to anyone, to which the Council stated that the City Administrator answers to them. Pastor Norris then asked who a Mayor without veto power would answer to and was informed that they would answer to the other Council members. He then asked what brought up this suggestion to change the form of government.

Mayor Goodman stated there were issues that came before the Council that in the present form of government, the Council could not resolve or answer for their constituents. She noted that previously it had been pointed out to the Council that they can only hire and fire the Administrator.

Council member Fazzone stated that if the Administrator is not doing his job either replace him or work with him.

Pastor Norris stated that it was his understanding that the Mayor has nothing to do with the daily running of the City. Attorney Holloman said that was correct the Council has all policy making authority; however by ordinance the authority for the day to day business is given to the Administrator.

Mrs. Carol Scott asked if the Council currently has the power why would they need to change to an elected Mayor.

Councilman Dixon stated that an elected Mayor with no veto power could supervise the City Manager. He then questioned the bid process that was followed by the Administrator in the recent bid for the street restoration paving program. He feels that there is potential room for corruption in this situation.

Councilman Fazzone stated that he is concerned about the question that Councilman Dixon brought about regarding the biding process and the procedures that Administrator Strube had followed. He asked Administrator Strube to explain the bid process. Administrator Strube stated that all bids are opened at the time as specified in the bid specifications and that all contractors are welcome to be present during the opening of the bids.

Mr. Paul Hoover, a local business man feels that there are valid points on each side of the issue. He noted that in the current system the Administrator serves at the pleasure of the

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Council if he is not listening to the Councils requests then they should take action against him. He feels that the form of government is not bad and the system is working.

Mr. Keith Markey does not feel that the bid process is an issue, the Administrator is the issue. He believes that an annual employment review of the Administrator should be done by the Council.

Mayor Goodman stated that previously the Council did an annual performance review; however they have not kept up with the process.

Mr. Fink asked if the Administrator had been here for twenty-six (26) years how did he get a raise, stating that it is up to the Mayor and Council to correct this situation.

Mayor Goodman noted that the Administrator receives a raise at the beginning of the new budget year at the same percent or amount that all other employees are given.

Councilman Johnson stated this could be a part of the changes that need to be made and suggested giving the new Administrator a three (3) year contract contingent upon an evaluation.

Mrs. Adrianne Daly stated the public did not know there were problems inside the City and asked how they could be informed. Mayor Goodman stated that any problems within the City have been fully discussed at Council meetings and suggested that attending Council meetings is the best way to remain informed.

Mayor Goodman then stated that the Council had previously voted to retain the current form of government and that they would be reviewing the City codes and ordinances at a Work Session at 5:00 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled Council Meetings.

Mayor Goodman called for any further public input. There was none.

The Public Meeting was adjourned.

CITY RECORDER

PRESIDENT