

**CITY OF BROOKSVILLE
FINAL PUBLIC HEARING
FISCAL YEAR 2013/14 BUDGET
201 Howell Avenue
Brooksville, FL 34601**

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

6:30 P.M.

Brooksville City Council met in regular session with Mayor Lara Bradburn, Vice Mayor Kevin Hohn and Council Members Joe Bernardini, Frankie Burnett and Joseph E. Johnston, III present. Also present were Jim Fisher, 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. Members of the Hernando Times and Hernando Today were also present.

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

Mayor Bradburn reviewed the process to be followed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013

City Clerk Peters advised the hearing had been published and read the public announcement.

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 2013/14 was advertised to be a maximum of 8.0000 mills. This millage rate would be an 18.84% increase over the current year's rolled-back rate of 6.7317 mills. After reviewing revenue projections and proposed expenditure levels for the 2013/14 Fiscal Year, the General Fund budget is balanced at a proposed rate of 6.7317 mills, which is 00.00% increase over the current year's roll back rate.

Consideration of the Recommended 2013/14 Fiscal Year Budget

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

City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed the FY2014 Budget, referencing differences in this year's taxes and comparisons to the city's services versus fire assessment alone through the county.

She advised this budget continues to shift to the new normal of leaner management, lower administrative overhead, focusing on spending the limited resources available on services and infrastructure needs by implementing and practicing zero based budgeting.

Further, staff is in a state of pre-planning and mapping of priorities for capital infrastructure investments, best practices and acceptable methods. In reference to where we are, staff has looked at balancing limited service delivery levels, aligning those with

APPROVED BY BROOKSVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

ON 7/7/14 INITIALS JL

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continuing falling and decreasing revenue sources.

City Manager Norman-Vacha indicated the FY2014 budget, as presented, is balanced with a millage rate of 6.7317, the current year's roll back rate. Additional revenues that are generated from the roll back rate, when compared to the current dollars generated from the current millage of 6.6 is equal to 95% estimates at \$46,444.

She reviewed property taxes, the primary revenue source for the General Fund, which rely on a two-pronged formula of property values and a millage levy. As in past years beginning in 2009, property values have continued to drop. Since 2009 until today, property values have dropped from \$568,653,310. to \$371,205,088. A decrease of 53.19% for a drop of nearly \$200,000,000.

Regarding millage, from 1998 until 2004, the millage stood strong at 8 mils consistently. Beginning in 2006, the millage dropped to 7.5 until FY2007, when the millage further reduced in the midst of plummeting property values. Today, the millage is at 6.6. In 2009, one mil was worth \$568,653. while today, 1 mil is worth \$371,205. Per capita costs in the City of Brooksville had dropped from \$499 per person in 2007 to \$324 today, or 54%.

She reviewed the impact of fire assessments, which property owners pay into depending on the value of their property and improvements thereon. She showed comparisons in properties for this Fiscal Year's proposed assessments compared to last year's assessments. She also gave comparisons of the City's fire assessments compared to County fire services, dispelling beliefs that eliminating Police and Fire services would result in less or no taxes for those services.

The City Manager reviewed that in just 4 years, General Fund expenditures have decreased from \$8 million in 2010 to \$6.7 million in 2014, or \$1.3 million. Per capita costs for expenditures have decreased from \$1,052 to \$868 annually, or 21%. Staffing levels have been decreased, processes have improved, along with productivity and efficiencies, better technologies have been implemented and new ways to cut expenses have been created without eliminating key services to residences, businesses and visitors.

She quoted Henry Ford as saying "There is one rule for industrialists and that is make the best quality goods at the lowest cost possible and pay the highest wages possible." The same approach applies to the City of Brooksville and its employees, who have worked to reduce costs by \$1.3 million over 4 years.

Council Member Bernardini asked if the comparisons of the fire assessment included the \$1,026,677. transferred out of General Fund to Fire Assessments. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised no. The point was to compare the City's fire service costs with those of the entire City tax bill, inclusive of all services. He commended the City Manager on the presentation. Council Member Burnett agreed, as did the rest of Council, thanking the City Manager and staff for their diligence and hard work.

Mayor Bradburn would like to see this information put on water bills so citizens can see the savings.

CITIZENS INPUT

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Mayor Bradburn called for public input.

Dr. Johnny Johnson revisited information on the type of Fluoride additive used for water as provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), who advises pharmaceutical grade Fluoride is not available as a fluoridating agent for water. There are three agents, hydrofluosilicic acid, fluosilicic acid, and sodium fluoride, which are approved by the American Water Works Association and meet strict quality standards.

Sandy Roth asked all dental representatives to stand, which were about ten in number. She pointed out that even though all but one do not live in the City of Brooksville, they treat and care for the citizens of the City of Brooksville. All were in favor of reinstating fluoride.

Robert Buckner wanted to clarify that he is not in favor of abolishing the City's Fire Department but wanted the City's assessment to be more fair.

Kurt Irmischer of Clearwater spoke in favor of not putting Fluoride back into the water.

Council Member Johnston, referencing page 19 of the proposed budget, advised he would like to see the \$20,000 allocated for the Blueberry Festival put back into Reserves for Contingencies pending a specific idea of where the money will be spent and clarification that it will be held in the City of Brooksville.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bernardini to return the money to Reserves for Contingencies.

Mayor Bradburn advised the Florida Blueberry Growers are planning to make Brooksville their hub.

Motion carried 5-0.

Council Member Johnston, regarding salary adjustments for employees, agreed with the 3% adjustments but did not agree to the \$50,000 salary cutoff as proposed by Council Member Bernardini at the last meeting. He did propose that salaried employees be exempt.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Johnston and seconded by Council Member Bernardini for 3% salary adjustments for employees who are hourly.

Council Member Burnett did not agree. He felt all should get the increase because of the 5-year freeze on salary increases, as did Mayor Bradburn. Council Member Burnett pointed out that the only thing staff has received was \$250 one year as a bonus at Christmas time.

City Manager Norman-Vacha advised there are 8 salaried employees.

Council Member Bernardini asked exactly when city employees last got a raise. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised FY2008/09.

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Council Member Johnston advised if property values do start going up he would support funds allocated to roads and salaries.

Motion failed 3-0, with Council Member Burnett, Vice Mayor Hohn and Mayor Bradburn voting in opposition.

Mayor Bradburn shared that the CDC doesn't authorize fluoride because they have not done any toxicology reports.

In review of unfinished business, City Manager Norman-Vacha advised that at the last public hearing Council added a Street Sweeper purchase. She asked that Council approve hours for a Sanitation Part-time worker to run the equipment at \$24,897 and fuel costs. This amount will be taken from Reserves for Contingencies under Sanitation into separate line items.

Council Member Bernardini asked who is running the street sweeper now and who is paying for the fuel. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised part of those costs had been budgeted in the Streets Department under General Fund. She would like to put it under Sanitation instead of Streets. Council Member Bernardini asked for clarification that we want to add a part time person to run something someone else has already been running and fuel costs should have been somewhere in the budget. City Manager Norman-Vacha confirmed.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Burnett and seconded by Council Member Johnston for approval of a part-time Sanitation worker to be hired to run the street sweeper and to move the funds of \$24,897 from Sanitation's Reserves for Contingencies to the appropriate line items. Motion carried 5-0.

City Manager Norman-Vacha updated Council that, regarding the MSTU for Mosquito Services, the County and the City were not able to reach an Interlocal Agreement prior to July 1, 2013, for those services so the Ordinance No. 835 is null and void. Hernando County will continue to provide services through 2014. The .01 mill will not be charged to citizens. Staff will continue to work with the County to reach an agreement.

Mayor Bradburn was in favor of accepting the offer without back billing, Council concurred.

City Manager Norman-Vacha asked for direction on Fluoridation. Council Member Johnston requested putting it on the next agenda.

Vice Mayor Hohn wanted to see a chemical analysis of the hydrofluosilicic acid that we purchase currently, not for the fluoride element of it but for the other elements also included in that acid.

Mayor Bradburn would like a toxicology report of the toxicology studies done on sodium fluoride, fluosilicic acid or any chemical used for water fluoridation from the CDC, the EPA and DEP, if they have it, for the October 7th meeting.

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Resolution No. 2013-10 - for FY2013/14 Ad Valorem Millage

Consideration of proposed resolution levying a General Fund Ad Valorem Millage Rate of 6.7317 mils. [Note: Restatement of Public Announcement required if millage rate adjustment.]

City Clerk Peters read Resolution No. 2013-10 by title, as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, LEVYING AN AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013/14 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND FUNDS OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Burnett and seconded by Council Member Johnston for approval of Resolution No. 2013-10.

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

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

Ordinance No. 838 – Council Salary

Consideration of first reading of proposed ordinance to increase Council salary by 3% effective October 1, 2013. [FIRST READING 9/11/13]

Council Member Bernardini indicated he was uncomfortable voting for a raise for Council. Council Member Burnett agreed along with the rest of council.

Mayor Bradburn advised a mechanism needs to be in place for Council increases.

City Clerk Peters read Ordinance No. 838 by title, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ALLOWING FOR A 3% COLA INCREASE TO THE SALARY OF THE MAYOR, VICE MAYOR, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Burnett and seconded by Council Member Johnston for denial of Ordinance No. 838.

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

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

Ordinance No. 839 - Recommended Budget for FY2013/14

Consideration of second and final reading of proposed budget effective October 1, 2013.
[FIRST READING 09/11/13]

City Manager Norman-Vacha reviewed changes per Council direction.

Page 1 Under City Council, the number would go from \$115,019 to \$93,748 with removal of the \$20,000 allocated to the Blueberry Festival and removal of the 3% raise for Council. The General Fund Reserves would go from \$291,676 to \$312,947.

Page 7 Expenditures of Public Works Solid Waste would change from \$1,292,058 to \$1,316,955 and Reserves would reduce from \$565,256 to \$539,359 with the addition of a Part-time worker for the street sweeper.

Mayor Bradburn asked for public input; there was none.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Burnett and seconded by Council Member Johnston for approval of Ordinance No. 839 as amended.

City Clerk Peters read Ordinance No. 839 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, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014.

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

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

A review of the fire assessment tiers was requested.

Council Member Bernardini asked that the properties brought forward with discrepancies be reviewed as provided in the Ordinance. Mayor Bradburn advised the consultant should be contacted regarding this issue.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. to the CRA Budget Hearing.

Attest:



Mayor



City Clerk