

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2006**

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:30 a. m.

Members present: Mayor Johnston, Councilman Brown, Councilman Jennings and Councilman Rothman. Vice Mayor Denham was absent due to the passing of his father.

Councilman Jennings gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Jennings made a motion, seconded by Councilman Brown, to excuse Vice Mayor Denham.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion regarding the Wednesday, February 8, 2006 meeting of South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) at Florida Gulf Coast University (FCGU) beginning 9:00 a. m.

Mayor Johnston explained the following decisions needed to be made:

- What Council's message would be to SFWMD
- Who would present comments from Sanibel at the above-mentioned meeting

Discussion ensued regarding the need for an outline of the comments that would be presented, releases during the dry season should not be more than 800 cubic feet per second in the dry season and releases during the rainy season should not be more than 2,800 cubic feet per second, meeting on February 08 was a South Florida Water Management District meeting, the need to immediately cease water releases, could send letter explaining the City does not want to participate, prepare a clear concise statement, enormous damage had been done to the estuaries, what was the SFWMD plan for 2006, allow Mr. Cuyler and the Washington, D. C. law firm to review Council's statement, the need for a press packet, the need for the City to make an impact, City needed to be represented, send City comments to other municipalities, SFWMD chairing the meeting, and the need for the City to trump SFWMD.

Councilman Jennings made a motion, seconded by Councilman Rothman, to attend the SFWMD meeting held by SFWMD at Harborside Convention Center, include a press packet with City Council plans and notify other municipalities.

Public Comment:

Barbara Cooley suggested that the press packet should include the limits for the dry and wet season, should be distributed to all members of the SFWMD members and press.

Patty Sprinkle spoke to the need to attend the meeting.

Clare Mallon spoke to attending the meeting.

A citizen agreed with attending the meeting.

Louise Johnson agreed with attending the meeting.

Ed Seiber agreed with attending the meeting and suggested that all Council would be present.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding all Council attending, Councilmembers reviewing information, Mr. Cuyler stated that a letter was sent to the Army Corps of Engineers, but not the information regarding a policy, Ms.

Zimomra stated that the SFWMD advised that information could be included in the packet for February 8th meeting, the need to provide photos of the algae bloom, not provide information to SFWMD in advance of the scheduled meeting, Ms. Zimomra asked if Council wanted to see a packet and each Councilmember send their input to the City Manager, whoever gives the presentation needs latitude to give a presentation, Mr. Cuyler stated that the outside law firm was preparing to advise Council of legal options, such as public relations, litigation, lobbying, etc., and Council agreed that Mayor Johnston should be the spokesperson.

Councilman Brown made a motion, seconded by Councilman Jennings, to allow Mayor Johnston to be the spokesperson at the SFWMD meeting of February 8.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cuyler stated that Council could provided their comments as part of the meeting distribution packet information. He further stated that Mayor Johnston her suggestions to Council, but cautioned each one not the reply or any comments could be sent to the City Manager and/or City Attorney.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:32

Respectfully submitted by,

Pamela Smith, CMC
City Clerk