

CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 19, 2006



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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the regular meeting.
2. Roll Call.

Present:	Harry C. Goode, Jr.	Mayor
	Loretta Isenberg-Hand	Vice Mayor, District 6
	Richard Contreras	Council Member, District 1
	Mark LaRusso	Council Member, District 2
	Kathy Meehan	Council Member, District 3
	Cheryl Palmer	Council Member, District 5
	Jack M. Schluckebier, Ph.D.	City Manager
	Paul R. Gougelman, III	City Attorney
	Cathleen A. Wysor	City Clerk
	Amy W. Elliott	Deputy City Manager
	Howard Ralls	Deputy City Manager

Absent: Grace Walker Council Member, District 4 (ill)

3. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Proposed 2006-07 Budget

Deputy City Manager Amy Elliott reported that this is the second public hearing on the 2006-2007 fiscal year budget. The Council previously reviewed and amended the City Manager's proposed budget at the July 24 workshop meeting and at the first public hearing on September 5. This budget is the operating program for next fiscal year and includes all major funds and operations of the City. The total proposed budget is \$163,831,778. This is about \$27.2 million more than the current year budget, largely due to an increase in capital improvement projects.

The budget reflects a property tax rate for the City of Melbourne of 4.5081 mills, which is 10% above the rolled back rate. The tentatively approved millage rate is about one-quarter mill less than the current millage rate (4.7415). The increased property tax revenue associated with the millage rate higher than the rolled back rate is proposed to fund increased capital improvement and personnel costs.

In accordance with TRIM requirements Council must take action on the millage rate before adopting the budget. The recommendation is to approve a final millage rate of 4.5081 mills and to approve the final 2006-2007 proposed budget of \$163,831,778.

Council Member Richard Contreras asked for additional information regarding the battalion chief position in the Fire Department budget and the grant funding the City is seeking. Fire Chief Paul Forsberg explained that an application was submitted for grant funding to partially fund three battalion chiefs and one training officer. The funding provides for a declining scale over a four-year period.

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Mr. Contreras asked if the need relates to the span of control and the growth of the City. The Fire Chief replied that is correct. Mr. Contreras asked when we expect to have an answer on the grant funding. Chief Forsberg said that the grants will be approved over a period of time rather than all at once.

Mr. Contreras said he has questions relating to the sequence. There is a need for four positions, but the budget calls for hiring one. Chief Forsberg replied that the grant will supply four firefighters. The City will pick up the difference between a firefighter and a battalion chief. The battalion chief proposed in the budget will equal the 10% match for the first year.

Mr. Contreras said he is still concerned about the timing because we may or may not receive the grant.

City Manager Jack Schluckebier explained that the Chief requested three battalion chiefs. Given all the other issues the City is facing, he (the City Manager) recommended one battalion chief with the understanding that we would pursue grant funding. And, the City is aggressively pursuing that funding. If we do not receive the grant, we do wish to proceed with one battalion chief. There are overtime issues, which will become more pronounced with the eighth fire station.

A brief discussion continued. Mr. Contreras said his recommendation is that we reprioritize funding to provide all the needed positions if the grant funding is not successful. He would prefer to embark on that endeavor rather than piecemeal.

Mayor Goode opened the public hearing.

John Emery, 552 South Magnolia Avenue, referenced Magnolia Point Preserve (22-acre property located east of the Airport and Apollo Boulevard and west of South Magnolia Avenue). He presented Council with two DVDs, both depicting nature and wildlife in the neighborhood.

Mr. Emery said that the residents have been working on ways to preserve Magnolia Point. They have formed a committee and are informing the public about the property and its value to Melbourne and Brevard County. He asked that the City provide an appraisal on the property so the residents can determine the cost to acquire the land. Mr. Emery concluded by submitting a packet of information entitled "Magnolia Point Preserve."

Mayor Goode said that between now and next year's budget, Council will take that under consideration.

David Lindemann, 2100 Country Club Road, stated that he works for the City of Melbourne and is a certified planner; however, at this meeting he is here as a concerned citizen. Mr. Lindemann asked Council to adjust the City budget to provide

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funding to build sidewalks along Country Club Road. He listed the following reasons: the recent citizens' survey highlighted problems with car, pedestrian and bicycle travel; the Comprehensive Plan map atlas depicts Country Club Road as a future significant bicycle and pedestrian corridor; and the road, which was platted as a 60' right-of-way in 1925, is long overdue for the provision of sidewalks.

Mr. Lindemann explained that all new development provides sidewalks as a basic standard. The City should match these basic development standards and provide sidewalks in the older neighborhoods. Country Club Road serves a college, elementary school and numerous residential subdivisions.

One side of Country Club Road can be completely connected with sidewalks from University Boulevard to 192 with approximately 3,200 linear feet of sidewalks. He said that he believes City staff could provide estimates on the cost per linear foot. Mr. Lindemann closed by asking Council to consider funding for this project in this year's budget.

Mayor Goode said that the budget process started during the summer. The first hearing was held two weeks ago and it is hard on the last night to make this type of adjustment.

Allison McGinty Strantz, 311 Edgewood Drive, spoke in support of sidewalks along Country Club Road. She noted that the lack of sidewalks is detrimental to the safety of our children and the students at Florida Institute of Technology.

Johanna Waterhouse Laskowski, 2310 Ruffner Road, said that she is surprised no one has been killed along this roadway. She added that sidewalks, in addition to a bikepath, are in order for this area.

John Workman, 401 Amherst Avenue, agreed that this stretch of road is dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. He asked Council to keep this project in mind for the next budget year.

Nancy Garmer, 2100 Country Club Road, submitted a petition signed by (159) area residents in support of sidewalks on Country Club Road. (Note: only two residents on Country Club Road, both at the same address, signed the petition.) She noted that this roadway sees a lot of pedestrian traffic. She asked Council to consider providing funding from the City's transportation or street resurfacing budget.

That concluded comments from the public. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

4. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of Resolution No. 2002 establishing the 2006-2007 Millage Rate.

Attorney Gougelman read the resolution by title. Deputy City Manager Amy Elliott reported that the resolution provides for a final millage rate of 4.5081 mills, which is

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10% above the rolled back rate of 4.0983 mills. The tentative millage rate is one-quarter mill less than the current year rate of 4.7415 mills.

Moved by Hand/Meehan for approval of Resolution No. 2002. The roll call vote was:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

5. COUNCIL ACTION RE: Adoption of Resolution No. 2003 establishing the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget.

Attorney Gougelman read Resolution No. 2003 by title. Mrs. Elliott stated that staff recommends approval of the final budget of \$163,831,778.

Moved by Contreras/Hand for approval of Resolution No. 2003.

Council Member Cheryl Palmer asked if there was any way the City could take the first step towards providing sidewalks on Country Club Road. She said she realizes that we can't place construction in this budget; however, perhaps we could have a cost analysis.

Mr. Schluckebier said that staff can investigate and report back to Council with recommended actions at the next meeting. He added that there are opportunities throughout the year to pursue projects; nothing is set in stone.

Mr. Contreras said that he would like to hold the funding for the one new battalion chief position until the City knows the results of the grant. By the end of this year if results have not come about, he would like to address funding for all of the positions.

Mayor Goode recommended that Council address this during the first quarter budget review and Mr. Contreras replied that is fine.

Mrs. Palmer said that the Chief noted that he needs this additional position and Council agreed. She asked what this action means. Mr. Schluckebier said that the Chief's preference would be three battalion chiefs; however, one is an improvement over none. Mayor Goode pointed out that there is money in the new budget for one position. Council Member Mark LaRusso said that the fear is that one is an effective number.

The question was called. The roll call vote was:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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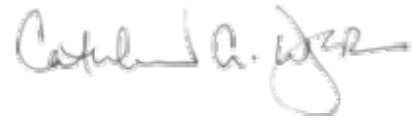
Mrs. Palmer stated that she voted for the budget because of the number of capital improvement projects that have been included.

Mayor Goode thanked everyone who attended the public hearing. He said that the City will continue looking for funding on the Magnolia Point property. And, for those on Country Club Road, we will start looking at sidewalks.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



City Clerk – 9/28/2006

Approved by Council: _____