

WORK SESSION

OCTOBER 7, 2003

A work session of the Arcadia City Council was held on October 7, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Goodman, Fazzino, Heine, Johnson and Whitlock. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Goodman.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

Mayor Goodman stated the purpose of the workshop as requested by the Arcadia Main Street Program is to present to Council the organizations goals for the upcoming year.

Pam Ames, President of the Arcadia Main Street Program then addressed Council reporting that the Interact Club of DeSoto High will help participate in a "Downtown Cleanup" which is scheduled for November 1, 2003 from 8:00AM to 12:00 PM. Brenda Lee's Deli will provide lunch for all participants. Councilman Fazzino asked how many members currently belonged to the Arcadia Main Street Program and was informed that there are fourteen (14) business at this time.

Ms. Ames also reported that "Market Days" will be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month beginning in November. The group is also working on a brochure/map of the downtown merchants. Councilman Fazzino suggested that they also list the public parking lots in the brochure.

Several items of concern were presented such as uneven sidewalks, grass, trash and deep holes in the alleyways, and they would like the municipal parking lots cleaned up. Mayor Goodman stated that none of the items requested appeared to be major or would require grant programs to be taken care of. Mayor Goodman then requested that Ms. Ames give a list of the specific areas of concern to Administrator Strube in order for him to delegate to the appropriate staff member for action.

Ms. Ames inquired about the new decorative street lights downtown and when they would be able to be lit. Administrator Strube reported that the Department of Transportation (DOT) currently has a problem with the lights which are to be installed on Magnolia as they are 2 feet from the curb and DOT wants 4 feet. He noted that it has taken since April 2003 to get a response from DOT. The architect is now re-designing the plans and the contractor is ready to install the lights as soon as DOT approves the revised plan. The plan was to have all the lights electrified at the same time, however if the lights on Magnolia can not be installed by November then it may be possible to just "light" the lights on Oak Street. The Arcadia Main Street Program will send a letter to the State concerning the lights.

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Administrator Strube addressed the Christmas Decorations that the City contracts for placement in the downtown area noting that they usually go on the 30 foot poles, however the poles may not stay in place depending on what type of light the new "decorative lights" give off. He also reported that the new lights do not have any electrical outlets on the poles.

Ms. Ames then requested more directional signage for the downtown and would like to see a sign on the West end of town similar to the new "Welcome to Arcadia" sign at US 17 and Hickory Street. The group would also like to see planters or hanging baskets downtown.

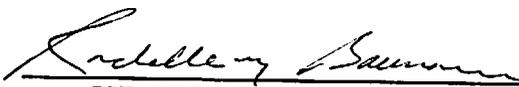
Ms. Ames asked if people who are fulfilling their community service hours could be used to clean up the downtown and was informed that there is a problem with liability insurance coverage. Councilman Fazzone suggested that the group see if they Boy Scouts would take this on as a community project.

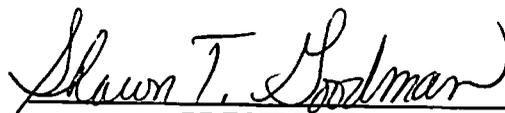
Ms. Ames asked about the parking lot behind the Arcade Building and was informed that it is private property.

The group would like to have a designated "Welcome Center" noting that the Chamber of Commerce Building is not located in the downtown. It was suggested that the City, County and Arcadia Main Street Program could work together towards this goal. Tim Adamsom suggested the old bank drive-thru, it was noted that it is for sale.

Mayor Goodman thanked Ms. Ames for her leadership and stated that there were no items of concern of which the Council was not receptive to. The City will provide pickup trucks for hauling away trash during the "Downtown Cleanup" on Saturday, November 1, 2003.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT