

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2003

A regular meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on January 7, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Goodman, Fazzone, Johnson, Heine and Whitlock. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, City Attorney Holloman, City Marshal Lee, Police Captain Anderson, Engineer DeCheske, Public Works Superintendent Waters, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Dr. W. Paul Matthews, Interim Pastor for Elizabeth Baptist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the Special Meeting of December 3, 2002 were adopted on motion of Heine; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of December 3, 2002 were adopted on motion of Johnson; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

Mayor Goodman proclaimed February 3rd through 9th, 2003 as "Fitness Is An Overall Thing" Week Arcadia-Physical Fitness Awareness Week and urged all residents, businesses and government agencies to join in supporting Fitness Is An Overall Thing Week. Fazzone moved to endorse this action; seconded by Johnson and carried. Mayor Goodman then presented the proclamation to Ashley Ames and Casey Whidden representing the DeSoto Chapter of Health Occupations Students.

Mayor Goodman then presented Jim and Shirley Dooley with a "Recognition Award" for creating and maintaining a rose garden at the corner of US 17 and Hickory Street. Mayor Goodman then asked if the Rotary Club would place a dedication sign in the rose garden. Fazzone moved to endorse this action; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Mr. Horace Pursell and Mr. Joe Pursell of Pursell's Towing Service addressed Council to request further review of nonconsensual towing service fees. Mr. Joe Pursell noted that the city does not have the number of calls that a major city would have which would help to offset the cost for Mr. Pursell to provide the towing service. Mr. Pursell stated that he must operate under certain state mandates similar to the city. He must have an employee on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and he noted that out of the 119 cars that they

towed only 54 were picked up. The ones that were not picked up must be made legal which costs an additional \$186.00 which takes away from any profits he might be able to make. If Pursell's is not on the High Way Patrol's rotation list they would loose about 25% of their current business. Mr. Pursell referred to a recent accident that his company did not respond to as their vehicle was not in service and the cost from an outside company was about \$2,600.00. Mr. Suggs of Sugg's Wrecker Service addressed Council and reported that his insurance only went up about 5% not 30% as it had for Pursell's. Mr. Suggs believes that the proposed charges would be excessive for the area. Marshal Lee then addressed Council and stated that he does not recommend the proposed increase and that as far as the Police Department is concerned both wrecker companies are the same. Fazzone does not like to have to set rates for anyone. Fazzone then moved to table the issue until such time that DeSoto County has enacted an Ordinance to set towing fees; seconded by Heine and carried.

Marshal Lee and Captain Anderson addressed Council for clarification, regarding the proposed vacation buy back policy. It was their understanding that the policy would go from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, however when payroll was submitted they were told that it would actually go through the last pay period day of the calendar year which was December 27, 2002. After discussion Heine moved to pay all employees for vacation time accrued through December 31, 2002 and that in the future the date will go through the last pay period of the calendar year; seconded by Whitlock and carried. Administrator Strube stated that he was just made aware of this today and that to his knowledge even going through December 31, 2002, the employee in question would still not have met the qualifications to sell back vacation time in excess of 240 hours.

The Police Activity Report for the month of December 2002 was presented.

A request by letter, from Katie Baker, President of the Arcadia Main Street Program to hold "Downtown Market Days" in the Tree of Knowledge Park on January 11, 2003 and every second Saturday thereafter. Whitlock moved to grant the request for the Arcadia Main Street Program to hold "Downtown Market Days" in the Tree of Knowledge Park on January 11, 2003 and every second Saturday thereafter; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

The Fire Department report for the month of December 2002 was presented.

The December 2002 report of Arcadia Golf Course receipts and number of play was presented. Fazzone then reported that the Chamber of Commerce Early Bird Breakfast is scheduled for February 6, 2003 at the Arcadia Golf Course and he invited staff to attend.

The December 2002 Mobile Home Park report was presented.

Administrator Strube addressed Council to discuss a request from the Utility Systems Department to purchase a new F-150 pickup truck from DeSoto Ford to replace the 1987 truck which had been the previous Fire Chiefs vehicle. The Systems department is requesting a full size vehicle in order to carry supplies and staff as needed. The current budget does have an amount set aside for debt service. Fazzone moved to authorize the purchase of a new F-150 Pickup Truck from Desoto Ford in the amount of \$18,657.00 which is \$1,000.00 under state contract price; seconded by Heine and carried.

Ms. Helen Washington inquired when the road repair on Watson would begin and was informed it should begin tomorrow.

Ms. Washington then invited Council to attend a 7:30 A.M. breakfast at the Golden Coral on Monday, January 20, 2003 in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Ms. Washington thanked Council and Administrator Strube for seeing that Hargrave Park is ready for the Martin Luther King Day festivities.

Whitlock reported that he took a tour of all City offices with Administrator Strube and he was especially impressed with the longevity of city employees. Whitlock then stated that he would like to represent the City on the Central Regional Planning Council; Dr. Johnson said that he would gladly let Mr. Whitlock take over for him in this capacity. Whitlock then suggested that the City enforce the "No Smoking" in public buildings to be effective now rather than July 1, 2003 for the Pro Shop. Heine moved to put up "No Smoking" signs at the Pro Shop effective now; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Administrator Strube reported that the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application did not make the deadline of 5:00 P.M., December 19, 2002 to Tallahassee. The application had been sent by Federal Express however they lost track of it and it got to Tallahassee four (4) days late. Administrator Strube stated that Steve Weeks attempted to drive the application to Tallahassee on the 19th, however he did not make it before 5:00 P.M. Administrator Strube reported that the State has not been lenient in the past when the deadline was missed. The next application process for this type of grant will be December 2003. Council stated that in the future the application should be sent to Tallahassee by courier.

Mayor Goodman then inquired if the City could look at applying for CDBG funds for the Downtown or Smith Brown Center and she requested that Mr. Alday be contacted to give a formal proposal to Council regarding grant funds for these programs.

Whitlock stated he would like to see grants for infrastructure.

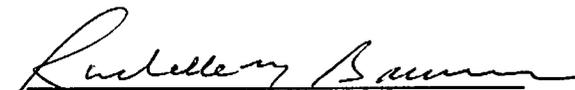
Fazzone reported a problem with trash at N. Roberts after discussion Fazzone moved to have the City haul away the trash and bill the property owner; seconded by Heine and carried.

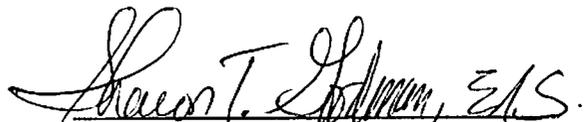
Fazzone inquired about the Right-Of-Way at the Golf Course and was informed that Administrator Strube is working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on this and will see if DOT will clean up the area.

Johnson reported that the Railroad Crossing at Orange and Pine needs to be repaired. Administrator Strube reported that all Railroad Crossings are being inspected by the Railroad.

Mayor Goodman stated that she has received a request from William Guice and the Church of Kings Dominion to have the corner of Gordon blocked off on Saturday January 11, 2003 from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. Marshal Lee stated that he does not have a problem with the request. Fazzone then moved to authorize the closure of Gordon Street on Saturday, January 11, 2003 from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M., keeping Alabama open; seconded by Johnson and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT