

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on January 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Whitlock, Heine, Fazzino, Goodman and Johnson. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, City Fire Chief Rutherford, City Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Whitlock called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Whitlock.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the Regular meeting of December 7, 2004 were adopted on motion of Goodman; seconded by Johnson and carried.

John Tate addressed Council regarding a proposed temporary RV Park at a City park on Whidden between Polk and Monroe Avenue. Mr. Tate stated that he originally thought that the RV Park was to be permanent; he now knows that it would be temporary and would house the volunteers who are here to help with the re-building of homes damaged by Hurricanes Charley, Francis and Jeanne. Enzo Ardovini as the volunteer coordinator for Trinity Methodist Church Volunteers addressed Council to report that the volunteers are here to help and if the proposed site is not the right site they will be happy to consider an alternate site. Rene Otto stated that she wants the volunteers here; however she does not want the RV Park in her neighborhood. Gerald Newberry spoke in favor of the volunteers. Enzo then presented an alternate location for the placement of the RV's. He stated that it needs to be in the City as they are concentrating their efforts in the City. The proposed location is known as City Park and has been used as a senior league ball field. This location is opposite the City Mobile Home Park and this would create a permanent RV Park which would house up to seventy-two (72) RV sites. Enzo then presented a site plan noting that all utilities would be underground. Administrator Strube stated that this would allow the City to add to the current Mobile Home Park, however it would require doing away with the use of a little league field. Mr. Robin Johnson, representing DeSoto County Youth Athletic Association (DCYAA) stated that DCYAA does not have a problem giving up City Field as long as the City will upgrade a different park with pitchers mounds and re-mount the base bags at the North Arcadia Ball Fields. Goodman moved to abandon the original proposed RV site on Monroe and to install a permanent RV park at what has been known as City Field Ball Park; seconded by Heine and carried.

A request from Adriane Cline, Superintendent of Schools was discussed. Mr. Cline has requested that "Speed Bumps" be placed on La Solona Avenue from the School Board property to Gibson Street. Marshal Lee stated that he does not have any objection to the installation of speed bumps as requested by Mr. Cline. Marshal Lee noted that a minimum of three (3) speed bumps would need to be installed. Mr. Roy Winfrey addressed Council to request that the speed bumps be extended down Maple Street.

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Mr. Winfrey also requests that an additional street light be placed at 411 La Solona Avenue. Fazzone moved to grant the request to install speed bumps on La Solona Avenue from the School Board property down to Maple Street and that a street light be installed at 411 La Solona Avenue; seconded by Goodman and carried.

A report of Police Fines and Forfeitures for the Month of December 2004 indicates fines \$1,865.69, law enforcement \$36.00 and radios \$12.50.

Marshal Lee asked Council about the progress of the Special Master Program. Administrator Strube stated that he will advertise for the position and hopes to have a selection to present at the next Council Meeting.

Attorney Holloman addressed Council to see if they were in favor of early voting for the next City Council election. Council stated that they are in favor of early voting. Attorney Holloman then stated that he will prepare an ordinance for first reading at the next Council Meeting. The Council will mirror what the County has done for early elections by having two (2) weeks for early voting. Attorney Holloman reported that he spoke with DeSoto County Supervisor of Elections Mark Negley and Mr. Negley does not feel that two (2) weeks is enough time to get the ballots ready for a run-off election. Council stated that they were in favor of having four (4) weeks between the election and a run-off.

Robin Johnson, representing DCYAA asked if City Field would ever be returned to a ball field and was informed that once it becomes an RV Park it will continue to remain an RV Park.

Administrator Strube addressed Council regarding Hargrave Field on Martin Luther King Blvd noting that the last estimate to put the lights back up was based on our FEMA Project Worksheet. Fazzone stated that the park had major problems in the past after dark. Goodman does not want to lose hope noting that this is a good field and should be used. Goodman believes that if people see the City putting back into the community then the community would be receptive. Special Projects Hewett addressed Council to present quotes for the lights noting that he has received an estimate of \$10,000.00 to remove the lights at City Field. It will cost about \$12,900.00 to replace the lights at Hargrave Field. He noted that if the current wood poles are replaced with concrete poles it could result in a savings of \$400.00 per pole.

After discussion Johnson moved to change the name of Hargrave Ball Field and Tennis Courts to Martin Luther King Complex; seconded by Heine and carried.

Fazzone believes that there is still a drug problem down by the ball fields. Marshal Lee stated that if the complex is lit at night they can make it work. It was noted that the cost to have the tennis court lights brought back online would be \$1,320.00. Heine moved to

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re-light the Martin Luther King Complex ball fields and tennis courts; seconded by Johnson and carried.

The December 2004 report of Arcadia Golf Course receipts and number of play was presented. It was noted that the driving range should be open by the end of January 2005.

Goodman moved to approve the appointments to the Housing Authority Board based on a letter from Christine Engles, Executive Director of the Housing Authority. Attorney Holloman stated that the Housing Authority Board has always consisted of five (5) members, however in Ms. Engles letter she is asking to expand the Board to seven (7). Attorney Holloman noted that Administrator Strube has requested a copy of the Housing Authority Bi-Laws in order to determine if the Board can be increased. Goodman's motion died for lack of a second. Fazzone then moved to re-appoint William Hackney and Howard Foster to the Housing Board; seconded by Heine. Ms. Way stated that the Mayor makes the appointment to the Housing Board and the Council confirms the appointment. Fazzone withdrew his motion; and Heine his second. Goodman then moved to table the re-appointment and any new appointments to the Arcadia Housing Authority Board until the next Council meeting at which time the Mayor will appoint the Board Members; seconded by Heine and carried.

Stan Abram with the Arcadia DeSoto Beautification Committee addressed Council to discuss the excessive trash at the car washes located on SR 70 West. Marshal Lee will have code enforcement take care of this issue.

Mr. Abram then inquired if the traffic lights in the downtown area could be changed to blinking lights after a certain time at night. No action was taken.

Robin Johnson with DCYAA asked for clarification as to if the youth would be allowed to play at the adult park and was informed that they would be allowed to play there.

Johnson asked when FPL would be getting to the lights that are out all over town. Marshal Lee stated that his office called FPL last week and they said that they are doing the best that they can at this time.

Melissa Sanders with Economic Development addressed the Board reporting that she is working with the Main Street Organization to seek funding for an executive director position and she is also working with DCYAA to seek possible grants for recreation activities.

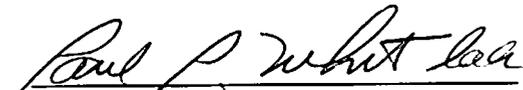
Mayor Whitlock noted that he had received a letter of resignation from Fire Chief Rutherford with a projected retirement date of September 9, 2005. Mayor Whitlock stated that he was under the impression that Council had previously by Resolution moved to allow the Council to hire a new Fire Chief rather than the City Administrator as called for

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by the City Code. Mayor Whitlock would like for this resolution to be reversed stating that the City Administrator is the one hired to run the City and he should be the one to hire staff. Mayor Whitlock attempted to relinquish the gavel in order to make a motion to reverse Council's previous action; Vice-Mayor Heine refused to accept the gavel. Fazzone then moved to reverse Council's previous action and that the City Administrator be in charge of hiring a new Fire Chief. This motion died for lack of a seconded. No action was taken.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT