

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 1, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on May 1, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 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, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Waters, Ms. Way, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Jaccarie Simons.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 17, 2007 were adopted on a motion by Whitlock; seconded by Goodman and carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 936 suspending applications for adult entertainment establishment permits until November 1, 2007 was presented on second reading. Goodman moved to waive the rules and read the proposed ordinance by title only; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

ORDINANCE NO 936

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA
SUSPENDING PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ADULT
ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENT PERMITS UNTIL
NOVEMBER 1, 2007; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION AND
EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whitlock moved to approve proposed Ordinance Number 936 on second reading; seconded by Goodman. Mayor Johnson called for comments from the public, there were none. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Ayes: Goodman, Heine; Whitlock, Fazzone and Johnson. Nays: None.

Mr. Leonard Higley representing the DeSoto County Historical Society addressed the Council to request a contribution from the City to enable the Society to purchase Mr. Howard Melton's Historical Library. This request was tabled from the April 17, 2007

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Council Meeting until more information as to the location of where the library would be housed could be reported. Mr. Higley stated the Historical Society is in the process of purchasing the Library and has made a \$5,000 down payment. The Library would be housed at the old Brownville School after renovations are complete. The Historical Society has a twenty-five (25) year lease of the Brownville School and have been informed by School Superintendent Adriane Cline that they School Board does not have a problem extending the lease for an additional twenty-five (25) years. There was some discussion as to housing the collection at the DeSoto County Library to which Mr. Higley stated that the Historical Society was concerned about security of the collection. The Historical Society hopes to scan the entire paper collection in order for it to be on CD and available to all citizens without the worry of possible damage to the originals. This library and other items in Mr. Melton's collection contain detailed information on the City of Arcadia and DeSoto County. Council Member Whitlock stated that he has no problem in giving a contribution for the purchase of Mr. Melton's Library. He asked if the Historical Society has asked the County for a donation to which Mr. Higley replied that another Board Member, Mr. James Westberry, would be speaking with the County. Council Member Fazzone asked Mr. Higley what amount they were seeking. Administrator Strube stated there were approximately 7,000 citizens in the City and 28,000 in the County and using a donation from the General Fund on a County wide basis, at a 13% figure, the amount would be around \$5,000. Fazzone moved to donate \$2,500 to the DeSoto County Historical Society to assist in the purchase of Mr. Howard Melton's Historical Library, second by Heine and carried. Council Member Goodman voted against the action. Council Member Fazzone then asked that the Historical Society converse with Mrs. Goodman regarding a person she knows that has more historical information that would be a beneficial addition to the library. All Council Members agreed that this information should be a part of the complete history of the City of Arcadia and DeSoto County.

Pam Ames, representing the Arcadia Main Street Program presented the Council with a poster advertising the upcoming Watermelon Festival. She then asked for permission to allow Main Street to number parking spaces on Oak Street and Polk Avenue in order to be able to assign vendors with spaces for downtown events. Heine moved to allow the Main Street Program to stencil numbers on the curbs downtown; seconded by Whitlock and carried. Mrs. Ames then asked if any Council Members would be available on May 19, 2007 from 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. to work as servers at the Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Arcadia Main Street Program. The breakfast will be at the Last Chapter Book and Coffee Store on Oak Street. Council Members will check their schedules and let Ms. Ames know if they would be available.

Marshall Lee presented the Police Activity Report for April, 2007.

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Administrator Strube addressed the Council regarding a Planning and Zoning Board recommendation and City Council action on September, 19, 2006, granting approval for a Tower Site Lease with Day Star Communications. The City has successfully identified city-owned property at 210 South Parker Street for the placement of the tower. Administrator Strube stated that this type of communication tower is an attraction for business noting that the kind of bandwidth capability is what business look for, and the type of communications facility most communities would love to have. The value of the lease is \$24,000 per year and will be increased each year in accordance with the consumer price index. Administrator Strube stated the City would be provided with tower space and would forgo a lease payment; however, at this time the City does not have a need for these services. The City will have the ability to sublease the tower space which would allow the City to receive \$2,000 per month in rental fees. Administrator Strube stated the City could reserve a particular spot if needed in the future. Fazzone asked if the City has any tower space at this time to which Administrator Strube replied that the City does lease space on the DeSoto County Sheriff's Tower noting that the communications equipment is not the City's. It was noted that there is no guarantee that the City will find a tenant for the tower spot. Heine moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a Tower Site Lease Agreement with Day Star Communications; seconded by Goodman and carried.

Mr. Richard Bowers, President of the DeSoto County Community Development Corporation, addressed the Council regarding improvements at Louis Anderson Park. Mr. Bowers asked if the Council would approve the use of a walking path through an area in the park. Mr. Bowers stated that the only cost would be either mulch or sand for the path. Mr. Bowers also reported that the Corporation is in the process of developing a monitoring system for the park. He asked that people using the park report any problems or repairs that may be needed. Mr. Rivers, another member of the Corporation inquired on the status of the restrooms that were awaiting the bid result. Administrator Strube reported that three (3) bids were returned the lowest was \$36,380.00 and the highest was \$90,000.00 which were greatly in excess of what was originally anticipated. Administrator Strube asked if the Corporation had decided on a spot to locate the restrooms. Mr. Bowers reported that west of Martin Luther King, right inside the area on the right. This area is close to sewer lines and in an area that had sufficient lighting. Administrator Strube inquired if this was inside the fence to which Mr. Rivers stated that it is inside the fenced area. Administrator Strube recommends that all bids be rejected and new bids taken. The approved amount for the buildings by the Council is \$20,000. Heine moved to reject all previous bids for the restrooms due to being too high; seconded by Fazzone and carried. Attorney Holloman recommended that the Council re- advertise the bidding. Whitlock moved to advertise for re- bidding of the restrooms; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

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Special Projects Coordinator Hewitt addressed the Council with a proposal to resume rental of the Golf Clubhouse facility. Mr. Hewitt stated he has been receiving public request, including from DeSoto County High School, to open the facility for parties and other events. Mr. Hewitt presented the Council with a draft of a contract and rental fees. Don Waters, Parks and Recreations Supervisor, addressed the Council concerning the proposal noting past rentals of the facility had had very bad results. Mr. Waters stated that the clubhouse was now in good shape. It was noted that equipment at the golf course and on the golf course is very expensive. During past rentals the greens had been abused by people driving cars on them. Mr. Waters believes that renting the clubhouse facilities for parties and events would be detrimental to the golf course and to the City. Marshall Lee also reported problems experienced by the Arcadia Police Department during previous rentals and advised against renting the facilities. Mr. Rives, an employee of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department, addressed the Council, and related previous experiences of alcohol abuse, fights, and property destruction occurring at the clubhouse. In addition, Marshall Lee explained to the Council the cost to the budget of off duty police to patrol during an event. Council Member Whitlock said there had been many problems in the past of people destroying property at the golf course. Mr. Hewitt then stated he and Administrator Strube had agreed that there should be no alcoholic beverages allowed. Council Member Fazzone and Marshall Lee both believe that alcohol would still be on the premises in vehicles. Marshall Lee then reminded the Council of additional police officers needed to enforce the non alcohol on premises rule. Council Member Heine does not see any reason to rent the club house. Mayor Johnson stated that it appears to be the consensus of the Council to say no to any rental of the facilities. Heine moved to not allow rentals of the golf course club house; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Administrator Strube reported on a request from the last Council Meeting of April 17, 2007, to prepare a maintenance plan for vacant property on Bond Street. Pictures were presented to the Council showing the condition of the property. Administrator Strube stated the property was and is currently being used as a dump. It is grown over with vegetation and it is not known exactly what is on the property. John Reed, Public Works Supervisor pushed debris back from the edge of the property, and some maintenance has been done to the drainage of the property. There were some signs of an area that Mr. Harris, a neighboring property owner had done some maintenance to the edge of the property. Administrator Strube suggested to the Council that the property be left in its natural state, and to enclose it with a fence in order to keep people from continuing to use the area as a dump. Mr. Strube thanked Mr. Harris for any maintenance he had done in the past; however the property should remain as part of the City's inventory. If in the future the City should decide to sell the property Administrator Strube stated that a "Request for Proposal" RFP would be necessary.

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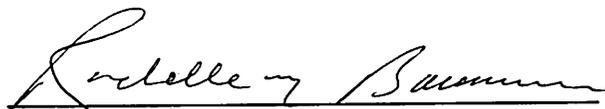
An invitation from Peace River/ Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority to attend a ground breaking ceremony for a regional expansion program on May 11, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. was noted.

An invitation from First State Bank to attend a ground breaking ceremony for a new branch office on May 2, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. was noted.

Special Projects Coordinator Hewitt presented the Council with a proof of the City flag. Mr. Hewitt stated the rugs for City Hall would also look the same. All Council Members were pleased with the proof. Mr. Hewitt reported the flag and rugs should be completed soon.

Administrator Strube advised the Council that they might receive phone calls regarding water bills as the City has been stepping up collections efforts. Council Member Heine asked if all meters had been changed to which Administrator Strube replied yes. City Recorder Baumann stated that no one has been disconnected as a result of late billing. She then reported that it was necessary to send out a two month bill in order to get caught up, noting that the department was behind in billing as a result of issues with the installation of the meters. Ms. Baumann reported that only those with a history of delinquent bills or those who had not made an honest effort to work out a payment schedule have had their service disconnected. Administrator Strube stated that the two month bill actually resulted in a saving to the customer because only one (1) minimum usage had been applied where normally over the course of two months you would have paid a minimum amount each month and an incremental increase for any usage over the minimum.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT