



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL  
BUDGET HEARING AND ADOPTION  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, September 21, 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 – Beth Lowell  
District 6 Commissioner – Jim Partin  
District 7 Commissioner – Sue Nielsen

Absent was:

**1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum**

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm, and the City Clerk confirmed quorum. Also present were Attorney Langley, City Manager Francis, Chief Houston, and City Clerk Quiceno.

**2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag**

Comm Partin gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

**3. Public Comment**

Mayor Fouraker called for any public comment. The City Clerk stated that she did not receive any comments. There being no public comment, Mayor Fouraker closed public comment.

**4. Budget Hearing and Adoption**

City Manager Francis said the first substantial issue for discussion is the percentage increase in millage over the roll-back rate needed to fund the Budget, if any. The roll-back rate is 4.2125 mils. The proposed millage is 4.4018, the same for the last the past 12 years. A millage rate is a rate at which property taxes are levied on the property. The Ad Valorem revenue has increased due to the increase in assessed values. The assessed value in 2021 was \$839,942,676. The assessed value for 2022 is \$875,503,293. The roll-back rate is needed to bring in the same funding as last year, totaling 3.6 million in property taxes. The proposed millage of 4.4018 is recommended to sustain the same services we are currently providing.

There being no further questions, Mr. Francis continued to summarize the proposed Budget (v6.91521) as follows,

- Decrease in the Stormwater Fund – \$1.00.
- No other changes have been made since the last budget hearing.
- Budget Committee recommended having an ending reserve balance of 25%; currently, the City has a reserve of 39% (Page 6 of the proposed Budget).

Comm Carugno asked if it would be possible to add the Bing Grants to the Budget. Mr. Francis said the Council would have to decide how much they would like allocated to each district.

City Manager Francis asked if the Council would want to continue funding a 39% Reserve or look at the Budget Committee recommendation of a 25% Reserve.

Comm Gold said he would like to see the City go with the Budget Committee recommendation of 25-30%. He will also consider the roll-back rate and payback to the citizens by completing and offsetting open projects. Discussion ensued on possible revenue base scenarios. Comm Gold said if we don't go with the roll-back rate, we would have to advertise a tax increase because of the assessed value. Mr. Francis said it is not a tax increase; it is a millage rate. Mayor Fouraker said Amy Mercado's Office is the agency that derives from the assessed properties' value.

Comm Holihan said he would like to leave it as is, utilize the reserves funds, and work down to the 25% as needed throughout the year by passing a Resolution amendment.

Comm Carugno said he would like to stay status-quo and go with the roll-back rate as discussed.

Comm Nielsen said she does not want to move with the roll-back rate and agrees with Comm Holihan and keep the rate the same.

Comm Partin said he would like to keep the money in the General Fund and work towards the 25% Reserve by paying down on some pressing projects.

Comm Shuck said he would like to keep the same millage rate at 4.4018 and not move forward with the roll-back rate. He would like to keep the 39% Reserves and use them as needed.

## **5. New Business.**

- a. RESOLUTION NO. 21-19 - RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING THE AD VALOREM TAX LEVY (MILLAGE RATE) UPON THE ASSESSED REAL PROPERTY AND BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ROLLS OF THE YEAR 2021

**City Manager Francis read Resolution 21-19 by Title.**

**Comm Nielsen moved to approve Resolution 21-19 as presented.**

**Comm Holihan seconded the motion which passed unanimously 7:0 upon roll call.**

- b. RESOLUTION NO. 21-20 - RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

**City Manager Francis read Resolution 21-20 by Title.**

**Comm Holihan moved to approve Resolution 21-20 as presented.**

**Comm Carugno seconded the motion which passed unanimously 7:0 upon roll call.**

- c. RESOLUTION NO. 21-22 - RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

**City Manager Francis read Resolution 21-22 by Title.**

**Comm Nielsen moved to approve Resolution 21-22 as presented.**

**Comm Holihan seconded the motion which passed unanimously 7:0 upon roll call.**

## **6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.