

CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP

MINUTES

August 9, 2012

2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Steve McFarlin, Mayor
Marvin Shavlan, Vice Mayor
Lorraine Huhn, Commissioner
Jim Parent, Commissioner
Bev Garnett, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Bonfield, City Manager
Elaine Edmunds, Finance Director
Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk
Steve Hallock, Director of Public Services

1. Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Review

a. Public Services Administration

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget and explained the cost of the beach trolley and the City's relationship with the Pinellas County Transit Authority.

Mr. Bonfield pointed out that the \$22,000 budgeted for fireworks is not enough to include a barge and suggested \$30,000 if the Commission desired to have a barge. The Commission agreed to add \$8,000 to their "wish list". There were no other recommended changes.

b. Building Maintenance Division

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget. There were no recommended changes.

c. Streets Division

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget. There were no recommended changes.

d. Parks Division

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget. There were no recommended changes.

e. Wastewater Division

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget.

Public Services Director Steve Hallock explained the sewer system and the costs to replace pumps and maintain the system. There were no recommended changes.

f. Reclaimed Water Division

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget and pointed out that the debt service payment will be eliminated in fiscal year 2015.

Director Steve Hallock explained that the company that manufactured the reclaimed water pipe is out of business and the pipe is substandard and continually breaks at the service connections. Mr. Hallock explained that his staff is continuing to repair/replace these pipes.

g. Stormwater Division

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget. There were no recommended changes.

h. Capital Improvement Plan

City Manager Bonfield presented the proposed budget and pointed out that \$700,000 is budgeted for sidewalk and street improvements on Blind Pass Road, from 73rd Avenue to Gulf Boulevard. Mr. Bonfield stated that this does not include any undergrounding of utilities. The Commission held a general discussion regarding preliminary work for undergrounding utilities, while making the improvements to Blind Pass Road.

Director Hallock explained how streets are chosen for repaving and repairs, and provided a handout listing the street inventory for the City Commission's review. Mr. Hallock reported that Pass-a-Grille Way is currently rated "in poor condition". Commissioner Garnett requested that Pass-a-Grille Way be considered a priority for street repairs.

City Manager Bonfield stated that the Finance and Budget Review Committee's recommendation to delay the repairs to the Vina del Mar Bridge was reasonable, based on the condition of the bridge. Director Steve Hallock explained the current condition of the bridge and displayed photos for the City Commission's review.

City Manager Bonfield suggested that staff begin formulating plans for the Egan Park addition and the relocation of the boat ramp onto the newly purchased property. Mr. Bonfield pointed out that this project is scheduled for fiscal year 2014, and there may be grants available to assist with funding.

City Manager Bonfield reported on the new playground equipment for Hurley Park, the replacement of Egan Park light fixtures, the maintenance of tennis courts and roof repairs for the fire stations.

The Commission held a discussion regarding replacement of the fire stations. Mr. Bonfield stated that he wanted to wait to see what happens with the County's EMS funding before considering the replacement of the current stations.

Mr. Bonfield reported on the proposed improvements to the Library, including expansion.

Commissioner Parent raised the issue of having a City parking garage on the Library property and to relocate the library to the top floor of the garage. The Commission held a general discussion regarding this matter.

Mr. Bonfield pointed out that the baseball fields need some improvements and staff will seek grants to offset the costs.

i. Vehicle Replacement Plan

City Manager Bonfield pointed out that vehicle purchases are budgeted in the individual departmental budgets, which were already reviewed.

2. General Discussion – Proposed FY 2013 Budget

Commissioner Huhn expressed her appreciation to Finance Director Edmunds, the Finance Committee and City staff for their hard work on the proposed budget.

City Manager Bonfield pointed out that the Commission wanted to discuss the funding for the Tuition Reimbursement Plan and the July 4th fireworks.

Commissioner Parent advised that he would like to get more information on the Tuition Reimbursement Plan before dedicating any funding at this time. The Commission did not have any objections.

City Manager Bonfield suggested that the Commission increase the funding from \$22,000 to \$30,000 for the July 4th fireworks, to include a barge. The Commission held a general discussion regarding seeking donations for the barge. There were no recommended changes for the fireworks budget.

Finance Director Edmunds pointed out that with funding included for Blind Pass Road repairs and Vina del Mar Bridge repairs, the budget has a short fall of approximately \$809,567. Ms. Edmunds pointed out that the debt service millage rate is .0878.

The Commission held a general discussion regarding the millage rate and the budget shortfall.

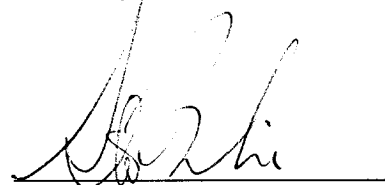
The Commission was in agreement to authorize the City Manager to draft an ordinance proposing a millage rate of 3.2819, plus the debt service millage rate of .0878.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Attest:


Rebecca C. Haynes, City Clerk


Steve McFarlin, Mayor