

WORK SESSION
APRIL 14, 2009

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on April 14, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Fazzone, Dixon, Johnson, Goodman and Heine. Also in attendance were Administrator Rupp, Attorney Henbest, Marshall Lee and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Fazzone called the meeting to order.

Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Fazzone stated the purpose of the work session is to review and discuss the operations of the Arcadia Municipal Airport.

Councilwoman Goodman spoke to the Council regarding an incident that occurred at the last Regular Meeting on April 7, 2009 when things became heated between herself and Mr. Minnear. She stated that she emailed Mr. Minnear after the meeting and apologized to him, he accepted her apology and apologized to her, and they are both ready to "move on".

Mayor Fazzone began the discussion relating his history and involvement with the Airport in previous years. Mayor Fazzone stated as a pilot, he had flown from and into the airport many times and believes it is a nice small airport. He reported that the runway needs to be re-surfaced and stated "we are getting closer to resurfacing it" by using FAA grants. He also noted there are some problems with the hanger. Mayor Fazzone reported that Mr. Minnear purchased the contract from Air-Track about eight (8) years ago. He then reported that the Council has received several anonymous letters as well as suggestions and accusations regarding the airport. He stated in the past, meetings were held at the airport to "air out gripes and concerns". He would like to see someone spearhead involvement in the airport and people get involved with improvements. He reported on a recent fire inspection at the airport and stated that he was told the Fire Inspector was told not to attend this meeting due to legal ramifications. Mayor Fazzone noted that there are some items that are not in compliance and have a deadline to be corrected, such as two fire hydrants that are needed.

Mrs. Janet Trudeau, owner of Trudeau Warbird Enterprises addressed the Council. She stated that their contract with Air-Cadia was terminated without cause on February 2009. Mrs. Trudeau stated that she and her husband James Trudeau, have been in partnership with Dexter Aviation, who had the original lease for the maintenance hanger. She stated after about a year, Trudeau Enterprises purchased Dexter Aviation. She asked why their lease was terminated without cause and reported that there have been numerous slanderous things said about their business. Mrs. Trudeau asked Mr. Minnear of Air-Cadia to respond to her question.

WORK SESSION
APRIL 14, 2009
Continued

Deputy Mayor Dixon asked Attorney Henbest if he was representing Mr. Minnear to which he stated he is not. Deputy Mayor Dixon asked Attorney Henbest if he was advising Mr. Minnear to speak to which he replied no.

Deputy Mayor Dixon believes that Mrs. Trudeau deserves to get an answer from Mr. Minnear. He also stated that the Council will not have any comment on any anonymous letter. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he received information through the mail at City Hall showing accurate and current rent payments on the maintenance hanger.

Mrs. Trudeau assured the Council that none of anonymous letters came from them.

Mr. Minnear addressed the Council, and again apologized for his outburst in the previous Regular Meeting and complimented Councilwoman Goodman. Mr. Minnear gave the Council a brief history of Air Track stating they purchased Air Track over eight (8) years ago. He noted that one of the conditions of the lease allow him to rent to whomever he desires. Mr. Minnear stated "locals" started rumors and the conflict between him and the Trudeau's. He then stated that Mr. James Trudeau never came to him and talked to him about any of the rumors or the lease. He was not informed of the buyout and he was receiving checks from Dexter Aviation.

Deputy Mayor Dixon reported on a statement Mr. Minnear made to Mr. Joe Fink, regarding the lease of hangers when he said " *It is hard times and I would not evict anyone.*" Mrs. Ann Hilliard, a member of the public stated that the term evict was incorrect, no one was evicted the lease was not renewed.

Mr. Minnear stated that the Trudeau's were in negotiations with Charlotte County for over a year and that he would not continue to discuss this issue without his attorney present.

Deputy Mayor Dixon then stated that was why he wanted to make it clear that City Attorney Henbest does not represent Mr. Minnear. He then asked if Mr. Minnear was a City employee to which he replied that he was not although he does represent the City.

Deputy Mayor stated that he had heard rumors that he sent the Fire Marshal to do an inspection and stated that "*if if was me you would have know it*".

Mr. Minnear then stated that the Fire Inspector met with his wife, Becky, and told her that the City sent him to do an inspection and indicated that Deputy Mayor Dixon had asked him to do the inspection. He then stated that the Inspector also told him that Mr. Dixon sent him. Deputy Mayor Dixon stated, "*I wish he was here tonight*".

WORK SESSION
APRIL 14, 2009
Continued

Members of the Public addressed the Council with questions regarding signatures on contracts and additional history of the Airport. Attorney Henbest stated he would have to look into the issue of signatures.

Administrator Rupp asked about dates and if a latter addendum was signed if it would not take president over an un-signed addendum. Attorney Henbest stated Federal Law will "trump" the lease. Administrator Rupp stated because the second addendum had been executed, then it is a mute point. Attorney Henbest stated yes it is a mute point.

Administrator Rupp informed the Council that she spent about three (3) hours with Mr. and Mrs. Minnear discussing issues they have and issues the City has with compliance. She believes that they have come to an understanding, both the City and Minnear's are willing to step up to the plate and take care of any compliance issues. In addition, she stated she and the Minnear's were going to meet and work out a one (1) year, three (3) year and five (5) year plan for the airport. She believes that the airport has great potential and it is a "diamond in the ruff".

Mr. Buddy Mansfield, County Commissioner, addressed the Council stating the he wanted to clarify that he has not met with anyone concerning the airport.

Mr. Frank Baxley, a member of the public addressed the Council and stated that in December of 2007, he had submitted a letter to former City Administrator Ed Strube informing him of a group of investors that wanted to purchase the airport. He never received an answer from Mr. Strube and was now asking for an answer from the Council. The Council asked Mr. Baxley to resubmit the investor's proposal for them to review.

Mrs. Trudeau stated that Air -Cadia had been receiving checks from Trudeau since November 2007. She did not understand why Mr. Minnear did not know they were on the lease. She also asked what made the difference between them assuming Dexter's lease and Mr. Minnear assuming Air Trans lease. She stated the in October 2008, a letter was sent to Mr. Ernie Hewett and Mr. Roger Pulley, County Administrator. She stated the letters were intercepted and the Council was not allowed to see them. Mrs. Trudeau confirmed her company did have proper insurance coverage.

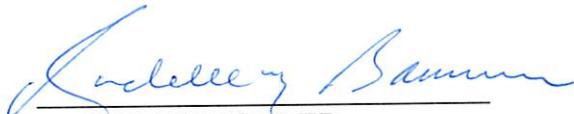
Mr. Gary Frierson, a member of the public and a pilot addressed the Council stating he had no complaints with either the Trudeau's or the Minnear's as to how the airport was run. He stated Mr. and Mrs. Minnear had always been very accommodating to him and any services he needed at the airport.

WORK SESSION
APRIL 14, 2009
Continued

Councilwoman Goodman stated Mrs. Minnear had brought up applying for stimulus money at the last Regular Meeting on April 7, 2009. She stated that members of the public with an interest in the airport should form a committee and work on improving the airport. Administrator Rupp suggest that the Council allow her to form an Airport Committee and requested that individuals who are interested in being on the Airport Committee contact her. Councilwoman Goodman stated at the next Council meeting, a formal motion would be made for the Administrator to form a Airport Advisory Committee. Councilwoman Goodman stated in reference to the unsigned letters that had been coming to the Council, "Remember, a coward chooses to send stuff anonymously". "You should sign it if you write it".

Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he was happy to hear the City Administrator say the airport had potential.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



CITY RECORDER



PRESIDENT