

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
August 3, 2015

The City Commission met this date in a budget workshop session and special meeting. 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.
	:	Joe Morgan
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning, IV
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Director of Public Works	:	James Valandingham
Library Director	:	David Weatherford
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
General Manager VBCS	:	James Butler
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in attendance: Mike Matthews (camera), Marcia Sanders (Bay Beacon), Thomas G. Miller, Thomas K. Miller, Helen Westmoreland

Mayor Arnold said Comm. Hamilton will be out this evening.

Budget

BUDGET

Mrs. Johnson said there have been a few changes in the budget one change I just found out about and is not reflected in the budget. Our health insurance is decreasing 2.9% and the budget contains an 8% increase. This changes the General Fund Budget approximately \$20,000 to the good now we are about \$40,000 to the good before the addition of the capital items.

Mrs. Johnson said we have added a couple of capital items \$7,000 for a truck in administration and \$6,000 has been added in the library for a replacement of the a/c unit.

Admin

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Johnson said if the cable department hires the IT person they are requesting it would make the \$3,000 for a new server go away and our cost of the IT employee is part of the \$6,000 we have for system maintenance contracts.

Comm. Strong said in the process of working on the cable budget, Mr. Butler said he could use a head end technician but that wouldn't be a full time position but if that person also oversaw all IT within the city offices everyone could work under one unit.

Mr. Thomas G. Miller, 202 Hickory Lane, asked about legal counsel and where the city would be paying the money out of in the Willingham lawsuit, would that money come from reserves. Comm. Strong said that decision has not been made yet, still waiting on final court decision.

Mrs. Johnson said to remove \$3,000 for the server and therefore the only capital item left for administration is \$7,000 for used truck. Mayor Arnold said delete \$7,000.

LIBRARY

Library

Mayor Arnold said the library has \$14,300 for new carpet. Mr. Weatherford said the most important thing right now is the a/c and heat, maybe we could put a couple of thousand and get a good basic cleaning, then get regular carpet in the community room instead of squares. Mr. Weatherford said with the community room used as often as it is then we need to have it cleaned more often, with small kids in there in needs to be cleaned better. Mrs. Johnson said \$6,000 for the a/c unit, \$3,000 for the community room with an additional \$1,000 from General Fund, \$2,500 for cleaning of carpets for a total of \$11,500.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Comm. Browning asked if the department was looking for a separate administrative vehicle. Chief Hart said yes for an administration vehicle with equipment, he could probably get another year out of it, but would need to add \$1,500 to his vehicle maintenance in his O/M budget. Chief Hart said he is requesting an additional patrol car along with his regular car that is in the budget.

Police Dept.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Comm. Morgan said the cost of the fire truck is more like \$77,000 instead of \$50,000 regardless of the path we take. No decision has been made as far as buying it now or in a few years to come.

Fire Dept.

PARKS

Parks

Mr. Valandingham said he has \$10,000 carry forward on the T pier, he anticipates that for handrails and pilings. He said the boat ramp at Florida Park has issues. Comm. Strong said to leave the \$10,000 for Doolittle Park, take out the upgrades for \$300,000. The consensus was to take out Florida Park \$30,000 and Lincoln Park \$50,000 and replace with Boat Launch Improvement \$15,000 this will come from a Boating Improvement Grant.

SHOP/CEMETERY

Mayor Arnold deleted the bucket truck line item and cemetery upgrades.

Shop Cemetery

NON DEPARTMENTAL

Non-Dept.

Mayor Arnold said we have reduced the \$2,000 to \$1,000 for carpet in the community room. We have \$5,000 to put computer network together. Mrs. Johnson said we are at a \$106,125 deficit, not including raises or COLA. Mayor Arnold said he would recommend 5.5% millage, with a proposed meeting on August 17 to finalize budget to prepare for hearings.

RECESS WORKSHOP at 6:59 PM

Special
Meeting

SPECIAL MEETING

COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO ESTABLISH TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 5.5%. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0.

CONCLUDED SPECIAL MEETING 7 PM.

Budget
Workshop

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mayor Arnold said we need to establish two meeting times in September for public hearings. Mayor Arnold said September 9th and September 22nd for public hearings on the budget

Cable
IT
Employee

IT EMPLOYEE

Comm. Strong would like permission to hire the IT person now, before the new fiscal year. Mayor Arnold said we need to wait for next week to discuss during the budget workshop. Comm. Strong said he considers the situation to be an emergency sooner someone was hired the better, we need relief for Mr. Butler in the headend. Comm. Morgan asked if we didn't already have a guy as a consultant. Comm. Strong said we can only use him when he has time, he has a full time job so is not always available, we need someone on board as soon as possible. Comm. Strong said we have the money for this year. Mayor Arnold said to go ahead with the process and we would vote on it at next week's meeting. Mrs. Johnson said we have five days to advertise in house before we post outside. Mayor Arnold said to go through the steps but no guarantee we will finalize next Monday. He said our next budget meeting would be August 17th at 6 PM.

Adjourn

ADJOURN

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

August 3, 2015

The DVD labeled August 3, 2015 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.***