

REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 7, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on June 7, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmember's attending were: Whitlock, Heine, Fazzone, Goodman and Johnson. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, Attorney Holloman, Fire Chief Rutherford, Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way, and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Whitlock called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the Work Session of May 3, 2005, Regular Meeting of May 3, 2005, Work Session of May 17, 2005 and Regular Meeting of May 17, 2005 were adopted on motion of Heine; seconded by Goodman and carried.

Mayor Whitlock presented a Proclamation to each team member and the coaching staff of the Adrian Cline Cardinals Major League Baseball Team for having an undefeated season, winning 25 games and for bringing home the first ever Tri-City title for Arcadia. Heine moved to endorse this action; seconded by Goodman and carried.

Matt Anderson then introduced Philip Strickland, Hunter Strickland, and Brady Anderson who recently participated in a state tournament and finished in second place.

Ann Graham Johnson representing the DeSoto Disaster Recovery Group invited Council to a house warming and key presentation ceremony to Randolph Edwards at 316 Singleton Avenue. Mr. Edwards lost his home due to damage from Hurricane Charley. His new home was constructed using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and labor provided by the DeSoto Disaster Recovery Group. Mayor Whitlock noted that he will present Mr. Edwards the key to his new home at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 10, 2005.

A report of Police Fines and Forfeitures for the month of May indicates fines \$1,634.40, and radios \$37.50.

The Police Activity Report for the month of May 2005 was presented.

The Flowage report of Air-Cadia, Inc. for the month of April 2005 for the Municipal Airport was presented.

Mr. Bill Minnear with Air-Cadia, Inc. addressed Council and gave an accounting of the proceeds from the Rods and Wings show noting that the City Fire Department, Police Department and Golf Course received \$100.00 each.

The May 2005 report of Arcadia Golf Course receipts and number of play was presented. It was noted that the Golf Course was closed due to receiving over fourteen (14) inches of rain, however they are now open.

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Administrator Strube addressed Council to present a recommendation from Steve Weeks that the lead based paint testing service contract be awarded to Associated Consultanting Professional Inc. Three (3) bids were received 1) Associated Consultanting Professional Inc. for \$640.00, 2) AMRC for \$730.00 and 3) OHC Environmental Engineering for \$1,850.00. Goodman moved to award the contract for lead base paint testing to Associated Consultanting Professional Inc in the amount of \$640.00; seconded by Heine and carried.

Administrator Strube then addressed Council to discuss the opening of Unit 6 at Oak Ridge Cemetery and specific recommendations to maximize the land use stating that this is the last section and that no other property is available for expansion. By the time that Unit 6 is full Administrator Strube estimates that it will cost about \$100,000.00 annually to maintain the cemetery without any revenue to offset the cost. He recommends the following for Unit 6:

1. Lots 1-10, Block 9 be for cremain burial only, this would provide 320 burial spaces.
2. Lots 11-20, Block 9 be for single spaces only, this would provide 160 burial spaces.
3. Lots 1-20, block 8 be for lot or fractional lot sales only, this would provide 160 burial spaces.
4. Block 1 and 2 be reserved for a mausoleum site, this would provide between 240-960 burial spaces depending on the design and height of the mausoleum.
5. Blocks 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 to remain in reserve until needed.
6. Adopt specific rules for Unit 6 known as the Memorial Section regulating grave markers, placement of real and artificial flowers, plants, trees, and curbing.

Administrator Strube also recommends increasing the current cost for a burial space from \$250.00 to \$750.00. After discussion Fazzone moved to open Unit 6 as a Memorial Section, that all presented recommendations for Lot and Block use be approved, that the rules regulating Unit 6 the Memorial Section be adopted and that the price for all burial spaces not just in Unit 6 be increased to \$750.00 effective immediately (cremains remain at \$250.00); seconded by Heine and carried.

Genie Martin, representing the Arcadia/DeSoto County Beautification Committee addressed the Council to report that a "clean up day" will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2005 at 8:00 A.M. and asked that anyone willing to participate meet at the Tree of Knowledge Park. Ms. Martin then requested that trash containers for cigarette butts be placed downtown, that Lake Katherine be sprayed and that all citizens receiving a code enforcement violation have their names published in the paper. Ms. Martin questioned who owned the right-of-way on East Magnolia/ Highway 70 and was informed that it is the Department of Transportation's responsibility to maintain that right-of-way.

Jerald Newberry, President of the DeSoto County Historical Society addressed Council to request the right to salvage lumber from the Roe house which was recently purchased by the City and is scheduled for demolition noting that the home is from the same time period as the Ingram home that the Society is restoring. Council stated that the DeSoto County Historical Society was welcome to the lumber.

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Fire Chief Rutherford announced that the Fire Department will be holding several fund raisers to benefit Echo Hutson-McManus who was very seriously injured in an auto accident. Echo is the daughter of City employee Ellen Hutson. The first benefit will be on July 23, 2005 at the Moose from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. for either eat in or take out Bar-B-Que. They will also hold a golf tournament later in the summer.

Special Projects Coordinator Hewett addressed Council to discuss several items. He reported that the construction contracts for repairs at the Airport do not need to follow Federal guidelines and he expects that FEMA will soon be approving the project worksheet. Regarding the lights on US 17, the Department of Transportation (DOT) is now ready to go out for bid for repair work. The light poles for Martin Luther King Park are ready to be installed; however installation has been delayed due to excessive rain which has hindered the setting of the concrete bases.

Mr. Hewett then reported that several weeks ago Council had requested that antique signs which were in violation of the City Sign Rules and Regulations be removed, it took ten (10) days to get the signs down from the tree and store. Mr. Hewett believes that there is a problem with code enforcement. He then reported a code enforcement incident which he brought to Marshall Lee's attention regarding food vendors setting up outside and serving from temporary mobile facilities. This is a violation of the City Code as a true "mobile vendor" must move his cart after each sale such as an ice cream vendor would do. The vendors in question were not moving and when questioned stated that they did have a City License. It appears that the owners of the building that the vendors were operating next to/from did have a license; however it was not for the sale of food as a mobile vendor. Two of the three locations were shut down by the state, when Mr. Hewitt attempted to get a police officer to shut down the third location the officer said that it should be done by code enforcement and not him. Mr. Hewett then noted that several years ago Council authorized an increase of \$750.00 to each sworn officer as compensation for doing code enforcement work. About one year ago Marshall Lee requested that one police officer be assigned as a Code Enforcement Officer although there was no reduction in salary for any of the sworn officers. Marshall Lee stated that he was not aware that the third location was still operating and he will see that they are closed down. Heine stated that there are twenty-one (21) officers, all code enforcement officers and if they are not going to do the job then we need to get someone to do it. Attorney Holloman reported that he has been working with Officer Jenny Keen who was recently appointed to be the City's Code Enforcement Officer and that Officer Keen is doing a good job. Marshal Lee reported that Officer Keen is still in school. Fazzone asked if an occupational license could be revoked and was informed that it could, however you must have legal grounds to do so.

Fazzone then stated that it appears that there is even more trash now that Grubs have finished picking up in the City. Administrator Strube stated that he is working with the Public Works Department to pick up the debris and charge the homeowner for the pickup.

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Administrator Strube then presented the Public Works Report noting that the actual report will be included with the next meetings agenda. He then reported that the heavy rains have caused several roads to cave in, noting that Court Street appears to be the worst area with a hole over twelve (12) feet deep.

Goodman stated that she is excited to see homes being built by the Disaster Recovery Group who are assisting the City with our CDBG program.

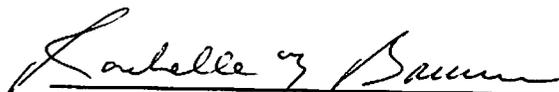
Johnson stated that he received a call from Ms. Ingram a resident in the area of Monroe Avenue and Orange Avenue regarding the drainage ditch/canal and erosion problems that are occurring. Johnson asked if a grant might be available to pay for the installation of a culvert as it appears that the canal is getting wider. Administrator Strube reported that he has previously spoken with Ms. Ingram about this situation. If rubble were to be placed in the canal it could make the matter worse. This issue is also affecting Council Member Johnson's property.

Johnson reported that last Thursday he attended the Ridge League Meeting in Dade City.

Fazzone stated that the spirit of the workshop shows that Council can work together.

Mayor Whitlock reported that earlier today he spoke at the Rotary Club Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT