

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 2000

A special meeting of the City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chamber, 900 E. Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor John A. Buckley.

1. All present gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
2. Roll call.

Present:	John A. Buckley	Mayor
	Ed Palmer	Vice Mayor, District 2
	Richard Contreras	Council Member, District 1
	Priscilla M. Poole	Council Member, District 3
	Grace Walker	Council Member, District 4
	Cheryl Palmer	Council Member, District 5
	Loretta Isenberg-Hand	Council Member, District 6
	Henry J. Hill	City Manager
	Suzanne Novak	Assistant City Attorney
	Cathleen A. Wysor	City Clerk
	Amy W. Elliott	Director of Finance
	Karen Windsor	Budget Officer

Mr. Hill opened with a presentation and overview of the proposed 2000-2001 budget. The presentation included discussion on the notice of proposed property taxes; city's budget calendar; millage rate (4.5228 mills); budget total (\$109,354,513); comparison of millage rates since 1980; Melbourne property valuation since 1981; new growth portion of the valuation; comparison of proposed tax rates with other municipalities in Brevard County; total by major fund (General, Water & Sewer, etc.); chart of sources of revenues in the General Fund; chart of expenditures in the General Fund; and major goals included in the proposed budget.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed 2000-2001 Budget

Mayor Buckley opened the public hearing.

Sandy Mavrelis, 554 Vera Cruz Boulevard, reported that since he has opened his business at the corner of Hibiscus Boulevard/Babcock Street, he has noticed a number of people in wheelchairs traveling Hibiscus Boulevard. Because the sidewalks along this road are not continuous, people are forced to use the roadway. Mr. Mavrelis asked Council to consider funding sidewalks on this road and expressed concern for the safety of those in wheelchairs.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Hill informed Council that \$14,500 has been included in the proposed budget for sidewalks on Hibiscus Boulevard. He added that he will notify Mr. Mavrelis about this.

John Mutschler, 4565 Grand Meadows Boulevard, referenced previous Council meetings where he discussed a drainage pipe near his home. He noted that the pipe has been taken care of; however, the sidewalk has not been replaced. Because of the recent rain, there is now about a foot drop between where the sidewalk used to be located and the

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curb. He asked for the city's assistance in ensuring that the contractor replaces the sidewalk.

Mr. Hill said there is concern about whether the pipe was installed to city specifications. Staff wants to ensure the pipe is functioning properly before the sidewalk is poured. The issue should be resolved very soon.

Joe Mullins, 4112 Knight Avenue South, commented on the Police Department ready car plan. He noted that many cities have abandoned this plan because it became a financial burden. He added that the city would not be able to hold the taxes if such a plan were implemented. Additionally, he asked why more vehicles should be purchased when 11 have been kept over from the auction.

Continuing, Mr. Mullins stated that he believes granting the Henegar Center \$30,000 for operating costs from the General Fund would set a bad precedent. He added that the Henegar Center is a for profit* organization; they charge an admission fee.

*NOTE: At the September 26 Council meeting, Council approved adding a note that the Henegar Center is a non-profit organization.

Following a brief discussion, Vice Mayor Ed Palmer pointed out that the \$30,000 is a one time grant.

That concluded the comments from the audience. Council proceeded with a discussion on the proposed budget.

Mayor Buckley asked the City Manager to comment on the information in the package regarding the police vehicles. Mr. Hill stated that the information was prepared based on questions raised at the last workshop. The first question related to use of a mid-size vehicle versus a full-size vehicle. The report prepared by the Fleet Management Superintendent indicates that there is little or no savings with the use of a smaller vehicle. The increased costs relate to safety equipment, parts stocked by the city, re-training for a front wheel drive vehicle versus a rear wheel drive vehicle, and preventive maintenance schedules.

Additionally, the Police Department has provided information explaining how the addition of nine vehicles would solve their immediate problem with shift changes. Mr. Hill added that over the years, the city has worked to maintain a ratio of three officers per vehicle. We have not been successful in maintaining that ratio and this has led to the problems. Vehicles have also become more integrated. The cars are now more of a mobile police station with use of computers, video equipment, etc.

Staff has determined that the city could make use of the 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant - Phase V (LLEBG). This is a noncompetitive grant, which guarantees the city will receive \$190,061 based on a formula that combines crime statistics and population. This amount would be sufficient to acquire seven vehicles; however, in order to obtain that grant, the city would have to match \$21,118 from the General Fund.

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Mrs. Hand asked if the LLEBG funds are available every year. Mr. Hill replied that they are into phase five of the grants. There is no guarantee they would come in the future; however, there appears to be an ongoing effort to maintain those funds.

Mayor Buckley stated that if Council feels we need additional vehicles, then he is willing to go along with using the Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds to acquire seven vehicles. Mr. Palmer agreed and added that the department needs the vehicles; the Police Chief would not have appeared before Council making the request.

A brief discussion followed regarding the grant deadline (September 12). Mr. Hill stated that staff could submit the information for the grant. If Council decided after the second budget public hearing to reverse its decision, the request could be changed. He cautioned that we would do that at some hazard.

Mr. Contreras stated his support for applying for the grant to fund seven vehicles. He asked the impact of providing seven vehicles as opposed to the nine the department requested. Mr. Hill said they have indicated that any number of vehicles above the current level would be beneficial. The department would have to comment on the actual difference with seven versus nine.

Mrs. Palmer asked Mr. Hill to comment on the 11 vehicles held back from auction. Mr. Hill reported that Council's previous action resulted in the 11 vehicles going back for auction and the revenues adjusted to account for this. If Council wished to proceed with holding back the 11 vehicles, we would have vehicles that are close to the end of their lifespan and would need to be replaced in the near future. He stressed, however, that the use of grant funds to purchase seven vehicles will result in an ongoing commitment for replacement in the future.

Mrs. Palmer asked if the grant included equipping the vehicles. Mr. Hill said yes.

In response to the Mayor, Mr. Hill stated that future LLEBG funds could not be used to replace vehicles.

Mrs. Palmer noted that proceeding with seven vehicles equates to a long term commitment. Mr. Hill agreed and noted that once the size of the fleet is increased, we would have a continual obligation. The department would become dependent on having the additional vehicles and at some point, the seven would have to be replaced.

Mrs. Hand said proceeding with the grant would cost less than going with the ready car plan. She pointed out her concerns about calls being delayed during shift change because of vehicles not being available.

Mrs. Poole expressed support for acquiring seven vehicles with LLEBG funds. She added that another reason for staying with the full-size cars relates to the amount of equipment. Computers, video equipment, etc. will not fit in a smaller vehicle.

Mrs. Palmer referenced the Police Department report, which describes officers being dropped off for contractual duties. She is interested in knowing whether the city would

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receive more money for services if a vehicle was included. Mr. Hill said we currently charge for use of vehicles, although he is not convinced it covers the total cost. He added that it is certainly possible to charge an additional amount in order to have an additional level of service.

Mrs. Palmer asked if contractual duties are scheduled so they do not conflict with shift change. Mr. Hill responded that he believes the department prioritizes the regular patrol functions.

Mrs. Palmer asked if changing the shift change hour would help. Major Torpy addressed Council and explained that shift changes are designed to deal with the workload; they are governed by the needs for service. They review the statistics annually to ensure they are still on the mark.

Discussion continued regarding the workload and shift changes. Continuing, Major Torpy commented on contractual services. He stated that events are created by sponsors and if services are not provided in a contractual way, the event would still occur, requiring an officer from the street.

Mrs. Palmer stated that the Police Department should ensure that shift change should be the number one priority with the addition of vehicles.

Mr. Torpy concluded by saying the seven vehicles won't solve all the problems; however, they would certainly help.

Mr. Contreras asked our "hit rate" for this grant. Mr. Hill said this is a pretty sure bet and as long as we comply with the requirements of the grant, we are eligible to receive up to \$190,061.

Moved by E. Palmer/Poole to approve proceeding with grant money (2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant – Phase V) to purchase seven additional police vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Buckley noted that at the last workshop meeting, Council added two positions - one to Facilities and one to the Sign Shop. He asked if Council was still in agreement. By consensus, Council agreed with the addition of the two positions.

Mrs. Poole reported that since the last meeting, she has been made aware of an item needed by the Fire Department. It is an unfunded position (Support Services Technician) in the amount of \$34,360. She feels the description in the budget is not complete; therefore, it was overlooked by Council. She reported that the position is needed to service and maintain the air packs. Mrs. Poole added that she has talked with the Fire Chief and he agrees with the importance of this position.

Moved by Poole/Contreras to add Support Services Technician to the Fire Operations budget in the amount of \$34,360.

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Mr. Contreras said without the position, firefighters are placed at risk and without proper equipment, a firefighter can no longer go into a building to save one of our citizens. He agreed with adding this position to the budget.

Mrs. Palmer asked for additional information on the number of air packs, how often they need to be serviced, and if the job could be contracted. Mr. Hill said the job is currently performed by an Assistant Chief. It would be beneficial to have additional staffing; however, the position was not included as a result of prioritizing the various needs. Also, the question is open as to whether the service could be contracted out.

Mr. Contreras questioned the effectiveness of using an Assistant Chief to perform technician duties rather than administrative duties.

Fire Chief Chamberlin explained that the state requires the air packs to be fit and tested twice per year. There are contractual services available; however, they are located in Orlando. He added that it is not uncommon to lose a few of the packs in one fire. An in-house technician could fit and test the mask and the unit could be in operation in one day. Using a facility in Orlando would result in the unit being down for several days.

Continuing, the Chief noted that a technician would also be used to stock medical supplies, station supplies, perform warehouse runs, etc. With the addition of medical services, the department has grown and the additional duties have been taken on by Assistant and Battalion Chiefs. The same position would also be used to perform tests and repairs of hydrants.

Discussion continued regarding the need for the position.

Mrs. Palmer noted that this position was unfunded because it was not a high priority. She pointed out that this is the third position added, which will result in an ongoing expense. Currently, these duties are being taken care of and the city is not in a hazardous position. She expressed concern with the millage rate remaining high enough to allow for the additional expenditures.

The question was called. Motion carried. (Council Members Walker, C. Palmer, and Mayor Buckley voted nay.)

Mayor Buckley questioned the action taken by Council to grant \$30,000 to the Henegar Center for operating expenses. He noted that Council has not given any organization more than \$10,000; therefore, that should be the cap. He asked for comments.

Mr. Palmer stated that the Henegar Center serves a vital purpose for the city. He noted that the \$30,000 is a one shot grant; additional funding is provided through Downtown Redevelopment Funds. He noted that the amount given to the Henegar Center does not exceed the amount given to other non-profits over the years.

Mr. Contreras referenced the number of community organizations that use the Henegar Center, including the United Way, AARP, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, etc. He stressed that it is not a theatrical building that holds "x" number of shows and then goes dark.

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Moved by Poole/E. Palmer to grant \$30,000 to the Henegar Center for operating expenses on a one time basis.

Mrs. Palmer reported that she visited the center and was provided a lot of information by Mr. Brees (the director). She added that the only reason she would support this request is because of the extensive list of non-profit groups that use the center. Because of Henegar's track record and its prospects for the future, she believes this is a good investment for the city. She stressed that she expects the center to operate in the black.

Mayor Buckley said he appreciates the Henegar Center; however, he is opposed to the grant on general principle and believes it will establish a bad precedent. Mrs. Walker agreed.

The question was called. Motion carried. (Mrs. Walker and Mayor Buckley voted nay.)

4. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of a proposed Millage Rate for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

From the agenda report: The proposed millage rate is 4.5228, which is .0550 mills (1.23%) above the rollback millage rate of 4.4678. The proposed millage rate is the same as the current year rate.

Moved by Poole/Contreras to adopt the tentative millage rate of 4.5228 mills.

Mrs. Palmer recommended Council adopt the roll back rate and pointed out that the tentative millage rate has allowed for additional expenditures to be made.

The question was called. Motion carried. (Mrs. Palmer voted nay.)

5. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of a Tentative Budget for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Mr. Hill reviewed the following proposed changes from the agenda report. Note: The totals do not include the grant/matching grant for police vehicles and the addition of the new position to the Fire Operations budget.

- A. Recommend adding the 2000-01 Proposed Budget for the Airport Fund as follows:

Operating Revenues	\$ 7,015,000
Non-operating Revenues	2,250,000
Contributed Capital	3,305,000
Non-Revenue Transfers	<u>367,000</u>
Total Revenues	\$12,937,000

Operating Expenditures	\$ 5,876,072
Capital Outlay	3,943,550
Contingency & Intrafund Transfers	<u>3,117,378</u>
Total Expenditures	\$12,937,000

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B. Revise the General Fund.

The recommendation is for approval of the revisions proposed by city staff resulting in a 2000-2001 tentative budget of \$109,354,513.

The proposed budget as revised is as follows:

	PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET	CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED REVISIONS	PROPOSED TENTATIVE BUDGET
Fund			
General	38,851,596	0	38,851,596
Water & Sewer	30,331,288	0	30,331,288
Stormwater Utility	1,069,277	0	1,069,277
Golf Course	2,507,152	0	2,507,152
Subtotal	72,759,313	0	72,759,313
Special Revenue Funds	5,336,925	0	5,336,925
Data Processing	1,054,992	0	1,054,992
Fleet Management	1,656,807	0	1,656,807
Insurance	2,728,726	0	2,728,726
Capital Improvement	12,880,750	0	12,880,750
Airport		12,937,000	12,937,000
TOTAL	96,417,513	12,937,000	109,354,513

Moved by E. Palmer/Poole to adopt a 2000-2001 tentative budget of \$109,354,513 (plus the revenues and expenditures associated with the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds). Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hand and Mrs. Poole expressed opposition to the proposed budget including a salary increase for Mayor and Council.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hand/Contreras to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

City Clerk – 9/12/00

Approved by Council: September 26, 2000 w/the note on page 2 and revision on page 7