



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order on the above date by Mayor Bill Ganz at 7:02 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers, City Hall, Deerfield Beach.

Present:

Commissioner Todd Drosky
Commissioner Michael Hudak
Commissioner Ben Preston
Vice Mayor Bernie Parness
Mayor Bill Ganz

Also Present:

City Manager David Santucci
City Attorney Anthony Soroka
City Clerk Heather Montemayor

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes - August 1, 2023

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CITY BOARD MINUTES

Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes - April 11, 2023
Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - May 1, 2023
Education Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - May 3, 2023
Non-Uniformed Employees Retirement Committee Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2023
Code Compliance Meeting Minutes - July 10, 2023
Hillsboro Inlet District Meeting Minutes - July 13, 2023
Community Appearance Board Meeting Minutes - July 26, 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CITY BOARD MINUTES - CONTINUED

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to acknowledge the board minutes. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION AGENDA

September 5, 2023

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to approve the agenda as submitted. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

AWARDS & RECOGNITION**1. Proclamation presented to the League of Women Voters of Broward County Gun Safety Committee in recognition of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.**

Mayor Ganz presented a proclamation to Pam Militello, League of Women Voters of Broward County, in recognition of Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Ms. Militello thanked the City for the recognition.

In response to Commissioner Hudak's question, Ms. Militello replied that the League of Women Voters of Broward County will be at the Community Fair on Saturday and gun locks will be distributed to those interested.

3. Certificates of Recognition presented to the Deerfield Beach Ocean Rescue Lifeguards in honor of their participation at the 2023 United States Lifeguard Southeast Regional Championship.

Mayor Ganz presented various certificates of recognition to Ocean Rescue Lifeguard staff in honor of their success at the 2023 United States Lifeguard Southeast Regional Championship in Delray Beach and the United States National Championship in Virginia Beach.

Chief Brown said his staff is honored to represent the City at these events; thereafter, he thanked them for their representation and thanked the City for allowing them to compete at these events.

In response to Commissioner Hudak's question, David Santucci, City Manager replied that staff is currently working on a location, as well as the design and materials to be used for the brag board.

2. Certificate of Appreciation presented by Kevin Carter, State Chair for FlaWARN, to the City of Deerfield Beach for staff's response in sending generators after Hurricane Ian's devastation.

Priscilla Cygielnik, Department of Environmental Services, introduced Kevin Carter, State Chair for FLAWARE.

Mr. Carter provided a brief overview of how the generators were used, and thanked the City's Utility Division for their efforts after Hurricane Ian's devastation. He said Deerfield Beach Utilities has a hurricane plan in place, and encouraged all to remain informed during the hurricane season. Thereafter, he presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the City of Deerfield Beach for their assistance.

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. **ORDINANCE 2023/ - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED BY THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; STATING THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE EXCEEDS THE ROLLED-BACK RATE AS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Anthony Soroka, City Attorney, advised that a presentation will be given on Items 4 and 5; thereafter, he read both titles into the record. Additionally, he outlined the proposed operating millage, 6.0018; proposed debt service millage, 0.2520; total proposed millage rate for fiscal year 2024, 6.2538. The proposed operating millage is 10.63% more than the rolled back rate of 5.4253 mills calculated pursuant to State law.

David Santucci, City Manager, presented a brief PowerPoint presentation for Items 4 & 5.

Public Budget Event Calendar - Mr. Santucci stated that tonight is the first reading of the budget and the second reding will be held on September 13, 2023.

Strategic Priorities - Mr. Santucci said the City's strategic priorities are the basis of the budget; customer care, modernization of infrastructure and processes, fiscal accountability and transparency, and sustainable and eco-friendly environment, which enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

Residential Property Values - Mr. Santucci said the City's average accessed value had an 11% increase and is currently the 11th lowest accessed value in Broward County.

Residential Property Values - Mr. Santucci displayed a bar graph outlining the number of home parcels, condo parcels, home average taxable value and condo average taxable value, whereby, Deerfield Beach is comparable to Tamarac and Sunrise. Further, he said 54% of the homes in Deerfield Beach are homesteaded. Thereafter, bar graphs were displayed outlining the accessed values for various cities.

Mayor Ganz stated that Boca Raton has a lower millage rate because their average accessed value is much higher.

Total Proposed Property Taxes - Mr. Santucci said the City only receives 1/3 of the property taxes, with the remaining portion going to the North Broward Hospital District - 7.2%; Broward County - 27.8%; South Florida Water Management District - 1.1%; Broward County School Board - 32.4%; and Children's Service Council - 2.2%. Thereafter, a graph outlining the millage rate of every city within Broward County was displayed, which depicted Deerfield Beach being comparable to Wilton Manors, Planation, Dania Beach, Coral Springs, Pompano Beach, Sunrise, Coconut Creek, etc.

Millage Rate - Mr. Santucci said the operating millage rate is 6.0018, and the total millage rate is 6.2538.

FY24 Millage Rate - Mr. Santucci stated that over the past 15 years, the millage rate has been lowered or remained unchanged. Thereafter, he displayed a table outlining the changes over the years.

Current vs. Proposed Operating Millage Rates - Mr. Santucci said five cities and Broward County are increasing their operating millage rate and two are lowering.

Taxable Value vs. Operating Millage Rate - Mr. Santucci displayed a bar graph outlining the taxable value and operating millage rate for various cities, whereby, Coral Springs has a higher value and operating mileage rate than Deerfield Beach; nevertheless, the operating millage rate is dependent on how each city operates, their needs, expectations, etc.

Ad Valorem Property Tax Collection - Mr. Santucci said the total citywide estimated tax collection is \$61.86 million; however, the CRA allocation is \$2.64 million; for a total projected net General Fund collection of \$59.22 million. Further, one mill generates \$9.9 million of ad valorem tax revenue and there has been a 10.8% increase in taxable values.

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

Ad Valorem Property Tax Projection - Mr. Santucci said there will be a 10.79% increase, equating to a \$5.7 million increase in ad valorem tax revenue.

Broward County Municipal Fire Assessment Fee - Mr. Santucci said staff is recommending an increase to the fee with a maximum not to exceed \$324; however, the City had the ability to go as high as \$372, which would cover 100% of the fire related services. Mr. Santucci said many cities are increasing their rate, which was displayed on a bar graph. Thereafter, he commented on Pompano Beach's rate, as well as their additional fee for their special district.

Economic Climate - Mr. Santucci said inflation has increased over the past years, which has been absorbed without an increase to the millage.

Increases to Maintain Service Levels - Mr. Santucci outlined the service level increases: law enforcement - \$2.3 million; fire rescue - \$2 million; pay and classification - \$1.6 million; county wastewater bond pass-thru - \$1 million; solid waste disposal increase - \$1 million; property insurance - \$900,000; county wastewater rate increase - \$865,000; janitorial services - \$577,000; landscape services - \$540,000; contribution to employee health insurance - \$523,000; FEC grade crossing - \$332,000; joint beach re-nourishment - \$220,000; Dixie Highway fence - \$210,000; and lobbying services - \$84,000; for a total of \$12.2 million, which is a \$9.3 million increase to the General Fund.

Changes Since Budget Workshops - Mr. Santucci said there was a \$10.9 million decrease to the General Fund due to various changes, i.e. moved FAU Research Park Blvd. Project to FY25, which was approved by the County, as long as it's still being pursued. Further, he said there was an \$855,000 reduction to parks and recreation, \$1 million increase to the FRA contribution for public safety, as well as other changes. Thereafter, the budget overview by fund was displayed, as well as the changes and overall total for each; the proposed budget revenues by source for all funds; and the proposed budget by expenditure categories.

Budget Initiatives - Mr. Santucci outlined the budget initiatives: Braithwaite Center and Bezos Academy completion; Tigner Center completion; West Community Center completion; constitution park community center planning; completion of lifeguard stations; fishing pier restoration; ERP implementation; citywide median landscape and irrigation improvements; court resurfacing for various facilities; central city engagement, planning and marketing; Dixie Highway rezoning; Dixie Highway Fence (Phase II); and Historical Society partnership contribution. Thereafter, various projects from stormwater, road and bridge, utilities and solid waste were outlined and displayed.

Personnel Changes - Mr. Santucci displayed the various personnel changes being recommended in FY24.

FY24 Proposed Capital Budget Funding - Mr. Santucci displayed the various capital projects, how they are going to be funded, i.e. grant, loan proceeds or issuance of debt, or use of General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance, and the total cost.

Proposed Major Use of Fund Balances - Mr. Santucci displayed the fund balances and proposed use, whereby, monies within each fund are either carryforward or new. The General Fund has a new use of \$4.7 million for capital project funding, historical society, and contingency. Further, the changes outlined in the Utility Master Plan, provided the Utility Fund to be less reliant on the Undesignated Fund Balance for operating expenses.

In response to Mayor Ganz's question, Mr. Santucci said monies from the fund balance were used to offset the solid waste fee increase.

General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance/Reserves - Mr. Santucci said the FY22 audited year end unassigned balance was \$39.2 million but in FY23 \$10 million was reserved for ARPA funded projects and \$4.8 million was used for various projects; therefore, the estimated FY23 year end fund balance is \$24.4 million. Further, he said this meets the current fund balance policy of maintaining compliance with a minimum of 10% of the General Fund operating expenditures plus transfers.

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

FY24 Programmed Debt Issuances - General Government - Mr. Santucci said the debt issuance is \$11.8 million, which will cover city rehabilitation, ERP implementation, Pioneer Grove corridor, citywide street lighting, and the International Fishing Pier. Thereafter, a bar graph was displayed outlining the anticipated debt from now until 2048, which depicts a low debt ratio.

FY24 Programmed Debt Issuances - Water and Wastewater - Mr. Santucci said the debt issuance, \$12.8 million, was anticipated through the Master Plan and will cover the ion exchange system design, as well as other projects. Once the design of the ion exchange system is completed, staff will come back with a second issuance of debt to complete the project. Thereafter, a bar graph was displayed outlining the anticipated debt service.

FY24 Capital Improvement Plan - Mr. Santucci displayed various projects and the costs associated for each, as well as the vehicle and equipment replacements.

Average Tax Obligation - City Ad Valorem - Mr. Santucci said 42% of the City's residential properties fall at or below the average condo value of \$117,000. The average single-family home value is \$224,000, whereby, 33% of residential properties, condo and single-family, are between \$117,000 and \$224,000. He stated that 3.7% of the City's residential properties are valued at \$500,000 and above. Furthermore, an average property value of \$117,000 will have an annual tax fee of \$733.82, which is a monthly increase of \$2.96; an average property valued at \$224,000 will have a monthly increase of \$4.35; and an average property value of \$500,000 will have a monthly increase of \$24.47.

Summary Recommendation - Mr. Santucci said staff is recommending an operating millage rate of 6.0018 mills plus the debt service, for a total millage rate of 6.2538. The preliminary fire assessment fee was set at \$324, but will be finalized on September 13th; nevertheless, staff budgeted at \$310.

In response to Commissioner Preston's questions, Mr. Santucci and Anthony Soroka, City Attorney, briefly explained the rolled back rate. Further, Mr. Santucci said the fund balance differs in each city; nevertheless, most cities base their fund balance on two months of operating expenses. He explained that fund balance policy recommendations will be forthcoming; nonetheless, the current fund balance is adequate under the current policy. He said many agencies set a minimum fund balance and target, and once that target is met, a policy is established for what they want to do with the excess, i.e. emergency use, onetime use, etc. Furthermore, Mr. Santucci said the use of the funds in the undesignated fund balance are consistent with best practices and not frowned upon by rating agencies; however, using funds to lower the millage rate would cause the City to have to recoup the costs next year.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Roger Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, asked the percentage of homesteaded properties within other cities outlined in the presentation.

Lucia Delgenio, 707 N. Shore Drive, Deerfield Beach, commented on fluoride in the water, as well as the chemical removal. Further, she reached out to County Commissioner Mark Bogen's office but has not been able to discuss this topic with him directly. Additionally, she reviewed the County's agenda, but there was nothing regarding the cleanup of the water, only wastewater topic, and asked for clarification. Lastly, she asked for city staff/officials to reach out to Commissioner Bogen, as she wants to participate.

Felicia Poitier, 140 NE 5th Street, Deerfield Beach, asked if the FAU Research Park Blvd. project is being postponed to coincide with the new development. Further, she asked for clarification on the Dixie Highway rezoning and associated costs.

Ed Tobia, 1590 SE 10th Street, Deerfield Beach, asked how the debt service increase rates will affect Deerfield Beach in the future and how the automatic meter project will impact future rates.

Demetrios Xenakis, 1200 SE 15th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, asked if staff will be performing the annual maintenance on the ERP system, will additional staff will be hired, and who is the vendor and what will be their responsibilities. Further, he asked if the City has ever explored a unified payment system, to better

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

protect the residents.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, asked if not now, when will the operating millage rate be reduced. Thereafter, he provided various reasons why the operating millage rate should be decreased, commented on previous discussions regarding lowering the millage rate, and referenced Boca Raton lowering their millage rate. He said the 5% reduction is extremely modest and suggested taking money from the General Reserve, which would not impact services or programs, to reduce the operating millage rate further.

Commissioner Hudak temporarily left the meeting at 8:23 p.m. and returned at 8:25 p.m.

Katy Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with only 54% of the homes being homesteaded and asked how it can be addressed, i.e. snow birds, Airbnb's. Thereafter, she commented on the future of Deerfield Beach and stated that the City must be cognizant when developing the budget. Further, she does not mind the millage rate, as long as the money is properly spent with realistic values and realistic return on investment to the residents.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing.

Mr. Santucci answered questions/comments/concerns posed by the public. Those not homesteaded could be snow birds, as well as rentals. Unfortunately, he does not have the other cities homesteaded property statistics but will provide once available. Further, adding fluoride to the water is a county decision and p-fast chemical removal is becoming more important, which is why the ion exchange project is needed. Thereafter, Mr. Santucci provided a brief overview of the Dixie Highway rezoning, which will lay the ground work for improving that area. In order to balance the budget, the FAU Research Park Blvd. Project was pushed back; nevertheless, there is a community participation component attached to the 1045 parcel, so staff is hopeful that will offset the costs, as well as FDOT performing harmonization to the area.

Continuing, Mr. Santucci said there will be a debt service increase to the General Fund, which will taper back down after 3 - 4 years; nonetheless, the City's financial advisors are confident it can be absorbed. The automatic meter project will provide real data, which will hopefully help absorb the true costs in lieu of increasing the fees. Further, the ERP vendor is Tyler Technologies and the annual maintenance cost will be between \$400,000 - \$500,000, which will be cloud based; nevertheless, an ERP Coordinator was budgeted to oversee the system. The City's payment systems can be improved, but since the system change there have been no breaches.

Mayor Ganz stated that this commission has been pushing for a new ERP system for quite some time as the current systems are extremely antiquated, but agreed that additional improvements can be made. Further, he said if Deerfield Beach had the same revenues and property values as Boca Raton, more money would be given back to the residents; nevertheless, Deerfield has outpaced the County. Thereafter, the property values of Boca Raton were displayed. Mayor Ganz reiterated that Deerfield Beach does not have the same revenue as Boca, and stated that there has been no mention of eliminating projects.

In response to Mayor Ganz's question, Mr. Santucci replied that ad valorem revenue was higher than last year, \$5.7 million. Further, he said there was a \$9.3 million increase within the General Fund while reducing the expenditures by over \$11 million.

Mayor Ganz said once the emergency reserves reach a certain point, money should be given back to the residents and although the City Manager was given a goal to lower the millage rate, expenses increased which was out of his control. Thereafter, he commented on the cost to repair the pier, as well as the expenses the City would incur should a major hurricane hit. Mayor Ganz said after having a conversation with Congressman Jared Moskowitz, he learned that FEMA is running out of money, so reimbursements will be extremely difficult; nevertheless, the City is currently not in a position to use emergency reserves to lower the millage rate. Further, he said Airbnb's are controlled by the State and snow birds invest in the community.

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

Commissioner Hudak stated that not all city residents pay the same amount for water, whereas, some areas pay the County rate. Further, he said costs are going up, and the \$24 million in emergency reserves would probably cover the costs for debris removal or rebuilding city hall; nevertheless, it is not a lot of money to rebuild a city. Thereafter, he commented on the costs for the Tigner Center and Braithwaite Center for Active Aging. Lastly, he stated that the emergency funds do not keep pace with inflation.

Vice Mayor Parness said he will never support lowering the emergency reserves, as the City must be prepared in the event of an emergency and asked how much is enough for a city of our size. Further, he said snow birds pay more in taxes because they are not homesteaded. Vice Mayor Parness reiterated that he will never support lowering the emergency reserves as it is needed to save lives and rebuild, whereby, giving back a little will not solve problems, but if an emergency occurs, it will provide the City with the ability to help people in dire need. Thereafter, he spoke in support of the budget.

Commissioner Drosky said this commission has longevity, and with that comes knowledge. Further, he said lowering the millage rate was one of his goals for the City Manager as well, and although it's from debt services, it was lowered. He said revenues went up by \$5.7 million, which is attributable to the increase in property values, but General Fund expenses increased by \$9.3 million due to inflation, so the City must pivot. Although, he would like to see the operating millage rate reduced, no one has mentioned eliminating projects. Thereafter, he provided a scenario of reducing the millage rate by one mill, which is minimal to the individual tax payer, but huge to the City. Commissioner Drosky said he polled his District 4 residents and asked them if they wanted projects cut, i.e. West Community Center, Constitution Park, etc. and they all said no; nevertheless, he fears that if projects are cut the City will fall behind. He urged those that think cutting projects will add up to discuss it with him, as he is open to it; nonetheless, residents in District 4 want projects to move forward, so his initial thinking of reducing the millage rate further is no longer his top priority. Thereafter, he spoke in support of the recommended budget.

Continuing, Commissioner Drosky said taxes increase on the properties that are not homesteaded, whereby, 54% of the City's properties are capped at 3%. He said money can be taken out of the reserves, but the reserves are the City's savings account, and \$24 million is just not enough. Thereafter, he commented on the damage to the pier that was sustained from a tropical storm, the calls he received after Hurricane Irma regarding debris removal, and reiterated the importance of having a hefty savings account. Lastly, Commissioner Drosky said the projects outlined within the budget are important and represent all districts citywide; therefore, reducing the millage rate further is not in the best interest for the residents of this city in the long run.

Vice Mayor Parness temporarily left the meeting at 8:44 p.m. and returned at 8:47 p.m.

Commissioner Preston said he believes the City is in a position to do something for the residents and if it's not lowering the millage rate, then what. He said lowering the millage rate this year, then asking for it back next year is not an option; nevertheless, if the fund balance gets to a certain point, it must be given back to the residents in a sustainable manner.

Commissioner Hudak said this commission has learned that delaying projects comes at a cost, i.e. lifeguard stations. He said these projects will move the City forward and make individuals want to come to Deerfield Beach, so keeping our utilities on point, making the parks accessible, providing public safety, etc. is important. He agreed that decreasing the millage rate this year, then increasing it next is not sufficient; nevertheless, he understands the challenges with inflation and said there may be other ways to help the residents, but unfortunately at this time the millage rate cannot be reduced.

Mayor Ganz said he was here when the reserves were less than \$10 million and there were individuals that wanted it even lower. Further, he said cuts will impact the full-time, homesteaded residents who are the ones investing in the City and they deserve the programs and services offered. Thereafter, he commented on non-homesteaded properties that are treated as investment properties. Mayor Ganz said he had hoped reducing the millage rate would be an option, but at this time it cannot happen, and he does not agree with reducing it one year and jacking it up the next. He explained that a utility tax was established years ago, which decreased the millage rate, but then the next year it increased due to the lack of revenues. Thereafter, he gave various scenarios on reducing the millage rate, which is minimal to tax payers but huge to the City,

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

especially when using the City's reserves. Mayor Ganz spoke in support of the budget and encouraged his colleagues to do the same, unless they have a plan to reduce the millage rate.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Parness, to approve Item 4 on first reading. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

5. ORDINANCE 2023/ - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Roger Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on his experience assisting Fort Myers and Cape Coral after the hurricane and stated that \$25 million will do nothing. He urged residents to stay vigil during hurricane season and maintain their properties, and reiterated that \$25 million will do nothing.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, asked for clarification on the funds allocated for the Pioneer Grove corridor; clarification on the additional considerations outlined in Solid Waste; how many ambulances will be purchased; will the SE 8th Avenue Project be a conflict of interest since Commissioner Hudak would benefit from the project; and why did the operating expenditures increase in the City Commission budget.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing. Thereafter, he stated that the City Manager has tried to set up meetings with Mr. Herz, but to no avail; therefore, he extended the offer again.

David Santucci, City Manager, said he does not have the information at this time, but will provide it at the next budget hearing or via e-mail, if desired.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to approve Item 5 on first reading. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

6. ORDINANCE 2023/ - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE BUDGET FOR THE DEERFIELD BEACH COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR FUNDING THROUGH TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AS PROVIDED FOR IN PART III, CHAPTER 163, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Ordinance was read by title only.

Mayor Ganz stated this was discussed at lengths during the CRA meeting, but it is required to be approved at the City Commission level. Thereafter, he opened the public hearing.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, asked for clarification on the salary allocations; do employees have to match the City's contribution and do other cities offer the same benefit; clarification on other professional services, as needed; why aren't the CRA meetings televised; clarification on the Guy Harvey partnership; why were future acquisitions removed; and why is money being set aside for the main beach parking lot. Further, he spoke in support of purchasing property prior to the CRA sunset.

BUDGET & MILLAGE PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

Commissioner Hudak left the meeting temporarily at 9:04 p.m. and returned 9:06 p.m.

Daniel Shanetzky, 34 Keswick B, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the ride share program. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of the program and the benefits it will bring to the City.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing. Further, he said many of the questions posed by Mr. Herz were addressed at the CRA meetings; however, those that were not addressed will be at the next budget hearing. Thereafter, he spoke in support of televising the CRA meetings and bringing the ride share program to the City.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to approve Item 6 on first reading. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Papas, 3000 S. Hiatus Road, Davie, spoke in opposition to the way him and his family were addressed at the August 22nd Special City Commission (SCC) Meeting. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of the incidents that occurred during their company's presentation of the pier restaurant.

In response to Mayor Ganz's question, Mr. Papas replied that he did not see Ms. Rosse watching the video of their presentation.

Toula Amanna, 5030 SW 109th Avenue, Davie, apologized for the events that transpired during the August 22nd SCC Meeting, as it was disrespectful on her part. Furthermore, she stated that Mr. Herz was not representing her or her company. Thereafter, she commented on a meeting that occurred with Mr. Herz and Vice Mayor Parness, asked that the Commission reconsider the decision regarding the pier lease, and stated that the June 20th backup was incorrect.

In response to Mayor Ganz's question, Ms. Amanna replied that the June 20th backup outlined her bid as 20 years, but it was for ten. Thereafter, she commented on the process and stated that it should have went to the highest bidder, LM Restaurant.

Roger Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, said neighboring residents received three letters regarding a hearing for 170 SE 5th Avenue, but were never notified of the outcome, which is unusual. Further, when a complaint is made to code compliance, who protects the residents against the violators. Mr. Freitag asked if information is available regarding the Sunshine Laws. Lastly, he is not disappointed with the allegations made regarding the pier lease negotiation process but is disappointed with using taxpayer dollars on the term limits referendum.

Linda Ruise, 425 NW 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, commented on tires being disposed of in the Palms dumpster and asked who is responsible for removing them.

Dorothy Gregory, 425 NW 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, also commented on the disposal of tires at the Palms. Thereafter, she expressed concerns with people coming onto the property and disposing garbage and asked for a solution.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said since he's purchased property in Deerfield Beach, his objective has always been to tell the truth and look out for the taxpayers. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of his time in Deerfield Beach, as well as the voting requirement for beach and pier items. Lastly, he apologized for a post he added to social media that was later removed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

Katy Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on a CRA event that was at Mayo Howard Park, which is not within the CRA area. Ms. Freitag said there are parks that are in dire need of repair, especially Pioneer Park. Further, she said there were lots of issues with the pier restaurant lease and suggested that the process be addressed.

Christopher Papas, 3000 S. Hiatus Road, Davie, asked for clarification on the protocol for the bid process.

Daniel Shanetzky, 34 Keswick B, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the Sawgrass to Seagrass experience, as it will put Deerfield Beach on the map. Thereafter, he commented on experiences in other cities, i.e. Gumbo Limbo, Wahoo Bay.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing. Thereafter, he answered questions/concerns/comments posed by the public. He said follow up is difficult because we are unsure who attends the meetings; nevertheless, he said he should have contacted Mr. Freitag directly and advised of the update, since they had discussed the issue. Further, information regarding the Sunshine Law can be obtained online.

In response to Mayor Ganz's comment, David Santucci, City Manager, stated that staff will reach out to the Deerfield Beach Housing Authority regarding the removal of the tires.

Mayor Ganz suggested installing cameras, so the culprits can be captured, as well as increase the safety.

Mr. Santucci said the pop-event at Mayo Howard Park was an Economic Development event.

Mayor Ganz asked that the issues mentioned at Pioneer Park be addressed. Thereafter, he commented on the ongoing issues that continue to be mentioned regarding the pier restaurant lease.

In response to Mayor Ganz's comments, Anthony Soroka, City Attorney, read an excerpt from the City's Charter, whereby, the 4/5 vote requirement referenced did occur during the second reading of the pier restaurant lease agreement. Furthermore, the resolution from August 1st awarded the solicitation and outlined that a lease would be forthcoming for commission consideration. Additionally, Section 3.16 requires a lease of more than five years be approved by ordinance. Mr. Soroka cannot comment on exactly what occurred, as he was not there, but he has been advised Ms. Rosse was in the procurement office awaiting her turn.

Bo Avasiloe, Purchasing Manager, provided a brief overview of the events that occurred the day of the presentations.

Mr. Santucci said a bidder can speak to the City Attorney or purchasing staff, which is what occurred. Thereafter, he said the second floor of the Central City Campus houses the purchasing offices, conference room, and restrooms, so if individuals needed a place to wait it would have been in the purchasing offices small conference room.

Mr. Soroka clarified that after the August 1st vote, Ms. Rosse had no right to a lease at that point; whereby, if negotiations were not finalized, the item would have come back to the Commission.

Mayor Ganz commented on statements and accusations that have been made.

In response to Mayor Ganz's questions, Mr. Soroka replied that Ms. Rosse was allowed in the building. Further, he provided a brief overview of the cone of silence.

Thereafter, Mayor Ganz continued to comment on statements and accusations that have been made regarding the pier lease.

Vice Mayor Parness commented on the meeting he had, which was in a public place, with Ms. Amanna and Mr. Herz.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

In response to Commissioner Preston's questions, Mr. Soroka reiterated the Charter provisions and stated that Ms. Rosse has no right to the lease of the facility until the Ordinance was approved by a 4/5's vote on second reading. Further, he said he is prepared to defend a legal challenge should one be brought forward.

Commissioner Preston said processes can be complicated at times; nevertheless, people should not run to conclusions when there is nothing pointing them in the direction that something has gone wrong. Thereafter, he continued commenting on the process and expressed concerns with people walking away not believing in the system, as it's this Commission's job to gain people's trust. He believes nothing was done wrong, but encouraged those with proof, if it exists, to come forward, as he will bring it to fruition; nonetheless, he asked that issues not be created. He reiterated that people must trust and believe in the system/process.

Mayor Ganz commented on other misinformation that has been brought forward, i.e. noticing the meetings, etc.

CONSENT - BOARD APPOINTMENTS

7. Resolution 2023/147 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, reappointing Jonathan Campbell to the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund; providing for an effective date.

The Resolution was read by title only.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, stated that he has no problem with Mr. Campbell's appointment, but spoke in opposition to the notices not being posted on the City's website.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to approve Item 7, adopted Resolution 2023/147. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing on Items 8 - 10; however, there were none to speak and the public hearing was closed.

There was no discussion amongst the Commission.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Preston, seconded by Vice Mayor Parness, to approve Items 8 - 10 in concert. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

8. Resolution 2023/148 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, appointing Paula Cook to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, serving as a resident member, for the remaining two-year term period; amending Resolution No. 2022/164 to reflect Michael Marion as a member representing essential services personnel; providing for conflicts and an effective date.

CONSENT - AGREEMENTS & EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

9. Resolution 2023/149 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, adopting the schedule for the Regular City Commission Meetings for fiscal year 2023/2024; providing for an effective date.
10. Resolution 2023/150 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, adopting the 2022 Updated Broward County Enhanced Local Mitigation Strategy Plan; providing for conflicts and an effective date.
11. Resolution 2023/151 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving the issuance of a purchase order to TSC-Jacobs South, Inc. to furnish and supply a reverse osmosis degasifier and scrubber system in an amount not to exceed \$42,655.00 for the City's West Water Treatment Plant in accordance with Section 38-116(3)(c) of the City's Procurement Code for sole source purchases; providing for implementation and an effective date. (*Funds from Account #401-5020-533-60-31 - Improvements Other Than Buildings*)

The Resolution was read by title only.

In response to Commissioner Preston's question, Priscilla Cygielnik, Director of Environmental Services, provided a brief explanation of the reverse osmosis process.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Lucia Delgenio, 707 N. Shore Drive, Deerfield Beach, said the water is cleaned up, and then per County regulations, the fluoride and p-fast is added which is why she wants to meet with County Commissioner Bogen.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Preston, seconded by Vice Mayor Parness, to approve Item 11, adopted Resolution 2023/151. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL

CITY ATTORNEY - None.

CITY MANAGER

Johnnie McKeithen Fence - David Santucci, City Manager stated that a quote has been received, which is \$40,512, and the project will be completed 4 - 6 weeks after approval. He said the decorative fencing will not be removed, whereby, the chain linked fence will be added on the inside of the decorative fence.

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS

12. Discussion regarding the appointment to the Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County, Florida.

After a brief discussion, the Board appointed Commissioner Drosky as the regular member.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Paula Cook, 62 Centennial Court Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of Commissioner Drosky's appointment.

Daniel Shanetzky, 34 Keswick B, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of Commissioner Drosky's

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS - CONTINUED

appointment.

Toula Amanna, 5030 SW 109th Avenue, Davie, spoke in support of Commissioner Drosky's appointment and asked if questions regarding solid waste disposal should be directed to Commissioner Drosky.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Drosky said he plans to report back regularly, but encouraged any one with questions to reach out. Further, he hopes to be selected to the Executive Committee which is within the authority.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to appoint Commissioner Drosky as the regular member. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

After a brief discussion, the Board appointed Mayor Ganz as the alternate member.

Mayor Ganz opened the public hearing.

Patricia Link, 252 Ventnor R, Deerfield Beach, applauded Commissioner Drosky and Mayor Ganz for stepping up. Thereafter, she spoke in support of both appointments.

Mayor Ganz closed the public hearing.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to appoint Mayor Ganz as the alternate member. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER DROSKY (DISTRICT 4) - None.

VICE MAYOR PARNESS

DISTRICT 3

Insurance Premiums - Vice Mayor Parness stated that a meeting will be held in the Century Village Club House on September 14th at 1:00 p.m. regarding the increases.

COMMISSIONER PRESTON

DISTRICT 2

Illegal Dumping at the Palms - Commissioner Preston commented on the issue brought forward this evening, and stated that it happens because people prey on the vulnerable. Thereafter, he stated that these types of issues have been brought forward and he is currently working with BSO to find the culprits.

Pop-Up Event - Commissioner Preston thanked staff for the event, as it was great for the community and asked that it be done continuously.

COMMISSIONER HUDAK

DISTRICT 1

Community Cares - Commissioner Hudak said the event will be held on Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran and encouraged all to attend. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of the event.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION - CONTINUED**MAYOR GANZ**

Insurance Crisis - Mayor Ganz commented on conversations he's had with Congressman Jared Moskowitz and Pompano Beach Mayor Harden regarding the increases in insurance, which is why he's hesitant when using the City's reserves. Further, he stated that Tallahassee must do something to assist.

Thank You - Mayor Ganz thanked the new faces in the audience for attending the meeting, as it's important for people to form their own opinions on the issues surrounding the City.

Senior Homestead Exemption - Mayor Ganz said the City provides a \$25,000 tax break to seniors and stated that it can be expanded and asked that additional information be brought forward at a future commission meeting.

David Santucci, City Manager, provided a brief overview of the additional exemption and stated that staff will bring it forward at a later date for commission discussion and consideration.

Speeding - Mayor Ganz urged BSO to continue to be vigilant and asked that more aggressive details be performed as the speeding seems to be getting out of hand again.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no additional business to discuss.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Parness, seconded by Commissioner Preston, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Drosky, Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Preston, Vice Mayor Parness, and Mayor Ganz

Nays: 0

CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH

BILL GANZ, MAYOR

Heather Montemayor, CMC, City Clerk