

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA  
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2005



A special meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Harry C. Goode, Jr.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call.

Present:	Harry C. Goode, Jr.	Mayor
	Richard Contreras	Vice Mayor, District 1
	Mark LaRusso	Council Member, District 2
	Kathy Meehan	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
	Paul R. Gougelman, III	City Attorney
	Cathy L. Baker	Assistant City Clerk
	Amy W. Elliott	Deputy City Manager
	Howard Ralls	Deputy City Manager

3. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Proposed 2005-06 Budget

Deputy City Manager Amy Elliott reported that this is the second public hearing for the 2005-2006 budget. She stated that the City's fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. At the first public hearing on September 13, Council tentatively approved a \$131.7 million budget. The proposed budget provides for all general City functions and is less than the current budget.

Continuing, Ms. Elliott said that this budget provides a millage rate of 4.7415, 0.4165 mills (9.63%) above the roll back rate of 4.325 mills. The increased tax revenue will be used to fund increased personnel costs and street resurfacing. The proposed millage rate is 1% less than the current year rate of 4.7856 mills. Staff recommends adopting the millage rate and then approve the budget.

Mayor Goode opened the public hearing.

Pat Poole, 805 E. Palmetto Avenue, referenced a Florida Today article and stated she takes offense to the statement that the Civic Auditorium is a money pit. It has many uses and has been there a long time. She stated that recreation is for the citizens; the City does not get its money back from its parks, so whether the Auditorium is making money should not be a consideration.

City Manager Jack Schluckebier stated that the budget includes a line item to assist the Leisure Services Department in undertaking a feasibility study to upgrade or expand the Auditorium.

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Vice Mayor Contreras commented that in nine years the Auditorium could be part of the City's historic preservation activities. The Auditorium should be an asset to serve the citizens of Melbourne. Its functional utility needs to be expanded. The functional utility is lost if the ceilings are falling down on the citizens and employees. He stated that \$300,000 in the hole is a lot of tax dollars. He added that people are looking for other sources to hold functions that can accommodate a larger crowd. He agrees with spending a certain amount to determine where to go from here and hopes that the investment will be money well spent.

Mayor Goode clarified that this budget does not recommend demolishing the Auditorium. At this time he closed the public hearing.

4. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of Resolution No. 1951 establishing the 2005-2006 Millage Rate.

Attorney Gougelman read the resolution by title.

Moved by Walker/Meehan for approval of Resolution No. 1951. Motion carried unanimously.

5. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of Resolution No. 1952 establishing the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget.

Attorney Gougelman read Resolution No. 1952 by title.

Moved by Hand/Contreras for approval of Resolution No. 1952. The roll call vote was:

Aye: LaRusso, Meehan, Walker, Palmer, Hand, Contreras, and Goode

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



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Assistant City Clerk – 10/5/2005

Approved by Council: October 11, 2005