

SPECIAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2004

A Special Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on November 9, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Whitlock, Fazzone, Johnson, and Goodman. Absent: Council Member Heine. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, City Attorney Holloman, City Fire Chief Rutherford, 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.

Mayor Whitlock stated that the purpose of the Special Meeting is to consider the purchase of property as a site for a future City Public Safety facility to house Police, Fire and EMS operations.

Attorney Holloman stated that the City is looking at two (2) parcels for a total purchase price of \$150,000.00. The first parcel is located at 141 North DeSoto Avenue which is the site of the old Coca Cola Bottling Plant at a cost of \$115,000.00. The second parcel is located at 154 North Polk Avenue which contains an abandoned home at a cost of \$35,000.00. The contract on the home is contingent on the purchase of the old Coca Cola Plant. Both contracts have provisions stating that the sellers must remove all hazardous materials by the time of closing. The City will pay for an environmental survey. If hazardous materials are found the sellers must take care of them unless the City accepts the property as is. Fazzone moved to authorize the Mayor to sign all necessary documents to purchase Lots 1-6, and North ½ of Lot 7, Block 24, Original Survey for \$115,000.00 and Lots 21, 22 and North ½ of Lot 23, Block 24, Original Survey for \$35,000.00; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Mr. Peter E. Potemkin, Technical Assistance Contractor with FEMA addressed Council noting that he has been in Arcadia for seven (7) weeks to work on Long Term Recovery Goals. Mr. Potemkin stated that the next public meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2004 from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the DeSoto Middle School. He would like to see as many Council Members attend as possible. A written "draft" of the Long Term Recovery Plan will be presented at the meeting.

Fire Chief Rutherford addressed Council stating that he is glad to see Council move forward with the purchase of this property. Chief Rutherford believes that this will be an excellent location due to accessibility to all roads. He hopes to take the Council to San Carlos Park in order to view a prospective building for the site.

Ms. Way stated that she is pleased to see Council move on the purchase of this property as well.

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Administrator Strube reported that he and Steve Weeks went to Tallahassee in order to meet with the Secretary of Community Affairs to seek funds. Originally 150,000,000.00 was pledged to go to the communities effected by Hurricane Charley; however these funds are no longer pledged just for Hurricane Charley. Administrator Strube stated that the City will continue to seek assistance in connection with the tri-county area DeSoto, Charlotte and Hardee. Administrator Strube and Mr. Weeks also met with Lieutenant Governor Jennings to go over the City's "wish list" of immediate needs.

Administrator Strube then reported that the City is receiving some "arm twisting" from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) due to the need for additional hook ups to the City water and sewer system. DEP is requesting a long range commitment that the City will repair our collections system sewer lines, the City is not willing to sign anything until we get a firm commitment from FEMA for funding. We may need to look for funding from other sources before repairs can be done. The FEMA temporary housing is to be completed by November 2004 and all of the units will require hook up to City water and sewer.

Council then discussed a letter they received from Dr. McClendon to which all Council Members stated they found offensive. Administrator Strube reported that he spoke with Dr. McClendon and he has since changed his opinion on the temporary mobile home park being created by FEMA. Council would like an apology from Dr. McClendon.

Firefighter Lewis Wells reported that he received a call from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding a grant application for a combined Police and Fire Public Safety Building. Mr. Wells was informed that the grant can be combined with other grants. He will get with Haley in the Police Department to finalize the application.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

CITY RECORDER

PRESIDENT