CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of a special City Council meeting held on September 3, 2014, at 5:15 p.m., in the City of Apopka Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Kilsheimer
Commissioner Bill Arrowsmith
Commissioner Billie Dean
Commissioner Diane Velazquez
Commissioner Sam Ruth

PRESS PRESENT: John Peery - The Apopka Chief

INVOCATION - The Invocation was given by Pastor Doug Bankson of Victory Church World Outreach Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Kilsheimer led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Kilsheimer opened the meeting for a public hearing.

A. ANNOUNCE AND ADOPT MILLAGE RATE OF 3.4727, WHICH IS A 5.63% INCREASE OVER THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 3.2876.

Mayor Kilsheimer first announced the tentative millage rate of 3.4727 for FY 2014-15, which is a 5.63% increase over the rolled back rate of 3.2876.

A budget presentation was given by Finance Director Edward Bass, showing an overview of the proposed budget. (The presentation is attached hereto and made a part of these meeting minutes.)

Commissioner Dean inquired what portion of the street is included in the budgeted amount for 6th Street, to which City Administrator Anderson responded the location is the east end of 6th Street where pond construction is currently being performed.

Commissioner Ruth inquired about the balance of monies in reserves, to which Finance Director Bass explained we are currently at $8,000,000, which is at the high end, however is necessary in the event of a storm event, and it also provides a significant impact to our advantageous borrowing rate of interest.

Commissioner Velazquez inquired on the increase to the public safety budget. Mr. Bass said it includes the Fire Rescue truck and Police vehicles.

City Administrator Anderson explained the need to address the rolling stock of vehicles, and explained that with a financing plan, the City Council can realize significant savings.

City Administrator Anderson noted the splash pad has been included in this budget, but suggested it be subject to a grant. He said the $250,000 budgeted amount is only the cost if the splash pad is located at the Northwest Recreation Complex due to available infrastructure. It if is moved somewhere else, there will be an additional cost.

Mr. Anderson said there are other areas in the budget that may still be reduced to balance the budget.

There was considerable discussion concerning the budgeting for repairing of 3 blocks of brick streets on Central Avenue. Public Services Director, John Jreij explained the curb would be removed and replaced, and the bricks will be remove and then reset on a new base. Commissioner Arrowsmith questioned the cost to pave one of the blocks, to which Mr. Jreij responded it would be about half of the price of the brick street. This item will receive further consideration.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ruth, and seconded by Commissioner Arrowsmith, to go back to the rolled-back rate of 3.2876.

Mayor Kilsheimer opened the meeting for a public hearing.

Ron Landon, 1134 Dekleva Drive, spoke in support of the Council adopting the rolled back rate.

Suzanne Kidd, 1260 Lexington Parkway, questioned a number of increases in the proposed budget, and stressed the need for a strategic plan as noted in the recent Organizational Analysis performed by Dr. Wingo.

Ray Shackelford, 2082 Carpathian Drive, stated that an assessment is data driven, not based on experience. He again requested the City to evaluate how to help fund programs for the youth of Apopka.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Kilsheimer closed the public hearing.

Motion carried unanimously, with Mayor Kilsheimer and Commissioners Arrowsmith, Dean, Velazquez, and Ruth voting aye.

B. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET WITH ANY BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS.

Motion was made by Commissioner Arrowsmith, and seconded by Commissioner Dean, to accept the budget as proposed by City Administrator Anderson at $68,564, 050.

Commissioner Ruth suggested the need for promoting Apopka for businesses to come to Apopka. He

said public safety is good, but would like to see interest turned back to some of the other departments.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the City is generally headed in the right direction, but still in a catch-up mode. We are starting to lay down the priorities, and monies have been included in the budget to finance strategic planning.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Kilsheimer closed the public hearing.

Motion carried unanimously, with Mayor Kilsheimer and Commissioners Arrowsmith, Dean, Velazquez, and Ruth voting aye.

C. ANNOUNCE FINAL BUDGET MILLAGE RATE HEARINGS - September 17, 2014, at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Kilsheimer announced the public hearing for the final Millage Rate and FY 2014-2015 Budget will be held on September 19, 2014, at 5:15 p.m.

Commissioner Ruth asked that a sidewalk along Monroe Avenue and Old Dixie Highway from Hawthorne Avenue to Park Avenue be included in the budget.

Ron Landon, 1134 Dekleva Drive, spoke in opposition to the way the budget was processed this year.

Mayor Kilsheimer said changes are beginning to be seen. Everyone here is doing the best they can with the system that is in place, and changes need to be well thought out.

Ray Shackelford, 2082 Carpathian Drive, asked the Council to carefully begin to look at the organizational study, which is data driven. He again asked that funds be found for some youth programs to invest in our children.

Pastor Doug Bankson, 585 South Sandpiper Street, expressed appreciation of the Council leaning to the side of frugality. He agreed in the idea of reaching out to our younger generation, however the responsibility is not all on the City, but should include businesses and non-profit organizations. He said it would be good to work together to resolve issues with the youth. He also suggested an increased marketing of the City of Apopka.

D. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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Joseph E. Kilsheimer, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Janice G. Goebel, City Clerk