

MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
September 22, 2015

The City Commission met this date in a budget workshop session. 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
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in attendance: Mike Matthews (camera), Amber Elledge, Mike Griffin (Bay Beacon)

Mayor Arnold said that Comm. Hamilton was out of town and would not be joining us this evening.

**1. FINAL BUDGET HEARING**

Mayor Arnold read the advertisement for the final public hearing on the 2016 budget that was published in the Northwest Florida Daily News on September 12, 2015. Mayor Arnold would like it noted that there aren't any audience members this evening.

Mayor Arnold said he would like to go over the pertinent factors of the budget for review. Total budget will be \$7,664,290, in General Fund we have capital items for Library carpet cleaning \$2,500, carpet for the Community room \$3,000, replace A/C unit \$6,000. Police Department \$30,125 for a new police car. Fire Department will place \$75,000 into an escrow for new fire truck. Parks Department Doolittle Park parking \$9,500, Boating Improvement Grant \$15,000, and \$10,000 carry forward for repairs at the T-Pier. In the Non-Departmental we have \$1,000 in carpet for the community room and \$5,000 to network city computers. Mayor Arnold said any changes should be made in October at the first regular meeting, this is our basis of budget, any changes that need to be made would be minor in nature.

**A. RESOLUTION NO. 11-09-22-2015 FINAL MILEAGE**

Mayor Arnold read Resolution No. 11-09-22-15 a resolution adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2016; hereby levied upon the assessment roll of the year 2015, ad valorem taxes for fiscal year beginning on the adopted millage rate is greater than the rolled-back rate of \$4.3870 by 14.52%. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 11-09-22-15 AS READ. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0 AT 6:10 PM.

**B. ORDINANCE NO. 668 ADOPT FY 2016 BUDGET –FINAL READING**

Mayor Arnold read Ordinance No. 668 an ordinance adopting the budget for the fiscal year commencing 1 October 2015; repealing conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Mayor Arnold said this will be the second and final reading of Ordinance No. 668. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 668 AS READ. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0 AS OF 6:12 PM.

Comm. Strong said that Mr. Butler is out sick and Mr. Valandingham could not be here this evening but Communication needs a new bucket truck. He said he has been looking at the league and low interest bank loans or a possible lease purchase. Comm. Strong said Mrs. Johnson had suggested borrowing the money

Final  
Budget  
Hearing

Resolution  
No. 11-09-  
22-2015  
Final  
Mileage

Ordinance  
No. 668  
Adopt FY  
2016 Budget

from the General Fund. He said if Communications borrowed the money from the General Fund the General Fund could charge a competitive rate and make more money than it does now sitting in the bank. Mayor Arnold asked why this had to be decided on tonight. Comm. Strong said he is on the loan council with the league and money is in the budget. Mrs. Johnson said currently 2.21% in the bank we are earning .16%, looked at both the cable and public work departments borrowing approximately \$91,000 paying back over 4 years with 2 payments each year of \$4613.46. Comm. Strong said if the Commission doesn't agree he will go back to the league. Mayor Arnold said he doesn't agree. Comm. Strong said we would be paying interest back on the money that is borrowed. Mrs. Johnson said currently a loan to utility fund from General Fund of \$75,000 that is paying about 2% back on that loan. Mayor Arnold said we should only charge the minimum, we have to use our own residents' money to pay the money back, he doesn't like the idea. Comm. Strong said 2% is a decent, reasonable rate for both sides, Mayor Arnold said he would buy 1%. Mayor Arnold said 1% now with the ability to adjust down the road. Comm. Browning agrees. Mrs. Johnson wants to verify that this money is out of next year's budget, Commission agrees. Vote of 4 to 0, unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mayor Arnold said he would like to express appreciate for Mrs. Johnson's hard work on the budget and she should be highly commended for all she has done to put things together.

Adjourn

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

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John B. Arnold, Jr.  
Mayor

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Heyward H. Strong, Jr.  
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

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Tammy Johnson, CMC  
City Clerk

September 22, 2015

\*\*\*The DVD labeled September 22, 2015 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.\*\*\*