



Tuesday, May 23, 2017
City Commission Special Meeting

"Minutes"

5:00 PM – City Hall Commission Chamber, 210 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168

I. CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at the City Hall Commission Chamber, 210 Sams Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168.

Mayor James W. Hathaway called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jason McGuirk	Commissioner	Present	
Jim Hathaway	Mayor	Present	
Judy Reiker	Commissioner	Present	
Jake Sachs	Commissioner	Present	
Randy Hartman	Commissioner	Present	

Also present were City Manager Pamela Brangaccio, City Attorney Frank B. Gumme, III, Assistant City Manager Khalid Resheidat, Finance Director Althea Philord, Police Chief Mike Coffin, Fire Chief Greg Anglin, CRA Director Tony Otte, Maintenance Operations Director Faith Miller, Liesure Services Director Nancy Maddox, Planning Director Amye King, City Clerk Johnny Bledsoe and Assistant City Clerk Kelly McQuillen.

II. SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP REGARDING THE CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 2017/2018

City Manager Brangaccio referred to the workshop as "emergency management" for the City budget in order to prepare for both know (new development and annexations) and unknown (Hurricane Matthew) challenges. She commented on the current high number of development, such as 4,101 homes being added through development, with the United States Census Bureau using the formula of 2.5 people per household, and the future growth such development promised. She also commented on the Coastal Woods development currently in the clearing phase for the construction of a subdivision. She and Finance Director Althea Philord gave a presentation that outlined the City Commission Strategic Goals and future Priorities.

City Manager Brangaccio reported that on December 15, 2016, the City Commission met to discuss and establish its Strategic Goals and Priorities for 2017 - 2018 and the future. She advised that it was those goals and priorities that was used to develop the City Manager's Proposed Budget. She outlined that one of the top priorities was the restoration of City services, previously reduced during the recession years when the City experienced an approximate 40 percent decrease in its tax base. The reduction resulted in substantial cuts in recurring expenses, a number of funded positions, employee benefits, equipment (vehicle) repair and replacement, etc.

City Manager Brangaccio reported that since the recession years, the City Commission had approved incremental increases in the millage rate, in order to experience an incremental restoration of City services and positions. She highlighted a proposed cost associated with the restoration of services personnel increases as \$714,561, which included the following positions to be added to the City work force:

Maintenance Operations (positions cut in 2010) - 2 Equipment Operators, 1 Irrigation Specialist plus 1 vehicle - (9 positions were requested)

Police Department (positions cut in FY 2010) - 4 Police Corporals, 2 in October 2017 and 2 in April 2018 plus 2 vehicles as funded through impact fees

Fire Department (positions cut in 2010) - 3 Firefighters - (9 positions were requested); also, 1 part time Fire Inspector (full time position cut in 2010) (Building and Inspections would fund 50%)

Planning Department - 1 Planner I position

Code Enforcement Department - 1 New Inspector (Building and Inspections would fund 50%)

City Manager Brangaccio also commented on other priorities, such as Homeless programs (the need to help with solutions) and partnerships with the Utilities Commission. She also highlighted how 1-time capital projects was funded by the use of many different types of grant programs, such as ECHO, FIND, FDOT, as well as other grant sources. She also commented on a consistent growth in the City population since 2011, with a projected 3% annual growth rate for the next five years. In order to illustrate the City growth rate, City Manager Brangaccio reported that in 2007, the City issued 171 single family building permits; in 2011, the City issued only 77 single family building permits; and, in 2016, the City issued 319 single family building permits.

Finance Director Althea Philord reported that the City still had the second lowest millage rate of any municipality in Volusia County. She then outlined historical operational millage rates and the number of general fund positions, as follows:

2007 - Millage 3.3671 - 238 employees
2012 - Millage 3.4793 - 168 employees
2017 - Millage 3.5699 - 197 employees (Proposed)

City Manager Brangaccio reported that, since 2010, the Maintenance Operations Department had experienced a 26% increase in work orders, from 1,413 to 1,782; maintenance responsibility of seven additional parks; additional City buildings and additional streets. She also reported an increase in calls for police/fire service increased from 46,292 in 2014 to an estimated 86,495 in 2017.

Finance Director Philord gave an overview of public safety equipment and vehicle replacements that has occurred since FY 2011, which included the replacement of 31 patrol cars (8 still require replacing), 2 fire pumpers, 2 fire ALS vehicle and 1 fire aerial platform. Ms. Philord then gave an overview of maintenance operations equipment and vehicle replacements that has occurred since FY 2011, which included the replacement of pickup trucks, heavy vehicle and mowers from the Streets Department; pickup trucks and mowers from the Parks Department; and, trucks and mowers from the Building and Maintenance Department.

Ms. Philord commented on the process regarding the management of the Police and Fire Pension Funds. She commented on the use of credits to replace vehicles and to reduce City contributions. Ms. Philord then outlined the five-year history of the general fund cost of living increases, information provided included both phase I and phase II of the Cody Study, which was implemented in FY 15-16 and FY 16-17.

City Manager Brangaccio reported on initiatives established for FY 2016 - 2017, which included Fire Transport, the Brannon Civic Center, Beach Parking Revenue and Boat Ramp User Fees. She commented on the use of firefighter personnel and estimated 50% of the revenue generated would go toward costs. She commented on challenges faced in the first year of the new Brannon Civic Center, and highlighted revenue of approximately \$275,000 for beachside parking lot. She commented on the importance of the revenue from Boat Ramp User fees, and outlined FIND grant application submission for future boat ramp improvement projects. As such, City Manager Brangaccio requested guidance and direction from the City Commission regarding whether to in the summer time with a resolution to consider regarding the establishment and adoption of Boat Ramp User Fees for additional facilities and future maintenance.

City Attorney Gummey advised that all residents of the 18 coastal counties that comprise of the F.I.N.D. District would have to be treated the same. City Manager Brangaccio reported that public workshops would be held for both the Swoope and North Causeway Boat Ramps. Commissioner McGuirk supported moving forward with the proposed resolution and commented on those who lived outside of the F.I.N.D. boundaries that would be required to pay the boat ramp fee, which would support those initiatives. Commissioner McGuirk complimented staff on providing estimates and felt it would be a good program, beneficial to all.

Commissioner Reiker agreed with Commissioner McGuirk and felt the City had great assets in the boat ramps, and did not want to under value those assets. Vice Mayor Sachs clarified that no citizens within the F.I.N.D. district would pay a fee, but rather only citizens who live outside of the 18 coastal counties would be subject to the fee. Vice Mayor Sachs questioned the total number of parking spaces that would be available. Assistant City Manager Resheidat clarified the number of existing parking spots, as well as the number of parking spots planned for the future. Mayor Hathaway questioned whether plans were in place to address overflow parking at either site in the future. City Manager Brangaccio clarified existing FDOT regulations, as well as "No Parking" areas regarding right-of-way parking and enforcement policies. She clarified that personnel to enforce such parking regulations would be added, and commented on a 2011 workshop where the matter was discussed.

City Manager Brangaccio commented on past incremental increases that were approved by the City Commission in the past four years. She advised the City Commission that an additional Homestead Exemption would be placed on the general election ballot in November 2016. She reported that essential items had to be addressed, and highlighted needs in the Fleet Department. City Manager Brangaccio commented on the high amount of development taking place and felt the highest number of complaints received related to Maintenance Operations. She knew improvements to the levels of service had to be made, as it was demanded from the citizenry.

City Manager Brangaccio commented on past workshops held in January and March, 2017, regarding the City Commission's established strategic goals, and the measure taken to develop a proposed budget, based on those goals and priorities. As such, City Manager Brangaccio estimated that a two percent cost of living salary increase would be proposed, and reported that other municipalities were outpacing New Smyrna Beach, and worked hard at remaining competitive within the job market. She thanked the City Commission for its efforts while serving as members of the Police and Fire Pension Board, and felt the proposed increase would be the lowest in many years.

City Manager Brangaccio commented on the budgetary challenges faced regarding the Information Technology and Fleet Maintenance activities and associated upgrades and replacement requirements. She also commented on grants available for homeless programs, and highlighter a letter received by the Mayor regarding additional funding to support such programs. She also commented on strategies to enhance available funding regarding road resurfacing.

City Manager Brangaccio commented on many budgetary matters and how each affected the budget. Examples of such matters included the fire truck debt service payment and its effect on other operating expenses within the Fire Department, such as overtime; golf course equipment and recent expenses for new turf; programs at the Alonso "Babe" James Center, which included the summer program and after school program.

City Manager Brangaccio reported that property value estimates would be received from the Volusia County Property Appraiser on or about June 1, 2017. She reported that the initial estimate of property value would reflect an approximate 8.6% increase in property taxable value from last year.

Finance Director Philord clarified proposed millage rates and commented on actions taken in order to estimate proposed millage rates for the upcoming fiscal years. Ms. Philord highlighted existing strategic goals and incremental restoration of services related to possible updates. City Manager Brangaccio requested the City Commission discuss its current strategic goals and priorities, and provide staff direction on how to proceed within the budget process.

Mayor Hathaway clarified that the actual roll back rate had not yet been received by the City, and restoration of services would represent a 17% increase over last year's millage rate, and not roll back. He also clarified that the tax increase would be higher once the roll back rate was received. Mayor Hathaway commented that an 8.6% increase in property value felt nice. With regard to a cost of living allowance, he felt the City must consider the tax payer, for increases and restoration of services.

He cautioned the City Commission that figures would be published and each of them would have to explain to the citizenry why tax increases had to be what they would be with the growth, and it appeared that growth was not paying for itself. Mayor Hathaway asked at what point, millage had to be increased. He commented on possible future homestead exemption, and commented on transferring of costs.

Commissioner Reiker commented on the need for cuts in the millage rate. She felt cuts to the millage rate would not be increased. Mayor Hathaway clarified his caution, if the City Commission pursued the entire restoration of services. Commissioner McGuirk questioned additional overtime being paid out, and asked if overtime use would decrease when new personnel was hired. City Manager Brangaccio clarified that overtime was built into schedules and outlined the philosophy utilized in personnel use and felt impacts would be minimal.

Vice Mayor Sachs commented on his pursuit of getting 3 firefighters on each unit. He commented on it being vital to have 3 on the ladder truck and advanced life support unit. City Manager Brangaccio commented on equipment and citizen comments regarding transport units. Vice Mayor Sachs felt that by adding 3 to the fire department would still come up short of having 3 per truck. He felt that 2 per truck was doing a miss-service.

Mayor Hathaway commented on paying County tax dollars while supporting transport operations with other Cities. He commented on duplication of services and felt that in the future, the City may get back to certain levels of service. He questioned who was responsible for transport, as discussed at past Mayor's Roundtable meetings. City Manager Brangaccio commented on the City position regarding transport and the need to have an agreement with Volusia County, as there was presently no agreement. She also commented on a possible future presentation to the City Commission regarding the matter.

Commissioner McGuirk was cautiously reluctant to send funds, as a result of past actions of the City of Daytona Beach. City Manager Brangaccio felt a workshop may be necessary in order to discuss the matter. City Attorney Gummey reported that an agreement between Daytona Beach and Volusia County had not been reached.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Teresa Bowen, 310 Rush Street, commented on her effort to compare tax bases of different portions of the City. She urged the City Commission to allocate funding for street resurfacing and sidewalk repair within the area between Faulkner Street and Orange Street, specifically on Murray Street, as she felt it was in disrepair. City Manager Brangaccio commented on prioritization of projects.

Mayor Hathaway invited those present to go outside, after the meeting, to view the new Tower Truck, recently purchased for the Fire Department.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought to the City Commission to consider.

V. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

There were no comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, Mayor Hathaway declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.