

WORK SESSION
JANUARY 20, 2009

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on January 20, 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: Interim Administrator Fink, Attorney Galvano, Marshall Lee, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Waters, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Fazzone called the Work Session to order and stated the purpose of the work session was to prioritize Capital Improvement Projects for the City of Arcadia.

Interim Administrator Fink addressed the Council stating he felt it was incumbent upon the City to look at the various problems we see as a City, whether it be a lack of a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), sidewalks, streets, expansion or annexation and then the desires of the Council need to be expressed to staff. Interim Administrator Fink asked each Council member to think of what they considered the most important issues that needed to be fixed or resolved, and to prioritize them. He asked the Council to make their suggestions as if funding were no object. He stated it was their decision as a Council to express to staff their vision for the City of Arcadia.

Councilwoman Goodman stated she appreciated Interim Administrator Fink suggesting this work session. She noted that a top priority for her would be the development of a CRA and how it could be used to bring in money and business to Arcadia, with special emphasis on the Southwest section of the City. In addition, she would like to see all the streets repaired.

Interim Administrator Fink asked if she was suggesting one (1) CRA or multiple CRA's to different areas so that "no one would be left behind". Councilwoman Goodman stated she would be in favor of multiple CRA's. Interim Administrator Fink stated that a condition of blight must be shown. He noted that the downtown is in the city limits; however part of the Southwest section is in the County and they could be a co-administrator.

Councilwoman Goodman stated that continuation of housing needs and the Smith Brown Gym were additional priorities for her. Interim Administrator Fink asked if Councilwoman Goodman saw Smith Brown as being a smaller venue to the Turner Center to which she stated yes. Interim Administrator Fink noted that at this time the Gym is in need of air conditioning and chairs.

Councilman Heine feels that the repair of old clay pipes and lines beneath the street is a top priority, before any actual street repair could be done.

Interim Administrator Fink asked the Council if they would want to have streets repaired using brick instead of paving if possible, which might be a long term solution.

WORK SESSION
JANUARY 20, 2009
Continued

Councilman Johnson agreed with what had been suggested, however, he would like to see the water system improved noting a problem with low water pressure. He also believes that the area youth need a place to go to on a daily basis where there could be activities. He suggested the Smith Brown Gym would be an ideal place if renovations were made.

Interim Administrator Fink addressed the problem of low water pressure stating that heavy amounts of lime used to treat the water have caused this problem. He suggested a possible solution would be to research an interconnect with the Peace River - Manasota Water Authority for the Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Gallons (250,000) of water that is being dumped from Wal-Mart, it might level out the water problem. He asked if this would be a goal for the Council members to which they stated that it would be.

Interim Administrator Fink asked if the Smith Brown Gym could be divided into multiple rooms to which Johnson stated it could not. Councilman Johnson feels that the court and stage area need to remain as they are. It was noted that a CRA could fund a weight room.

Mayor Fazzone would like to add funding for Main Street to the list noting that several buildings downtown need work. He also suggested the building of a multi-level parking garage downtown.

Interim Administrator Fink showed the Council a copy of a report done in 2006 by the Florida State Historical Department. The report advised that anything built or repaired in area should be done with historical guidelines. He asked the Council if they wanted the buildings downtown to maintain a historical look to which the Council stated yes.

Interim Administrator Fink then reported that he and the former planner for the City of North Port recently took a tour of the City.

Councilman Johnson would like to see a Council Building for Council members' offices and a meeting room with comfortable seats, acoustics, and an electronic way for Council members to vote on issues.

Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he liked all the ideas he had heard, and was behind all of them. He stated these were wonderful ideas. He is happy the Interim Administrator is thinking on this level. He stated this is what he had wished and hoped for and was in agreement with Dr. Goodman, that not just one section of the City but the entire City needs to be looked at.

All Council members agreed that repair of sidewalks and streets were the first priority.

Deputy Mayor Dixon asked if a City Planner would be of value to enhance these goals and visions to which Interim Administrator Fink responded yes.

WORK SESSION
JANUARY 20, 2009
Continued

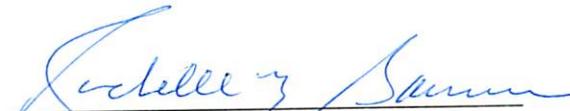
Councilwoman Goodman asked if a City planner could be funded with a CRA to which Interim Administrator Fink stated that it could noting that either the City or the County would be the administrator of the CRA.

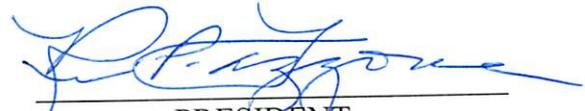
Interim Administrator Fink stated there is money available now for sidewalks, however, the City is not LAP certified. He noted that the County is LAP certified and Administrator Pulley would like to work with the City to help us achieve a LAP certification.

Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he firmly believes that these priorities could be implemented and that they would expand the City and bring it into the 21st Century. He would like to see annexation into the City and mentioned the Harlem Circle area.

Interim Administrator Fink stated he would work on the Interlocal agreement to utilize the County's LAP certification to work on sidewalk and street paving. He reported that in the eleven (11) days that he has been the Interim Administrator he has met with County Administrator Pulley twice. He noted that it is a long process to establish a CRA; however you need to start in order to move forward.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT