

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
September 15, 2017

The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor Steve Leary, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida. The September 11 meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma.

Members present/absent:

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

Also Present:

City Manager Randy Knight
City Clerk Cynthia Bonham
City Attorney Dan Langley

City Manager Knight announced the cancellation of the library meeting on September 27 at the Alford Inn because the design will not be ready for this meeting. This will be rescheduled.

City Manager Knight provided statistics regarding hurricane restoration, outages, crews from Georgia working to help restore power, estimate for restoring power, forestry report, flooding, debris pickup and garbage pickup.

Mayor's Report

a. Library and Events Center Task Force

Mayor Leary addressed the information provided prior to the meeting to the Commissioners regarding this task force.

Motion made by Mayor Leary to create this task force with the following members being appointed: Tom McMacken, Leslie O'Shaughnessy, Sam Stark and a City liaison to be appointed by City Manager Knight; seconded by Commissioner Sprinkel and carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Citizen Comments – Items not on the agenda

No public comments were made.

Millage and Budget Public Hearings

Mayor Leary read the following:

"The millage rate needed for Fiscal Year 2018 to generate the same property tax revenue for the City as in 2017, based on the Property Appraiser's certification, is 3.8787 mills.

The budget proposed by the staff with amendments generally agreed to by the City Commission requires a millage of 4.0923 mills which has been the rate levied by the city for the last nine years. The proposed millage of 4.0923 mills would represent an increase in property taxes, not counting new construction and the City's dedicated increment value payment to the Community Redevelopment Agency, of 5.51%. This increase in property taxes levied over the prior year is not due to any change in tax rate but is due to the increase in assessed values of properties.

In addition, a 0.1597 mill voted debt service is levied to cover the debt service of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2011 approved by the citizens of Winter Park at the May 16, 2000 bond referendum. As well as a 0.3536 mill voted debt service levied to cover the debt service of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2017 approved by the citizens of Winter Park at the March 15, 2016 bond referendum."

"This will be a simultaneous public hearing on two ordinances: An ordinance setting the millage for 2018 and an ordinance adopting the Fiscal 2018 budget".

Attorney Langley read both ordinances by title.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA ADOPTING A 4.0923 MILL AD VALOREM TAX LEVY UPON ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR APPROPRIATION TO THE GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE CITY, A 0.1597 MILL VOTED DEBT SERVICE LEVY UPON ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR APPROPRIATION TO THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2011, AND A 0.3536 MILL VOTED DEBT SERVICE LEVY UPON ALL REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR APPROPRIATION TO THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2017 First Reading

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AND ACCOMPANYING FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN; APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL FUND, DESIGNATIONS TRUST FUND, STORMWATER UTILITY FUND, COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT FUND, FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND, POLICE GRANT FUND, DEBT SERVICE FUND, WATER AND SEWER FUND, ELECTRIC UTILITY FUND, FLEET MAINTENANCE FUND, EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND, EMPLOYEE INSURANCE FUND, GENERAL INSURANCE FUND, CEMETERY TRUST FUND, GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND AND STORMWATER CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO SAID ANNUAL BUDGET TO CARRY FORWARD THE FUNDING OF PURCHASE ORDERS OUTSTANDING AND UNSPENT PROJECT BUDGETS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017; AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS HEREIN APPROPRIATED BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS SO LONG AS THE TOTAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS SHALL NOT BE INCREASED THEREBY First Reading

Jan Clanton, 1030 McKean Circle, spoke in support of the budget as a member of the Public Art Advisory Board and the proposed \$25,000 for the Arts and Culture subcommittee.

Kim Allen, 1800 W. Fawsett Road, spoke in support of the budget for stormwater (concerns with Fawsett Road flooding).

Mayor Leary asked if there are any questions or amendments to the proposed budget. Commissioner Weldon addressed his issues with the millage and wanting to reduce the property tax by \$500,000. He spoke about valuation increases by the Property Appraiser that will raise everyone's property tax regardless of what millage rate is agreed to this evening, increases in electric and water rates, and property damages from the hurricane whereby a percentage is mandated to pay on insurance. He stated that the City's financial position is strong and believed they could afford to lower the millage rate.

Motion made by Commissioner Weldon that we reduce the millage rate so as to reduce the property taxes to the general fund by \$1 million; seconded by Commissioner Sprinkel. Commissioner Sprinkel spoke in support of the decrease. Commissioner Seidel disagreed as he wanted more money to go toward undergrounding electric and to put street lighting back into the general fund. Commissioner Cooper spoke in opposition to reducing the millage rate because of the need to focus on our infrastructure. Mayor Leary addressed challenges with infrastructure that needs attention, traffic signalization issues, and other issues coming forward.

Nancy Shutts, 2010 Brandywine Drive, opposed a reduction in the millage rate.

Upon a roll call vote to lower the millage rate by \$1 million in the general fund, Mayor Leary and Commissioners Seidel and Cooper voted no. Commissioners Sprinkel and Weldon voted yes. The motion failed with a 3-2 vote.

Motion that we reduce the millage rate so as to recover \$500,000 for the benefit of the property owners in Winter Park in the general fund; seconded by Mayor Leary (3.9942 would be the rate).

Upon questioning by Commissioner Seidel as to how much taxes would be saved for the resident on a \$300,000 house, it was clarified to be about \$30 a year. Commissioner Seidel disagreed with lowering this because of the needs in the City.

Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Leary and Commissioners Sprinkel and Weldon voted yes. Commissioners Seidel and Cooper voted no. The motion carried with a 3-2 vote.

Budget Manager Peter Moore addressed the current contingency balance with changes already approved and that dollar changes have already been made in the budget: eliminated funds for body cameras, reduced equipment replacement funding by \$100,000; funded the \$150,000 for the Aloma Avenue signalization improvements; and reduced the maximum merit pay from 3.5% to 3.0%. He stated after these changes, the contingency balance is \$513,000-\$514,000 so if it is reduced by \$.5 million they pretty much break even.

City Manager Knight explained that if the Commission decides to spend funds on items they can take it out of other sources (you have to take it from somewhere else to spend it somewhere else – you can't go back and change the millage rate to pay for something they want to do). Commissioner Weldon stated he is happy to proceed on that basis.

Commissioner Weldon spoke about his budget items that he wanted to see since he missed the last budget discussion. He addressed the approval of the Commission for \$150,000 for the three lights signalization on Aloma. Funding for fiber was discussed (\$600,000 budgeted and to determine whether or not a private partner can be part of that network). Commissioner Weldon asked to increase the police budget by \$500,000 which is a reduction of about \$380,000 from the budget.

Motion made by Commissioner Weldon to limit the increase in the Police budget to \$500,000 which is 3.6%. Mayor Leary stated he could support \$200,000 less but cannot support this if it comes out of raises because of the need to recruit good people. After discussion, a consensus was reached to support \$200,000 less. City Manager Knight stated he will discuss with the Police Chief as to the best way to reduce their budget by \$200,000. It was clarified that this is not a decrease in their current budget but increasing it.

Discussed was the Mead Garden capital request that Commissioner Weldon supported if they provide a report as to what has been done with the first \$100,000 and what they intend to do with the next \$100,000. He stated he would be happy to go back during the year and reallocate \$100,000 out of reserves for this if and when they provide a level of accountability. He recommended removing the \$100,000 for the Mead Gardens capital from the budget but that they are encouraged to bring back the actual results of their current year capital projects and the specific projections for the additional request that they request at a later date.

Commissioner Cooper commented about wanting to determine how much of the dollars provided over the years were used as planned and how much was fundraising, etc. She was supportive of Mead Gardens but wanted to see a willingness to discuss with them and have more openness and accountability. Mayor Leary asked Assistant City Manager Neuner (Acting Parks Director) to have representatives of Mead Garden bring forth this information to them.

Commissioner Weldon then addressed the parks master plan. It was clarified that an administrative update was provided. He summarized what has already been improved in our parks. Connectivity of our parks and greenspaces was discussed as well as providing a staff led survey to understand what the needs are. Commissioner Weldon suggested to ask staff to plan for a citizen survey within the existing proposed parks and recreation budget that will update the park and open space preferences of the community with our agreement that staff is to present a detailed set of objectives for such a survey for Commission approval along with cost prior to the survey being carried out.

Mayor Leary stated he would support \$60,000 to come out of the existing parks budget for a staff led initiative to present more of a master plan which includes connectivity and includes a survey to obtain feedback from the community. Commissioner Cooper agreed with having a statistically valid survey done professionally and that it be incorporated into the Parks master plan and to administratively update the plan. Upon comments, there was a consensus to take \$60,000 out of the parks budget for this.

Commissioner Weldon then spoke about updating the Florida state master file of historic properties. He stated he did not believe the Florida master file serves a constructive purpose for Winter Park and wanted to change that to remove the specific plan to update the master file to arrive at a master file dedicated to Winter Park. City Manager Knight stated they can come back with proposed criteria and what it would cost.

Commissioner Weldon then addressed either taking \$2 million out of the water and sewer fund and put \$1 million into the electric fund and \$1 million into the general fund or to forego the rate increase in the water and sewer fund in the next year because of the current surplus in the water and sewer fund. Commissioner Seidel suggested that the Utilities Advisory Board review this.

After a suggestion by Mayor Leary, there was a consensus to put money aside for the electric utility to address issues uncovered recently and set aside \$1 million in the budget that can come from all sources whether it is the general fund or franchise fees being paid into the general fund from the electric utility. This would mean a 28% increase in the undergrounding budget or if it can be pulled from the water utility and to leave that up to staff to determine. After comments, a consensus was reached. Mayor Leary asked that staff meet with the UAB to discuss the points made this evening regarding the rate increase and the reserve and to get a report back.

Attorney Langley stated based on the budget discussion if there is no desire to deviate from the millage previously discussed, that he wanted to confirm numbers with Mr. Moore and re-read the ordinance title for the millage with the adjusted millage rate. Mayor Leary reminded the Commission that they cannot raise the millage rate at the next meeting if they lower it this evening so if they remain at

the current millage they can lower it the next meeting. Mayor Leary stated he seconded the motion to lower the millage by \$500,000 to give staff enough time before the second hearing to figure out what the \$500,000 looks like and to give them time to understand what they are proposing. City Manager Knight reminded the Commission about the ad they had already place that has the 4.0923 rate. Commissioner Weldon stated they voted on a change in the millage rate to reduce the general fund property tax number by \$500,000 and did not vote on the ordinance. Attorney Langley explained his understanding that the first vote was a consensus vote on how they wanted to proceed with the discussion on the money they had in the budget and now that the budget discussion is completed, they are back to vote on the ordinance which has not been done.

Motion made by Commissioner Sprinkel to accept the millage ordinance on first reading as written in the package with the 4.0923 millage rate; seconded by Mayor Leary.

Attorney Langley announced the following: "The City Commission of the city of Winter Park is going to adopt an operating millage of 4.0923 which represents a property tax levy that is 5.41% higher than the rolled-back rate of 3.8787 mills due to increases in assessed values."

The budget discussion continued. Commissioner Seidel spoke about street lights being paid out of the general fund that was changed to be paid for out of the electrical fund which had more funds available at that time. He asked that the street light cost go back into the general fund so more funds are available for undergrounding and to be fair to the 80% of residents who are contributing to street lighting (the other 20% are not paying for street lighting). Commissioner Cooper supported this. Mayor Leary wanted to wait to see what happens with the wireless legislation at the state level before making changes but would be happy to revisit it next year. Commissioner Cooper expressed her concern with making sure that the sewage and water are taken care of.

Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Leary and Commissioners Seidel, Sprinkel and Cooper voted yes. Commissioner Weldon voted no. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote.

Budget Manager Peter Moore summarized the changes made as follows that will come back to the next meeting for approval: 1. Lower millage rate by \$500,000; 2. Reduction in the police budget by \$200,000; 3. Reallocate priority in the Parks Department to find \$60,000 for the master plan to be done administratively; 4. Moving \$1 million from a source to come back to the Commission to the electric fund as cash to allow for flexibility; and 5. Discuss with the Utilities Advisory Board to evaluate future revenue and are clear on all aspects of it. Other budget items discussed are no change to the existing budget and are keeping things already proposed in place.

Motion made by Commissioner Sprinkel to accept the budget ordinance on first reading as presented with changes voiced above by Mr. Moore; seconded by Mayor Leary. Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Leary and Commissioners Seidel and Sprinkel voted yes. Commissioners Cooper and Weldon voted no. The motion carried with a 3-2 vote.

Commissioner Seidel

Commissioner Seidel spoke about looking at the City's projects we have in the transportation and stormwater groups who provided him the prioritization list. He asked if the Commission should be reviewing the priority list and if they should be doing things to make certain things happen faster because he believed they should have input on certain projects. Mayor Leary stated the City Manager's job is to discuss with department heads their priority list and then bring that to the Commission to vote on it. He stated if Commissioners see anything on the priority list that they disagree with, they should discuss that with the City Manager and if they are not satisfied with the result to bring it up at the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Weldon believed the Commission did not want to be judging the priorities that staff reports through the City Manager to the Commission unless they have a very good reason to do so. Commissioner Seidel stated he wanted the Commission to follow the infrastructure projects closer and so they know what is going on. Mayor Leary encouraged the Commission to filter things through the City Manager. Commissioner Cooper agreed that the Commission should understand what the alternatives are and to recommend changes and priorities that become the CIP that is the Commission's responsibility.

Mayor Leary reminded the Commission as to how the Charter is written that needs to be followed. Commissioner Sprinkel explained that all business happens at the dais and that there should not be any business with setting priorities with anyone but the Commission. Commissioner Cooper spoke about other cities receiving briefings from departments relative to the budget and would be in agreement if there was a consensus of the Commission to do so in the future.

Commissioner Sprinkel

Commissioner Sprinkel thanked the people who came to her Coffee Talk.

Commissioner Cooper

Commissioner Cooper thanked staff for the work done in the last week with the hurricane and the harder work to come this week with restoring everyone's power.


Commissioner Weldon

Commissioner Weldon addressed the emails coming in regarding the hurricane efforts by staff and thanked the citizens who wrote with great patience and a positive attitude. Many had understanding of the work that is difficult for staff and in some cases provided extreme compliments and appreciation for a job well done.

Mayor Leary

Mayor Leary spoke about how patient residents have been and has spoken with a lot of people who thanked him for staff's work. City Manager Knight provided an update that they have restored 100 customers while in this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.



Mayor Steve Leary

ATTEST:



City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham, MMC