

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 28, 2008

The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor David Strong at 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

Members present:

Mayor David Strong
Commissioner Margie Bridges
Commissioner Phil Anderson
Commissioner Beth Dillaha
Commissioner Karen Diebel (arrived at 12:15 p.m.)

Also present:

City Manager Randy Knight
City Attorney Trippe Cheek
City Clerk Cynthia Bonham

City Manager Knight presented emails requesting funding from Crealde and the Ethics Board requesting \$1,500 for the members to attend a conference during the year and to pay for legal services they may need.

There was a lengthy discussion led by Public Works Director Troy Attaway regarding the current condition of the roads and the current paving schedule.

Discussion ensued regarding the ad valorem tax for fiscal year 2009. Each Commissioner asked for clarification on budget items they had concerns with such as the communications service tax fee, employee benefits, pension benefits and the contribution by the City and funding requests from staff that are daily maintenance requests. Mayor Strong commented that they need to look at the overall compensation and ensure that the City is competitive. Commissioner Dillaha suggested cutting the budget another \$2 million and focus on how to further trim the budget.

Mayor Strong commented that he would like to see an audit by January or February and if possible to eliminate an accounting position. Finance Director Wes Hamil stated they could meet that deadline with their current staff. Mayor Strong also reviewed line items such as legal services, the lobbyist, the Planning Department, garbage collection, Fire Administration and Emergency Medical Technicians, the Parks and Recreation Department and special events. He also suggested they need to decide if they want to retain Mr. Cheek's firm, even though he was supportive of the firm. He stated they are not talking about major reductions in the budget but rather things that will increase our reserves and also enable us to maintain our millage rate.

City Manager Knight explained that the millage he proposed will be less than the rolled back rate. Mayor Strong stated if they addressed those issues he spoke about that maybe they can go back to 3.995 rate and/or increase our reserves by that amount. He clarified that last year's rate was 3.995 and the proposed rate is 4.0923 and a tenth of a mill reduction is \$400,000. Mr. Knight agreed and explained that the 4.0923 rate is calculated in accordance with the Amendment I formula. He stated it takes into account the extra homestead exemption and that allows the Florida Growth Per Capita Income which is where the 4.15% comes in. Mayor Strong commented that he was inclined to accept that as the maximum millage rate to the extent that if they want to decrease it more they have until the end of September to do that. Commissioner Anderson agreed. Mayor Strong wanted to see the issues he raised to allow the City to increase its reserves and address other issues raised by the Commission.

Commissioner Dillaha asked if they want to cut the budget another 5% with the goal of being able to increase their reserves and fund many of these maintenance projects. Commissioner Diebel commented that they could give City Manager Knight direction but it is governed by the millage rate. She was in favor of a reduced millage rate because there is room to do that. Mr. Knight explained the risk. The Reserve Fund balance was discussed and whether it is important to further build it up.

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cynthia S. Bonham", written in black ink. The signature is fluid and includes a large, circular flourish at the end.

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk