

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING of the City of St. Augustine Beach, Florida, held on Monday, MAY 18, 2009, in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Charles.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Andrea Samuels, Commissioner Edward George, Commissioner Rich O'Brien, Mayor Frank Charles, Vice Mayor Brud Helhoski.

Also Present: City Manager Max Royle, Police Chief Richard Hedges, City Attorney Doug Burnett, Public Works Director Marc Chattin, Building Official Gary Larson, Finance Director Melissa Burns, Deputy City Clerk Sharon Widdifield.

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGET

Budget Resolutions 09-06, 09-07, 09-08, and 09-09 were approved by unanimous voice vote.

REVIEW OF FY 09 BUDGET

Commissioner Samuels asked about the use of impact fees for City projects, and Mr. Burnett said he had met with the County Attorney and County engineer regarding use of transportation impact fees. According to Mr. Burnett, Florida law allows use of the fees for infrastructure improvements designed to expand roadway capacity. Taking people off the roadway by building a sidewalk, he said, the City would increase road capacity.

DISCUSSION OF MATTERS PERTAINING TO FY 2010 BUDGET

Mayor Charles commented that the current millage is 1.8011 and that an additional half a mill had been approved by voters for acquisition of the Maratea property.

Commissioner Samuels was concerned about the millage rate and the need for a fee for services. She questioned the Maratea purchase and noted that grant money is unlikely to be available for any land purchases.

Mayor Charles recommended getting RFPs from outside companies for garbage collection in order to compare prices.

Vice Mayor Helhoski said the City needs pricing based on the current level of service. He noted that after storms, the City is cleaned up well before other areas.

Mayor Charles asked if the collection fee could start at a lower figure and increase yearly until the program sustains itself. Mr. Chattin said the City needs a user fee whatever the amount.

Mr. Chattin commented that an outside company would probably buy the City's equipment and that once that is done, the City would be out of the garbage business for good. County customers, he said, pay

\$18.50 a month for service, and he doubted the charge would be less for the City.

Mayor Charles asked if the landscaping contract with DOT is profitable.

Mr. Chattin said it probably pays for itself now. The new landscaping planned by DOT will be less intense, he said, so the City should break even. He felt it is not time to get out of the contract.

Mayor Charles noted possible cuts to the Building and Police Departments and said input was needed from citizens regarding these changes. He noted suggestions for fewer patrol cars and more bikes.

Commissioner Samuels asked if the City is required to have a Building Department, and Mr. Royle said qualified people must handle building inspections and permit, but that might be contracted out.

Mayor Charles commented that personnel could be brought back if the economy improves.

Mr. Burnett reported that the County is considering changing the interlocal agreement with the City for local option gas tax. Under a new method of rounding figures to determine the share of revenue for each city, he said, the City would lose \$27,000 at the 2009 revenue rates. Mr. Burnett said the City must decide whether to amend the existing interlocal agreement, which has four years left to run. He expected a proposal from the County in a few weeks.

There was no interest in amending the interlocal agreement at this time.

Mr. Royle noted that the solid waste fee would have a public hearing at the June 1st meeting. The first budget meeting, he said, is usually the last Monday in July.

Mr. Chattin asked that if impact fees are used to complete the 2nd Avenue project, it be done in two phases. He stated that after using impact fees and funds from the hotel developer, \$500,000 should be left over. The original plan, he said was to spend money on other drainage projects, and he asked to get proposals from the engineer to design these projects and be ready to start when the 2nd Avenue project is done.

Steve Mitherz, 17 Sea Oaks Dr., asked to consider other uses for the money than drainage.

Patricia Gill, 218 B St., commented that the \$25 monthly fee for garbage would double her taxes. She asked to cut the bottom line of the budget, and if economic recovery occurs, projects can be put back in the budget. She also suggested making the City more efficient.

Robin Nadeau, 26 Mickler Blvd., suggested saving water by not putting grass on medians and other public property but using ground cover that does not need mowing.

Mayor Charles noted that DOT has specific rules regarding plantings on the medians, and Mr. Chattin added that a contract for the landscaping has already been awarded.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Mayor - Commissioner

ATTEST:


