

CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of a City Council Special meeting held on July 26, 2016, immediately following the Budget Workshop, in the City of Apopka Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Kilsheimer
Commissioner Billie Dean
Commissioner Diane Velazquez
Commissioner Kyle Becker
Commissioner Doug Bankson

PRESS PRESENT: John Peery - The Apopka Chief
Bethany Rodgers, Orlando Sentinel
Dale Fenwick, The Apopka Voice

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Kilsheimer called the Special Council meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

SPECIAL REPORTS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Kilsheimer thanked the Commissioners, staff, Mr. Glenn Irby, Ms. Pam Barclay, for all of the work they put in to preparing the proposed budget. He said he feels they have had an extraordinary discussion over the last three days on the preliminary budget. The budget documentation has been placed online for the public to have access to it and members of the public have attended the Budget Workshops. He stated the budget would not be finalized for two months. Public comment will be taken today, but there will be two required public hearings set in September.

1. Approve and set the FY 2016-2017 proposed millage rate

Mayor Kilsheimer said they need to set a proposed millage rate. It has been suggested a proposed tentative millage rate of 3.7876, which is an increase of .5 millage, will generate an additional \$1.263 million in revenue and will allow a balanced budget. He affirmed this will allow coming back and further refining the budget.

Commissioner Bankson said as far as millage rates in the past, this is where the City was in 2006 prior to the economic downturn. He stated we need to find a balance and make headway.

Commissioner Becker agreed we need to be fiscally sound, but he recognizes we have a resource issue and service delivery to the residents will suffer long term if we do not take steps now.

Commissioner Velazquez said it is easier to set the tentative millage rate higher and come back and work down.

MOTION by Commissioner Bankson, and seconded by Commissioner Dean, to set the tentative millage rate at 3.7876.

Mayor Kilsheimer said in accordance with the truth and millage requirements, the City must set the proposed millage rate and advise the property appraiser of the proposed millage rate, roll back rate, date, time, and place of the tentative budget hearing. The proposed millage rate is 3.7876 and the roll back millage rate is 3.0031. The tentative budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

Mayor Kilsheimer opened the meeting to public comment.

Suzanne Kidd said she has attended each of the Budget Workshops and stated she agrees with the comment that everything our staff is saying, we are so woefully understaffed. She made this comment last year and said our millage rate this year at roughly 3.2% is below Winter Garden at 4.25%. She declared, if you don't have the money, how are you going to carry out the services? She agreed with the Mayor that we have to set ourselves up for success. She stated short of tapping reserves, there is no other way around it, and added we will not see the benefit from the growth for several years. She said the Council needs to have the courage of their convictions to move this City forward and if presenting to the citizens the dire situation relative to staffing and equipment, maintaining police and fire where they should be and the case is presented, people will understand. She declared this was a very modest increase and she would like to see it go higher.

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

Motion carried unanimously with Mayor Kilsheimer, and Commissioners Dean, Velazquez, Bankson and Becker voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

Joseph E. Kilsheimer, Mayor

Linda F. Goff, CMC, City Clerk