

CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of a City Council Budget Workshop held on July 21, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., in the City of Apopka Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Kilsheimer
Commissioner Bill Arrowsmith
Commissioner Billie Dean
Commissioner Diane Velazquez
Commissioner Sam Ruth

PRESS PRESENT: John Peery - The Apopka Chief

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Kilsheimer called the Budget Workshop to order at 1:30 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Kilsheimer said this was Budget Workshop for staff and Council to continue reviewing the budget. There will be a Special Council meeting where the tentative millage rate will be set and this will be held immediately following the Budget Workshop scheduled Wednesday, July 22, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

Mayor Kilsheimer affirmed that yesterday they went through a number of budgets including the Mayor's Office, Administrative Services, Finance, and Human Resources. Today they will be reviewing IT Services, Public Safety which includes the Police and Fire Departments, and Community Development. He inquired if there were any questions from yesterday's workshop.

Commissioner Ruth inquired if we had records from previous Old Florida Outdoor Festivals to which Ms. Barclay advised we do have a summary and she will provide that information.

Commissioner Velazquez inquired about the property values having gone up and asked if the extra revenue was being used at all for police vehicles or garbage trucks.

Mr. Irby advised it was general fund revenue, so it would not be utilized for garbage trucks, but could go toward police vehicles.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Barclay advised they did move the GIS Technician salary to the Utilities Division.

Robert Hippler advised the only item he sees that was changed and may become an issue at some point is the laptop replacements in the Police Department. They are at an age and out of warranty that this may be a requirement within the next year.

Mayor Kilsheimer advised the IT expenses in other departments were consolidated under the IT budget.

Ms. Barclay reiterated all capital equipment has been cut. Under the 6800 account the 911 advisor software (EMD) is a must have and the \$35,000 needs to be added back in.

Captain Fernandez said under the 6400 account, the Police E-citation café add on at \$59,500, which allows them to submit citations to the state is a must have.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Kilsheimer said the Fire Department is one of those areas where we have must-haves and then the need-to-haves. He asked Chief Bronson and Chief Thompson to talk about the need to have, stating we need two new fire stations. He stated we are coming at risk to meet the response time standards to the north side of the city, and they would build the first station in this area. The cost of a new station is roughly \$700,000 to build and the equipment is approximately \$600,000. Staffing will be incurred in the following budget year.

Chief Bronson said there are already residences and businesses to the north that have been annexed, as well as the new development that is occurring.

Mayor Kilsheimer affirmed to get close to these numbers it would take approximately half a mill, if they are willing to raise the taxes. He said previous conversations have alluded to the maintenance of our ISO Class 1 rating being an important community priority.

Discussion ensued regarding public safety and the projected growth within the city.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the previous expansions of the Fire Department have always been funded out of the general fund. He stated we do not have a fire impact fee.

Commissioner Arrowsmith inquired about the transfer of funds from utilities into the general fund and what gave us the ability to make these transfers to which Ms. Barclay advised it was payment in lieu of taxes. She stated if the utilities were a separate entity, we would be collecting taxes from them, so the transfer was a return on investment and a payment in lieu of taxes. She advised stormwater and sanitation also transferred to the general fund.

Discussion ensued regarding fire impact fees. Mr. Irby stated you could not have both EMS impact fees and fire impact fees and affirmed there was case law regarding these fees. He stated a study would have to be done prior to invoking any impact fee.

In response to Mayor Kilsheimer inquiring about financing, Mr. Irby advised the financing would have to come as general obligation debt and would require a bond referendum.

Commissioner Arrowsmith suggested holding a referendum in conjunction with the election in March. He stated if we have a need that will require taxes to be increased, then put it on a referendum and let the citizens' vote on it.

Mr. Irby affirmed any funding by referendum would be available the following fiscal year. He advised you can only bond infrastructure. He stated the Council can increase the millage themselves based on representation of the entire community.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the consensus in terms of finding financing for new fire stations is to consider a referendum and let residents decide, council can decide to raise the millage, and in the interim investigate the imposition of a fire impact fees.

The meeting recessed at 2:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2:52 p.m.

Commissioner Arrowsmith inquired if we knew what the savings was by having the ISO-1 rating.

Chief Bronson said he believed it was approximately \$25 per household.

Commissioner Arrowsmith reiterated we would not be asking for a tax increase just for the fire department, stating our overall budget dictates what the increase should be.

Mr. Irby said if the station was going to be built in one area of the city, you develop an area of what that station is going to serve and then you could designate a special assessment area that he believes you can include station, apparatus, and personnel in that MSBU special assessment. He stated he would need to check with the City Attorney regarding this possibility. He stated he would have to check to see if there is a difference in what you can assess vacant land as opposed to developed property.

Mayor Kilsheimer suggested when they go to set the tentative millage rate tomorrow, they set a preliminary millage rate that covers the cost of this and they can back out of this increase if they find another option.

Mr. Irby advised that funds can be restricted to specific items. He said the next year they can remove the restriction and reduce the millage back to where it was, stating they would absorb that amount of money or reduce the millage enough to push it back into the community.

Commissioner Arrowsmith inquired about the increase of all budgets for life and health insurance, and workman's compensation.

Chief Bronson said he had two other items that were capital priorities they have to have in order to do business. He stated they were going on the assumption that they would be receiving the grant, and although it is encouraging, it has not happened yet. He said there were some options for the twelve cardiac monitors and proposed buying six new monitors in the 2015/2016 budget and another six in the 2016/2017 budget for a total of \$168,950.

Ms. Barclay suggesting moving forward as if we are going to receive the grant, and if the grant falls through then we can do a budget amendment at that time.

Chief Bronson said the SCBA bottles will expire and it is an ongoing process to replace those. He stated it was a four year program that they are trying to replace inventory asking for 26 SCBA bottles at \$19,000.

Sharon Thornton joined the meeting to respond to Commissioner Arrowsmith inquiring about the increase in insurance. She stated the benefits have been increasing and they look back and do projections. They do receive a report on workman's compensation that helps them to project that expense easier. She advised life and health includes clinic costs and anything the city is providing. She advised workman's compensation rates on police and fire are generally high due to the nature of the job.

Merry Lovern said in the past they took the total workman's compensation premium and applied it across the board equally, which is why public safety appears to have had a huge jump.

Commissioner Arrowsmith requested a total for workman's compensation, life, and health.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Kilsheimer stated the Council previously had a presentation by the Police Chief where he discussed our having the lowest per capital number of police officers of all cities in Central Florida and he requested an additional 10 officers. He reiterated all personnel were cut from the budget and this was not able to occur with the current millage rate.

In response to Commissioner Velazquez, Chief Manley advised our current ratio is 1.97 officers and other cities have a 2.30 ratio per 1,000 residents. He stated, as he said in his presentation, if they bring in 20 new officers, this would bring them to a 2.41 ratio, and bringing 10 new officers on will bring them to a 2.19 ratio. He advised they have applied for a federal grant for 10 officers and will not know anything until September 30, 2015. If the grant is awarded, after 3 years the city will have to take over the costs.

Discussion ensued regarding the city's core network and Wi-Fi system and how little the Wi-Fi is used by the public. Discussion included the expense of updating this system, what the industry is offering, and whether the city should continue to offer a public Wi-Fi system. By not offering public Wi-Fi the city can save approximately \$400,000.

Captain Fernandez advised there was a backbone to the system that reads our meters. If we don't continue the public Wi-Fi, we will need to work on this core network. He said the refresh is to come in and put a licensed system in and recreate that hub from which we will be reading meters and communicate with the city buildings. While it will be a savings of \$400,000, about half of that will be required to refresh this legacy system that will allow us to continue to do not only public safety matters, but also general administration for the city. He affirmed the Motorola public safety radio was a separate issue.

Discussion was held with regards to complaints and the Wi-Fi not working in many areas and perhaps making Wi-Fi limited and better in certain areas of the city by city facilities.

Captain Fernandez affirmed we were paying \$400,000 a year for maintenance on the entire system. If the Council decides not to have public nodes all over the city, this can clearly be renegotiated. The core network still needs to be upgraded and this is a need.

Mayor Kilsheimer said he felt the Public Safety Radio System upgrade was a must have.

Discussion went back to hiring of police officers and Chief Manley stated by hiring within the four quarters of the year will bring it down to \$760,000 with the capital.

Mayor Kilsheimer said these were tough decisions and stated he agreed with Commissioner Arrowsmith that public safety is our number one priority. He said we have a veteran crew of police officers and this is why crime is comparatively low in Apopka.

Discussion was held regarding using millage rate to bring in police officers.

Commissioner Arrowsmith said we needed to find a way to fund public safety and stated we needed to look at additional areas that could be cut in order to fund these needs.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the consensus was to add five additional police officers for the coming budget year, no longer provide public Wi-Fi given the rapid pace of technology change, we will determine as soon as possible how much savings we can exact out of that decision.

Captain Fernandez asked for clarification about the laptops under IT and if they were placed back in the budget.

Ms. Barclay said we had cut all capital, so they are not in the budget.

Captain Fernandez said the 20 laptops were at a cost of \$20,000 and they are replacing laptops that are antiquated. He advised they would be replaced as needed.

It was the consensus of the Council to add the 20 laptops.

The meeting recessed at 4:24 p.m. and reconvened at 4:33 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mayor Kilsheimer said we had Jay Davoll, David Moon, and Ray Marsh present from Community Development. He stated with this budget there were some musts, needs, and would like to do in this budget. He said, as he understands, one of the musts was \$100,000 for revising and updating the Land Development Code.

Mr. Davoll responded in the affirmative and stated they have been putting that off for a few years and would like this to remain in the budget.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the professional services fund has \$250,000 for the visioning plan and he asked Mr. Irby to explain this expenditure.

Mr. Irby said after the Council agreed to engage Keith & Schnars for the visioning, he asked for a figure to put in this budget so that whatever comes out of the visioning, they can do part of this. He stated the visioning process will go through part of January or February prior to being completed. Until we go through this visioning, it is not known how this money will be expended.

Mayor Kilsheimer said we were over by \$2.23 million in terms of what has been added in the budget for must haves.

Ms. Barclay said there were \$230,000 savings that have been identified.

Mayor Kilsheimer suggested taking the \$250,000 in that line item and paring it back to \$100,000.

Ms. Barclay said we could also wait until the visioning process was over and then do a budget amendment. This would give a better feel of what the total cost of the visioning would be moving forward.

Mayor Kilsheimer inquired about the \$50,000 for an amount to be shared with Ocoee and Winter Garden to continue to pursue economic development in the 429 corridor.

Mr. Moon said at this time Winter Garden agreed to take the lead on updating the interlocal agreement between the three cities. This is currently in the process. He stated based upon the economic development strategic plan, the first priority was for the cities to work on their interchange plans. Ocoee and Winter Garden are working on the area by Plant Street and Apopka is with the Ocoee-Apopka Road Small Area Study.

Discussion ensued regarding the update of the Land Development Code and how this ties in with the visioning process.

Mr. Davoll said the Department is stretched thin having picked up additional work this year that was not in their budget. He declared they have twice the amount of work now than they had last year and they have no additional personnel. They did request another planner and an additional multiple code inspector. With all of the development being approved, their inspectors are already doing twice what is normal in the business.

Commissioner Ruth said the update of the Land Development Code was at the top of the list and a priority. He stated he did not have a problem with transferring the \$50,000 for the tri-city over and have that process slow down.

In response to Commissioner Arrowsmith suggesting as items come up that need changed, to make those changes then, Mr. Davoll stated when we start making changes in this manner and you have to advertise each time, it is approximately \$200 each time and they have to amend budgets to cover those additional advertising requirements.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the consensus was to keep the \$100,000 in the budget for upgrade of the Land Development Code, and remove the \$50,000 budgeted for the tri-city, as well as the \$250,000 for the visioning plan.

Discussion was held regarding personnel positions.

Mr. Marsh pointed out the budget shows we have 7 positions in the Building Division and they currently have 6 positions with the discrepancy showing 3 inspectors and they only have 2 on

staff. He stated as far as the public safety argument as offered, public safety is part of these inspections.

Ms. Barclay said these were authorized positions that are not filled.

Mr. Davoll said in years past, these positions have been listed in the budget, but he had been told not to fill them.

Discussion ensued regarding positions within the Community Development Department.

Ms. Barclay said she shows a Project Coordinator as a vacant position under 4020. Also, under the Building Division they show a vacancy for a Multicode Inspector in the current budget.

Mr. Davoll pointed out a position that is funded under Public Services, but this individual has always worked out of Community Development.

Ms. Barclay advised this position was still in the budget.

Mayor Kilsheimer restated the consensus of leaving in the update of the Land Development Code, take out the \$50,000 for the Tri-City Economic Development Plan, and take out the implementation of the visioning plan product.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____/s/_____
Joseph E. Kilsheimer, Mayor

_____/s/_____
Linda F. Goff, CMC, City Clerk