

## WORK SESSION

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

A Work Session Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on February 19, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Goodman, Fazzone, Heine, Johnson, and Dixon. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Goodman called the work session to order and stated that the purpose of the work session is to review the City Charter and Ordinances regarding appointed City Officers.

Mayor Goodman wants to be clear that the driving force which brought this topic to light regarding a possible change in the form of government is not to undermine anyone; however it is because of the continuing issues the Council faces. She then wanted to make it "crystal clear" that even if a "strong" mayor form of government is approved, either by the Council, or by the public, it would not guarantee that Sharon Goodman would be the Mayor. She also stated that she does not mind taking "heat" for the handling of City business; however, she will not take the "heat" when she does not have any authority concerning those matters. She noted that the Council had previously worked on the Personnel Manual and on putting a plan in place with the realization that Administrator Strube would not be the City Administrator forever. She stated if the Council truly wants to be accountable the system as it is now, is not working. Mayor Goodman stated that she wants to move forward and put personalities and dislikes aside.

Administrator Strube thanked Mayor Goodman and stated that he always felt that he and the Council were a team; however he noted that recent events may have been festering noting that there have been more vocal allegations and hidden agendas. He has always wanted to have a smooth transition whether he wanted to retire or move to another city. He then stated that in order to continue with what is best for the Council, City, and staff he announced his intention to retire on January 1, 2009. He had previously told Council that he would give a ninety (90) day notice; however in light of the review of the Charter and Ordinances and the difficult times the Council will be dealing with in the future regarding property tax and budgetary issues ninety (90) days does not appear to be enough time. Administrator Strube stated that it would be best to have these issues resolved so that anyone applying for his position would know what form of government they would be operating under. He hopes that Attorney Holloman could advise the Council during this process.

Mayor Goodman stated that the Council has been informed on Administrator Strube's intention to retire January 1, 2009 and asked what their thoughts were on the matter.

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Councilman Heine stated that he and Administrator Strube have not always agreed on every issue, however, they have always worked things out. He noted that the City is still recovering from Hurricane Charley and he has no problem with Administrator Strube remaining until January 1, 2009.

Councilman Dixon stated that he is a straightforward person and he feels that ninety (90) days is more than enough time to replace Administrator Strube. He is not in favor of a ten (10) months notice. He noted that other cities have had a smooth transition with a ninety (90) day notice and if Ed were gone in 30-45 days the Florida League of Cities would send someone to help out until a replacement could be hired. He does not believe that the City would be in any worse shape than it currently is. He stated the need for a 21<sup>st</sup> century attorney to get our ordinances updated and in place. Councilman Dixon stated there were people "out there" that could do the job and "we need to move forward" as soon as possible. He stated that there are people ready to step in and that this should be done at the discretion of the Council. He believes that the Attorney and Administrator should be replaced as soon as possible.

Councilman Fazzone disagreed noting that there are a lot of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water and sewer issues the City is currently dealing with and he feels that Ed's knowledge in this area can't be replaced. He believes that the Administrator deserves to have his retirement request of January 1, 2009 upheld.

Councilman Johnson stated that losing an employee is never easy. He does not feel comfortable moving forward on new ordinances and reviewing the Charter without an attorney in place. He does not believe the Council wants a specific form of government, but one "tweaked" to their satisfaction. He stated that whether Ed leaves in ninety (90) days or one (1) year he still would have some concerns about moving forward. He is in favor of honoring Administrator Strube request to remain until January 1, 2009.

Attorney Holloman stated that ten (10) months would work very well for the City noting that the new attorney may not have government experience and he would be available for consultation to the City.

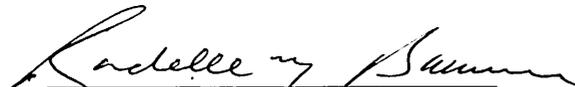
Mayor Goodman stated that the driving force to get the Council to review the Personnel Manual and the hiring of a new administrator was to work toward a smooth transition. She noted that although the Florida League of Cities could send someone to assist the City the politics of Arcadia might not work well with the Florida League. She understands Administrator Strube's request to work until retirement age and feels it is beneficial to honor the request to retire in ten (10) months. Mayor Goodman believes that the Council is going to move toward what is good for the City.

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Administrator Strube addressed the Council to report that the advertisement for a new City Attorney has been prepared using language from the Code Book. There was some discussion regarding a requirement that the City Attorney should live in the area; however if the position is a part-time position it is not realistic to require someone to live in the area.

Councilman Dixon stated he agreed the attorney should not be required to live here noting that since the attorney is not an officer; the Council should not limit this to someone locally. He does not want this to be limited to the "good old boys" and believes that the position should be advertised outside the City and County.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
CITY RECORDER

  
PRESIDENT

## REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on February 19, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Goodman, Fazzone, Heine, Dixon, and Johnson. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Marshall Lee, Parks and Recreations Supervisor Waters, Public Works Supervisor Reed, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, 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 Regular Meeting of February 5, 2008 were adopted on a motion by Heine; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

Proposed Ordinance No. 939 amending the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Fund was presented on second reading. Fazzone moved to waive the rules and read Proposed Ordinance No. 939 by title only; seconded by Johnson and carried.

## ORDINANCE NO. 939

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VII, DIVISION 3, SECTION 2, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, AMENDING THE CITY OF ARCADIA POLICE OFFICERS' AND FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AMENDING SECTION 3, BOARD OF TRUSTEES; AMENDING SECTION 6, BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING SECTION 8, DISABILITY; AMENDING SECTION 10, OPTIONAL FORMS OF BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 19, EXEMPTION FROM EXECUTION; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Fazzone then moved to adopt Ordinance No. 939 on the second reading; seconded by Johnson. Mayor Goodman called for comments from the Public. There were none. Mayor Goodman called for comments from the Council. There were none. The motion