

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING
FISCAL YEAR 2011/12 BUDGET
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Brooksville City Council met in regular session with Mayor Frankie Burnett, Vice Mayor Joseph E. Johnston, III, Council Members, Joe Bernardini and Lara Bradburn and Kevin Hohn present. Also present were Jennifer C. Rey, City Attorney; T. Jennene Norman-Vacha, City Manager; Janice L. Peters, City Clerk; Steve Baumgartner, Finance Director; Mike Walker, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Geiger, Community Development Director; Richard Radacky, Interim Director of Public Works; George Turner, Police Chief and Tim Mossgrove, Fire Chief. Members of the Hernando Times and Hernando Today were also present.

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

PUBLIC HEARING - PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2011

City Clerk Peters read the Public Announcement into the record.

Public Announcement - Ad Valorem Tax Rate (TRIM Notice)

Pursuant to Section 200.069, F.S., "Notice of Proposed Property Taxes" (TRIM NOTICE) the proposed ad valorem rate for the Fiscal Year 2011/12 was advertised to be a maximum of 7.5000 mills. This millage rate would be a 5.55% increase over the current year's rolled-back rate of 7.1055 mills. After reviewing revenue projections and proposed expenditure levels for the 2011/12 Fiscal Year, the General Fund budget is balanced at a proposed rate of 7.1055 mills, which is 00.00% less than the current year's rolled-back rate.

Proposed FY2011/12 Budget

Review proposed budget and points of discussion.

City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed the proposed budget at 7.1055 mills for a total of \$7,340,684, inclusive of a Reserve for Contingency of \$288,301, approximately a 4% reserve and in line with Finance's recommendation of 3%.

She proceeded to review the memo distributed to Council at the meeting regarding the General Fund Budget changes that have been made since the budget was initially presented to Council.

City Manager Norman-Vacha then reviewed proposed changes to the budget which would reflect a \$275,473 reduction as well as the option to lease the Quarry Golf Course to Just So You Know, LLC, which would result in an additional decrease of City net costs by about \$73,388. Vice Mayor Johnston was in favor of exploring the option. Council Member Hohn was concerned that the lessee could just walk away. Vice Mayor Johnston indicated if that happened Council could then consider closing the Quarry.

The next item reviewed by the City Manager was a "buy back" option of all legal fees/time billed by the Hogan Law Firm in the matter of the Westchester Fire Insurance Co. v City of Brooksville Council considered the attorney billing method from the existing retainer-billable hours/time arrangement for services to a contingency based fee arrangement. The option would reflect approximately \$82,000.

APPROVED BY BROOKSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL
ON 4/2/12 INITIALS JP

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The last item proposed by the City Manager was to eliminate the HRA program, resulting in a General Funds decrease of \$24,180.

Council Member Hohn

Concerning fee waivers he indicated he would rather see the City treat all requests the same, recommending the organizations charge vendors participating in those events and eliminate the entire line item. He did offer to pay the fees out-of-pocket for the Veteran's Parade.

He agreed with the leasing of the Quarry Golf Course as the City is not in the business of running golf courses.

Concerning the City Attorney fees, he was in favor of the buy back.

Council Member Hohn agreed with the City Manager to eliminate the HRA and recommended implementing a requirement that employees pay 10% of the premiums paid by the City.

Council Member Bernardini

Concerning fee waivers he agreed with Council Member Hohn to eliminate them. He also agreed with the elimination of the Management Analyst and Community Development positions.

Council Member Bernardini did not agree with leasing the Quarry Golf Course, feeling it has been mismanaged.

Regarding the City Attorney contingency fees, although he appreciates the firm's effort, he wasn't sure that is the way to go.

He indicated he supports elimination of the HRA but not having employees pay 10% of their medical premiums.

For additional savings he recommended consideration of consolidation of Police & Fire with County services and advised the Council could become the Planning & Zoning Commission Board as a cost reduction.

Vice Mayor Johnston

Vice Mayor Johnston distributed a memorandum, which he reviewed.

He indicated is in favor of a 10% reduction of Council salaries, whether it is used for waivers of fees or whatever. He was in favor of most all of the recommendations of staff. Concerning the City Attorney contingency fee, although he did not favor them, he would consider a 15% fee on the Westchester case. He recommended consideration of furlough days if reductions are still needed.

Council Member Bradburn

Council Member Bernardini advised that because of new growth management amendments, development will not be paying for itself and it also negated the requirement for any true EAR amendments. She agreed with the Quarry Golf Course recommendation, the fee waiver's as long as the event has a positive economic impact on the city and elimination of the two positions as recommended.

Regarding the Fire Department she felt shifts should be revisited and pensions for the Fire and Police

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Departments should be reviewed and possibly shifted to FRS. She did not agree with reserve firefighters being included in the pension plan.

Regarding the City Attorney's contingency fees, Council Member Bradburn pointed out that legal costs are going to be incurred, regardless and agreed with the fee adjustment.

She did not agree with eliminating the HRA.

Mayor Burnett

Mayor Burnett agreed with all the City Manager's recommendations except the elimination of the waiver of fees allowance. He agreed with the 60/40 split for fees except for the Veteran's parade, which Council Member Hohn agreed to pay.

CITIZEN INPUT

Rich Howard, Cemetery Sexton thanked Mayor Burnett for his support of employees. He addressed Council, reviewing the income of a \$9.74 an hour salary. He was not in favor of any cuts in the lower salaried employees.

Assistant Finance Director Jim Delach answered the question of how much money would be saved by eliminating the reserve firefighter's pension to be \$8,310.89.

Robert Buckner thanked staff for their efforts in cutting the budget, offering that on the private side it has already been done. He was hopeful that the millage would be the same as last year.

Diana Koontz & Ed Chester from the Kiwanis relayed plans for the Christmas Parade and asked that Council reconsider the waiver.

Gail Samples advised she had spent time with the City Manager regarding the budget and reviewed cuts she had recommended.

Tom Peppie of Kiwanis reviewed the Christmas parade as well.

Anna Liisa Covell commented on the millage and reviewed the Veteran's Appreciation Parade, which Mayor Burnett explained Council Member Hohn agreed to pay the fees for.

Council decisions were as follows:

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Hohn for Council salary to be reduced by 10%.

Council Member Bradburn felt the motion to be grand-standing. Vice Mayor Johnston advised if this motion did not pass he would vote against the waivers completely. Council Member Bernardini didn't see it as a solution to fund the waivers.

Motion failed 2-3 with Council Member Bradburn, Mayor Burnett and Council Member Bernardini voting in opposition.

Council Member Bradburn felt a list should be compiled of events to be waived each year. She would support a slight reduction but not \$2,800. Council Member Hohn, Council Member Bernardini and Vice

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Mayor Johnston was in favor of eliminating the entire \$7,000. Mayor Burnett was not.

Event Waivers

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bernardini and seconded by Council Member Hohn for approval of eliminating the Waiver. Motion carried 3-2 with Council Member Bradburn and Mayor Burnett voting in opposition.

A 5-minute break was taken.

Elimination of Management Analyst Position

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bradburn for approval of elimination of the Management Analyst Position with review in the future if needed. Motion carried 5-0.

Human Resources Office Decrease of \$750

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Vice Mayor Johnston for approval of the HR decrease. Motion carried 5-0.

Elimination of Community Development Position and Reduction of \$10,000 from Contract Services

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bernardini and seconded by Council Member Bradburn for approval of the position elimination for the total year and a \$10,000 reduction in Contract Services. Motion carried 4-1 with Mayor Burnett voting in opposition.

Fire Department Line Item Decrease

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Vice Mayor Johnston for approval with contingency for review of reserve firefighters' pensions.

City Attorney Rey advised reserve firefighters must be included in the plan but will bring back confirmation.

Motion carried 5-0.

Streets Division Line Item Decrease of \$12,000

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bernardini and seconded by Vice Mayor Johnston for approval.

Council Member Bradburn indicated the \$12,000 could be better used. Council Member Hohn asked about the old Fire House, which was explained.

Motion carried 5-0.

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Quarry Golf Course Lease

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Vice Mayor Johnston for approval of the lease. Motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Bernardini voting in opposition.

City Attorney “Buy Back”

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bradburn for approval of a 15% contingency fee to be presented to the Hogan Law Firm for consideration and the return of \$82,000. Motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Bernardini voting in opposition.

Elimination of the HRA

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for approval of keeping the HRA. Motion carried 4-1 with Council Member Hohn voting in opposition.

Vice Mayor Johnston added that he only voted in favor because enough budget cuts have been made to warrant keeping it for this budget year.

Additional recommendations or observations were as follows:

Council Member Hohn recommended a 5% employee contribution to medical premiums. Council Member Bernardini was not in favor. Council Member Bradburn asked for reports of 1-5% contributions in the spring discussions. Vice Mayor Johnston agreed with Council Member Bradburn.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Hohn that employees contribute 5% toward their medical premiums. Motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Bernardini was opposed to eliminating the work crew. He is in favor of taking money from Vehicle Replacement Fund to cover shortages in the Reserves for Contingencies. He felt vehicle replacement could be carried from 5-7 years as well.

Vice Mayor Johnston – page 28 – Economic Development Division, recommended reducing the total line item by an additional \$2-3,000.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for approval of removing \$1,000 from each line item in the Economic Development Division.

Council Member Hohn asked if Mr. Wilfong presented a budget or is this just an estimate. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised that in speaking with Mr. Wilfong it was estimated at \$15,000.

Motion carried 4-1, with Mayor Burnett voting in opposition.

Mayor Burnett advised fee waivers would be revisited in next year’s budget.

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SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS – Recommended Reductions

Council Member Bradburn

Regarding fire fees, Council Member Bradburn would like to see this discussed in the spring, as well as the dedicated fund for roads.

Fluoride

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for approval of elimination of \$6,000 from the Enterprise Fund for Fluoride. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Burnett – Capital Improvements

Mayor Burnett asked that Council consider delegating capital improvements and capital outlay from the millage.

Mayor Burnett asked for public input; there was none.

Ad Valorem Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2011/12

Consideration of establishing ad valorem tax rate.

City Manager Norman-Vacha made a recommendation to adopt a 6.37 ad valorem tax rate, which is the current rate.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Hohn for approval of a 6.37 millage.

Council Member Bernardini stressed the need for the increase in capital improvements. Council Member Bradburn felt there to be other funding options. She asked that staff bring back options in January.

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

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

Finance Director Baumgartner re-read the public announcement into the record.

Public Announcement - Ad Valorem Tax Rate (TRIM Notice)

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Ordinance No. 825 - Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/12

Consideration of first reading of proposed budget effective October 1, 2011.

Motion:

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Johnston and seconded by Council Member Hohn for approval with changes as made this evening and scheduling the second reading on September 28, 2011.

City Clerk Peters read Ordinance No. 825 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, 2011 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012.

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

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

City Manager Norman-Vacha clarified the Final Budget Hearing would be September 28th at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Bernardini requested the meeting start at 7:00 p.m.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bernardini and seconded by Council Member Bradburn for approval of the September 28th meeting to start at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Red Light Camera Program Discussion

City Manager Norman-Vacha advised staff is prepared to provide any information as in the past and indicated there is no new information, only what was provided in February.

Council Member Hohn asked if accidents have gone back up since stopping the program. Chief Turner advised those numbers are not available but they can be provided.

Council Member Bradburn stated she is for the program for safety reasons.

Vice Mayor Johnston advised he is for the program and that the revenue will be nowhere near where it was before because of the State taking a share and right-turns have been negated. Council Member Hohn advised he would be fine with revenue being zero because he is for the program for public safety.

Council Member Bernardini felt it isn't about safety but revenue, which he doesn't agree with.

Mayor Burnett is against because the citizens are against it and the state gets most of the money.

Council Member Hohn relayed that after reviewing all the information and speaking with a lot of people, he is for the red light cameras.

Vice Mayor Johnston, in the interest of fairness, pointed out that some arguments are made that the number of accidents may go down but the severity goes up.

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Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn and seconded by Council Member Hohn for approval of staff to bring back an agreement to reinstate the red light camera program. Motion carried 3-2 with Council Member Bernardini and Mayor Burnett voting in opposition.

Gail Samples stated it was publicly advertised that the red light camera was on the agenda for discussion. Now they changed it without notifying the public they were going to vote on the item. She asked if that was legal. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the motion was to bring back for consideration. City Attorney Rey advised it will come back at another publicly noticed meeting for Council to take action.

City Attorney Retainer Discussion & Presentation

Removed following prior discussion.

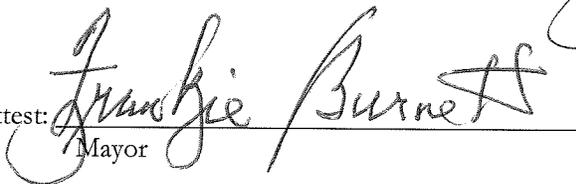
Council Member Bernardini advised he would not be at Monday night's meeting and asked that Item 4, Sign Regulations, and Personnel Policies be moved to the following agenda.

Mayor Burnett asked the pleasure of Council. City Attorney Rey advised the issue would need to be taken up at the meeting since the agenda was already published.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Attest:


Mayor


City Clerk