

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

Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget - First Public Hearing

MINUTES

September 8, 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. Council Member Bernardini was absent.

The workshop was called to order by Vice-Mayor Burnett at 6:30 p.m., followed by an Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING - PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2014

City Clerk Peters read the public announcement.

Public Announcement - Ad Valorem Tax Rate (TRIM Notice)

Pursuant to Section 200.069, F.S., "Notice of Tentative Property Taxes for the City of Brooksville, Florida" (TRIM NOTICE) the proposed ad valorem rate for the Fiscal Year 2014/15 was advertised to be a maximum of 8.000 mills. This millage rate would be an 19.4707% increase over the current year's rolled-back rate of 6.6962 mills. After reviewing revenue projections and proposed expenditure levels for the 2014/15 Fiscal Year, the General Fund budget is balanced at a tentative rate of 6.6962 mills, which is equal to the current year's roll back rate, which is a 0.0000% increase. This means 6.6962 mills is to be levied to fund the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Tentative FY2015 Budget and City Manager's Budget Message

Review tentative budget and points of discussion.

City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the proposed budget for FY2015 is \$47,415,944.00 which is balanced at a roll back rate of 6.6962 mills.

Crescent Bankruptcy Funds

City Attorney Taylor reviewed the bankruptcy settlement, indicating \$3.6 million was recovered. He advised no one from the bankruptcy court is going to oversee spending but there is an expectation from the community as to how the money would be spent. He contacted Attorney Darren Anderson who discussed a similar scenario he had with the City of Jacksonville. His advice to them was to shy away from making any expenditure from the recovered fund for anything except the purpose stated. They dedicated their money to utility improvements.

Council Member Bradburn, based on a discussion she had with Mr. Hogan, believes the City used previous funds as promised and that the latest settlement money was uncommitted.

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Mayor Hohn advised there is a legal difference in funds being encumbered and doing the right thing. Council has not identified these funds for a specific use so they are not encumbered. Since legal documents were filed stating how the funds would be used, he does not think they should be used for other purposes.

Council Member Johnston agreed with Mayor Hohn but added that the funds should be considered encumbered considering the legal advice provided by both attorneys. They have provided their best advice to protect the Council and City from possible liability.

City Manager Norman-Vacha advised the budget as presented should be reviewed with any recommended changes.

Public Input

Mayor Hohn called for public input.

Michael May spoke on the proposed budget, specifically the increase to 8.0 mils and reserves. Mayor Hohn explained the tentative Trim Notice and reserves.

Resolution No. 2014-13 Fiscal Year 2015 Tentative Ad Valorem Tax Rate

Consideration of resolution levying a General Fund Ad Valorem Millage Rate of 6.6962 mills.

City Clerk Peters read Resolution No. 2014-13 by title, as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, SETTING THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 TAXING YEAR PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Hohn called for further public input; there was none.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Johnston and seconded by Vice-Mayor Burnett for approval of Resolution No. 2014-13.

Motion carried 3-1 upon roll call vote as follows:

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

Resolution No. 2014-12 FY2015 Fire Assessment

Consideration of Resolution for the imposition and collection of Special Assessments to fund Fire Protection Services.

Fire Chief Mossgrove reviewed the resolution noting that it was properly noticed to the public on August 16, 2014. He advised that churches and government property are included in this year's collections. The owners or agents were noticed by first class mail.

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Mayor Hohn felt it unfortunate that the City has to make a choice to adopt a fire assessment. He feels the services could be combined with the County for efficiency.

Council Member Bradburn stated she fully supports the Brooksville Fire Department but thinks services would be enhanced if annual inspections are done to commercial entities dealing with hazardous waste. She advised there is currently no inspection that is specific to hazardous waste. Referencing reports of greater incidences involving explosions and contaminants around the country, she stressed the need to add those inspections. She stated that she cannot support the fire assessment until the proper programs are in place.

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Johnston and seconded by Vice-Mayor Burnett for approval of Resolution No. 2014-12.

City Clerk Peters read Resolution No. 2014-12 by title, as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS; DIRECTING CERTIFICATION OF THE ASSESSMENT ROLL TO THE HERNANDO COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; AMENDING CITY RESOLUTION NO. 2012-05; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion failed 2-2 upon roll call vote as follows:

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

City Manager Norman-Vacha pointed out this is the last opportunity to adopt this resolution. She stated that the City does perform inspections and hazardous material sites are inspected annually. She advised that the assessment provides over 1 million dollars for fire services and there are no separate provisions in the General Fund.

Council Member Bradburn is aware that additional staff has been certified for inspections but she has not received any written information on how things are prioritized or which business and sites have been inspected in the last year. She assumes that inspections are already being done for businesses which involve children. City Manager Norman-Vacha advised they are being inspected and stated that she does not recall being asked for specific information.

Fire Chief Mossgrove advised he holds an Inspector Level 2 certification which is the highest in Florida. He indicated any state-owned and regulated entities with a high hazard, which are day care centers and nursing homes, are inspected annually and are 100% in compliance. All others call for periodic inspections, which is currently every 3 years, in compliance with the state statute and the Florida Administrative Code. He stated there are currently four inspectors with two people preparing to take the state exam. He also pointed out that when he became Chief in 2006 he was the only inspector. Council Member Bradburn recognizes the progress but does not feel every three years is sufficient for the other businesses such as dry cleaners, photographic labs, quasi-medical facilities, and other businesses that deal with hazardous waste. She requested a careful prioritization of targets for inspection.

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Mayor Hohn asked if Council has the ability to direct staff to conduct more inspections. Council Member Johnston asked if the software used can categorize levels of priority. Chief Mossgrove advised yes and stated they have the ability to put businesses on a higher priority for inspection based on written criteria. Referring to Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) facilities, he stated that the City has become a pilot area for GIS and inspection reporting. He advised the program has been very successful and continues to move forward. City Manager Norman-Vacha confirmed with Chief Mossgrove that the City's Fire Department conducts its own hazardous material inspection and coordinates with the State.

Vice-Mayor Burnett commented on his experience as the Safety Director for the Hernando County School District and stated that all of the facility inspections were coordinated with the City or County Fire Department.

Council Member Bradburn asked about the timeframe of the inspections of certain businesses such as Brooksville Printing, Brooksville Cleaners, Patriot Metals. Chief Mossgrove did not have inspection information on Brooksville Printing or Brooksville Cleaners but advised Patriot Metals had been inspected within the last few months. Council Member Bradburn reiterated that inspections should be more frequently than every three years. She asked if a site inspection could be done when a user of hazardous waste relocates. Chief Mossgrove advised when one business relocates and new businesses move in they are provided inspection histories of the property, such as the old hospital property, where the Health Department was. Council Member Bradburn referenced a property wherein a fabricator had been located and advised there is significant pollution contamination on the site. She hoped the site had been inspected before the fabricator business moved into the site.

Fire Chief Mossgrove advised he heard Council loud and clear and had been working with the City Manager on improving efficiencies.

Council Member Bradburn asked for a list of inspected property within the last year, as well as a priority sheet. She will support the resolution with it being on record that Council does not have this information but it will be provided. Fire Chief Mossgrove advised it is a work in progress.

Following Council discussion and upon reconsideration:

Motion:

Motion was made by Council Member Bradburn, with stipulation that Council be provided the inspection list for the last year and target priority list for businesses dealing with hazardous waste, for approval of Resolution No. 2014-12 and seconded by Council Member Johnston. Motion carried 3-1 upon roll call vote as follows:

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

Ordinance No. 842 - Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

Consideration of first reading of tentative budget Ordinance effective October 1, 2014.

City Manager Norman-Vacha briefly reviewed the included funds.

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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:

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

Motion carried 3-1 upon roll call vote as follows:

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

Referencing the Ad Valorem Tax Rate, City Manager Norman-Vacha advised that an additional resolution will need to be approved for the final budget at the final public hearing on September 17th.

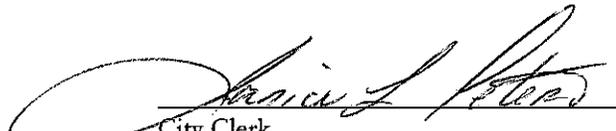
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:



Mayor



City Clerk