

## REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 1, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on April 1, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members present were Goodman, Fazzone, Johnson, Heine, and Dixon. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Marshall Lee, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Dr. Sharon T. Goodman, Mayor.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

The Minutes of the Work Session of March 18, 2008 and the Regular Meeting of March 18, 2008 were adopted on a motion by Heine; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

A request for permission to decorate light posts and benches on Oak Street with blue ribbons to raise awareness of child abuse was presented by Sandee Woods, from the Guardian ad Litem Program. Ms. Woods stated that the ribbons would be maintained and removed by her during the month of April, 2008. Fazzone moved to approve the request to place blue ribbons on the light posts and benches downtown; seconded by Dixon and carried.

Mayor Goodman presented a proclamation to Ms. Woods proclaiming April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month". Dixon moved to endorse this action; seconded by Heine and carried.

Mayor Goodman then presented Ms. Kinney, Director of the DeSoto County Library with a proclamation proclaiming April as "Library Appreciation Month". Dixon moved to endorse this action; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Mr. Doug Etheridge, from DLO Associates, representing Vero Automotive, a subsidiary of Glades County Ford and Mercury, presented the Council with information and a request to hold a car sale at DeSoto Plaza parking lot on April 19, 2008 through April 26, 2008. Mr. Etheridge stated there would be approximately eighty- five (85) cars offered for sale. He noted that sanitary stations and clean- up after the sale, would be provided. In addition, the car dealer will donate One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to the charity of the Council's choice, for each car sold. Mayor Goodman asked that Council consider having donated funds go to "Project Graduation" which is being sponsored by the Rotary Club as a drug free and alcohol free event for seniors. Dixon moved to approve the request to allow DLO Associates to hold an auto tent car sale from April 19, 2008 through April 26, 2008 and to give any donated monies to Project Graduation; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Dixon then inquired about a similar request from Mr. Mark Maida of Vero Auto. Administrator Strube reported that Mr. Mark Maida had presented a request in February, 2008, hold a car sale.

Regular Meeting  
April 1, 2008  
Continued

The Council did not approve Mr. Maida's request which was for February 26, 2008 through March 9, 2008, as the dates were prior to dates the Council had approved for Ms. Perez of FL Auto Liquidators. It was noted that Ms. Perez's request was the first auto tent sale approved by the Council in many years and they wanted to wait and see if there were any problems associated with the tent sale before approving additional requests for Ms. Perez or other dealers.

Administrator Strube reported that he did call Mr. Maida to let him know that another dealer was requesting permission to hold a tent sale and it would be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Maida informed Administrator Strube that he would not be able to make today's meeting.

Administrator Strube then asked the Council how frequently they would want to hold this type of event noting that they might become less productive if held month after month. As of this date Administrator Strube stated that he has not received any comments either verbal or written concerning the previous auto tent event. Dixon stated that he is impressed that the company would want to give something back to the City and he likes the idea of competition and choices of dealers for these events.

Administrator Strube then stated that Ms. Theresa Perez had left a request for permission to hold an auto tent sale in May, 2008, when she received approval for the February, 2008 sale. Ms. Perez addressed the Council with a request from Venice Nissan, to hold a sale May 21, 2008 through May 25, 2008. Ms. Perez stated her company would also be making a large donation to the charity of the Council's choice. Heine moved to approve an auto tent car sale to be held at the Sweetbay Supermarket, from May 21, 2008 through May 25, 2008, and that any funds donated go to "Project Graduation"; seconded by Johnson and carried. Councilman Dixon stated that he supports donations to Project Graduation; however he believes that some of the money should be given to another charity such as the Guardian ad Litem Program. Councilman Dixon stated for the record, he was in favor of spreading the money out. Mayor Goodman stated again that Project Graduation was a worthy and large project, which benefits all seniors of the graduating class of 2008. Marshall Lee noted that the Arcadia Police Department is involved with Project Graduation and they give their support to the event.

The Police Activity Report for the month of March 2008 was presented.

City Recorder Baumann reported that the FY 2006-2007 audit is complete and information resulting from the findings would be mailed by the audit firm to the home address of each Council member.

Mrs. Mary Kay Burns, Administrator of the DeSoto County Health Department, addressed the Council and stated that according to recent reports regarding health care, the Florida Senate has recommended a 26% reduction of funds to the DeSoto County Health Department. The Florida House has recommended a 50% reduction in addition to a decrease of Medicaid monies. Mrs. Burns stated that these cuts will result in the elimination of programs and will have an effect on

Regular Meeting  
April 1, 2008  
Continued

the health of citizens. In addition, with the reduction of programs, many of the sick will be forced to use the Emergency Room at DeSoto Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Burns asked that the Council and others attending contact their Representatives and Congress asking them to reconsider the cuts.

Ms. Paulette Alexander complemented all Council members for the street improvements and for making the project a reality.

Mr. Theodore Fleming, a resident of Gloria Avenue in the City, addressed the Council regarding paving and repairs for Gloria Avenue. Mr. Fleming stated he was told about two years ago that the street was on a list scheduled for repair noting that it is in very poor condition. Administrator Strube advised Mr. Fleming that the City is aware of the condition of Gloria Avenue and that the Council would be working on a new list of streets to be repaired next year; however, this would be after money was made available to do the work. Mr. Fleming then addressed Council regarding speeding on McKinley Street and loud music and profane language at Louis Anderson Park.

Mr. Tim Twohig addressed the Council regarding repairs to Maple Street to which Administrator Strube stated that the underground storm drain needs to be repaired before the street could be repaved.

Mr. Joe Pursell of Pursell Wrecker Service addressed the Council regarding a public records issue he is having with the City Police Department. Marshall Lee and Captain Anderson presented the Council with information regarding billing for towed vehicles by Mr. Pursell. Mayor Goodman explained to Mr. Pursell that he needs to send an invoice to the Police Department and the Marshall will then pay the bill. Mayor Goodman stated that this matter is between Mr. Pursell and the Police Department; it does not require any action by the Council noting that there is a procedure that needs to be followed in order to receive payment.

Mr. Pursell then inquired about the invitation to bid on wrecker services and was told that the Marshal has the authority regarding that matter and any questions would need to be referred to the Marshal.

Administrator Strube addressed the Council, stating that in their packets, was a recap of the advertisement for City Attorney and three (3) responses. The next step would be for the Council to schedule interviews with the applicants. Councilman Dixon would like to schedule a pre interview meeting before the next Council meeting. Councilman Fazzone would like to have a workshop prior to scheduling interviews in order to decide what questions and information the Council would be looking for during the interview process. Councilman Johnson suggested candidates attend the Council meeting on April 15, 2008 and provide the Council with a

Regular Meeting  
April 1, 2008  
Continued

five (5) to ten (10) minute introduction of themselves. Fazzone moved to hold a workshop on April 15, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. in order for the Council to establish a list of questions and a scoring mechanism to be used in the interview process for selecting an Attorney, and to schedule interviews to begin on May 6, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., allowing thirty (30) minutes per candidate and to invite the candidates to attend the April 15, 2008 meeting in order for the Council to meet them prior to their interview on May 6, 2008; seconded by Dixon and carried. Administrator Strube will advise the candidates of this request.

Administrator Strube then addressed the Council regarding summer rates for the Arcadia Golf Course. He explained that because Easter came early this year, and most of the winter visitors at the course had began to return home, play at the golf course was down. He stated that after consulting with Don Waters they recommend accelerating the summer rates. He noted that neighboring courses have already implemented their summer rates. Heine moved to begin using the summer rate schedule effective immediately; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

Administrator Strube reported that the street paving project was complete noting that APAC Paving had done a wonderful job in an accelerated time frame.

Councilman Dixon reported that he recently attended the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) meeting and stated that a tour of phosphate mines and reclaimed land was the topic of discussion and that a new finance director was recently hired due to the previous director having been convicted of embezzlement. He then noted that on May 14, 2008 the Heartland Regional Meeting will be held at the Turner Center.

Councilman Johnson reported that he was in Tallahassee last week to attend Legislative Action Days noting that critical budget cuts were discussed. He presented the Council with information regarding these cuts and encouraged them to call their legislators in regards to the City's funds.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
CITY RECORDER

  
PRESIDENT