



MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY
NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA
September 5, 2017
6:00 PM

ORDER OF
BUSINESS

1 Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 6:00 pm. Those in attendance were, Councilman Bill Phillips, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas and Councilman Chopper Davis. Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey arrived after roll call.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Attorney Timothy Driscoll, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Chief of Police Kim Bogart, Finance Director Crystal Feast, Development Director Lisa Fierce, Fire Chief Chris Fitch, Economic Development Director Mario Iezzoni, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Library Director Andi Figart, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith, Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed and Human Resources Manager Bernie Wharran.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Moment of Silence

4 Business Items

a. First Public Hearing - FY2017-2018 Operating Budget & Capital Improvement Program - Page 3

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of this agenda item was to conduct a first public hearing on the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. She stated we have conducted four work session on the upcoming budget. Significant assumptions include being conservative and increases in property tax value, preserving target funds, review of fees for revenue adjustments, wage adjustment of 2%, 3% increase for benefits and a decrease in millage. The amount of the proposed budget for the general fund is \$21,448,550 and \$8,891,000 for the capital improvement budget. The directives previously provided by Council are currently being implemented and will be in the final budget presentation on September 25th. City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution 2017-29 tentatively adopting the millage rate.

Upon opening the floor to public comment, no one came forward therefore Mayor Marlowe returned the floor to Council. Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked if the proposed millage rate is the final value. City Manager Manns stated we are basing the budget on numbers provided by the County.

Councilman Phillips stated he was a little disappointed that no one from the public showed up to speak. We have another three weeks to go through the budget and final vote on September 25th. He still has a number of items that dovetail into the previous public hearing on assessments. There are items in the general fund and CIP budget that do not align. He is trying to look at this and take the CRA charette comments that the ad valorem is too high and with that he is trying to find a way to look at the budget to see if there is any way to significantly reduce the millage rate. He believes 8.995 is still too high. He wants to talk to staff.

Councilman Davis stated he was at the FLC conference and there was emphasis on voting down the new homestead exemption. Addressing that is a big factor. An increase in fees and assessments will only make everyone's rent go up. He wanted the millage somewhere in the 8's last year but that did not happen. Need to sharpen pencils and have aggressive program to address the new homestead exemption.

Councilwoman DeBella Thomas asked if the vote tonight was final and the millage rate could not be changed and City Attorney Driscoll stated that it was just the opposite that Council needed to set the tentative millage tonight and it could be reduced by final hearing.

Councilman Phillips stated the Finance Director had compiled some information for him regarding numbers that would calculate to a lower millage rate and asked for that to be included in this week's City Manger's report.

Motion was made to approve Resolution 2017-29 setting the tentative millage rate at 8.995 mils as presented. Motion made by Councilwoman DeBella Thomas and seconded by Deputy Mayor Starkey. Motion passed 5-0 at 6:20 p.m.

City Attorney Driscoll then read Resolution 2017-28 adopting the tentative budget by title only. Motion was made to approve Resolution 2017-28 adopting the tentative budget as presented. Motion made by Councilman Chopper Davis and seconded by Deputy Mayor Starkey. Motion passed 5-0 at 6:21 p.m.

Motion made by Judy DeBella Thomas and seconded by Jeff Starkey. The Motion Passed. 5-0.
Ayes: Davis, DeBella Thomas, Marlowe, Phillips, Starkey

5 Communications

None

6 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm.

(signed) _____
Judy Meyers, City Clerk

Approved: _____ (date)

Initialed: _____