

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS
BUDGET WORK SESSION – AUGUST 3, 2017

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA, MET IN BUDGET WORK SESSION IN THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM/COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 324 E. PINE STREET, ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017 AT 6:30 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING PRESENT:

CHRIS ALHOUZOS	MAYOR
DAVID BANTHER	VICE MAYOR
REA SIEBER	COMMISSIONER
SUSAN MICCIO-KIKTA	COMMISSIONER
JACOB KARR	COMMISSIONER

ALSO PRESENT:	MARK G. LeCOURIS	CITY MANAGER
	IRENE S. JACOBS	CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Archie called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

City Clerk Jacobs called the roll.

1. GENERAL FUND BUDGET / ENTERPRISE FUNDS / CIP DISCUSSION

a. Presentation – Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Presentation:

Ron Harring, Finance Director gave a power point presentation on the budget (Exhibit 1). He thanked directors and the Budget Advisory Board for the balanced budget presented.

b. Employees' Salaries:

City Manager LeCouris mentioned and explained FY 2018 salary adjustments (Exhibit 2). Additionally, he explained that only five employees were making under \$ 12.00 an hour. He was happy to announce that he would be presenting a balanced budget again this year, without compromising any services. He advised that the Budget Advisory Board had reviewed the budget line by line and heard presentations from departments.

The Board thanked the City Manager, and staff, for their efforts in maintaining a full service City and bringing forth a balanced budget.

Mayor Alahouzos asked about a bed tax, and because it went to the county, if the City had to apply for it. Mr. Harring explained this. The Mayor would also like to look at a marketing position to work with the Economic Development Director. City Manager LeCouris said that at this time, the Planning position was more important. Mayor Alahouzos was in support of salaries presented and the change in grades.

Vice Mayor Banther was glad to see an increase in revenue, since the City was a full service City. He is in full support of public safety and positions needed, even if reserves have to be used to fund. He would like to see the City go out to bid for health insurance; would like to see the Cultural Center better utilized, and supports the new Planning position and salary increases. Vice Mayor Banther approves increase suggested for the City Clerk and a 2.5% increase for the City Manager.

Commissioner Sieber agreed with everything Vice Mayor Banther said, and also felt a marketing position was needed at the City.

Commissioner Miccio-Kikta said she approved of the salary increases, the additional funds for the trolley since it was coming to Tarpon seven days a week, asked when Fire negotiations would be done, glad to see renovations and repairs of the cultural center, liked the bus with lift for recreation, and would like to see an expansion and rehab of the Golf Course Club House.

Commissioner Karr also supported salary increases, felt a marketing position was important but must be evaluated, was not in favor of another Deputy Chief at the Fire Department, that the City be cautious of a rock wall due to liability, and had questions on the historic study, water plant, chipper, and meter change outs. Commissioner Karr asked why the City was not looking at decreasing the millage rate, and City Manager LeCouris said the City was still in the recuperation state.

c. Budget Advisory Committee:

Roger Sellow, Chairman of the Budget Advisory Committee, thanked employees and gave special kudos to Ron Haring. He explained the process the Budget Advisory Committee followed and recommended the passage of the budget as presented. He reported that the Budget Advisory Committee suggested keeping the millage rate where it was at as they were not sure what would happen in the future. Vice Mayor Banther could not stress the importance of this committee and how they make the Commissioner's job easier.

d. General Funds: Discussion

e. Enterprise Funds: Discussion

Commissioner Karr advised that additional parking was needed for Sunset Beach, and Commissioner Miccio-Kikta echoed the need.

Vice Mayor Banther thanked the IT Department for all the advancements to the City and for everything they do.

Mayor Alahouzos would also like to reduce the millage to 5.39. Vice Mayor Banther always thinks the millage should be examined; however, at this time, was opposed to any reduction until the future sees what happens with the homestead issue. He also advised that St. Petersburg was the only other full service City. Commissioner Miccio-Kikta and Commissioner Sieber also do not support in lowering the millage. Commissioner Karr asked if the City was in favor of looking at decreasing why not increase, and Mr. Haring explained that the DR-420 was already set and it could not be increased only lowered if that was what the Board chose to do.

City Manager LeCouris asked the Board to let him know if he should be looking for funds for items listed or if he should be looking for funds to reduce the millage.

Commissioner Sieber appreciated the work taking place at the Marina. Commissioner Miccio-Kikta what was the maximum stay, and Tom Funcheon, Public Works Director, said that two weeks was the maximum stay.

f. Capital Improvement Projects: Discussion

The Board had various questions on Capital Improvement Projects to which the City Manager had various department heads respond to.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

CHRIS ALAHOUZOS
MAYOR

ATTEST:

IRENE S. JACOBS, CMC
CITY CLERK & COLLECTOR

CITY CLERK'S NOTE: This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the recordings are kept on file in the City Clerk's Office for the required retention period.

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