

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 28, 2009.

Mayor Benton called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Upon Roll Call, those present were: Mayor Robert Benton; Commissioners Rufus Alexander, Edward Becht, and Christine Coke; City Manager David Recor; City Attorney Robert Schwerer; and City Clerk Cassandra Steele. Those absent: Commissioner Reginald Sessions.

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City Manager Recor said he wants to call their attention to his memorandum (dated September 25, 2009) which he provided in their Agenda packet. The City was notified by Jeff Furst (St. Lucie County Property Appraiser) late last week by telephone that there has been a \$30 million reduction in the City's original certified taxable value. In his memo, he outlined several alternatives for the Commission to consider: (1) Proposed expenditures in the FY 2010 General Fund Budget could be further reduced by the estimated impact; (2) Ad valorem tax receipts be monitored on the Quarterly Financial Reports and the Commission could address the actual impact by way of a Fund Balance transfer; or (3) Florida Statute 200.065 provides that the Commission may administratively adjust the adopted millage rate without a public hearing if the adjusted taxable value is at variance by more than 1% than shown on the original assessment roll. He has spoken with each of the Commissioners and they appear to be comfortable with his recommendation to monitor the ad valorem tax receipts during Fiscal Year 2010 and make adjustments to the General Fund budget if and when necessary. Mr. Furst was confirmed to be here this evening, but he does not see him in the audience. This is exactly what the TRIM process is intended to accomplish, it allows folks that believe that their properties were assessed improperly to make their case and there have been various adjustments, so there is a \$30 million reduction, not in the City's favor, which amounts to about \$165,000. While Mr. Furst pointed out the provision in the Florida Statute that allows the Commission to administratively adjust the millage rate without a public hearing, he felt confident saying he did not think that was what the Commissioners were going to do. Thus his recommendation that they simply monitor this during their Quarterly Financial Report process.

Mayor Benton said he would agree. Does anybody here want to consider changing the millage rate?

Commissioner Coke said no.

Commissioner Becht said no. Of the options Mr. Recor gave them, he likes monitoring it the best.

Commissioner Alexander said he agrees.

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Ordinance No. L-93 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE **ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET** FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; AND

PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF." was placed on second and final reading and read by title only.

Mayor Benton declared a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. L-93 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Coke, seconded by Commissioner Becht, that Ordinance No. L-93 be passed on second and final reading.

Those voting in favor of the passage of Ordinance No. L-93 on second and final reading were: Commissioners Alexander, Becht, Coke, and Benton. Those opposed: None.

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Ordinance No. L-92 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE **LEVYING AND COLLECTING OF TAXES** FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SAID CITY DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR AND TO PAY FUNDS SO COLLECTED INTO THE ACCOUNTS PROVIDED THEREFOR; **ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR FINAL MILLAGE RATE;** AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF." was placed on second and final reading and read in full.

Mayor Benton declared a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. L-92 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.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alexander, seconded by Commissioner Coke, that Ordinance No. L-92 be passed on second and final reading.

Those voting in favor of the passage of Ordinance No. L-92 on second and final reading were: Commissioners Alexander, Becht, Coke, and Benton. Those opposed: None.

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There being no further business, Mayor Benton declared the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Adjournment.

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER