

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on February 15, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Whitlock, Heine, Fazzone, Goodman and Johnson. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, City Fire Chief Rutherford, City Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Whitlock called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the Regular meeting of January 18, 2005 were adopted on motion of Goodman; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Mayor Whitlock introduced Mary K. Burns as the new Director of the DeSoto County Health Department. Ms. Burns thanked the City for their help with the installation of exercise equipment around Lake Katherine.

Proposed Ordinance No. 915 was presented on second reading. Heine moved to waive the rules and read the proposed ordinance by title only; seconded by Johnson and carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 915

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTIONS 46-3 AND 46-91, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA, TO CONFORM TO EARLY VOTING AT ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 46-173 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA, TO PROVIDE FOR EARLY VOTING AT ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 46-263 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCAIDA, FLORIDA, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DATE OF A RUN-OFF ELECTION IN THE EVENT OF A TIE; PROVIDING FOR CHALLENGES OF ELECTORS; PROVIDING FOR CANVASS OF RETURNS OF SUCH BALLOTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fazzone then moved to approve Ordinance No. 915 on second reading; seconded by Goodman. Mayor Whitlock called for comments from the public, there were none. The motion carried on roll call vote. Ayes: Heine, Fazzone, Goodman, Johnson, and Whitlock. Nays: None.

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2005
Continued

Robin Johnson, President of DCYAA addressed Council regarding changes to the bathrooms at the football fields. Mr. Johnson understood that showers have been proposed to be installed for the volunteers who are here to help with hurricane repairs and are living in the local RV Parks. It was noted that the proposal was to restore the locker room back to its' original use. The concession stand may need to be relocated. Mr. Johnson does not feel that showers should be allowed in the west side restrooms as they are used by the children. Tara Anderson, Parks and Recreation Coordinator suggested that the baseball dugout be turned into a shower facility and that a laundry facility be constructed where the concession stand exists. All changes would take place on the baseball field side, leaving the football side as it is. The football bathrooms would be upgraded. Fazzone moved to turn the baseball dugout into showers and put a washer in the concession stand building; seconded by Heine and carried.

Mr. Johnson then reported that the water was turned off at the building which caused the ice machine to burn up. Tara will check with the Water Department to see why the water was turned off.

Kathryn Hill, Vice Chair of the Hospital Board addressed Council to request a letter of support for DeSoto County Memorial Hospital to obtain a USDA loan for major expansion and renovations of the Hospital. Heine moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for the hospital expansion; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Mr. Gene Finkler addressed Council to request that they consider a twin town relationship with other towns called Arcadia or of a similar size. The idea of twin town relationships is a European tradition. Mr. Finkler would like a resolution stating the purpose of the twin town relationship or a letter of support. Two towns Mr. Finkler would like to start with are Arcadia, Louisiana and St. Gervais Mont-Blanc, France. Fazzone asked Mr. Finkler what role he would be willing to take and Mr. Finkler stated he would agree to be the project manager. Fazzone moved to authorize Mr. Gene Finkler to proceed with the twin town project; seconded by Johnson and carried.

A request by letter, from Christine Engles, Executive Director for the Arcadia Housing Authority to withdraw her previous request to expand the Board of Directors, and to re-appoint Howard Foster and William Hackney to the Board. Mayor Whitlock at the recommendation of the Arcadia Housing Authority Commissioners re-appointed Mr. Howard Foster and Mr. William Hackney for a term of four (4) years each to succeed themselves as members of the Arcadia Housing Authority, which terms will expire December 31, 2008. Goodman moved to confirm these appointments; seconded by Fazzone and carried. A letter notifying them of their re-appointment along with an expression of appreciation for their services will be sent.

A report of Police Fines and Forfeitures for the Month of January 2005 indicates fines \$1,567.07, law enforcement \$41.00 and radios \$37.50.

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2005
Continued

Marshal Lee then reported that Police Department Chaplain Reverend Paul Matthews passed away and a memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 19, 2005 at Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. Goodman requests that the Mayor send a letter to Reverend Matthews' family. Heine moved to have staff prepare a proclamation for the Mayor to sign and be presented to Reverend Matthews' family; seconded by Fazzone and carried

The Recorder's report of Revenues and Expenditures for the month of December 2004 was presented.

Administrator Strube addressed Council noting that a letter was sent to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to request assistance with the removal of debris from drainage canals and waterways caused by Hurricane Charley on August 13, 2005. There could be between twelve (12) and twenty-four (24) miles of canals and waterways that need to be cleared. The City is applying for a 75/25 grant for \$250,000 to \$450,000 depending on how the debris is to be removed. The required 25% local match may be able to be met as an in-kind match. This does not require a resolution at this time.

Administrator Strube then reported that the City is applying for funds to do repairs at the Airport. He then requests that Council adopt Resolution No. 2005-2 to seek a \$500,000.00 bank loan with no interest for two (2) years. The loan would be with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and additional funds would come from insurance proceeds, FAA funds and FEMA funds. Heine moved to authorize the Mayor to sign and to adopt Resolution No. 2005-2; seconded by Fazzone and carried. Heine asked when work will begin and was informed that the City is still working on wind load issues. The structure must meet a wind load of 150 MPH and a contract must be signed with the contractor before work can begin.

RESOLUTION 2005-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA,
REQUESTING A STATE FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE
BANK LOAN

WHEREAS, as a result of Hurricane Charley and its aftermath, several structures at the City's airport were severely damaged, and

WHEREAS, cost estimates for repairs and/or replacement of these structures far exceed insurance proceeds, and

WHEREAS, representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have also estimated funding from that agency, on a reimbursement basis, and

WHEREAS, the revenues from the insurance proceeds and the FEMA worksheet are being pledged as security for repayment of the loan, and

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2005
Continued

(Resolution 2005-2 continued)

WHEREAS, the City will be responsible for the balance of the debt.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Arcadia, Florida:

That the City of Arcadia enter into a state-funded emergency infrastructure bank loan agreement with the State of Florida Department of Transportation in order to provide interim financing and to make the necessary repairs in a timely manner at the Arcadia Municipal Airport.

DULY ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Arcadia, Florida, at their regular meeting held on February 15, 2005.

CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA

/s/ PAUL P. WHITLOCK
PAUL P. WHITLOCK
MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/ RACHELLE M. BAUMANN
RACHELLE M. BAUMANN
CITY RECORDER

The Planning and Zoning Board at a meeting on February 8, 2005 recommended the following to City Council.

1. That the request of Lorrie Collins (DeSoto Glass & Mirror Inc.) regarding her petition to rezone three (3) lots was amended by the Board to rezone Lots 1 thru 7 inclusive, Block 22, Original Survey from One Family Dwelling R-1B District to General Business B-3 and also to rezone Lot 8 and Fractional Lots 9 & 16; Fractional Lots 10 & 27; and Lot 28 all being in Block 22, Original Survey from One Family Dwelling R-1B District to Professional Office P-1 District be scheduled for a joint Public Hearing with a possible date of April 5, 2005 time to be set at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible. Heine moved to schedule a joint Public Hearing for April 5, 2005 at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible to consider the rezoning request of Lorrie Collins including the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2005
Continued

2. That the request of Russell Summers & Linda Summers and Beverly Mundell regarding their request to rezone Lots 7,9,10,11,12,13, 14 and the South ½ of Lot 8, all being in Block 37, Original Survey from Multiple Dwelling R-3 District to Residential-Professional and Business RPB District be scheduled for a joint Public Hearing with a possible date of April 5, 2005 time to be set at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible. Heine moved to schedule a joint Public Hearing for April 5, 2005 at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible to consider the rezoning request of Russell and Linda Summers and Beverly Mundell; seconded by Goodman and carried.

The February 2005 Mobile Home Park report was presented.

Administrator Strube addressed Council to report that the City has been awarded \$500,000.00 in HOME Again funds to use in providing assistance under the HOME Again FHFC Disaster Relief Home Assistance Loan Program. The funds are to repair or rebuild homes that were damaged by last seasons' hurricanes. The home owner will not owe for the work done on the home until the property is sold. Ms. Erin Miles with FEMA Long Term Recovery Team addressed the Council. Administrator Strube then reported that Grants Coordinator Steve Weeks is in Tallahassee working on housing issues for the City.

Mayor Whitlock announced that County Commissioner Delma Allen has requested a joint meeting to further discuss the possible consolidation of the City and County Fire Departments. Fazzone believes that the Fire Merger Committee should meet before the joint boards meet to discuss this issue. Administrator Strube reported that the Committee was in the process of setting up interviews with companies who had responded to the request for services (RFP) to review consolidation issues.

County Commissioner Delma Allen then addressed the Council stating that now is the time to make up our mind to do this. Mr. Allen noted that this issue has been in committee for about four (4) or five (5) years already. He stated that we can achieve more by working together rather than separately.

Administrator Strube reported that today he met with the County Administrator and Utility Department Manger to discuss the possibility that the City's waste water plant become the regional plant.

Goodman stated that she is encouraged by Mr. Allen being here tonight and agrees that the merger issue needs to be decided and she is in favor of meeting with the County Commissioners to discuss it.

Fazzone noted that the County terminated discussions over two (2) years ago.

Goodman moved to hold a special joint City and County meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2005 at 6:00 PM at the County Commission Chambers to discuss the possible consolidation of the City and County Fire Departments; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Regular Meeting
February 15, 2005
Continued

Administrator Strube reported that the City has received one (1) application from an individual to serve as a Special Master. Attorney Holloman stated that the person is very qualified to hold the position. Goodman moved to approve Vincent A. Sica as a Special Master for the City of Arcadia; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Mr. Collins with DeSoto Glass and Mirror asked Council for special approval to begin construction of his new building before the re-zoning is considered. Attorney Holloman stated that Council can not guarantee that the re-zoning will be approved and if Mr. Collins builds his building there is the possibility that the re-zoning could be denied. Attorney Holloman then stated that this is a quasi judicial matter and asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak on the matter for or against the re-zoning request. Robin Johnson spoke in favor of the re-zoning, no one spoke against it. Attorney Holloman then asked if Council had spoken with the petitioners or received any letters regarding Mr. Collins re-zoning request to which all stated no.

Ms. Libby Marshal representing Hospice of Southwest Florida requests permission to close Volusia Avenue on March 5, 2005 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Marshal Lee stated that he did not have a problem with the request. Fazzone then moved to approve the request to close Volusia Avenue on March 5, 2005 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Special Projects Coordinator Hewett addressed Council to present a new map showing the Federal Function Classification for all streets. It was noted that Hargrave should be changed to Martin Luther King Blvd. The Mayor is to approve the streets in the City. The map has been at the County for over three weeks the City just received it. The map will not be approved until it shows Martin Luther King Blvd instead of Hargrave.

Mr. Hewett then reported that the driving range opened on Saturday, February 12, 2005. He noted that due to cold weather the turn out was not as anticipated for the fund raiser. The proceeds were to go to the Ronald McDonald House. Mr. Hewett had originally pledged \$500.00, however only \$260.00 was collected. Mr. Hewett said that he will put in the balance to bring up the total to \$500.00. Note for the record at a later date all Council pledged \$100.00 each in order to present a check for \$1,000.00 to the Ronald McDonald House.

All Council stated that they were very sorry to hear about the passing of Reverend Matthews.

Mayor Whitlock requests that a workshop meeting be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at 6:00 PM to review the City Code. Note for the record the time was later changed to 5:00 PM.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT