

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 6, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on March 6, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council Members attending were Johnson, Goodman, Whitlock, Fazzone and Heine. Also in attendance were Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, City Marshall Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewitt, Grants Coordinator Weeks, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Whitlock.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2007 were adopted on a motion by Heine; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Mayor Johnson recognized five members of Boy Scout Troop 39 and their leaders. The troop members attended the Council Meeting to observe functions of the local government leaders and Council meeting. Mayor Johnson and Council Members expressed availability for answering questions or additional help the troop might need in regards to City Government.

Proposed Ordinance No. 935 was presented on second reading. Whitlock moved to read the ordinance by title only; seconded by Heine and carried.

Administrator Strube requested a point of clarification for 3 lines of the Ordinance, changing the wording from WHEN to IN THE EVENT and from PLAYGROUND to PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN.

ORDINANCE NO. 935

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 18-3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EXCEPTION FOR PLACES ALREADY HOLDING A LICENSE TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE EVENT A HOUSE OF WORSHIP, SCHOOL, PARK OR PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN MOVES WITHIN 300 FEET OF SUCH PLACE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Heine then moved to approve Ordinance No. 935 on second reading; seconded by Whitlock. Mayor Johnson called for comments from the public, there were none. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Ayes: Whitlock, Fazzone, Heine. Nays: Goodman, Johnson.

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A request by letter from Carol Francis, Program Manger for Arcadia Main Street for approval of the closure of Oak Street from Orange Avenue to Hillsborough Avenue on May 18, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. for the Watermelon Parade was presented. This is an addition to a previously approved request for closure on May 19, 2007 for the Downtown Festival. Whitlock then moved to grant the request for street closure for the Watermelon Parade as presented; seconded by Goodman and carried.

The Police Department Activity Report for the month of February, 2007 was presented.

Marshall Lee reported that code enforcement is now being handled by sections of the City in order to make sure all areas are covered. The use of covering by sections allows for the review of those areas that were previously sited and to follow the progress of continued compliance. Marshall Lee stated the clean up was now being completed and things were "getting on track". He sited national reports that estimate that it takes about four (4) years after a major event like Hurricane Charley for the clean up effort to show any major progress.

The February 2007 report of Arcadia Golf Course receipts and number of play was presented.

Valerie Gilchrist, representing the DeSoto County Community Development Corporation addressed the Council to discuss actions being taken for developing Louis Anderson Park regarding the installation of restrooms. Administrator Strube reported that he is working with Mr. Kirk Bryson on the specifications and design presented to the Council by the Corporation. Council Member Heine stated he would like to see the area between the male and female facilities used as a storage area. Mayor Johnson questioned the price of a hip roof noting that most insurance companies favor this type of roof. Administrator Strube stated that the DeSoto County Community Development Corporation had submitted the criteria and specifications for the restroom construction and it would be up to the Corporation to redo the specifications in order to request a different type of roof. Administrator Strube stated that once the specifications are signed off on by the Corporation then the building could go out for bid. The specifications currently being used are based on the design of a local company called Southern Design. Ms. Gilchrist stated she would report this information to the Corporation and would bring to the Council written approval of the design by the Corporation.

Bill Minnear of Air-Cadia Inc addressed Council to report that the 3rd Annual Rods and Wings event will be held at the Arcadia Airport on March 31 and April 1, 2007. This is a static display of Vintage Aircraft and Antique Classic and Custom Cars. The public is invited to attend. A Sock Hop for all car and aircraft participants will be held on Saturday

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night. Council Members were invited to attend. Mr. Minnear requested the use of four (4) golf carts and two (2) Police Officers from the City for this event. He also requested some clean up help for the fence line. Mr. Minnear asked that Mayor Johnson present the Mayor's Trophy and welcome the crowd.

Special Projects Coordinator Hewitt presented the Council with proposed Hanger Rental Agreement and rates for three (3) newly constructed bay hangers. Mr. Hewitt suggests that rent be \$300.00 per month noting that he has surveyed surrounding airports and this is the going rate for this type of hanger rent. He also requested the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) be permitted to use a portion of the hanger as contracted for maintenance use. Mr. Minnear expressed concern of right of way problems with planes in the taxi area noting that all aircraft needs to be escorted or pulled when they come down the road for safety reasons. He also expressed concerns regarding the Sheriff Department officers going through the area without stopping and into the restricted areas. Council Member Fazzone asked how many hangers were available for rent at this time. Mr. Hewitt reported four (4) hangers were available and there was no waiting list at this time. Mr. Hewitt also reported that he is in the process of acquiring new doors for five (5) hangers under FEMA specifications. Whitlock then moved to adopt the new rental rate of \$300.00 per month for bay hangers; seconded by Goodman, and carried.

Administrator Strube addressed the Council to discuss a document he had included in their packets for review. The document on tax reform was created by Mike Sittig, Executive Director of the Florida League of Cities. Administrator Strube stated that the issue of tax reform is now before the legislature and at this time there is not a clear avenue in which the tax reform seems to be going. There are numerous suggestions and proposals being presented to the legislature. The Florida League of Cities is working with legislators and does not believe that "one size fits all". A possible option for municipalities is a local sales tax. Administrator Strube is optimistic that something will come out of this legislative session.

Paul Hoover, a member of the public, addressed the Council regarding property tax. Mr. Hoover believes that City residents are being double taxed. He indicated an area involving the City Police Department and the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department as one of double taxation. Mr. Hoover suggested that the City ask the County for more money from tax revenues or a rebate because of the double taxation. He would like to see taxes lowered on a county level for services the City provides. Mr. Hoover suggested asking the Sheriff what he would charge to patrol the City streets and if it is nothing then Mr. Hoover feels that the City Police Department should go to the Sheriffs Department. If the Sheriff would charge for the service then Mr. Hoover feels that the City should ask for a re-bate since the City is providing the service. Administrator Strube stated the problem of double taxation has been looked at many times and addressed in various Interlocal agreements such as for

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animal control and building permits. At this point it seems while some problems remain, most of the areas involved were not an inequity problem. It was noted that the Council were all in agreement that they would not be in favor of combining the City Police Department with the DeSoto County Sheriff Department. Administrator Strube stated that the issue to get a legal hold on is the road patrol. It was noted that the City Police Department provides a much higher level of Police protection than the Sheriff's Department.

Special Project Coordinator Hewitt presented the Council with a copy of a road repair list and paving suggestions. He noted that the original list was from April 2004. The nine (9) roads at the top of the list had already been approved for repair. Mr. Hewitt explained that while \$200,000 had been set aside for repairs, Hurricane Charley had changed the plans for those repairs. It was noted that twenty-five (25) additional roads on the list have been repaired or had some repair work done due to having the pipes underneath worked on. Grants Coordinator Steve Weeks addressed the Council and reported that he is doing a complete survey of all repairs needed including plumbing. Mr. Weeks stated that he is in the process of a valve project which would divide the City into four (4) sections. This would allow valves to be installed in order to control the flow of water and water pressure in the case of any major breaks in the lines such as those that were experienced as a result of Hurricane Charley. It was noted that the pipes under the road must be repaired before any surface repairs could be made. Mr. Weeks stated that the original budget of \$200,000.00 would only pave about 8-10 blocks. Fazzone asked how many liner miles of streets were in the City to which Administrator Strube replied that there are about seventy (70) linear miles in the City. Administrator Strube stated that all of the 200,000 feet of sewer lines have been smoked tested and some have been TV camera tested to identify areas in need of repair. Administrator Strube then reported that Oak Street from East to West had been repaired and paved.

Council Member Goodman inquired how the change in wording of Ordinance Number 935 differed from a previous request from the owner of the Cozy Corner Bar. Administrator Strube stated he was not sure and would research this question. Attorney Holloman stated the Cozy Corner was a bar and the ordinance is being amended to allow for a grocery store to sell packaged beer and wine in the shopping center and not for a bar, indicating that this could be the difference.

Attorney Holloman reported that a deed has been prepared for transfer of the land and building of the old City Water Plant to DeSoto County for expansion of the Health Department. The deed does not have a reverter clause. Whitlock asked if all property deeded by the City is required to have a reverter clause to which Attorney Holloman stated that it is not requirement. Administrator Strube stated that the best way for the City to deed this land to the County is with no strings attached. Goodman moved to authorize the Mayor and City Recorder to sign the deed as prepared by the City Attorney to deed the land and building of the old City Water Plant to the County; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

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Mayor Johnson requested that an alternate be selected for attending the Florida League of Cities meeting if he could not attend. Heine moved to appoint Council Member Whitlock as an alternate to attend Florida League of Cities meeting in the absence of Mayor Johnson; seconded by Fazzino and carried.

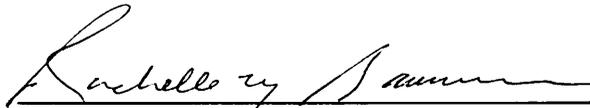
Mayor Johnson complimented all Council Members on their professional appearance at tonight's meeting. It was noted that the men wore coats and ties in order to pose for pictures to be taken of all members and displayed in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Johnson thanked Administrator Strube for the letter he had written to Jessica Brown in response to her request for a Teen Center.

Mayor Johnson then requested that a flag be designed bearing the City of Arcadia emblem. This flag would be displayed on a flag pole in the Council Chambers and outside of City Hall. Mayor Johnson asked Special Project Coordinator Hewitt to work on this project.

Administrator Strube will check with the Arcadia Main Street Association regarding the status of a new "Welcome to Arcadia" sign that the association had taken charge of some time ago.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT