

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA  
MINUTES –SPECIAL MEETING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

A special meeting of the City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chamber, 900 E. Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order to 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
	Richard Contreras	Vice Mayor, District 1
	Ed Palmer	Council Member, District 2
	Pat Poole	Council Member, District 3
	Grace Walker	Council Member, District 4
	Cheryl Palmer	Council Member, District 5
	Loretta Isenberg-Hand	Council Member, District 6
	Jack M. Schluckebier, Ph.D.	City Manager
	Suzanne Novak	Assistant City Attorney
	Cathleen A. Wysor	City Clerk
	Amy W. Elliott	Assistant City Manager
	Karen Windsor	Budget Officer

City Manager Jack Schluckebier provided a brief overview of the proposed 2003-2004 budget. He referenced the handout available, which outlines the 2003-04 budget facts, budget highlights, millage rate history, millage rate comparison with Brevard cities, projected and tentative budgets, comparison of annual stormwater fees, and revenues/expenditures for the Airport, Golf Course, Water and Sewer and General Funds.

Mr. Schluckebier said that the proposed millage rate of 4.7856 is 8.0% above the rollback rate of 4.4311 mills. The proposed millage rate is 0.2628 mills or 5.8% above the current millage rate.

The summary of all the budgets, including the Airport is \$124,731,346. (The agenda report was corrected at the Council meeting to reflect this number.) The increase from last year is nearly \$9 million and of that, over \$6 million is the result of capital improvements. The biggest capital improvement is the surface water treatment plant upgrades. The other largest increase is \$1.8 million in the General Fund and the most significant part of that relates to salaries and increased contribution rates for the four pension plans. The City needs to stay competitive in order to attract and retain good employees. Included in the \$1.8 million is part of the decision made last year by City Council to add nine additional firefighters in order to bring the Fire Department staffing into standards range. Last year the City was not in a position to pay the full year fiscal cost, so part of that cost fell to this year.

Mr. Schluckebier concluded by saying that there are other incidental costs in other funds; however, they are not worthy of a lot of attention. He noted that this is a balanced budget and it meets the fiscal and prudent tests of how governments should finance their operations.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed 2003-2004 Budget.

Mayor Buckley opened the public hearing. There were no comments.

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4. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of proposed millage rate for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Moved by Poole/Buckley to tentatively approve the millage rate of 4.7856 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. Motion carried. Mrs. Palmer voted nay.

Mrs. Palmer said that each department found a way to be fiscally responsible and stay within a decent range; however, because of the increase in valuations, she believes we could have stayed with the millage rate that we have had for the last six years. She added that she would have liked to have seen some items, such as giveaways, lowered or removed and it is because of those line items that she voted nay – not because of the budget as a whole.

5. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of a tentative budget for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Staff recommended Council act on the following revisions to the budget:

A. GENERAL FUND

1. Recommend an increase to the **Mayor and Council, Information Systems Charges** by \$11,000 to provide for the purchase of five laptop computers at a cost of \$2,200 each. These computers will facilitate paperless agenda packages for Council. Funding for this expense results in a decrease to the Contingency Account in the Non-departmental budget.
2. Recommend increase to the revenue account *Information System Charges for Service* of \$11,000. All computer equipment is purchased through the Information Systems budget. This account provides the revenue source for the Information Systems capital and operating expenses.
3. Recommend increase to **Information Systems, Machinery and Equipment** of \$11,000 to purchase five laptop computers for Council.
4. Recommend a decrease to **Non-departmental, Contingency** of \$11,000 to provide funding for the purchase of laptop computers for Council. The Contingency balance will be \$239,000 following approval of this revision.

B. AIRPORT FUND

1. The 2003-04 Proposed Budget for the **Airport Fund** is summarized below.

Operating Revenues	\$ 7,034,400
Non-Operating Revenues	<u>4,257,117</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$11,291,517</b>
Operating Expenditures	\$ 7,356,198
Capital Outlay & Projects	3,021,727

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Contingency & Intrafund Transfers	<u>913,592</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$11,291,517</b>

Mrs. Hand referenced the recommendation to increase Mayor and Council's budget in order to purchase five laptop computers. She noted that placing the agenda package on compact discs would reduce the amount of paper and copying. Mayor Buckley pointed out that the inclusion of computers has been included in the budget total.

Mrs. Poole disagreed with moving to laptop computers. She said that she can't think of anything worse than a Council Member looking at his/her computer while a citizen is making a sincere request. She commented that the City could cut down on the amount of information that is distributed. And, computers are an added expense that Council does not need.

Mr. Contreras said that he believes a good Council Member looking at a paper copy is no different than a member looking at a terminal. He reported that we use approximately 8.5 cases of paper a year. That equates to 42,000 pieces of paper, which counts for some trees.

Mayor Buckley pointed out that the Airport budget has now been added to the total budget. He asked if there were any questions. Mrs. Poole said she believes that the Airport has a lot of excess expenses.

John Arden, 4007 Mt. Carmel Lane, questioned why the Airport has only a 1% increase over last year, and the Golf Courses have a 10% increase. He stated that he is opposed to the budget because it does not look like the City has looked at all the possibilities.

At this point, the City Manager noted that the budget total in the agenda report should reflect \$124,731,346 (the \$11,000 for laptops did not make it to the budget total in the agenda report).

Moved by Hand/E. Palmer for approval of the 2003-04 tentative budget in the amount of \$124,731,346.

Mrs. Poole asked Mr. Ennis to explain the Airport's new budget format. Richard Ennis, representing the Melbourne International Airport, stated that the Airport reformatted its budget in order to mirror the City's new format. He noted that it is more concise and easier to digest.

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

Mrs. Poole said she is not in favor of the Airport budget; however, she did not want to vote against the total budget.

Mrs. Palmer said that many people have stated, particularly after the F-16 training issue, that the Airport Director is not doing a good job. She said that although she disagreed

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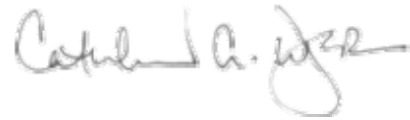
with the F-16 training operation, she believes that the Airport Director is doing all that he can to make the Airport successful.

Note: The second public hearing (final City Council action on the 2003-2004 Budget and millage rate) is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 7:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



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City Clerk – 9/22/2003

Approved by Council: October 14, 2003