

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
July 25, 2016

The work session was called to order by Mayor Steve Leary at 1:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor Steve Leary
Commissioner Greg Seidel
Commissioner Sarah Sprinkel
Commissioner Carolyn Cooper
Commissioner Pete Weldon

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
City Clerk Cynthia Bonham

Presentation – Broadband Feasibility Study

City Manager Knight addressed the current budget that included the Broadband study to consider bringing fiber to the residences. Courtney Violette, Magellan Advisors was contracted to conduct research and to do a feasibility study. Mr. Violette presented the Broadband Final Assessment Report. He provided an overview of municipal fiber networks, the financial overview, Broadband needs of Winter Park residents, trends in Broadband, Winter Park's fiber-optic network background, Winter Park's opportunity assessment, potential Broadband uses, municipal business models, Winter Park Broadband infrastructure assessment, what Winter Park would build, what is a public-private partnership, implementing a Broadband PPP, Winter Park's role in a PPP, Winter Park PPP revenue share and financial projections, benefits to the residents, project risks, and conclusions and next steps.

Upon discussion and questions posed by the Commission, there was a consensus to include this on a future Commission agenda as an action item to accept the report and for staff to provide options as to how the Commission wants to proceed and the next steps that the Commission can provide staff solid direction on.

Budget/strategic discussion

City Manager Knight spoke about the CRA budget and that the Commission will set the tentative millage rate this evening in the regular meeting.

Commissioner Weldon addressed the recommendation he made to lower the millage rate and that he would be willing to take funds from reserves depending on the opportunity. He commented about the possibility of using CRA increment to help bond out part of the library/events center/garage project that is currently contemplated. He stated he believed there to be an opportunity financially for substantial flexibility, increasing services and to still give money back to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Seidel spoke about raising the millage rate to allow for flexibility to fund other projects and to then see what the residents would like to see funded; if

residents do not want to fund other projects the taxes can be lowered. He spoke about the newly formed Transportation Advisory Board. It was noted that there is funding in the budget for adaptive signalization. He addressed the need to improve and identify intersections needing improvements and to make sure there is funding available for transportation issues that may arise. Mayor Leary commented he is not comfortable raising taxes until they hear what some of the opportunities are from the Transportation Board.

Commissioner Sprinkel was not in favor of raising the millage rate. She stated that they should have a goal for what percentage they want in reserves. She hoped they could do something about traffic and spoke about her issue with purchasing new vehicles. She also addressed her desire to hire a new employee as a culture and arts coordinator. After discussion, the City Manager will review to see if they can designate a current employee to take this responsibility. She spoke about being pleased with the tree budget to replace and add new trees.

Commissioner Cooper did not want to lower the millage rate. She expressed her preference to expedite electric undergrounding and replacing trees. She spoke about what they can legally use CRA funds for regarding the parking at the new library site.

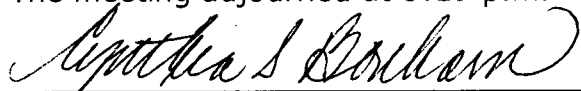
Commissioner Weldon addressed wanting to take the City Manager's CRA projection chart and send it to all City boards to receive their input on strategic opportunities that are important to their board and to make this as public a process as possible.

Mayor Leary stated he is willing to look at lowering taxes next year but that it is nice to have a cushion in case something comes up this year that will need funding. He spoke about the number of City vehicles being replaced in the budget and that he wanted to keep a handle on that. City Manager Knight explained that the vehicles traded in over the last two years had an average age of 12 years old and the overall fleet was 9 years old, including emergency services. He stated police cars have to be replaced every 8-9 years so this is a perception over reality issue as far as the newness of the vehicles; the City is not replacing newer vehicles.

Mayor Leary stated if anyone wants to meet with him individually he believed it to be helpful to understand Commissioners views and to let him know so they are publicly noticed. Commissioner Weldon thanked staff for a very good job and detailed budget that makes sense and summarized accurately.

City Manager Knight spoke about health care and having a good claim year this year. He stated the health clinic will open soon.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.



City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham, MMC