

City Commission Budget Public Hearing (Tuesday, September 13, 2022)

Generated by Amanda Brown on Tuesday, September 13, 2022

A. MEETING OPENER

Procedural: 1. Call To Order - Roll Call

- Meeting called to order by Mayor Schenck at 6:00 PM
- Present Stegall, Hendrix, Sirmones, Redman, Schenck, Walker
- Absent: Maines

Action: 4. Approval of The Agenda Format

- **Motion to approve the agenda format was made by Vice Mayor Redman and seconded by Commissioner Stegall.**
- **Unanimous Approval**

B. TRIM Public Hearing

Discussion: 1. 2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget Millage Rate

- Mr. Walker presented the proposed millage rate of 2.75 mills as advertised in the Gainesville Sun. The roll back rate would be 2.5235. The difference would mean a reduction of income of approximately \$13,000.
- This is the first public hearing for millage.

Action: 2. Public Hearing for Millage

- Public Comments opened.
 - Mr. Huggins of 640 SE 4th Street, Lake Butler, Florida, mentioned that as a customer of the city, he would like the savings of the roll back rate but understanding that this would cause a loss of income for city projects made the 2.75 sound reasonable.
 - **Motion to close the public hearing on millage rates was made by Vice Mayor Redman and seconded by Commissioner Stegall.**
 - **Unanimous Approval**

C. Annual Budget Public Hearing

Information: 1. 2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget

- Mr. Walker presented the 2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget. This is a five-year budget with a Capital Improvement Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. There are seven funds covered in the budget, which is the largest in the City's history.
- General
 - The major concerns are unfunded mandates from the state such as the minimum wage increase.
 - Expenditures
 - \$1.5 million in Public Works and parks make up the majority of the costs.
- Water
 - This fund is operated as a business. The major focus is the replacement of the water tank.
 - There are \$1.4 million in expenses.
 - The City has acquired several grants for water meters in 2021 and funding for the replacement of the water tank in 2023.
- Wastewater
 - The city is working with engineers to replace the wastewater treatment plant, which will be more efficient and run on solar power.
 - Some of the current lift stations will be replaced with grant funds awarded by the Governor's office.
 - There is \$7.9 million in revenue with \$7 million from grants.
- Solid Waste
 - The City contracts with GFL for this service.
- Industrial Park Fund
 - There is a meeting scheduled with CHW to help determine the track of this fund along with engineers.
- Street Fund
 - For the repair of sidewalks and for available grants.
- Downtown Redev Fund:
 - The CRA is designed to keep all funds.
 - Expenditures: facade improvements for downtown, restriping the loop, and downtown revitalization.
- Five-year capital improvement plan covers 2023 -2027.
- All policies are included in the budget which can be found in full on the city website.

Action: 2. Public Hearing for Annual Operating Budget

- Public comments opened.
- Public Hearing open for comments.

- Mr. Huggins asked how the downtown redevelopment money is distributed. He was also concerned about lower-level workers making and wanted to be sure they are brought up to the \$15 required minimum wage on time.
- Mr. Walker explained how the grants are given out for downtown revitalization projects. He also addressed the gradual raising of wages across several years and how everyone's pay goes up together to avoid wage compression.
- **Motion to close the public hearing for the annual operating budget was made by Vice Mayor Redman and seconded by Commissioner Hendrix.**
- **Unanimous Approval.**

Action: 3. First Reading Ordinance Number 2022-02: Annual Operating Budget

- **Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2022-02 by title only was made by Commissioner Stegall.**
- Ordinance read by Mayor Schenck.
- **Motion seconded by Vice Mayor Redman**
- **Unanimous Approval**

D. COMMENTS OR REMARKS BY COMMISSION

- Schenck: Presented a certificate from the Spirit of Union County Marching Band acknowledging the Commission's support this year.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Action: 1. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hendrix and seconded by Vice Mayor Redman.**
- **Unanimous Approval**
- Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.