ST. PETE BEACH COMMISSION
BUDGET WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

THOSE PERSENT:

Mayor Mike Finnerty
Vice Mayor Parent
Commissioner Shavlan
Commissioner Halpern
Commissioner Garnett

ALSO PRESENT:

City Manager Mike Bonfield
City Clerk Theresa McMaster
Finance Director Elaine Edmunds

Mayor Finnerty asked for a review of the previous Workshop and Elaine Edmunds reported that the current millage rate is 2.4864. She stated that they were going to increase the revenues from PPLC by $60,000; the lobbyist was going to be limited to six months for a reduction of $32,500, and removed the fire works, $15,000. We are currently at a millage rate of 2.4834.

Commissioner Shavlan asked to revisit some of the topics that were discussed at the Workshop held August 3, 2010, and brought up the subject of the lobbyist. After discussion it was agreed that they would continue with the lobbyist until the commitment expired at the end of March, 2011.

Commissioner Shavlan brought up the marina. He suggested a visit to Gulfport to look at their marina to do some comparisons as to numbers of slips, profits on slip rent, cost of construction, etc. So before spending $10,000 for an engineer at this time the Commission needs to do some "homework". There is also the concern about residents wanting a marina. Mayor Finnerty suggested that this matter be placed on an Agenda for a future Commission Meeting.

The final matter that Commissioner Shavlan brought up was the employee health insurance plan. He suggested changing the coverage to cut back on expense while it was also suggested that the entire employee "package" be examined to see where cuts could be made. The present coverage is up for renewal in January meanwhile, Mr. Bonfield will be looking into other companies for comparison to the present coverage.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Richard Brogan, 902 Boca Ciega Isle Drive

Carol Swift, 414 55th Avenue

Debra Edney, 181 73rd Avenue

Will Jacoby, 8100 Gulf Boulevard

City Manager Bonfield addressed the Commission and began with the *Finance Department* that has one change in personnel which is the transfer of the Administrative Support Supervisor from the Police Department to *Finance*. Other staffing remains the same. The large expense in *Finance* is the audit which will be put out for bids before next year.

Next Mr. Bonfield reported on the *Library*. There is no change in personnel. They hope to bring Monday service back with just the addition of one part time staff member at the cost of roughly $10,400.

Commissioner Shavlan asked what the hours are and Phyllis Ruscella stated that the hours are 10 to 6 on Thursday and Friday. It's 10 to 8 on Tuesday and Wednesday and 10 to 5 on Saturday. Vice Mayor Parent is in favor of opening the *Library* on Monday at the cost of $10,400. Ms. Ruscella stated that Saturday is their slowest day and suggested that they cut the hours to accommodate opening on Monday. She suggested taking 3 hours from Saturday afternoon, i.e. open 10 to 2. Mayor Finnerty is in favor of opening on Monday; Commissioner Shavlan asked if they could cut enough hours from the current schedule and shift them to Monday. Commissioner Garnett agreed. Commissioner Halpern also agreed to look into cutting hours to accommodate opening on Monday. Mr. Bonfield asked the Commission to give specific details as to how many hours to cut. Mayor Finnerty again stated that he thinks they should be open on Monday.

Next on the agenda is *Parking Enforcement.* No changes in staff. 85% of users are using credit cards and that costs the City about $50,000 per year but is still below what it would cost if we had personnel out there writing tickets, etc.

On the *Police Department* budget, Mr. Bonfield reported that the only changes in personnel are those relating to Dan O'Connor transferring to the Finance Department.

Mayor Finnerty announced that Chief Romine was recently appointed President of the Tampa Bay Area Police Chief's Association which consists of six counties.

Vice Mayor Parent reviewed the personnel history of the *Department* and stated that in 2008 there were 44, in 2009 that dropped to 37 and in 2010 they were at 36; what they are proposing next year is going down to 33.

Mayor Finnerty called a ten minute recess.

Mayor Finnerty called the Workshop back to order and asked the City Manager to continue.

Mr. Bonfield reported that in the *Fire Department* last year, the budget was split in two parts, one for Fire and the other for EMS. First in the *Fire Department,* there is no reduction in personnel. In *Fire* suppression, the main costs are general costs in maintaining the station, both the physical structure and the utilities needed to operate. Station 22 is an old station; it requires a little more upkeep than they would like but as of now, that's their only option.

Chief Malone retires the end of February next year and they will hire a new Chief. They will begin advertising in the fall.

Fire Marshal Ernie Hand was asked by the Commission how they can increase the City's revenue with inspections and just what his duties consist of as Fire Marshall.

Mr. Bonfield reported there are no personnel changes in *EMS*. The amount of $2.50 budgeted for gas is of concern to the Commission.

There being no further business to come before the Workshop, the meeting was adjourned.

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Theresa McMaster, City Clerk Mayor Mike Finnerty

Approved on:______________