



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
Held in City Hall Chambers, 1600 Nela Avenue

Tuesday, August 31, 2021, * 6:00 pm
MINUTES

Present was:

Nicholas Fouraker, Mayor
District 1 Commissioner – Ed Gold
District 2 Commissioner – Anthony Carugno
District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck
District 4 Commissioner – Randy Holihan
District 5 Commissioner – OPEN
District 6 Commissioner – Jim Partin
District 7 Commissioner – Sue Nielsen

Absent was:

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the workshop to order at 6:00 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum.

Also present were City Manager Francis, Chief Houston, Finance Manager Tracey Richardson, and Admin Asst Heidi Peacock.

2. Budget Workshop FY 2021-22

a. Review of General Fund

City Manager Francis presented Draft Budget Version 4. He said Council reviewed the general Fund quite extensively at the last meeting. Since we signed the agreement with DEM for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding, the City should be receiving 1.813m by the end of September. We received a response from the State stating that all documents had been received. As part of the ARPA review, one of the items allowed is replacing lost revenue in the General Fund utilizing a funding formula.

The Finance Manager Tracey Richardson provided a worksheet and said the formula consists of the base year balance for FY2019/20 and three prior fiscal years (2016, 2017, and 2018) to calculate the difference in growth from year to year, totaling an average growth rate of 5.3%. For the calendar year of 2020, the revenue reduction was \$498,693. The same formula will be applied for the following years, and if the revenue were reduced, we would receive ARPA funding. If it increases, it will net zero.

City Manager Francis noted that that the ARPA funding will come out of the 1,083m received from the Government. He stated that he was not able to change his numbers, so some of his numbers would not be accurate and be off by +- 80,000. He reviewed the following changes made by Finance on the worksheet,

Fund 001 – General Fund

Revenue - *Net Revenue Revision: \$70,000 Increase

- a. 001-315-000 Communications Services Taxes – Decreased from 193,000 to 189,000.
- b. 001-335-120 State Shared Revenue – Increased from 320,000 to 344,000.
- c. 001-335-180 Half-Cent Sales Tax – Increased from 1,050,000 to 1,100,000.

Expenditures

- a. 001-541-00-6430 Capital – Equipment – Decreased from 59,000 to 46,500 as one of the

Ending Fund Balance - *Net Expenditure Revision: \$12,500 Decrease

(Without Needs List) - Increased from \$2,839,486 to \$2,921,986

*Net Ending Fund Balance Revision: \$82,500 Increase

Fund 103 – Stormwater Fund

Beginning Fund Balance - *Net Beginning Fund Balance Revision: \$171,776 Increase

Increased from \$8,224 to \$180,000 due to the Sol projected budgeted in FY 20/21 not occurring.

Ending Fund Balance - * Net Ending Fund Balance Revision: \$171,776 Increase

(Without Needs List) – Increased from \$63,466 to \$235,242

Fund 201 – Charter Debt Service Fund

Beginning Fund Balance – *Net Beginning Fund Balance Revision: \$17,800 Decrease
Decreased from \$1,363,111 to \$1,345,312 due to the needed use of Renewal &
Replacement funds in FY 20/21 - * Net Ending Fund Balance Revision: \$17,800 Decrease
Ending Fund Balance – Decreased from \$981,279 to \$963,480

Mr. Francis said he would like Council to consider including the ARPA Funds of \$498,693 to the General Fund. It would increase the General Fund from \$7,253,309 to 7,752,002. He reported that we were in a deficit position at a previous meeting, and the ARPA funds will put us back in the positive.

One of the issues addressed by the Council at a previous meeting was the public works staff salary. After some research, Mr. Francis found the average salary is from 22,000 to 54,900, and we are right in the middle, including a generous benefits package.

From the priorities list, Mr. Francis spoke of three options and recommended the following,

1. Approval of the Police Officer position, Paving and the 2-Public Works Technicians – totaling 335,075; or
2. One-time expenses: Paving, New Police Vessel, Boat Dock, and 2-Marine Power Poles; or
3. Any other priorities, approved by Council.

Mr. Francis reported that the CCA Lease Discussion meeting with the CCA Board Chair went well and will continue negotiating with the school. On September 21' it may be on the agenda for Council discussion and approval.

Mayor Fouraker expressed that he would like to see if Council can fund the necessary police officer positions due to the current events in our City. Mr. Francis said we are awaiting approval of a COPS grant to cover the additional Police Officer positions with the City discussing long-term funding moving forward. Discussion ensued on funding resources and extra overtime hours.

Comm Shuck and Comm Holihan consensus were to approve and unfreeze an officer position, new police vessel, and boat dock, allowing additional safety, enforcement, and access in our City.

Comm Holihan said everything is going up in price, and we have promised the residents the paving projects, and we have to deliver.

Comm Gold said he would like to focus on one-time expenses. Discussion ensued on paving projects. Comm Gold said if we stay under 250,000 on reoccurring fees, we can create a \$50 per household public safety fee instead of increasing the Ad Valorem.

Comm Partin said he would like to prioritize the 1-police officer position, 1-public works technician, and paving projects.

Comm Nielsen said to cover most of the items on the priorities list that are not one-time purchases is by raising taxes. Raising Taxes is not popular for many residents; however, most can accept the idea if they understand it is the only reoccurring revenue that will cover safety, police salary, and benefits. She favors prioritizing 1-public works technician, 1-police officer, 1-administrative position, and paving projects and not discount the traffic light on Hoffner.

Comm Carugno asked if the staff could place a referendum on the election ballot to see how residents feel about a tax increase. He is in favor of unfreezing the police officer position and paving projects.

Mayor Fouraker asked for discussion on succession planning, property purchase, and moving forward with the Transportation Plan. Mr. Francis said those goal discussions would occur during the Strategic Planning workshops.

Mayor Fouraker opened for public comment.

- Holly Bobrowski residing at 2400 Hoffner Avenue said she recommends hiring three additional police officers to cover two shifts per day. This will cover any absences due to sickness or other priorities. Discussion ensued on current coverage during shift changes.
- Mr. McGregor residing at 1816 Wind Harbor Road, said boat dock construction is at a premium and recommends the City wait until the prices go down. In addition, paving and purchasing a boat during the winter months may lower the process. Everything is going up, and raising taxes at this time may not be very favorable.

Comm Holihan agreed and said a boat dock could wait until the market is more favorable. He said it might be reasonable to find an existing dock to use, unfreeze the police and admin positions.

There being no further comment, Mayor Fouraker closed public comment.

Mayor Fouraker called for a 5-minute break.

City Manager Francis said the consensus of Council discussion is as follows,

- Unfreeze the 19th position; and
- Hire an additional officer; and
- Move forward with the Paving Projects (one-time expense); and
- Purchase the PD Vessel (one-time expense).

City Manager Francis said he does not want to budget revenue that he has no control over. We can submit a budget amendment to add another priority item, providing we sell the existing boat next year.

b. Review of Stormwater and Other Funds

City Manager Francis said there are no changes to the Transportation Impact Fee Fund. The ARPA Funds will be allocated to the qualified Stormwater Fund projects designated (Sol Avenue, Barby Lane, Seminole & Daetwyler, Cross Lake Rd, St Partin Place, and St Moritz) with a remaining balance of approximately \$188,147 in ARPA Funding. With the remaining balance, we would like to look at the Wallace project's design, engineering, and permitting, conveyance system on Wind Willow, and pipe repair/replacement on Trimble Park. If a Public Works position is added, it will increase personnel expenses by approximately \$20,000 as the portion for staff breakdown. Council consensus was to move forward with the Stormwater projects as discussed

Law Enforcement Education Fund

City Manager Francis reported that there are no changes made to this Fund.

Charter Debt Service Fund

City Manager Francis said there was a change of a decrease of \$17,800. This Fund will go away if CCA goes through with their refinancing of the 2012 bond. For the Charter School, the City is looking to replace the roof on the field house, repairing the metal roof at the High School, and replace HVAC in the High School that will tie into the system with the Middle and Lower Schools. Mayor Fouraker shared his concern with the existing repairs and the current negotiations with the triple net lease.

Comm Holihan asked how current the estimate is because estimates are backlog and have gone up on costs. Mr. Francis said the City is going through the OC Public School contract.

2019/2020 Note

If we plan to move forward with a stormwater project or purchase additional property, City Manager Francis said we have 3-years to spend the funds and must use the money this year.

Equipment Fund

City Manager Francis said the City had not funded this replacement fund in a couple of years. He strongly recommends allocating money to this Fund to purchase equipment down the road instead of leasing later.

c. Review of Capital Improvement Plan

City Manager Francis said with the 5-year Capital Improvement Program; there will be a change to this Fund because it can be funded through ARPA. Paving in District 3, Resurfacing Stafford/Delia, and Cross Lake will be moved to Stormwater and financed through ARPA. Unfunded projects are Pole Decorations, traffic signals, sidewalks (resident/city), and Bank of America. Discussion ensued on code regulations (Section 10-152) on sidewalk and homeowner repair.

The first Budget Hearing will be on September 7, incorporating the discussion items.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.