

RALLY CALL!!!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Recent events within the meetings of our City Commission and the current Utilities Commission have prompted this letter to each of you. As friends of Save the Charm and other community grass roots organizations it is imperative that we respond strongly and quickly to our leaders. Steps have been taken from several different quarters of our town to force the publication of documents related to the 7.3 million dollars reported "missing" from the Utilities Commission in 2005, (now reported to be anywhere from 11 to 20 million) and to pursue further investigation and prosecution of the parties responsible.

There are those who would have you fault the current Utilities Commission for these abuses of public trust and the related financial difficulties when in truth, the current commission and it's CEO Mr. Rodi have done an admirable job of restoring the City owned Utility and establishing a viable operating plan which will continue to provide us with the best service while tending to the upgrading of much needed infrastructure and insuring us dependable and ample supply of water and power. All of this is on the UC website.

Also available are the public documents of the FDLE investigation, a 15 page summary and a 6000 page report, as well as a 5 page letter from the Utility attorney (William T. Preston) to the FBI seeking further investigation. This letter is an excellent overview of what happened.

At this crucial time two vacancies and a re-appointment to the Utilities Commission are up for consideration of the City Commission at the August 28th meeting. The information from the City Clerk's office is that among the applications for appointment are two persons who were on the commission at the time of the scandal and who resigned at the same time as the former CEO. In addition it is widely expected that Mrs. Jeanne Diesen who is up for re-appointment will be denied.

You are encouraged to do your homework and validate this information. If you agree, we would then ask you to do two things:

1. Call, write AND e-mail your City Commissioners (contact info below). Let them know that we expect Mrs. Diesen to be re-appointed. She represents balance and has continuously called for investigation and prosecution in the case. Without her vote, this issue may very well be swept under the carpet once again. The repercussions of our failure in this matter will be far reaching beyond our imaginations.
2. Come out to the City Commission meeting on August 28th, 7:00 P.M. in the DeBarry Room, 3rd floor of the Utilities Building on Canal St. It is time for the citizenry of New Smyrna to demand representation, responsibility and accountability from its elected leaders. Your voice is needed...just your presence in the meeting speaks LOUDLY.

Commissioner Jack Grasty 428 1234
jgrasty@cityofnsb.com

Commissioner (Vice-Mayor) Jim Hathaway 428 8511
jhathaway3@hotmail.com or jhathaway@cityofnsb.com

Commissioner Lynne Plaskett 423 5554
lplaskett@cityofnsb.com (she does not use e-mail, please call)

Commissioner Randy Richenberg 424 2112
Rchbrgsurf@aol.com or rreichenburg@cityofnsb.com

Thank you for your vigilance. Your time is valued and a Rally Call is only made when your response will make an important difference and a positive impact on our City.