

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FINAL PUBLIC HEARING
FISCAL YEAR 2008/09 BUDGET
201 HOWELL AVENUE**

AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

7:00 P.M.

Brooksville City Council met in regular session with Mayor David Pugh, Vice Mayor Frankie Burnett and Council Members Joe Bernardini, Lara Bradburn and Richard E. Lewis. Also present were Thomas S. Hogan, Jr., City Attorney; T. Jennene Norman-Vacha, City Manager; Karen M. Phillips, City Clerk/Director of Administration; Janice L. Peters, Deputy City Clerk; Steve Baumgartner, Finance Director; Mike Walker, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Geiger, Community Development Director; Emory Pierce, Director of Public Works; Will Smith, Utilities Superintendent; George Turner, Police Chief and Tim Mossgrove, Fire Chief. Members of the Hernando Today and Hernando Times were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh, followed by an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pugh adjourned the Hearing for the CRA Meeting at 7:02 and re-adjourned the Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2008

Public Announcement - Ad Valorem Tax Rate (TRIM Notice)

The Mayor read the Public Announcement as follows:

Pursuant to Section 200.069, F.S., "Notice of Proposed Property Taxes" (TRIM NOTICE) the proposed ad valorem rate for the Fiscal Year 2008/09 was advertised to be a maximum of 7.0000 mills. This millage rate would be a 6.3345% increase over the rolled back rate of 6.5830 mills. After reviewing revenue projections and proposed expenditure levels for the 2008/09 Fiscal Year, the General Fund budget is balanced at a proposed rate of 6.0690 mills, which is 7.8080% less than the current year's rolled-back rate.

Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2008/09 Proposed Budget

Consideration of the Recommended 2008/09 Fiscal Year Budget

Review of balanced budget, together with consideration of additional proposed changes.

City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated the proposed budget includes changes as directed by Council at the 1st Public Hearing.

Vice Mayor Burnett and Council Member Lewis advised that they would like to re-address the employee pay raise along with the realignment of the Redevelopment Coordinator position. Council Member Lewis also wanted to discuss the issue of employees who don't participate in the City's insurance.

Council Member Bernardini wished to address the \$22,500 not allocated to the HRA.

APPROVED BY BROOKSVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

ON 11/3/08 INITIALS [Signature]

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Council Member Bradburn, referencing Fluoride, stated there are folks in the audience to speak on the issue.

Recapping, Mayor Pugh advised Council would be discussing five items:

- Employee Pay Raises
- Redevelopment Coordinator Position
- Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)
- Fluoride
- Insurance Premium Issue

Council Member Lewis requested Fluoride be the first discussion. Council concurred.

Public Input

Fluoride

Council Member Lewis, as well as Vice Mayor Burnett, indicated that with all the concerned citizens that had contacted him concerning this issue he will be supporting the continuance of Fluoride in the water.

Council Member Bernardini indicated he is undecided on the issue, but felt that the money could be used to help the community receive Fluoride via other sources such as toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Mayor Pugh asked for public input.

Elizabeth Callahan, Director of the Hernando County Health Department

She advised that \$288,000 is saved on dental care for the \$7,000 the City spends on fluoridation.

She introduced Dr. Scott Tomar, Professor and Chair of the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Florida and Gainesville College of Dentistry as well as the President Elect of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, which is the nation's largest organization of dental health professionals dedicated to optimal oral health for all. Further, he formally served as Dental Officer and Epidemiologist with the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Oral Health and is the author of several book chapters and peer review journal articles on fluoridation as well as a contributing author to the 2000 U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health.

Dr. Tomar spoke in favor of fluoridation, indicating that community water fluoridation was recognized by the centers for disease control and prevention as one of ten great public health achievements of the past century. He felt the totality of the evidence indicates it is safe and effective for the prevention of tooth decay. He explained how water fluoridation works and indicated it is most effective in areas where citizens are least able to access other sources of Fluoride or get to a dentist.

Ms. Callahan introduced Dr. William Holbrook, a local Dentist who has been here since 1978. Dr. Holbrook indicated that in 1978 there were a large number of children with decay and after fluoridation in the mid 80's he noticed a drop in the decay within 1-2 years. It was his opinion that the evidence over the years overwhelmingly supports fluoridation.

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Ms. Callahan introduced Deborah Trotter, a local resident and Dental Assistant, who spoke in favor of fluoridation and presented a petition from about 58 other citizens who are in favor of fluoridation as well.

Ms. Callahan introduced Shawn Isaacs, a Public Health Dental Coordinator for the Department of Health. He administers the fluoridation grant which assists in funding startup programs for fluoridation in the state of Florida.

Mr. Isaacs indicated that as of 1980 25% of community water systems had Fluoride in their water, today the number is 78%. He advised the state gets \$150,000 in grant monies per year for new systems and upgrades for equipment for communities. He encouraged Council to apply for the one-time funding if needed and to vote to keep Fluoride in the water.

Discussion followed in which it was pointed out by Dr. Tomar that filtration does not remove all Fluoride in the water. Director Pierce indicated the City's original equipment was installed in 1985 but some of the pumps are only 0-5 years old.

Discussion continued in which it was pointed out the County does not add Fluoride to their water.

Council Member Bradburn spoke of scientific reviews of the effects of Fluoride pointing out that 14 Nobel Prize winners in science and medicine have opposed water fluoridation and or questioned the safety and effectiveness of Fluoride. She referenced several peer reviewed studies showing how Fluoride damages the endocrine system and increases the Osteosarcoma among young black males. She presented Council with a packet referencing dozens of studies on the harmful effects of over exposure to Fluoride.

She indicated there is no government agency that has ever approved the use of Fluoride and reviewed material on the issue. She advised that if there is a doubt as to its safety it must be left out and quoted numerous articles and references against fluoridation and the risks associated with its use.

Council Member Lewis thanked Council Member Bradburn for her dedication and research of the issue but he indicated he has not heard any evidence that anyone has banned the use of fluoridation and spoke in favor of keeping fluoridation.

Vice Mayor Burnett concurred with Council Member Lewis' analogy and spoke from a point of view coming from an impoverished neighborhood in favor of fluoridation and its benefits.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Burnett for continuance of fluoridation.

Council Member Lewis indicated that if in the future something comes out from any nationally recognized health agencies advising Fluoride be removed he would want to revisit the issue.

Mayor Pugh indicated he is still undecided about the issue but felt the majority of citizens wanted it. Council Member Bradburn advised that the unfortunate thing is that information is not being provided to those at risk.

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Council Member Bernardini asked Dr. Tomar to reaffirm that filtering your water does not filter out all the Fluoride, which he did. He reiterated that Fluoride is everywhere, including in bottled water.

Council Member Lewis asked about the testing of the City's water, which Director Pierce and Utilities Superintendent Will Smith elaborated on, indicating samples are being continually collected and tested.

Motion carried 3-2 with Mayor Pugh and Council Member Bradburn voting in opposition.

Mayor Pugh asked staff to look into grant funding available through the State.

Council Member Bernardini thanked all who showed up in support of fluoridation.

A recess was taken at 8:18 p.m. and the meeting re-convened at 8:27.

Redevelopment Coordinator Position

City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed the reallocation and reclassification of the position to the City Manager's office for utilization of moving the City forward in several key areas, including improving and growing the City's economic base, improving coordination and cooperative efforts with Hernando County Economic Development Department, updating and forwarding the City's Redevelopment Plan as adopted and last updated in 1998, coordinating and assisting with several City projects and advancing programs in which Council has expressed an interest inclusive of outside private funding and other outside funding and grants available, the establishment of real operational performance measures and standardization of workflow and work plans to improve performance and insure efficiency and effectiveness with limited resources. The position would also entail updating and writing standard operating procedures and City policies inclusive of workflow, production service delivery methods and analysis of costs.

Discussion followed of the proposed reorganization of the position and the importance of moving forward with capital improvements needed, with a commitment that once the funding is there to re-fund that position within the Community Redevelopment Department.

The consensus of Council was to accept the reorganization.

HRA Funding

City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated the General Fund amount for HRA is \$23,537 to fund at the recommended level discussed on August 29 plus a \$224 share for Fleet Maintenance for a total of \$23,761 for the General Fund. The Enterprise Fund total, including Utilities and Sanitations, is \$7,738 for a citywide total of \$31,499. This is for funding at 50%, which reflects an allocation of \$500 per employee versus the \$1,000 from previous years because of the reduction of the deductible from \$1,500 to \$750 on the Blue Cross Blue Shield plan for in-network benefits. She advised the goal is to fund the liability at 100% in the future if the City opts to stay with the HRA option.

Council Member Bernardini felt the HRA to be a valuable asset helping employees with the rising costs of insurance. He requested the money be left in the HRA. City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated the money had

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not been allocated; only added to the Reserves for Contingencies, and could be added back in.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bernardini and seconded by Council Member Lewis to reallocate the money to fund the HRA, reversing Council's decision at the first budget hearing to remove it.

Discussion continued in which City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed the in-network benefits.

Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Pugh voting in opposition.

Insurance

City Manager Norman-Vacha advised a survey of surrounding areas indicated most do not offer any additional benefits for not participating unless it is incorporated into a cafeteria plan. She indicated a total of 10 current employees opt out of the City's plan. Discussion followed.

Council consensus was to reimburse employees that opt out up to that amount but not over the amount allocated by the City. The employee would be required to produce evidence of other group insurance coverage. City Manager Norman-Vacha to bring policy to Council for approval.

Employee Pay Raise

Council Member Bernardini recommended giving employees a 2% raise. City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated that if Council adopted a 2% merit increase to happen on the employee's anniversary the impact to the General Fund would be \$48,629. In the current General Fund Reserves for Contingencies \$956,011 was allocated which is 13% of the entire budget. That leaves a total balance of \$907,382 or approximately 12% in Reserves for Contingencies and the millage rate would not change.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Burnett and seconded by Council Member Bradburn for approval of a 2% merit-based increase for employees.

Council Member Bernardini clarified that it is not a cost of living raise but a merit increase based on performance evaluations at the employee's anniversary date. Discussion continued in which City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the citywide impact would be \$59,909 with increases for Utilities and Sanitation coming out of their Reserves for Contingencies.

Mayor Pugh expressed reservations about the proposed increase, with further discussion of streamlining and rewarding employees for productive service.

Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Pugh voting in opposition.

McKethan Capital Improvement Plan

City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed staff request for Council to allocate \$25,000 to capital outlay for the repaving of the Jerome Brown Community Center bike and skate trail with approval to go out for bids.

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Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bernardini and seconded by Vice Mayor Burnett for approval. Motion carried 5-0.

In further discussion of the employee increase, Mayor Pugh relayed that in passing the Mercer Plan he felt there were internal oversights in the program. He felt it needed to be reevaluated at some point, which was discussed. City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated job descriptions are on the list to be updated, which will include re-designation of the pay system and classification plan.

Approval of Resolution No. 2008-23 for FY2008/09

Consideration of proposed resolution levying a General Fund Ad Valorem Millage Rate of 6.0690 mills.

[Note: Restatement of Public Announcement required if millage rate adjustment]

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Burnett and seconded by Council Member Lewis for approval of Resolution No. 2008-23 establishing the FY2008/09 ad valorem tax rate at 6.3230 mills.

City Clerk Phillips read Resolution No. 2008-23 by title as follows:

A RESOLUTION LEVYING AN AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried 5-0 upon roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Bernardini	Aye
Council Member Bradburn	Aye
Council Member Lewis	Aye
Vice Mayor Burnett	Aye
Mayor Pugh	Aye

Mayor Pugh announced that the 2008/2009 millage rate of 6.0690 is below the roll-back rate of 6.5830 by 7.8080%. The roll-back rate is a calculation to adjust the increase in assessed property values and new construction within the city in order to maintain the amount of property tax revenue of the previous year.

Ordinance No. 769 - Recommended Budget for FY2008/09

Consideration of second and final reading of proposed budget effective October 1, 2008.

[FIRST READING 09/03/08]

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Burnett and seconded by Council Member Bradburn for acceptance of the recommended FY2008/09 Budget, with adopted changes.

Mayor Pugh asked for public input; there was none.

City Clerk Phillips read Ordinance No. 769 by title as follows:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING CERTAIN MONIES FOR THE GENERAL OPERATIONS OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, FROM ITS SEVERAL FUNDS FOR THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2008 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

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Motion carried 5-0 upon roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Bradburn	Aye
Council Member Lewis	Aye
Council Member Bernardini	Aye
Vice Mayor Burnett	Aye
Mayor Pugh	Aye

Kids Day in the Park

Mayor Pugh asked for a motion to add a request for the waiver of \$275 user fee for Kids day in the Park by the Kiwanis.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Burnett to add the item to the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Lewis and seconded by Vice Mayor Burnett to waive the requested fee.

Mayor Pugh asked for public input.

Motion carried 5-0.

Items to Discuss

Scott Smith, President of Kiwanis, thanked Council for their support.

Joe Bernardini, Council Member

Council Member Bernardini, referring to the City Manager's evaluation, indicated the evaluation asks if goals were met. He advised Council needs to set goals for the City Manager as well as Council.

Frankie Burnett, Vice Mayor

Vice Mayor Burnett asked that Council not forget the Hernando High School Homecoming Parade for fee waivers along with the waiver for the Kiwanis' Christmas Parade. City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated they will be forthcoming on the October 20 agenda.

Lara Bradburn, Council Member

Referring to the Hernando High Homecoming on Friday, November 14, Council Member Bradburn advised the alumni band, the Golden Band from Leopard Land and the Royal Regiment will be coming back under the direction of Steve Manuel. All alumni are invited to participate.

T. Jennene Norman-Vacha, City Manager

City Manager Norman-Vacha thanked Council for all their support on the budget and staff for taking a conservative approach toward improvement to efficiencies and effectiveness. Council thanked staff as well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor



City Clerk