

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 27, 2009

The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor David Strong at 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor Kenneth Bradley
Commissioner Margie Bridges
Commissioner Phil Anderson
Commissioner Beth Dillaha
Commissioner Karen Diebel

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
Deputy City Clerk Nancy McLean

Budget discussion

City Manager Knight commented that later today the Commission will adopt and submit the tentative millage rate to the Property Appraiser by August 4, 2009. He stated that this is the rate the Property Appraiser will use in preparing the "Notice of Proposed Property Taxes" to all property owners in August 2009. Once the tentative millage rate is set, it may not be exceeded unless an extensive notification to property owners is undertaken. The final millage can be lower than the tentative millage without additional notification requirements. He commented that the current millage rate is 4.0923 mills and the balanced budget before the Commission was built on the existing millage rate of 4.0923, and this current year is below the rolled back rate. He also stated that there was \$150,000 extra available for lower than anticipated cost of the renewal of health insurance. Mr. Knight explained some modifications to the Capital Improvement section of the budget.

Commissioner Dillaha wanted to ensure that the Fleet Peoples Park line item says fundraising and not General Fund. She believed the golf pro shop should also be a City funded improvement and wanted to discuss it later. Mr. Knight answered questions.

Mayor Bradley commented that our parks should be maintained to a certain level which the Commission directs. His concerns were that they are relying a lot on fees and he spoke to several organizations that feel that certain fees they are being charged may be pricing them out of their services when they work through our parks and believed they need to find a balance for that. He stated that he appreciates that within the budget they now have an approach along with some funding to do certain maintenance for both parks as well as the civic infrastructure facilities.

Commissioner Dillaha commented that since Fleet Peoples Park is a fundraising effort, that they move the \$228,000 to the pro shop. Mr. Knight agreed. Commissioner Anderson commented that he believed the pro shop was to be a voluntary fundraising preservation type effort. Commissioner Bridges addressed that she went to the architects/builders to volunteer their time but she did not ask them to put together a plan for volunteer fundraising.

Mayor Bradley wanted to ensure that our parks have a certain level of maintenance within our budget. He asked what role should philanthropy/friends organizations, etc. have as it relates to the support of any City endeavor. Commissioner Anderson commented that we can only afford to do so much, but if there is a "friends organization" that wants to fund the acceleration of a project they should be allowed to do it.

Commissioner Dillaha commented that the City should never give up any parks or facilities to anyone and that the City determines what the plans/improvements are going forward and maintains control over its properties. Mayor Bradley commented that there needs to be guidance and control from the Commission. Commissioner Bridges added that there are some set boundaries before any contributions should be accepted.

Commissioner Anderson commended Mr. Knight on preparing a balanced budget. Mr. Knight answered questions.

Commissioner Bridges wanted to see the Mead Garden improvements predicated on the new maintenance building in Showalter Field. Commissioner Dillaha commented that she wanted to know about approved grants and which ones are pending. Mr. Knight agreed.

Commissioner Anderson asked how the City Hall renovations expenses would be paid for. Mr. Knight responded. Commissioners Anderson, Dillaha and Bridges wanted a higher priority given to the golf pro shop. Mr. Knight gave an overview of the maintenance list. Parks Assistant Director Brenda Moody answered questions.

Commissioner Diebel asked about the budgeting assessments on the Fairbanks corridor. She also voiced concerns about the impact of spending the water and sewer reserves for Capital Improvements on the water and sewer bond rating. Mr. Knight answered further questions.

Mayor Bradley wanted to increase street paving from 5.5 miles to closer to 9 miles. Assistant Public Works Director Don Marcotte explained that there is grant the City has been awarded to pave and is an equivalent of 2.5 miles of Morse Boulevard.

Commissioner Dillaha commented that she asked City Manager Knight for a ten year trend on the General Fund. She provided copies to the Commission and stated she added some more information to the chart. She also spoke about Human Resource Director Anna Currie's study on how we compare to other municipalities regarding benefits and salary. She asked if she had any recommendations from that report. Ms. Currie responded. Mayor Bradley commented that he was concerned about the no merit increase and that would be a difficult place to be in long term. Mr. Knight commented that it was implemented this past year. Mr. Knight hoped that they would be giving merit increases next fiscal year and his ten year pro forma factors that back into the budget.

Mayor Bradley commented that we are down \$2 million in development fees but if we are selecting the right type of growth that will be good for the City and long term it will help our budget.

Mr. Knight commented that the ten year proforma will be completed this week.

Commissioner Dillaha suggested that we invite Orange County Property Appraiser Bill Donegan to speak about the outlook for the next few years. Mayor Bradley agreed.

Mayor Bradley commented that another budget work session will be scheduled in August. There was consensus among the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia S. Bonham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk