

**ST. PETE BEACH CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, August 5, 2008
06:30 p.m.**

Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Halpern.

THOSE PRESENT:

**Mike Finnerty, Mayor
Harry Metz, Vice Mayor
Linda Chaney, City Commissioner
Al Halpern, City Commissioner
Christopher Leonard, City Commissioner**

ALSO PRESENT:

**Mike Bonfield, City Manager
Elaine Trehly, Finance Director
Theresa B. McMaster, City Clerk**

[Presentation of Fiscal Year 2009 Budget](#)

Mr. Bonfield suggested that he go through the entire budget, then the Commission discuss whatever they choose.

The Commission set a time to adjourn at 10:00pm.

a. [Introduction and General Fund Summary](#)

Staff presented an overview of the past five years.

Mr. Bonfield gave a PowerPoint presentation.

b. City Commission

Discussion was held regarding the budgeted amount \$500 per month for expenses for the lobbying firm.

Mr. Bonfield stated that to date, the City has not experienced expenses at that level.

The Mayor asked for audience comments.

Will Jacoby, 8100 Gulf Boulevard requested that the budget for the lobbying firm be put on the list of items that might be cut due to the fact that he didn't think that there would be any funds granted in the next year's cycle of funding.

Bill Ritchie, 329 55th Avenue expressed his appreciation for all of the hard work by the Commission. He urged the Commission to provide sufficient funding for the operation and marketing of the Community Center and to not eliminate a Recreation Leader II position.

Rosemary Manning, 100 2nd Avenue suggested that the Commission find another area other than the Recreation Division Budget, especially programs for children.

Mr. Bonfield noted that working with a lobbyist is something that takes time. Relationships must be built. He noted that the funding in this budget would actually be for the 2010 Federal funding cycle.

Discussion was held regarding the City Commission Travel and Training Budget.

It was the consensus of the Commission to put the Lobbyist budget on the list for possible elimination in the final budget.

Discussion was held regarding the policy for Board and Committee training. It was decided that Board and Committee Members must get approval from the City Commission prior to spending funds on training.

It was decided that the funding for Lobbyist travel expenses would be reduced to \$4,000 and that the subscription to Beach Watch would be eliminated from the City Commission Budget.

c. City Clerk

Mr. Bonfield gave an overview of the City Clerk's Budget.

Discussion was held regarding the Streaming Video System.

Notation was made that the cost of an election has more than doubled because of the new paper ballot voting system.

d. City Manager & City Attorney

Mr. Bonfield gave an overview of the City Manager's Budget.

It was the consensus of the Commission to consider an increase in funding for the Volunteer Party.

Discussion was held on Supervisory Training. Mr. Bonfield noted that the workforce in the City has been significantly effected and some training may be beneficial and necessary.

There was discussion on the "Safety Award" program and that it is an attempt to minimize worker's compensation injuries by using safe work habits.

Supervisor Training; Safety Program; and Fuel Budgets were reduced.

Discussion was held on the Capital Improvements Plan transfer from the General Fund.

It was noted that funding in reserve is approximately about \$1.5 million. That would be approximately six weeks of normal operation in the event of a disaster.

The City Manager gave an overview of the City Attorney Budget.

Mr. Bonfield pointed out to the Commission that the amount budgeted is the same amount budgeted for the current year, however, the most recent bill in June included \$20,000 in litigation, which is not covered by the retainer.

Considerable discussion was held on the status of current litigation as well as future litigation.

Mr. Bonfield related that the City Attorney has advised that the budget should be increased by \$50,000.

It was noted that in every case, staff attempts to work out problems before they become a lawsuit.

It was the consensus of the Commission to add \$50,000 to extra legal in the City Attorney Budget.

Rosemary Manning, 200 1st Avenue pointed out that Commissioners constantly ask the City Attorney to do research on various issues and suggested that the Commission minimize those requests.

e. [Finance & Library](#)

Mr. Bonfield gave an overview of the Budgets for the Finance Department and the Library.

The Commission commended Ms. Trehy, Finance Director, and her staff. It was stated that the Commission has not received any complaints about either of these departments.

f. [Information Technology](#)

Don Burkhardt, Information and Technology Director, answered questions from the Commission. He noted that it was his goal to have a mobile training lab that could also function as an emergency office off-site in the event of disaster.

More discussion was held on the number of laptop computers and the cost of such.

h. Police Department

It was noted that the Finance & Budget Committee recommended an additional \$33,000 for fuel and operating supplies. They also recommended that the Police Dispatch be maintained in St. Pete Beach and not outsourced to the County.

Discussion was held regarding the marine patrol vehicle.

Discussion was held on the following:

- Marine Patrol Unit
- 10 and 12 hour shifts
- Minimizing the amount of overtime
- Public Services Director

There was considerable discuss regarding maintaining the Dispatch function in St. Pete Beach.

Discussion was held regarding the income and expense of parking fees.

Rosemary Manning, 200 1st Avenue was in support of a minimal increase in taxes to support maintenance of City Services.

There being no further business, the meeting was then adjourned.

i. Fire Department

Continued.

k. Wastewater Fund

Continued.

l. Reclaimed Water Fund

Continued.

m. Stormwater Fund

Continued.

Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk

Steve McFarlin, Mayor

Minutes approved on
