

**CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**July 24, 2017**

The work session was called to order by Mayor Steve Leary at 1:00 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

General Budget discussion

IT Director Parsram Rajaram provided the findings of the Fiber Optics Task Force. Today's discussion was only regarding Phase 1. He explained why the City should have fiber (security, speeds, scalability and reliability) and other benefits to help with traffic, emergency response and improves and provides public Wi-Fi services. Discussion ensued regarding the Task Force findings and the benefit to the City to have fiber. Staff will provide costs for Phase 1 in time for the budget hearings.

Electric undergrounding

City Manager Knight explained the impacts to electric revenues, the bond issue status, fuel costs, and operating costs and impacts if they do not raise rates. He stated the customers have enjoyed rates below the averages of other utilities and the City has still been able to continue their fairly aggressive undergrounding program. City Manager Knight answered questions regarding street lighting being provided to residents that are under other utilities. Upon discussion, there was a general consensus for the rate increase so the undergrounding can continue. Discussion continued regarding paying back the debt service and whether or not to borrow more money for undergrounding. Commissioner Seidel stressed the importance of a detailed analysis that can be done in-house.

Electric Director Dan D'Alessandro addressed their two outside engineering firms working on the design that will provide an estimate for the design cost. He stated he wants them to design all the projects now that he believed would be valid in 7-9 years and take about a year to complete (entire scope of all the projects).

Commissioner Sprinkel expressed her preference to accelerate undergrounding and for the Utilities Advisory Board to bring back information to them but was not interested in another bond to fund undergrounding. Commissioner Seidel asked that Mr. D'Alessandro finish his design as quickly as possible. There was a consensus to complete the design.

### **Other budget items**

Commissioner Weldon addressed the yearly employee raises and if a percentage across the board was the best way to do this or to lower the structural increase and then the City Manager can decide how to allocate the resources or come back with a salary comparison by job of other cities. Commissioner Sprinkel supported an up to 2% pay increase, to cap the number of employees, and to consider outsourcing positions. Discussion ensued regarding outsource versus insource and capping the number of employees and what the correct number would be. City Manager Knight explained that sometimes it is better to insource instead of outsourcing to save money. Upon further discussion, no consensus was reached to cap the number of employees.

Before agreeing to a 2% merit based pay versus 3.5%, staff will bring back a comparison with other cities and the dollar value with the 2% versus 3.5%. Commissioner Sprinkel asked that information be provided regarding outsourcing the two fields under Parks and what staff will be freed up if these fields are outsourced. Assistant City Manager Neuner stated the existing staff working there will be reallocated to other tasks. Mayor Leary asked that this be monitored over the next year and to be cautious about hiring new employees if anyone leaves because of the outsourcing in that department. City Manager Knight explained if it is something that will keep a crew busy 100% of the year, it is usually cheaper to do it in-house.

Commissioner Weldon addressed wanting a vote to increase electric rates, and a millage rate adjustment that would return \$500,000.

Commissioner Sprinkel expressed the need for a paperless system in the next three years so copies can be deleted from the budget, create an electric billing system for Winter Park so cash intake goes away, to reduce new vehicles, do not touch the reserves, and decide on whether we will or will not own property.

After discussing body cameras for police, there was not receive a consensus to move forward nor did they receive a consensus to limit the police and fire to no more than 50% of the budget.

Commissioner Cooper spoke about the need to address drainage and flooding, emphasize connectivity, walkability, and greenspace; and to provide funding to update the parks master plan. The Wade Trim study from years ago will be provided to the Commission along with a presentation regarding the study and where it stands. She spoke about the visioning session and connecting Winter Park greenspaces with greenways. She also wanted to see the City out in front with the commitment and to do design standards and core studies on Orange Avenue. She addressed adaptive signalization and the need to work with Orange County.

Commissioner Seidel addressed his priorities of electric undergrounding, reviewing our capital improvement projects as related to transportation, and to improve the drainage and flooding issues.

Commissioner Weldon added within the sidewalk budget he wanted to prioritize extending the Denning project from Orange Avenue to Mead Garden. Public Works Director Attaway explained they have \$75,000 in the proposed budget in the CIP and believed they could make that connection.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.



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City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham, MMC