

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 Vice Mayor Ed Palmer.

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

Present:	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

Absent: John A. Buckley Mayor (out of town)

Vice Mayor Palmer referenced the memorandum from the City Clerk that indicates she will be asking for a revision to the September 5 budget public hearing minutes at the next regular meeting. The motion to adopt the 2000-2001 tentative budget of \$109,354,513 should have included the revenues and expenditures associated with the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds.

Mr. Hill presented a slide presentation and overview of the proposed 2000-2001 budget. Mr. Palmer reviewed the agenda report as follows: The tentative budget to date is \$109,565,692 (the total after the revenues/expenditures are added associated with the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Funds). Also, at the September 5 meeting, Council approved the addition of a position to the Fire Operations budget and the purchase of seven additional police vehicles providing a grant could be secured.

The tentative budget for the General Fund remains at \$38,851,596 following these two changes. The Support Services Technician position increased the Fire Operation budget by \$34,360. In the non-departmental budget, the Inter Transfer to GF Capital Project increased by \$21,118 to provide matching funds to the 311 Capital Project being established to purchase the seven additional police patrol vehicles. These increases in the General Fund resulted in a \$55,475 decrease to the Contingency account leaving a balance of \$225,133.

The General Fund Capital Improvement Fund for the Police Department increased to provide funding to purchase seven police vehicles at a cost of \$211,179, bringing the total Capital Improvement Funds budget to \$13,091,929. Staff was authorized by Council to apply for a grant to provide 90% of the funds required to purchase seven additional marked police vehicles.

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Sources of revenue for the project are grant funds of \$190,061 and the city's grant match of \$21,118 as a transfer from General Fund.

Additionally, the General Fund needs to be revised following action taken at the September 12 regular meeting. The Melbourne Band/Orchestra account will be increased by \$5,000 and the non-departmental Contingency decreased by \$5,000 to reflect the funding towards the salary of the Melbourne Community Orchestra conductor. The Contingency balance will be \$220,133 following this change.

Traditionally, a Contingency of \$100,000 is adopted with the annual budget for unanticipated needs, which may arise during the fiscal year. As the Contingency account stands at this time, there is \$120,133 additional funding in the account.

The recommendation is for approval of a 2000-2001 budget of \$109,565,692.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed Final 2000-2001 Budget

Vice Mayor Palmer opened the public hearing.

Jim Tolley, representing the Melbourne Firefighters, expressed concern about the residents who live on the beachside, pay taxes, but do not receive the basic services. He stated that they are entitled to rapid response during a medical emergency. He noted that Brevard County provides coverage and in the past, this arrangement may have worked; however, the county has broadened its responsibilities and many times citizens are left without proper coverage.

Continuing, Mr. Tolley said the union feels it is time to assist the city in establishing proper fire protection and emergency medical services to the beachside residents. He said he believes this can be done within the current budget and would like an opportunity to serve on an advisory committee. He concluded by saying he has a draft of how this can be facilitated; however, he recommended that another setting would be more appropriate to review the information.

Mr. Palmer requested this be an agenda item on the next regular agenda. Mrs. Palmer asked if a workshop meeting would be more appropriate. Mr. Palmer said he believes workshop meetings will be required; this issue will need many hours.

Mr. Hill reported that last year the first step was taken in a multi-year plan to move towards an additional fire station. Additional staffing was provided to allow for flexibility of response. The budget also includes a notation for the need of an additional station. The five-year capital outlay schedule includes funding for feasibility of constructing an eighth station. Mr. Hill stressed that before Council embarks on workshop meetings, it would be more appropriate for staff to work through the various alternatives; there are means to evaluate the best way to provide and best area to locate increased service.

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Mr. Palmer said that the idea for presence on the beachside has been brought up many times. He said he would like an agenda item to discuss the issue and then from there establish dates to further discuss the issue.

Moved by Poole/C. Palmer to have this as an item on the September 26 agenda.

Mrs. Palmer said she would like to see Jim Tolley's plan. Mr. Tolley said he would prepare a brief presentation for the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Poole said things have changed drastically since the loss of Harbor City Volunteer Ambulance Squad. If there is a way to provide service without increasing the budget, then it should be considered immediately.

The question was called. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no other comments from the audience and the public hearing was closed.

4. RESOLUTION NO. 1660: A resolution adopting a millage rate of 4.5228, which is 0.0550 mills (1.23%) above the rollback rate of 4.4678 mills. This millage rate is the same as the current year rate.

Attorney Novak read Resolution No. 1660.

Moved by Walker/Hand for approval of Resolution No. 1660. The roll call vote was:

Aye: Contreras, Poole, Walker, C. Palmer, Hand, and E. Palmer

Nay: None

Motion carried unanimously.

5. RESOLUTION NO. 1661: A resolution adopting a budget for the 2000-2001 fiscal year, making appropriations for the payment of operating expenses, capital expenses, and for the principal and interest on the bonds and other indebtedness of the City, in the City's General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Water and Sewer Fund, Stormwater Utility Fund, Golf Course Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Data Processing Fund, Fleet Management Fund, Insurance Fund, Airport Authority Fund, and establishing authority for the City Manager to implement the budget.

Attorney Novak read Resolution No. 1661 by title.

Moved by Poole/Contreras for approval of Resolution No. 1661.

Council Members Hand and Poole said they agreed with the resolution, with the exception of the pay raises for Council Members. Mrs. Palmer said there are a few items

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in the budget that if presented separately, she would not approve; however, overall, this is a good budget and represents a good use of tax dollars.

Mr. Palmer referenced the agenda report, which indicates there is an additional \$120,133 in Contingency. He noted that Council has discussed building a new City Hall, Auditorium, and Fire Station. Mr. Palmer said he discussed the idea of placing the additional funds into a capital construction fund with the City Manager. Regardless of the project, that would be the basis for planning future construction.

Moved by Walker/Contreras to amend the motion by establishing a Capital Construction Fund in the amount of \$120,133.

Mrs. Hand asked for the City Manager to comment. Mr. Hill said the additional funds could be used to reduce the property tax rate, acquire items from the unfunded needs list, or establish a fund for capital construction. Mrs. Hand said this sounds like a good idea. Mr. Palmer said this is a prudent move; it will establish the base for huge capital expenditures. Mr. Hill confirmed for Mrs. Poole that moving money from this fund would require Council action.

Mrs. Palmer said it would have been her wish to return the money to the taxpayers in the form of cutting the millage rate. However, she said she agrees there is a need for capital items and she will vote for the motion.

Mrs. Poole referenced the material distributed by the City Manager, which shows how using \$10,000, \$50,000 and \$100,000 would reduce the millage rate. A reduction of \$10,000 would result in annual savings of 22¢, \$50,000 in an annual savings of \$1.08 and \$100,000 in an annual savings of \$2.16. Mrs. Poole stated that she does not believe this would be a great savings to the taxpayers.

A brief discussion followed on the need for future capital projects. Council expressed support for establishing this fund.

The question was called on the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

The question was called on the main motion, as amended. The roll call vote was:

Aye: Contreras, Poole, Walker, C. Palmer, Hand, and E. Palmer

Nay: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Note: This action resulted in Contingency being reduced to a total of \$100,000 and the Construction Capital Reserve account being established at \$120,133.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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Moved by Poole/Walker to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

City Clerk 9/29/00

Approved by Council _____