

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
Council Chambers
201 Howell Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34601

Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget - Final Public Hearing

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

6:30 P.M.

Brooksville City Council met in regular session with Mayor Kevin Hohn, Vice-Mayor Frankie Burnett, Council Members Lara Bradburn and Joseph E. Johnston, III present. Also present were Cliff Taylor, City Attorney; T. Jennene Norman-Vacha, City Manager; Janice L. Peters, City Clerk; Jim Delach, Assistant Finance Director; Mike Walker, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Geiger, Community Development Director; Richard Radacky, Director of Public Works; George Turner, Police Chief and Tim Mossgrove, Fire Chief.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hohn at 6:30 p.m., followed by an Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2014

City Clerk Peters read the public announcement.

Public Announcement - Ad Valorem Tax Rate

Tonight's meeting is the second and final Public Hearing for the City of Brooksville to set the final millage rate and final budget for fiscal year 2015. The proposed millage rate is 6.6962 mills, which is 0.0000% over rollback rate of 6.6962 mills. The notice of Public Budget Hearing for this evening's meeting was advertised on Saturday, September 13, 2014, in the Tampa Bay Times, Hernando Section.

Consideration of the Recommended 2015 Fiscal Year Budget

City Manager Norman-Vacha advised no changes were made to the proposed budget since the first budget hearing.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Johnston to amend the City Council Office Budget on page 17, and return \$20,000 for Blueberry Festival promotional activities to the General Fund Reserves until funds are applied for by the organizer, seconded by Vice-Mayor Burnett.

Council Member Bernardini did not disagree, but stated he is opposed to giving \$20,000 and \$10,000 from the General Fund for special events. He believes it should come from a different fund.

Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE DIRECTOR – Page 29

Council Member Bradburn, referencing the City Manager's budget, asked how much is budgeted for a new Finance Director. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised \$68,578 plus benefits.

APPROVED BY BROOKSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL
ON 11-17-14 INITIALS JP

FINAL BUDGET HEARING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn for an increase of \$10,000 to the salary for the Finance Director's position.

Vice-Mayor Burnett felt the City Manager is in charge of the day-to-day operations. Council Member Bradburn agreed but feels the City Manager is overworked and needs someone in that position. She stated this is the least impressive budget since she has been on this Council. She does not think that Council should continue to require other staff to take on extra duties for lack of a Finance Director. She believes the City is suffering as a whole and the City will not progress until the position is filled.

Council Member Bernardini, referring to Page 19, asked about the executive salaries. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised that is her salary and the \$68,578 is just the Finance Director salary.

Council Member Johnston agrees that the City needs a Finance Director but felt the salary should stay the same and be adjusted by a budget amendment when needed. He asked how we advertise the salary. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised there is a salary range and other cities are soliciting for the same position at this time, pointing out this is a specialized position. She has held interviews but does not feel that she has had a qualified candidate. She stated she will come to Council for extra money if that is what is required to bring in the right person but advised the salary is above minimum range and cautioned against adjusting salaries arbitrarily because of exiting staff and salaries.

Council Member Johnston asked if it would help to add "salary negotiable" to the ad to entice applicants. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised she will add the verbiage to the announcement.

Mayor Hohn asked where the announcement is posted. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the Florida League of Cities, Florida City/County Manager's Association and an ad was run previously in the Tampa Bay Times. He asked if she had posted on LinkedIn. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised that will be her next step.

Vice-Mayor Burnett did not feel lack of a Finance Director is the reason for the City Manager's extended hours and felt all of staff deserves an increased salary.

Council Member Bradburn indicated the extra work she is doing is other than her position requires. She pointed out projects, such as the Pavement Management Program, the ADA restroom, and others that haven't been done mainly because there is no Finance Director and the City Manager is doing other jobs.

Vice-Mayor Burnett discussed his visits to City Hall and believes the City Manager is doing a great job. He pointed out how Council knows a lot more would have been done if the economic system was improved. He pointed out that the City Manager never came to Council with recommendation for layoffs or furloughs when it was a popular solution. He thinks she takes what she has and does the best with it and it has been passed down to the directors and staff.

Motion died for lack of a second.

LIBERTY STREET – Fund 308, Page 84

Council Member Bradburn asked about the three projects listed in the drainage portion of the streets budget, citing erosion problems at Parsons Creek. She believes the people who bought property adjacent to the creek knew about the problem. She stated that Liberty Street needs to be addressed but believes it is more beneficial to use the money towards another project.

FINAL BUDGET HEARING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn to leave the budget item in Fund 308 but remove the Liberty Street project from list and look at alternative projects for the same amount of money.

Council Member Bradburn corrected her earlier statement advising it is Saxon Brook, not Parsons Creek.

Council Member Bernardini asked if this area is part of the CRA drainage project. Council Member Bradburn advised yes but this has to do with the eroding bank on the south side.

Council Member Johnston asked if the projects are listed in the footnotes by priority within the system. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised it is just a general list that staff believes has the greatest drainage needs. She stated that it would come back before Council before bid is awarded.

Council Member Bernardini believes it should be removed prior to bid so work is not put into a rejected project.

Vice-Mayor Burnett asked what would be put in the place of Liberty Street. Council Member Johnston pointed out that we are just taking it out of the footnote and if funds are leftover the City Manager will bring back other target areas. He stated that he does not have a problem removing it from the footnote as it does not affect the projects.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Bernardini. Motion carried 5-0.

FLOURIDE – Fund 401, Page 95 & 96

Council Member Bradburn indicated the Health Department has provided no evidence that adding Fluoride to the water supply has improved our community's health. She advised several cities, including Dallas, have since removed Fluoride from their system due to excessive harm to their community.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn to remove Fluoride from the City's water system. Motion died for lack of a second.

WATER AND SEWER RATES & ECONOMIC INDEX – Page 91

Referring to page 10 of the City Manager's Statement, Council Member Bradburn stated that the citizens want to know why we are raising rates.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn, and seconded by Council Member Bernardini, to not accept this year's indexed rate for the water & sewer system this year and leave them as they are today, eliminating the 1.41% rate increase.

Council Member Bernardini asked what affect it will have if the increase is not taken. Mayor Hohn advised the revenues would decrease 1.41%.

Council Member Johnston asked if the increase, and accompanying resolution, is attached to the repayment of any bond.

Vice-Mayor Burnett, referring to page 10 in the City Manager's Statement, pointed out a residential customer using 5,000 gallons of water would see an increase of .78 cents per month.

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City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed the associated resolution and advised it does not include language identifying bonds. She pointed out it was adopted by Council in 2008 following Council's displeasure with the 3% increase cap. She advised the balanced budget is based on inclusion of that increase.

Council Member Bradburn reminded all that since Council has decided to take all the bond settlement money and apply it towards that fund, there is no need for an increase this year.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Bernardini. Motion failed 3-2.

RED LIGHT CAMERAS

Council Member Bernardini recommended amending the ordinance setting uses of the 109 Law Enforcement Fund monies for special events. Mayor Hohn asked Council Member Bernardini to draft his changes so it can be added to a future agenda.

Public Input

Mayor Hohn called for public input; there was none.

Resolution No. 2014-16 Fiscal Year 2015 Final Ad Valorem Tax Rate

City Manager Norman-Vacha stated this is the same information that was adopted in the tentative budget. She advised, per the rules of the Department of Revenue, Council cannot go above the roll back rate but can go below it.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Burnett and seconded by Council Member Johnston for approval of Resolution No. 2014-16.

City Clerk Peters read Resolution No. 2014-16 by title, as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, SETTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 TAXING YEAR PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion carried 4-1 upon roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Bradburn	Nay
Council Member Johnston	Aye
Council Member Bernardini	Aye
Vice-Mayor Burnett	Aye
Mayor Hohn	Aye

Council Member Johnston pointed out that the agenda referenced resolution No. 2014-14 but the Resolution had the correct number listed 2014-16.

Council Member Bernardini asked why Council Member Bradburn voted against the resolution. Council Member Bradburn stated that ideas presented to staff are not being brought forward or discussed by Council. She feels the budget and ad valorem rate are false since the budget is funded by things that we promised people this year but were put off.

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City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the projects that Council identified as priorities are coming back for bid award in October. She pointed out that regular status reports are provided to Council. Referring to Pavement Management, she stated that monies not spent were carried forward in the same line items and nothing has been dropped off the list.

Council Member Bradburn felt the prioritized road projects in the next budget year will not be done. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the list has not changed but budget monies are limited and any money not spent on those allocated projects carried forward. Nothing has been dropped off the list.

Mayor Hohn pointed out that engineering studies had to be done and it takes time, using Veterans Avenue as an example. Discussion continued.

Ordinance No. 842 - Recommended Budget for FY2015

City Manager Norman-Vacha pointed out changes made to the Ordinance approved by Council this evening.

Referring to page 1, section A for General Fund, City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the entry for City Council will change from \$124,231 to \$104,231. Within the same area, the entry for General Fund Reserves will change from \$274,659 to \$294, 659. She stated the total General Fund is \$7,384,380.

Also, the foot note in Fund 308 will be updated with the removal of Liberty Street and Saxon Brook.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Burnett and seconded by Council Member Johnston for approval of Ordinance No. 842 with the recommended changes.

City Clerk Peters read Ordinance No. 842 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, 2014 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.

Motion carried 3-2 upon roll call vote as follows:

Council Member Johnston	Aye
Council Member Bradburn	Nay
Council Member Bernardini	Nay
Vice-Mayor Burnett	Aye
Mayor Hohn	Aye

Council Member Bernardini explained that his vote was due to his opposing the \$10,000 line item for fee waivers and the increase in the fire assessment.

ADJOURN TO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETING

Mayor Hohn adjourned the final budget hearing at 7:35 p.m. to the CRA Meeting.

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RECONVENE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

The final budget hearing reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

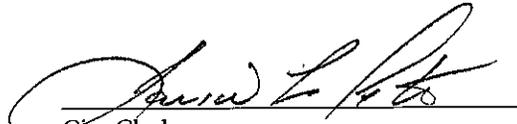
Mayor Hohn expressed appreciation to Council for all of their work. He thanked the City Manager and staff for their efforts to bring forth the budget document. He advised future Council to continue to look down the road as they design next year's budget.

Council Member Bernardini stated that this is the last budget he will work on for the City and each year has been tough. He stated even when the City had money they could not do all of the projects that they wanted to do. He pointed out that sometimes the general public thinks when something is discussed it becomes a mandate that it has to be done but it's not always possible. He commented on past budget meetings and how difficult it can be to find the best way to spend money. He expressed his appreciation for the City Manager and staff.

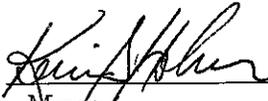
Discussion continued about past budgets and accomplishments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



City Clerk

Attest: 

Mayor