

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 10, 2013

The City Commission met this date in special budget session in the Commission Chambers. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

Mayor	:	John B. Arnold, Jr.
Commissioners	:	Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
	:	Diane Kelley
	:	Kay Hamilton
	:	Joe Morgan
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
VBCS General Manager	:	Burt Bennett
Public Works Director	:	James Valandingham

Others in attendance: (Not Inclusive) James Butler (camera), Capt. Bruckelmeyer, Tony Shipley, Emily Ruff, Daniel Elsesser (Bay Beacon), Joe Cobb, LaTesa Grace, Clark T. Browning, Dan and Wilma Peterson

1. TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

a. Resolution No. 09-09-10-2013 Tentative Millage

Mayor Arnold called the meeting to order and stated that this is the first of two public hearings for the 2014 budget year. He said a notice of the meeting dates were sent with the TRIM notice mailed from the county. Mayor Arnold said there were two items of business this evening to adopt the resolution for the tentative millage rate and the first reading of Ordinance No. 647 to adopt fiscal year budget 2014. Mayor Arnold said the total budget for 2014 is \$7,412,400. He said that breaks down to \$3,066,670 for General Fund, \$45,000 for Stormwater, \$397,640 for Streets, \$1,420,690 Water Sewer, \$1,506,150 CATV and \$976,250 Sanitation, he said this is a very lean budget, which contains very few capital items. He said the largest purchase will be for a new garbage truck that will be paid primarily from by reserve funds and user fees. Mayor Arnold said this budget doesn't reflect any increase in user fees in Water, Sewer, CATV, or Sanitation and retains the millage rate at the 2013 rate of 4.524 mills per thousand dollars. Mayor Arnold said most expenditures are for operation and maintenance with only a few new items of necessity. Mayor Arnold asked if anyone had any questions or concerns.

Ms. LaTesa Grace, 254 Mississippi Avenue, wanted to verify that the millage rate will not be raised. Mayor Arnold said no, the tentative rate is set high for planning purposes and once the true budget is put together it is then lowered as it has been done this year. Mayor Arnold said there would be a slight amount of additional income because the property appraisals have risen slightly.

Mayor Arnold read Resolution 09-09-10-13. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-09-10-13 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF VALPARAISO, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. COMM. MORGAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0. The tentative adopted millage rate of 4.254 per \$1000 valuation is greater than the rolled back rate of 4.3901. Mayor Arnold said there slight modifications will be made being that there will not have to be as much money taken from reserves due to the increase in the gas tax revenue by the county.

b. Ordinance No. 647 Adopt FY 2014 Budget – First Reading

Mayor Arnold conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 647 an ordinance for the City of Valparaiso, for the fiscal year commencing 1 October 2013; repealing conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date. COMM. HAMILTON MADE A MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 647 AS READ, COMM. STRONG SECONDED THE MOTION. Mrs. Johnson said she wanted to remind everyone that on the second whereas the amount of \$7,412,400 will probably change slightly. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF 5 TO 0.

Mayor Arnold said that Comm. Strong had asked for a few minutes to discuss the gas tax. A brief discussion followed with Comm. Strong explaining the gas tax changes by the county and how they came to arrive at such a change. He said it is possible that these figures will be looked at again next year if there is enough interest generated by the cities. Comm. Hamilton and Comm. Morgan thanked Comm. Strong for all of his hard work.

Mayor Arnold said last night at the regular meeting he told the Commission he would be receiving a call from Timothy Bridges, Air Force Deputy Secretary for Installations and wanted to let everyone know what was discussed. Mayor Arnold said that basically it was a courtesy call on the part of Mr. Bridges, he apologized for not replying to our correspondence of early July, that things had been very busy. Mayor Arnold said he invited Mr. Bridges to come by and see us when he is in town at Eglin and Mr. Bridges said due to the sequesters and cut backs travel is a minimum but we should receive some reply in a week or two. Mr. Bridges asked if the Mayor had any additional information he would like to share since the public hearing, over and above what had already been stated. Mayor Arnold said basically it was a public relations

Resolution
No.
09-09-10-2013
Tentative
Millage

Ordinance
No. 647
FY 2014
Budget

courtesy call and that Mr. Bridges also had an attorney on the phone with him. Mayor Arnold said that Mr. Bridges will be the person to sign off on the Record of Decision (ROD). Mayor Arnold said he did express his unhappiness with the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that it did not include all financial aspects, it should have talked more about the cost to the US taxpayer not just to the Air Force expenditures but the dollars that Congress would have to appropriate for removal of homes and structures the cost it would be to demo certain areas of town, that would out weigh cost of another runway.

Mayor Arnold said the final budget hearing will be at 6 PM on September 23.

ADJOURN

Adjourn

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

September 10, 2013

The DVD labeled September 10, 2013 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.