

CITY OF APOPKA

Minutes of a special City Council meeting held on September 28, 2016, at 5:05 p.m., in the City of Apopka Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Mayor Joe Kilsheimer
Commissioner Billie Dean
Commissioner Diane Velazquez
Commissioner Kyle Becker
Commissioner Doug Bankson
Glenn Irby, City Administrator

PRESS PRESENT: Teresa Sargeant - The Apopka Chief
Dale Fenwick, The Apopka Voice

INVOCATION: The invocation as given by Reverend John Fisher of First United Methodist Church.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Mayor Kilsheimer led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the City of Apopka City Council convenes this Public Hearing on the City of Apopka's Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Final Millage rates and Final Budget as required by Florida Statutes, Chapters 129 and 200.

Mayor Kilsheimer said Florida Statutes, Chapter 200 requires that A Final Public Hearing on the budget be preceded by a two to five day notice of that hearing. Florida Statutes, Chapter 129 requires that we advertise a summary of the final budget. He asked the clerk if there was proof of publication that such notices have been given.

City Clerk Goff said pursuant to these requirements, a summary of the final City Budget was provided for public review by means of advertisement in the Orlando Sentinel on Sunday, September 25, 2016.

SET FINAL MILLAGE & BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

1. Resolution No. 2016-29 - Setting the millage levy for the fiscal year 2016-2017 at 3.7876. The City Clerk read the title as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, SETTING THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

Mayor Kilsheimer opened the meeting to a public hearing, inviting citizens to comment on the Fiscal Year 2016-17 millage rate.

Tenita Reid said she was opposed to the proposed tax increase and the process in which it was handled. She referenced an article in The Apopka Chief on July 18, 2016, stating the City's budget called for the tax rates to remain the same as last year's rate. She said the budget workshops started and the public comment was eliminated. She spoke of meetings being cancelled on short notice. She stated the first opportunity for the public to comment was at the first public hearing on September 14, 2016 and she did not feel this was a fair process to the public. She said in listening to the August 23, 2016 budget workshop audio, the end of the meeting was discussing whether to raise the millage rate imposing a higher tax on the residents. She expressed disappointment in the last meeting.

Ray Shackelford said he would like to echo what the previous speaker stated and said the millage rate does not need to be raised due to potential cost savings in the budget. He said after reviewing the budget multiple times, money can be saved in the budget. He asked if this Council was willing to save the taxpayers money. He called on Council to let the millage rate remain at 3.2876.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Kilsheimer closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Becker said there were several speakers at the last meeting that brought specific ideas to the Council. He stated in his research after the meeting he did not see a benefit in some of the suggestions such as privatizing garbage or a cost share venture on the fire station.

MOTION by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez, to adopt Resolution No. 2016-29, establishing Fiscal Year 2016-17 final millage rate at 3.7876 mills, which represents an increase of 22.51% from the rolled back rate of 3.0916 mills.

Commissioner Velazquez said she had an opportunity to go back and listen to the budget meetings. She stated she has heard the word "disappointed" with some criticism which she accepts. She said there were five budget workshops: July 19, July 20, July 26, August 16, and August 23, 2016, that totaled 21 hours and eighteen minutes. She pointed out there were 21 days between the last workshop and the first public TRIM hearing meeting. She felt there was enough time in between to have addressed some clarification any of the Commissioners had regarding the budget and the millage. She said this is why she was surprised on the first vote.

Commissioner Bankson said all of the different points during the meetings that he was in opposition to he did bring up, but they moved forward by consensus and that is how they have to work. Again, at the last meeting, it was his understanding that the excess would go back in the reserves and he did not realize he needed further clarification. He stated hearings

are to provide the citizens the opportunity for input and then make those decisions. He said he did not see this as a closed event.

Commissioner Dean agreed this is public money and citizens should have a say.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the budget as proposed by Administration is the compilation of work that began last February. Department heads submitted budgets and there were millions of dollars cut from the budget of what the department heads said they needed to operate their departments. He pointed out that virtually most of the department heads live in and are members of this community. He said they were not spendthrifts, but come forward with what they need to run this City responsibly. He stated we have growth coming and we need to be ready to set Apopka up for success. He spoke of the wastewater treatment plant, communication tower, and fire station to be built, stating there was nothing in this budget that was unnecessary.

Motion carried by a three/two roll call vote with Mayor Kilsheimer, and Commissioners Velazquez and Becker voting aye, and Commissioners Dean and Bankson voting nay.

Mayor Kilsheimer announced the City of Apopka has determined that a Final millage rate of 3.7876 mills is necessary to fund the final budget. The final millage rate represents a increase of 22.52% from the rolled back rate of 3.0916 mills.

**Recess City Council meeting at 5:27 p.m.
Convene the Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting.
Reconvene the City Council meeting 5:35 p.m.**

2. Resolution No. 2016-30 - Adopt the annual budget for fiscal year 2016-2017
Mayor Kilsheimer said the City Council reconvenes the Public Hearing on the City of Apopka's Fiscal year 2016-17 Final Millage rates and Final Budget as required by Florida Statutes, Chapters 129 and 200. The City Clerk read the title as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-30

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017.

Mayor Kilsheimer said the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 proposed budget for all funds is balanced at \$104,083,516. It is balanced at an operating millage rate of 3.7876, which is 22.51% above

the rolled back rate of 3.0916.

Mayor Kilsheimer opened the meeting to a public hearing.

Tenita Reid said she again has to state it has always been a tradition in Apopka to keep the taxes low and at the same time keep the services high. She said the first class Fire Department, Police, and the general employees all work for the common good of the City. She stated tax payers funds were not wasted, as it would have not been possible to continue on that path of years of steady good services and reserves. She said she takes exception when she hears our City compared to other cities with much higher tax rates like we are getting short changed. She said we were the lucky ones and must guard against unnecessary tax increases. She said the budget should be cut to the truly necessary and not the wish list items. She stated the Commissioners need to ask some serious questions in the future as this year's budget time is over. She said this year's budget is 16.1% higher than last year's operating budget. She stated she understood this year's increase due to the fire department, extra personnel, equipment, and communication tower, but there was still a lot of cushioning in the budget. She suggested renting the amphitheater for events, implement impact fees, and look into a hotel tourist tax.

Ray Shackelford said public safety need to not be used as a reason to raise taxes. He said we all value public safety, but we also must value programs and services related to our families, children, seniors and veterans on fixed incomes. He applauded Commissioners Bankson and Dean for standing up for the interest of people on fixed income. He stated potential cost savings projects would include to freeze general government at the 2015/2016 level and this would save \$700,000. Under the proposed budget salaries in the Mayor's office would increase 16% while some City staff will receive merit increases. He stated tax money should not be spent on a food and wine event. He said to reduce the Old Florida Outdoor Festival by \$250,000 and asked if there would be an RFP issue. He suggested holding the Gospel Fest on Sunday following the Old Florida Outdoor Festival with a promoter and save \$50,000. He suggested reducing the fireworks by \$40,000, and reduce the splash pad by \$250,000. He suggested saving \$70,000 on the Apopka Begins and Ends with "A", freeze the fleet purchases except for public safety which would save \$145,000 for a proposed budget savings of \$1.6 million, and millage rate of 1.2. This is a potential savings of over \$300,000.

Suzanne Kidd gave the dates and timeframe for the Budget Workshops, stating that for 22 hours the Council sat through workshops listening to the department heads plead their case for more staff or better equipment to be able to do the work of running the City. She said they painted a bleak picture of staff slammed with an increased workload of a growing city, striving to salvage aged and outmoded equipment, staff struggling to do more with less. She sat through all of the 22 hours of workshop absorbing staff's needs. She pointed out that the City of Apopka has two officers per 1,000 residents which is a fraction of the three per 1,000 residents that is averaged of cities in the I-4 corridor. She said to raise that to the 2.5 state

average, Chief McKinley would need 20 more officers. Knowing he could not request that many officers at once, he only asked for five. Fire Chief Carnesale advised Council that state law now requires him to assign more firefighters to each station per shift to satisfy the two in and two out rule. He explained Apopka has not added additional firefighters for fifteen years, even with our population increase. This budget responds to this critical need by funding 18 additional firefighters, a fifth fire station, together with the equipment. She suggested two of the Commissioners decided that expanding our protection was too much when they voted no on this budget, as well as objecting to the use of reserves to close the revenue gap created by these dire needs. She declared the \$1.7 coming from reserves will only partially cover the third critical required expense of the communication tower. Paying for capital improvements like this is an accepted use of reserves and does not negatively impact our reserves since nearly \$2 million in unspent budget dollars went back into our reserves during the last two years because of smart money management practices by staff. She said this budget begins to address pressing needs and she urged a unanimous approval of this budget.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Kilsheimer closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Becker said when he moved here, the high marks for police and fire services was one of the reasons he moved here. He stated if we do not move in accordance with our population growth and what residents expect of our services, we will fail. He said it was worth mentioning that our taxes are low, even with the 3.7876 rate.

In response to Commissioner Dean asking about the 16% increase in salaries, Ms. Barclay said looking at the numbers the entire salary is at 6% increase. She explained that Commissioner Arrowsmith's retirement is included in that number.

Commissioner Bankson said it was a gross mischaracterization to say voting against this was voting against fire and police, He stated those were two things that were very paramount for him to push for. He agrees there are things that have been left too long that has to be addressed and cannot be ignored. He said they all worked very hard and kept conversations positive, yet there were some things they disagreed on. He said there were other areas he feels needs to be changed. He declared his concern was with the next few years beyond this and building the reserves.

MOTION by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Velazquez to adopt Resolution No. 2016-30 adopting revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the City's Fiscal Year Budget commencing on October 1, 2016, and ending on September 30, 2017. Motion carried by a four/one roll call vote with Mayor Kilsheimer, and Commissioners Dean, Velazquez and Becker voting aye and Commissioner Bankson voting nay.

Mayor Kilsheimer announced this concludes the Public Hearing on the City of Apopka's Fiscal Year 2015-16 Final Millage rates and Final Budget as required by Florida Statutes, Chapters 129 and 200.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

_____/s/_____
Joseph E. Kilsheimer, Mayor