

**City Commission Budget Meeting**  
**September 23, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Adrian Petrila, Mayor – entered the meeting, via Zoom, at 9:05 a.m.  
Mark Grill, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, District 2  
Chris Graus, Commissioner, District 1  
Chris Marone, Commissioner, District 4  
Ward Friszolowski, Commissioner, District 3

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Andrew Dickman, City Attorney – via Zoom  
Alex Rey, City Manager  
Amber LaRowe, City Clerk  
Sheila Dalton, Chief Financial Officer  
Jim Kilpatrick, Fire Chief

Vice Mayor Grill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion:**        **Commissioner Friszolowski moved, Commissioner Marone seconded, and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the September 23, 2023, City Commission Budget Agenda. Mayor Petrila was absent for the vote.**

**2. ORDINANCES**

**a. First Reading and Public Hearing Ordinance 2023-11: Establishing the Millage for Fiscal Year 2024**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING AND ANNOUNCING THE NAME OF THE TAXING AUTHORITY, THE ROLLED-BACK MILLAGE RATE, THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER THE ROLLED-BACK MILLAGE RATE, AND THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED; PROVIDING FOR READING IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**b. First Reading and Public Hearing Ordinance 2023-12: Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR READING IN ITS ENTIRETY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Both Ordinance 2023-11 and 2023-12 were read in their entirety by the City Clerk.

City Manager Rey confirmed that the change to the millage and budget as addressed during the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting has been incorporated in the ordinances on the Agenda for approval.

Attorney Dickman addressed the City Manager's health insurance opt-out budget line item on page 34 of the budget (as attached to Ordinance 2023-12). He explained the research he has performed that does not show where

this amount (\$28,600) was agreed upon between the City and the Manager; he noted that the amount for employees who opt out is approximately \$2,500/year. Mr. Dickman read the language from the City Manager's contract that references health insurance options. He brought this to the Commission's attention to assure that with the City adopting the budget with this in there, the City is not waiving its right to make a final determination on this in terms of how to interpret this contract.

Commissioner Friszolowski informed the public of the impact on their property insurance (estimated) for lowering the millage rate.

**Motion: Commissioner Friszolowski moved to adopt Ordinance 2023-11.**

Vice Mayor Grill discussed the fiscal year 2024 budget and expressed his desire for it to be reviewed by the Commission before any major expenditures. He opined that the new employee/positions may not be the direction the City wants to go and mentioned that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) had little discussion before adoption. He would like the City to focus on flood mitigation in the next year.

Commissioner Friszolowski echoed the Vice Mayor's concerns and would like the City to hold off on any new hires until the City Commission has had a chance to address this with the new City Manager.

The consensus of the Commission was to not move forward with capital projects until the City Commission has had further discussion on the budget for this fiscal year and the needs, including staffing.

Fire Department staffing was discussed. Fire Chief Kilpatrick assured the Commission that the requested staffing is a dire need.

**Commissioner Marone seconded the motion on the floor; it passed unanimously.**

**Motion: Commissioner Marone moved, Commissioner Friszolowski seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2023-12.**

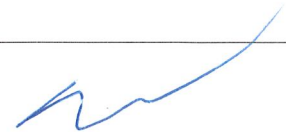
Mayor Petrila asked where the City was with the separation agreement for Commission review at the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Attorney Dickman stated that the Agreement is with Mr. Rey's attorney. The interim City Manager, Wayne Saunders, signed his Agreement and will start with the City on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Mayor Grill adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: OCTOBER 10, 2023



AMBER LAROWE  
CITY CLERK



ADRIAN PETRILA  
MAYOR