



City of Margate

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Meeting Minutes

City Commission Budget Hearing

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Vice Mayor Joyce W. Bryan

Commissioners:

Lesa Peerman, Joanne Simone, Frank B. Talerico

City Manager Douglas E. Smith

City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

5:15 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Commissioner Frank B. Talerico, Vice Mayor Joyce W. Bryan and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

In Attendance:

City Manager Douglas E. Smith

City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

1) PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A.** [ID 2016-461](#) PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE.

MAYOR RUZZANO opened the Public Hearing.

REBECCA CASE, Margate Chamber of Commerce, read aloud a letter she wrote requesting consideration to be included in the 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget to support needs of business community by purchasing a sponsorship in the amount of \$10,000 to be directed to be generated to the Chamber of Commerce General Operating Fund. She explained that the sponsorship would allow the Chamber to fund the administrative activities that support the Chamber's overall mission, while continuing to support the local and regional tourism efforts. She said it would also increase economic development by sponsoring networking events and opportunities; providing and upgrading the digital marketing packages to the membership; developing a business and resident relocation guide available through the website to compliment the current tourism efforts; and executing various local projects in alignment with the City and the Chamber's mission. Ms. Case noted that the City's logo would be included on all the brochures, website page and trustee page listed as a corporate sponsor. She added that sponsorship recognition would be included in all email blasts and broadcast messages, as well as banner advertisement for 12 months. She said that a Breakfast Sponsorship would be included for the general meeting with Gold Level Sponsorship for the 2017 Golf Tournament with two foursome's included and Gold Level Sponsorship recognition for all Chamber sponsored events. She explained that the sponsorship also included membership for any

Parks and Recreation Program or any City entity, such as Calypso Cove and Veteran's Park, to be included as a general business member. She stated that the Chamber would continue to partner with the City in all the traditional ways they had for the past 10 years. Ms. Case explained that last year's total donation and sponsorship from the City included a Breakfast Sponsorship for \$500, the Golf Tournament foursome for \$400, and two tickets to the Small Business Person of the Year Luncheon for \$100. She noted that Lauderdale by the Sea Chamber received \$33,000 from their City, Dania Beach Chamber received \$30,000, Hallandale Beach Chamber received \$50,000, Miramar and Pembroke Pines Chambers received \$8,000 each, and one Chamber that wished to remain nameless received \$15,000.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE stated that she was not ready to vote on this tonight. She noted that the City gave \$1,000 last year and the Chamber was now asking for \$9,000 more.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked what the CRA gave as a contribution.

MS. CASE said that they received the rent and a Budget line for \$5,000 for Chamber sponsored events. She clarified that in order to utilize the \$5,000 the Chamber had to meet the specifications for funding from the CRA; therefore, the Chamber never actually received the \$5,000 this year. She stated that the Budget was still closing with \$2,250 that was not used.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked where the money would come from.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH said that the money could come from the Unrestricted Fund balance when making other potential adjustments in the Budget. He explained that there would be a Budget ad going in next week, which could include any changes made tonight; however, he was uncertain as to what level of changes could be made during the second reading.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE MARY BEAZLEY stated that there would be a 2017 Budget Amendment in November, which could involve any cleanup changes.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO questioned whether November would be enough time for Commissioner Simone to review.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE agreed with waiting until November.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bryan to add the \$10,000 to the Budget, which failed for lack of a second.

TODD ANGIER, 1913 NW 79th Terrace, mentioned prior discussions regarding 16 Police vehicles requested by the Public Works Director Sam May. He said that the reason for the 16 vehicles was to bring the maintenance down to an average age of 5 years per vehicle. He also noted that the original request was for 21 vehicles. He explained that at the August 4th Planning and Zoning Board meeting there was a proposal from the Parks and Recreation Director Mike Jones regarding two grants for two different parks in the City. He stated that there was a possibility of \$250,000 per grant maximum. He suggested that the other 5 Police vehicles be added back into the Budget if the grants were received, because there would then be extra money in the Budget. Mr. Angier mentioned the reading program for \$10,000 previously discussed at a meeting. He noted that at least \$7,000 to \$7,500 was going towards books and reading supplies, and he

questioned why the school did not have the books and reading materials already available. He also questioned why the program would have to be advertised for \$1,100 to \$1,500 if the school already knew who was falling behind and needed help. He stated that he was in favor of the program; however, he felt that money would be spent that did not need to be spent.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MIKE JONES explained that based on the successful award of the grant document, the General Fund obligation for the projects could be reduced. He said that what was asked for in the grant was to add more amenities and more improvements to the budgeted projects. He said that there would be more park improvements and not necessarily a reduction in the overall General Fund. He noted that it depended on what was awarded and how it was awarded, which would not be known until December. He noted that there was a potential to reduce some of the expenditures in the General Fund that were put aside for improvements, but more improvements were being looked at through the grant. He clarified that it was not necessarily a guarantee on savings, but more of a way of improving the parks with greater quantity or quality. He added that it would also depend on the construction costs.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that regarding the Reading Pals Program, she was going by what was stipulated. She noted that a lot of times the parents needed to be reminded to get engaged. She said that there were books in the schools; however, these books were provided based on the curriculum.

MR. ANGIER felt that the program was great; however, he felt that questions needed to be asked, such as was the City spending \$6,000 on materials that were already in the school. He said that the \$10,000 for 20 to 30 children was approximately \$350 to \$500 per child. He said it would be better to benefit more children with the same amount of money.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that she could have the coordinator for the Reading Pals Program attend a meeting to explain.

MAYOR RUZZANO mentioned the Police vehicles and thanked Mr. Angier for being proactive. He felt that the Chamber of Commerce needed a boost because there was a lot of new building coming into the City.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Ruzzano to put a line item in the Budget for the Chamber of Commerce for \$10,000.

MR. ANGIER felt that it worth investing in the 5 additional Police vehicles because there would be a savings on a younger fleet with both maintenance costs and in gas mileage.

MAYOR RUZZANO agreed with Mr. Angier.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE agreed with some things Mr. Angier said about the Reading Pals Program. She said that she wanted more information, because when she was a Teacher there were listeners that went to school and pulled out the students that were having trouble, struggling or just needed to talk to somebody. She stated that a lot of the times the listeners would read books to the students. She felt that the schools should get volunteers in to read to the students. She did not understand why it had to be a certain book, because the child was going to take the book home, which would not help another child that wanted the same book.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that the City could not regulate what the child would do with the book. She stated that all that could be done was to expose the child to the book, hope they read it and as the parents to work with the children.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she felt it was great, but more information was needed to make an educated decision.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that she would have the representative for the program come to the City.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the program was proven to work. She said that it was hard for schools to get volunteers to do anything, just as it was hard for the City to get volunteers. She agreed with the \$10,000 and did not care if the child took the book home.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE noted that she personally volunteered at every school; however, she had not yet received a phone call asking her to come in to read to the children.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the schools might not have the capability to have volunteers give a Reading Program on their own; however, this program would get the volunteers and materials.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that the Teachers were the most underpaid people in the State. He noted that when school started he had to purchase paper, pencils, markers, etc. in the amount of \$300. He felt that the Reading Pals was a good program; however, the problem was with funding from the School Board. He stated that until that was fixed, the City needed to concentrate on whatever it could to help the schools and residents.

The motion made by Mayor Ruzzano was seconded by Vice Mayor Bryan.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that out of respect for Commissioner Simone, he would be willing to wait until November.

MAYOR RUZZANO suggested working with the Chamber on a positive vibe, rather than waiting until November.

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES clarified that if something was approved there was a possibility and likelihood that the entity would be given a line item. He stated that it would be harder to pull it off than it would be to grant it later because of a reliance issue. He explained that if telling the Chamber they were going to receive \$10,000, and in November a decision was made to pull it back, the Chamber might not be able to give it back because they had already committed or spent the money.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she wanted to see what the City was getting and wanted to wait until November.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 3 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman and Commissioner Talerico

ARLENE SCHWARTZ, 7800 NW 1st Street, suggested having the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM next time to allow more people to be home from work and able to come and participate. She referred to Page 16 Goal C of Economic Development and felt that number 4 and 5 were repeated. She stated that since the City was chartered in 1955, there were probably 57 years of Budgets produced; however, with the exception of the last three or four, salaries and positions were always posted so residents were aware of what employees made. She stated that it was public information, and was always available to the public. She made a Public Records request for a copy of the positions and salaries. She felt that for transparency, it should be included; therefore, she requested that it be returned to the Budget book. She asked what the definition of longevity pay was.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that longevity ended; however, it was in the Budget for the people who were already in it.

MS. SCHWARTZ explained that when she was first elected in 1991, it was decided to roll the money into salary during negotiations with Fire, Police and whoever else had it. She said that it would have a pension and Social Security paid on it and the City would never have the appearance of people getting paid by showing up to get paid. She stated that the amount was about \$500,000 or more; therefore, she felt it had to be newer.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that longevity pay was in the Budget books in 2003, and even the Commission was put on by Commissioner Bross.

MS. SCHWARTZ said that it had to be after 2004, because it had not applied to her.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that in 2010, the longevity pay was eliminated for everybody. She clarified that what was being seen was for people retiring.

MS. SCHWARTZ stated that she loved the City, but questioned where the 18 World Class parks and recreation facilities were that were indicated on Page 9. She mentioned Calypso Cove, Firefighters Park and the Sports Complex and asked where the other parks were. She mentioned Serino Park and Southeast Park, but did not notice that money was budgeted in to make them World Class parks. She suggested toning that amount down.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the City had a Parks Master Plan with money put into the parks. She mentioned Kaye Stevens Park and Coral Gate Park that were upgraded. She noted that there were more upgrades planned.

MITCH PELLECCCHIA, 6890 NW 9th Street, asked if any money was moving from the City Budget to the CRA Budget for payroll.

CITY MANAGER SMITH replied that there were some positions that were sharing costs and there was a cost allocation from the CRA to the City. He stated that the funds for the CRA that needed to be distributed to them came through the City, because it came into the millage and was then transferred to the CRA as TIFF money.

MR. PELLECCCHIA asked whether anything in the Budget accounted for a Yes vote in November regarding the Penny Tax.

CITY MANAGER SMITH replied no. He explained that the funds were budgeted for the first year of the Capital Plan and the future years would be determined as the City approaches each of those years. He said that projects needed to be addressed and if the infrastructure money was there, it would be a source as well.

MR. PELLECCCHIA asked what the percentage of increases was for non-bargained employees in the Budget pertaining to salaries and wages, and whether a percentage was being predicted.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that it would be budgeted for 3 percent, but must be approved by the City Commission.

MR. PELLECCCHIA asked what percentage was accounted for in the Budget for raises for Department Heads

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that it was the same 3 percent, to be approved by the Commission.

MR. PELLECCCHIA noted that Police, Fire and payroll was a large portion of the Budget. He said that a 5.91 percent increase in salaries and wages was indicated for Police with no additional Staff added. He noted that the Deputy Police Chief position had been dropped and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) closed on a 3 percent pay raise. He questioned the 5.91 percent that went from \$10,207,045 to \$10,810,303. He also questioned the Florida Retirement System (FRS) went up 10.39 percent for Police from \$2,156,000 to \$2,379,995. He added that Fire had a 4.49 percent increase in salaries and wages when no personnel were added and negotiations with the International Association of Firefighters were not finished yet. He stated that there were three labor unions in the City but negotiations would not be done by the time the Budget was passed. He said that retroactive pay must be a nightmare for the Finance Department. He added that the FRS contribution for employee contributions went up 5.11 percent. He asked whether the City was picking up more for the employee contributions to the FRS and whether it was a benefit being offered to the employees now.

CITY MANAGER SMITH agreed that the FRS rate increased. He stated that the salaries included step increases. He noted that with regard to the CRA, there was money in the Economic Development Budget for building rent that would also go to the CRA. He did not know if any money was transferred out of the salary line item in the Police and Fire departments, because the number indicated was the amended Budget figure.

2) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2016-460](#) APPROVING THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE FISCAL YEAR 2016/2017 IN THE AMOUNT OF 7.3093 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUATION (WHICH INCLUDES .6039 FOR VOTED DEBT SERVICE); THAT THE OPERATING MILLAGE RATE OF 6.7054 IS 13.47% HIGHER THAN THE ROLL-BACK RATE OF 5.9092.

RESOLUTION 16-273

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES stated that pursuant to State Law, the City of Margate hereby publicly announces that the recommended operating millage rate of 6.7054 is 13.47 percent higher than the rollback rate of 5.9092. He said that Item 2A is a resolution of the City of Margate, Florida, approving the proposed millage rate for the City of Margate Fiscal Year 2016/2017 in the amount of 7.3093 mills per thousand dollars of

assessed valuation, which includes .6039 per voted debt service and that the operating millage rate of 6.7054 is 13.47 percent higher than the rollback rate of 5.9092.

A motion was made by Commissioner Talerico, seconded by Mayor Simone, that this Resolution be approved.

COMMISSIONER SINONE said that lowering the millage rate a .25 percent did not pass, which would have been putting back money into the taxpayer's pockets. She stated that it would not have impacted City services or amenities. She noted that a large amount was given away in Fire Assessment fees and \$316,000 was given to a for-profit organization. She said that the City had every right to change that based on service calls, but did not. She stated that the City could have collected money by changing the for-profit organization to the institutional fee based on fair and reasonable methodology. She did not understand how the City was giving money away all of the time. She felt that the taxpayers were paying double for their Fire Assessment fees. She stated that there was \$48,765 going to pay for Commissioners and their family health insurance coverage. She noted that since 2012, she requested that the City look into the health insurance formula; however, nothing was done. She further explained that though the millage rate from last year was not being raised, home values had increased; therefore, people would be paying more for their taxes. Commissioner Simone mentioned the \$1 million dollars received back from the Resource Recovery Board (RRB). She noted that the Chamber of Commerce now wanted \$10,000 to add to their Budget. She said that the City might benefit tremendously from the Penny Tax if passed. She stated that everyone wanted to be charitable and not say no; however, the City could not continue to give things away. She said that the City could not continue to give to everybody and not lower the millage rate for the residents.

An amendment was made by Mayor Simone, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, to lower the millage rate by .33 percent.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she was disturbed with a letter in the MargateNews.net and asked whether it would take the Fire trucks longer to get to the resident's house during a fire, if the millage rate was lowered.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that the Acting Fire Chief could not and should not have to answer that question.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether a Fire truck was put on the proposed Budget.

ACTING FIRE CHIEF RICK DONAHUE said that he did not believe so.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH explained that there was a Fire truck to be purchased through borrowing that did not require any funds to be budgeted in this particular Budget as the first payment would happen in the next Budget year.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that lowering the millage rate did not take away the Fire truck.

ACTING CHIEF DONAHUE said that there was no difference to the number of Fire trucks the Fire Department had. He added that the locations of the Fire trucks were not

changing.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN reiterated that lowering the millage rate was not going to make the Fire trucks take longer to get to the residents.

ACTING CHIEF DONAHUE replied that the response time for a Fire truck to get to a call depended on a lot more than the millage rate.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN said that there were too many variables involved.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether people wanted the first responder to get to an emergency quickly with the right equipment.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that if lowering the millage rate or taking money from the General Fund by three points, the money would have to come from somewhere and something would need to be cut.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that nothing was cut when trying to lower the millage rate. She stated that no services were cut and even the RRB Project Fund was used to get money because of being \$4,000 short.

MAYOR RUZZANO reiterated that the money must be taken from somewhere.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN continued by explaining that the RRB money should go back to the residents, and the only way to do that was to use the money rather than leaving it in the General Fund. She felt that the way to give the money back was to lower the millage rate.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN asked how much would actually be given back.

CITY MANAGER SMITH noted that 1/3 was equivalent to \$850,000.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether that would not affect the Budget at all.

CITY MANAGER SMITH explained that it depended on what strategy was taken regarding the replacement source of the funds or a reduction instead.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that if it was not affecting any funds, he would rather leave the million dollars for the Resident Fund; therefore, he questioned where the \$850,000 would come from.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that it would come from either Budget reduction or from the unrestricted fund balance or another fund balance accounts. He stated that it had to come from somewhere.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked why it was not being taken from the RRB.

An amendment was made by Commissioner Peerman, to lower the millage rate by .33 percent and to take the money from the \$1 million dollar Resource Recovery Board litigation award.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that no matter what happened with past Budgets, the services never suffered. He noted that the Police and Fire would be there because their

job was to serve residents and they were behind their jobs. He asked what the average per household would be if dropping the millage rate.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that it was \$18 for the lowest house.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he did not agree with taking the money from the RRB funds to lower the millage rate because lowering the millage should not be from money the residents received. He did not understand why it was not just being taken from the General Fund.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the residents paid through their garbage bill during the lifetime of the RRB.

MAYOR RUZZANO said it was wrong to say the Commission was cutting the millage rate when they were using the RRB money.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that she had tried to lower the millage rate by .25 percent, which was fiscally responsible; however, the Commission voted against it. She reiterated that lowering the millage rate was the only way to give the money back.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO felt it did not matter where the money came from, but he asked what the economic impact would be over the next year in the Budget.

CITY MANAGER SMITH noted Commissioner Talerico wanted to know how the .33 percent reduction in millage would affect the individual homeowner. He stated that based on the average value home of approximately \$129,700 with the \$50,000 Homestead Exemption would calculate to about \$26.29 per household. He said that the financial impact was \$850,000, which would be potentially funded from whatever source the Commission determined or combined with some kind of reduction. He recommended that if using the RRB funds this year, it only be for this year and that Staff would be able to re-evaluate the millage rate next year. He did not want it to be made a permanent reduction from the RRB.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that Margate was still one of the highest millage rates in Broward County with one of the highest Fire Assessment fees. She said that homeowners were paying for the Fire service both in their millage rate and with the Fire Assessment fee.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO mentioned one of the biggest impacts discussed every year was the increase in health insurance. He stated that next year when health insurance was increased, the City might have to come up with additional funding, but would then have a shortfall. He said that he worried about the future. He felt that the millage rate should be left alone.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE reiterated that the City needed to stop giving money away and she wanted to lower the millage rate.

The amendment made by Commissioner Peerman was seconded by Commissioner Talerico.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO questioned what the .25 percent was going to cost.

CITY MANAGER SMITH stated that it was approximately an \$18 value for the homeowner

and about \$660,000.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN withdrew her second for the amendment made by Commissioner Simone for .33 percent. She also withdrew having the money taken from the Resource Recovery Board (RRB).

An amendment was made by Commissioner Talerico, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, to reduce the millage rate by 25 percent.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN mentioned the Dog Park that the Commission was willing to put money into; therefore, she did not understand the concept of giving money away involving people.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that since elected in 2011, she had attempted to lower the millage rate every year. She said that she would continue until the Fire Assessment and the millage rate balanced out. She noted that the RRB money was for the residents and should be used to give back to the residents by lowering the millage rate.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that if contemplating more than a one year decrease he recommended not going in that direction, though it was the Commission's decision. He noted that moving forward in the future, whether with a reduction or not, the City would have to look into increasing fees of some nature, which would be either the millage rate or the Fire Assessment.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that cutting the millage rate would hurt the City in the future. He said that the City needed to be gentle with Fire, Police and public safety. He said that it was not a good idea to give the RRB money back to the residents with the millage rate, when there was much else that it could be spent on. He noted that he was against the reduction of the millage rate.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that nobody knows what would happen in the future, and the City could be looking at a lot of money with regard to the Penny Tax. She mentioned upcoming developments bringing more money into the City, such as the apartments and the Downtown area, which would add money to the Budget.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO felt that the best way to impact every household in the City was to lower the millage rate.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the City was never going to want the Commission to lower the millage rate, but it was the Commission's job to do so, as well as having the City held accountable for the money by having the City figure out how to cut things without cutting services.

MITCH PELLECCIA, 6890 NW 9th Street, felt that the City could keep the \$18. He noted that non-bargained for employees were receiving a 3 percent increase in salaries this year. He said that the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) agreed to a 3 percent increase as well. He stated that those increases were beyond what people with fixed incomes would be receiving. He noted that Police wages had a 5.9 percent increase with 4.49 percent for Fire. He said that if those figures were reduced to 3 percent, the City might have the extra money it needed. He noted that in May the Commission agreed to build a

Dog Park for \$400,000, but three months later, it was now \$1 million dollars. He stated that he did not want Police or Fire services cut, but lowering the millage rate was not significant for him as a resident. He suggested fixing the parks, which would be significant for the residents. He also suggesting lowering the water or garbage rates to help the residents.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO left the meeting at 6:46PM.

ANTHONY CAGGIANO, 7856 NW 1st Street, said that he agreed with the City Manager that if decreasing the millage and maintaining the services, the money would run out. He also said he agreed with Commissioner Peerman that when the housing rates were high, the City took in a lot of money and there was money to maintain the services. He believed in saving money for a rainy day. He noted that the County reduced its rates. He agreed with the City Manager that this could be a problem in the future.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO rejoined the meeting at 6:48PM.

CITY MANAGER SMITH agreed he could not predict the future and that there could be a need for increases down the road.

The amendment carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman and Commissioner Talerico

No: 2 - Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

- B.** [ID 2016-457](#) ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE 2016/2017 FISCAL YEAR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO OPERATE ON SAID TENTATIVE BUDGET AS AMENDED PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE UNTIL ADOPTION OF THE FINAL BUDGET FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR.

RESOLUTION 16-275

A motion was made by Commissioner Talerico, seconded by Mayor Simone, that this Resolution be made.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE mentioned \$10,000 for the Reading Pals. She questioned why the City was giving Child Services \$7,500 when the City was paying Family Central on the Ad Valorem tax, which she felt was double dipping. She said that the money being given to Child Services should be given to the Reading Pals. She noted that last year she paid \$35.79 on her Ad Valorem tax, which went up every year and was \$36.21 this year. She noted that Certificate Frames cost \$4,000, which was nice but there was nothing wrong with putting the certificates in a nice sleeve. She felt that the frame did not make the reward. She stated that in 2015/2016, 300 frames were purchased at \$12.80 per frame. She mentioned health insurance for Commissioners at the cost of \$48,765, which the residents should not be paying for.

A motion was made by Mayor Simone, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, to eliminate the certificate frames. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Peerman and Commissioner Simone

No: 3 - Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

A motion was made by Mayor Simone to eliminate the \$7,500 for Child Services.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH explained that the \$7,500 used to be the Family Central money, which was now the Broward Regional Health Planning Council. He stated that the Children Services Council provided funding to one program that the Broward Regional Health Planning Council funded, but the Broward Regional Health Planning Council would not show up on the specific tax bill and Children Services would be on the tax bill. He noted that the Children Services funded one program for the Broward Regional Health Planning Council. He clarified that this donation was for the Broward Regional Health Planning Council.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether this was something the City had to do.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that he thought it was \$1,000 a year.

CITY MANAGER SMITH explained that this was a line item in the Budget, versus the general contribution amount. He noted that he did not have the request letter in front of him.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO felt that the money could not be taken away from them now because it was already been counted on.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that he had not provided any assurance to the organization that it was funded.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that there was no indication given that it would be taken away from them. He agreed with taking it away next year, but not now.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE pointed out that for years the City was paying double by paying it in the Ad Valorem for Children Services. She said that she had no problem cutting it this year because they had made more than they should have.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN noted that they were down to a skeleton staff, because Broward North Hospital District took them over. She felt that they should be present to defend them and she suggested tabling this.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether a request for an increase was received because it was \$5,000 last year and was now \$7,500.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that would have been on their request letter, which he did not currently have.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Talerico, to change the amount to \$5,000 for this year and obtain more information.

MITCH PELLECCIA, 6890 NW 9th Street, said that if the people wanted the money

they should be present tonight asking for the money. He felt that they might not even be aware they were on the Agenda tonight. He stated that a lot of the services were redundant in the County. She noted that Child Services Council was a taxing district and the children were being taken care of in the taxing bill. He said that Child Services Council was a huge umbrella covering a lot of people and organizations. He stated that this was the first Budget Hearing; therefore, nothing was promised to anybody yet. He noted that there were parents, schools, libraries, volunteers, health insurance and many non-profit organizations taking care of children in the County.

The amendment carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 2 - Commissioner Peerman and Commissioner Simone

COMMISSIONER SIMONE mentioned the Area-wide Agency on Aging for \$40,000.

CITY MANAGER SMITH explained that a certain contribution share was requested of different Cities. He believed this was money that came back to the Senior Center.

KELLY SCHWARTZ, Assistant Finance Director, explained that every year the Area-Wide Council on Aging asked the Cities in Broward County to contribute. She noted that all of the Federal Grants received required a 10 percent match. She noted that the Area-Wide Agency had decided to not put it on the small non-profit organizations to try to raise \$20,000 to \$40,000 on their own because they would have trouble; therefore, the Agency asked all Cities to contribute. She noted that there was a long standing arrangement with Area-wide Agency on Aging that Northwest Focal Point Senior Center (NWFPS) would receive 100 percent of the donation back. She said that if their Federal Contract this year was \$232,000, the 10 percent match would be \$23,000, but the \$40,000 would be given back. She added that that match also went towards Broward Meals on Wheels, Broward Legal Aid and all of the other senior services provided in the City.

A motion was made by Mayor Simone, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, for the City not to pay health insurance for Commissioners. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Peerman and Commissioner Simone

No: 3 - Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that this was the best City Budget since 2011, though she still had issues regarding salaries being broken down.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN complimented Staff for the great looking document.

CITY MANAGER SMITH clarified that the funding of the .25 percent rate reduction to the millage rate was from the Resource Recovery Board (RRB). He asked the potential source for funds to replace the money in the amount of \$650,000, and whether it would be from the Unrestricted Fund Balance or the RRB.

MAYOR RUZZANO recommended that it come from the Unrestricted Fund Balance,

because the RRB should go back to the people.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO felt that it did not matter where the money came from.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that it should be given back to the residents in a different way.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that giving it back with a park would not benefit everybody, but giving a millage rate reduction benefited everyone. She also believed that the City should find the money without cutting services. She noted that she previously found all but \$12,000 at the last Budget meeting.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO noted that all of the money in the Budget was the citizen's money.

CONSENSUS was taken to use the Unrestricted Fund Balance and all agreed 5-0.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE mentioned the Winfield Boulevard Pedestrian Bridge and noted that it was going to be mentioned to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to tie it into the schools and the Greenway. She said that the City would have to wait five years; however, she felt that the MPO would cover the bridge for \$150,000.

CITY MANAGER SMITH explained that the project was part of the Grant for Firefighter's Park; therefore, he suggested seeing how that grant came back. He noted that the project could still be amended to include it or not include it when doing the Budget Amendment.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO suggested reconvening the meeting following having the young girl waiting in the lobby lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the Regular Commission meeting.

THE MEETING RECONVENED FOLLOWING A 10 MINUTE RECESS.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the travel was going to be put on the City Attorney's Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that if the City Attorney had additional funds he did not need, it could be updated in the November amendment for anything additional needed.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN left the meeting at 7:37PM and returned at 7:38PM.

CITY MANAGER SMITH mentioned some items previously discussed as potential items for the Commission's consideration for Budget revisions:

- Potential addition to the Commission Budget for the contribution to the Reading Pals Program in the amount of \$10,000 with the potential funding source being the Unrestricted Fund Balance*
- New program for contribution for Defibrillator Matching Program for \$4,000 with potential funding source being Unrestricted Fund Balance*
- Police Department additional overtime for Firework Rule Enforcement for \$4,000 with potential funding source being Unrestricted Fund Balance*
- Building Department two positions being requested; Plans Examiner Inspector in the Electrical Discipline for \$105,420 salary and benefits; additional office Specialist position for \$55,230 with funding for both being the Building Department Reserve Fund, which was restricted for Building type uses*

CITY MANAGER SMITH noted that any of the items could be taken up at a later time with a Budget Amendment.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked how much was being allocated for additional outsourcing of services.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that there was money already in the Budget line item in the Building area that was for additional support. He added that there were also some contracts from a neighboring City for some of the private services, which were still being reviewed to bring back to the Commission to consider for additional support services.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked about the independent contractors.

CITY MANAGER SMITH explained that the contracts from the neighboring Cities were for the independent contractors. He said that in the Building Department were Professional Services on page 101 for \$133,450, which was the current source being used for County assistance. He noted that could also be used as a service provider.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned receiving complaint phone calls and asked whether there were enough Inspectors in the Building Department.

CITY MANAGER SMITH said that there were a couple of positions needing to be filled now in the structural area.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MARY LANGLEY explained that as soon as the Building Department was able to fill the openings it would be fine. She stated that inspections were being performed and that the Building Department was mandated by the Florida Building Code to perform them. She noted that the areas that were a little behind were in plan review. She explained that the County personnel could be drawn from to perform plan review.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO said that it was hard to get Inspectors because of competition with the private sector.

DIRECTOR LANGLEY agreed that the private sector offered more money. She hoped that hiring at a rate other than entry level positions would help with applicants.

VICE MAYOR BRYAN asked whether the County was on time when the City asked for assistance.

DIRECTOR LANGLEY said that the County was in the department every day. She noted that there was a full time Structural Plans Examiner and a full time Structural Inspector.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that as a contractor, he noted that contractors did not like having a new face coming to the job, but were happy when the local Building Official came to the job. He said that he was a fan of hiring people in the City. He noted that he spoke with the Building Official in Coral Springs, who informed him that when hiring firms, there were hidden costs. He felt that the City needed to be proactive because of the upcoming building. He mentioned speaking to the contractor at Miami Subs, who told him he was waiting for his Building permit for over a month now, because there was a problem with the HVAC, which was in plan review.

DIRECTOR LANGLEY said that the project was ongoing for over a year now, but she

would look into it.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that previously Public Works Director Sam May wanted 16 additional Police vehicles. He noted that the request was originally for 21 vehicles with a cost of \$175,000 for the additional 5 vehicles. He felt that the additional 5 should be purchased rather than maintaining the vehicles currently on the road.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Bryan, to purchase the additional five Police vehicles from the Vehicle Replacement Fund Balance. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Bryan, to approve the five additions to the 2017 proposed draft Budget. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

A motion was made by Commissioner Talerico, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, that Item 2B be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

3) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

A. [ID 2016-463](#) ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2016, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017; PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND INTERNAL SERVICE FUND; PROVIDING FOR A MILLAGE RATE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Talerico, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, that this Ordinance - 1st Reading be approved.

RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, commented on the Budget.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Talerico, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: 11/17/16