

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 5:05 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009.

Mayor Benton called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Upon Roll Call, those present were: Mayor Benton; Commissioners Rufus Alexander, Edward Becht, Christine Coke, and Reginald Sessions; City Manager David Recor; City Attorney Robert Schwerer; and City Clerk Cassandra Steele. Those absent: None.

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The purpose of the Special Meeting was Public Hearing on the proposed 2009-2010 General Fund Budget and Millage Rate for the City of Fort Pierce.

Mayor Benton declared a Public Hearing in session and asked if anyone in the audience wished to be heard.

Seeing no one and hearing no one wishing to be heard, Mayor Benton declared the Public Hearing closed.

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The next item on the Agenda was Consider any proposed amendments to the 2009-2010 Budget.

Commissioner Alexander said they were given a change in what was proposed in the beginning. One of his questions for explanation is the Sunrise Theatre. He just received it.

City Manager Recor said there was a typo on his cover memorandum (dated September 11, 2009) that staff caught today. Inadvertently they had transposed the CDBG's \$4,086,329 figure for the Sunrise Theatre. So the Sunrise Theatre's budget has been revised to reflect the accurate total, which affects the bottom line financial operating plan. That is the only change. The Sunrise Theatre's budget does total \$4,491,799 in expenditures. They will note there is a \$550,000 non-cash depreciation that reduces the expenditures to \$3.9 million, which are offset by about \$3 million in projected revenue, as well as a \$1,066,000 transfer from the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency. So the Sunrise Theatre's budget totals in the neighborhood of \$4 million.

Commissioner Alexander asked the Indian Hills Golf Course, \$2,361,169? Are they going to start doing some construction?

City Manager Recor said not in this budget year. They do need to revisit the master plan for the Golf Course, and decide at what point and when they are going to take it to the next level. In terms of rounds, the Golf Course Director will tell them that although their rounds are down, they are actually much higher than those courses they share the Treasure Coast with. In terms of squeezing more dollars, making more money at the Golf Course, it is going to require an additional capital investment. Right now, they just don't have the resources to do that. They have talked about some temporary improvements, because the lease they have with Riverside Bank for parking and the Property Exchange Agreement for the realignment of Ohio Avenue, is going to

expire. He and Mr. Andrews and Mr. Martzolf met last week on site to determine in the event they were not able to secure an extension for that parking arrangement with Riverside Bank, what they would do, where they would relocate the sprung structure, where the carts are being stored, and how they would accommodate parking. If they recall the Master Plan and the proposed Clubhouse from several years ago, the Clubhouse was elevated and the golf cart storage was to be underneath. The sprung structure - which is the equivalent of an armored tank tent - was supposed to be temporary. However, it appears that will be the storage for their golf carts at least for the foreseeable future. They may be able to reduce the size of that somewhat so it is not as imposing. Public Works will be evaluating that in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Alexander asked the Golf Course budget is \$2.3 million? Did they not do a land swap with Riverside Bank? Does that have anything to do with what they are speaking about?

City Manager Recor said it doesn't have anything to do necessarily with the cost of running the Golf Course. But they do have a real estate exchange agreement with Riverside Bank to facilitate the realignment of Ohio Avenue in exchange for giving Riverside Bank the parking lot and the property on which the old maintenance facilities sit on, as well as the parking lot immediately behind Riverside Bank. At one point he thinks they had intended to expand that location as a training center. He thinks they have shifted gears and that is now being conducted in the shopping center behind Out of Bounds Restaurant. But nevertheless, they may have to vacate those premises if Riverside Bank insists; or they may need to negotiate an extension and possible payment of a lease to allow them to continue to park there.

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The next item on the Agenda was Recompute (if necessary) and adopt the proposed Millage Rate and Publicly announce the percentage, if any, by which the Millage Rate exceeds the Roll-Back Rate.

Ms. Gloria Johnson, Finance Director, said the Millage Rate is 5.4674.

Motion was made by Commissioner Coke, seconded by Commissioner Becht, to adopt the proposed Millage Rate of 5.4674.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Commissioners Alexander, Becht, Coke, Sessions, and Benton. Those opposed: None.

City Clerk Steele said they need to publicly announce the percentage, if any, by which the millage rate exceeds the roll-back rate.

Ms. Johnson said the percentage does not exceed the roll-back rate, which is 6.7328. As a matter of fact, it is a decrease in the roll-back rate of (-18.79%).

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The next item on the Agenda was Adopt the Tentative 2009-2010 General Fund Budget.

Motion was made by Commissioner Coke, seconded by Commissioner Sessions, to adopt the tentative 2009-2010 General Fund Budget.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Commissioners Alexander, Becht, Coke, Sessions, and Benton. Those opposed: None.

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The next item on the Agenda was Review and adopt Operating Plans for Enterprise Funds - Solid Waste and City Marina and Indian Hills Golf Course and Sunrise Theatre and the Building Department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Coke, seconded by Commissioner Becht, to adopt the Operating Plans for the Enterprise Funds - Solid Waste, City Marina, Indian Hills Golf Course, Sunrise Theatre, and the Building Department.

Those voting in favor of the motion were: Commissioners Alexander, Becht, Coke, Sessions, and Benton. Those opposed: None.

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Mayor Benton said he passed out a sheet showing how the City of Boca Raton publicly shows how their taxes are spent. He thought it might be a good idea for them to see if Bob Davis (St. Lucie County Tax Collector) could send something like that along as a stuffer with the tax bill, just to educate everyone on the complete tax bill. He wanted to get their opinion on it. (The Commissioners agreed.) Staff can find out what the cost is and if Mr. Davis can do that.

City Manager Recor said he will do that. He also gave the Commissioners a handout showing the Millage Rate Trend Line from 1999 to 2010. It is decreased 30% in three years. They have maintained that millage rate for the last two years as well. So not only are they doing more with less, but they are continuing to maintain that reduced millage rate. Similar to the handout the Mayor provided, he also gave them a graphic which shows them the FY2010 Financial Operating Plan Summary broken down by percentage. It gives taxpayers an idea of where their dollars are being spent.

Mayor Benton said they also have the ability to show this on Channel 27 and get the word out.

Commissioner Alexander asked did they form the Budget Review Committee? Is that for next year's budget?

Mayor Benton said they don't have time for this year's budget. They are looking to have that in place by the end of the year, so going into next year's budget early they can play a role in it.

Commissioner Alexander said he thought he heard certain people were able to receive this information. So they have no correspondence from them whatsoever?

City Manager Recor said there is a regular group of folks that

request the information. It is a tremendous amount of information. So Ms. Robinson in his office zip files it and actually provides a link to the folks so they can download it themselves.

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City Clerk Steele announced the Second Public Hearing (and First Reading of the Budget Ordinances) will be held at the Regular City Commission Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall, City Commission Meeting Chambers, 100 North U.S. #1, Fort Pierce, Florida.

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There being no further business, Mayor Benton declared the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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Adjournment.

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER

