



The Belle Isle City Council met in a workshop session on July 15, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the Belle Isle City Hall Council Chambers.

Present was:

Mayor Lydia Pisano
Commissioner Gold
Commissioner Jeremy Weinsier
Commissioner Bobby Lance
Commissioner Sue Nielsen

Absent was:

Commissioner Lenny Mosse
Vice Mayor Harvey Readey
Commissioner Katy McGinnis

Also present was Attorney Kruppenbacher, Deputy Chief Houston, Finance Manager Tracey Richardson and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

Mayor Pisano called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET/ MIL RATE

Attorney Kruppenbacher opened discussion for the budget hearing. He provided the following dates as follows,

- July 29 – Proposed millage rate due to Orange County Property Appraiser's office. Attorney Kruppenbacher reminded Council that once the millage is posted it can be lowered as needed, but cannot be raised.
- August 12th – Notice of Proposed Property Taxes mailed to taxpayers.
- September 6 – First Budget Hearing.
- September 18 – Budget Ad appears in Orlando Sentinel with proposed budget.
- September 20 – Second Budget Hearing.
- November 1 – Tax bills delivered to all property owners by Tax Collector.

He directed the Finance Officer to send an email copy of the important dates to Council.

Attorney Kruppenbacher stated that at this time, the City can present a balanced budget without adding any new projects. He presented a list of the projects, submitted by Council and staff, by priority for discussion. He noted that there are some pressing issues where there is no choice but to complete some of the projects now. One is repair of the Police Department building. He has scheduled an industrial engineer to report the findings of the building structure. In the meantime, he recommended the police officers transfer over to the City Manager's office to not incur additional costs. Second are the ongoing pipe repairs for the drainage issues throughout the City.

Comm Lance commented that there are two locations for rent or purchase, one located in the City limits at Via Flora and McCoy and the other is the Napa building.

Attorney Kruppenbacher said he has learned from reviewing the budget that the reserves have not been held in an interest bearing account, and recommended the Finance Officer contact the Florida League of Cities and the State for account options, providing a secured, greater rate of return, and will provide the information to Council for discussion at the following meeting.

Attorney Kruppenbacher opened Council discussion on the priority project list for this year's budget.

- Comm Nielsen suggested creating a special taxing district for the fencing on Gondola Avenue and Hoffner Avenue in Lake Conway Estates. Mayor Pisano stated that it may be too late in the year because the City will need to get 100% participation from the affected residents. Comm Nielsen stated that this is not a top priority because it will not be the City's only responsibility. Attorney Kruppenbacher said he would like to look into the available options.
- Mayor Pisano said review by an arborist on the tree assessment throughout the City's right-of-way is necessary to avoid possible liability to the City. Council agreed to make this a priority.
- Council discussed drainage priorities and asked for a survey of all the drainage throughout the City before making repairs. Comm Nielsen said FEG did perform an inventory assessment last year, which stated that most of the drainage systems in the City are in good condition. Comm Nielsen stated, in relation to Conway Shores, the FEG assessment report states one of the pipes that carries water to the lake is not the specified size in the design submitted by the engineer.
- Council discussed the street/paving list provided in the budget presentation. Comm Nielsen stated that the lists of streets provided are all in desperate need of repair. She would like to request hiring a paving company to assess all the streets, especially if the City will be looking at the recommendations from the last two companies and go deeper into the milling and paving. The streets listed are as follows,

<p><u>City Hall Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nela Ave *sections • Overlook Rd • Conway Cir • Idaho Ave • Nevada Ave • Lake Dr (from Perkins North) • Perkins Rd • Swann Ave 	<p><u>Lake Conway East</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quando Dr • Sol Ave • Arajo Ct • Kandra Ct • Playa Ct • Quando Cir • Cove Dr *partial 	<p><u>Belle Isle West</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind Willow Rd (section) • Colleen Dr • Stafford Dr • Pam Cir • Devine Way • Dewayne Dr
<p><u>Off Matchett Rd</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delia Ave • Gibson Dr • Stockbridge Ave • Cay Cir 	<p><u>Windsor Place</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiswick Cir • Edlingham Ct • Rothbury Dr • Hawford Cir • Deerhurst Dr • Battersea Ct • Wandsworth Ave 	<p><u>Off Hoffner (W) Peninsular Dr</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venetian Dr • Parkway Dr • Pasadena Dr • McCawley Ct • Avocado Ln

Attorney Kruppenbacher stated, as of yesterday, he has had all of the streets assessed and will provide an update of the report at the next meeting.

Comm Lance said that the latest paving that was completed in Daetwyler Shores left deep grooves in the edge of the curb. He would like to have Middlesex return and repair the damaged curbs on Flower Tree and Via Flora.

Council addressed identifying ownership of the street and sidewalks on Daetwyler Drive. Attorney Kruppenbacher said he will review the plats.

- Mayor Pisano stated that the previous City Manager said he was going to authorize \$100,000 for the BING Grant Fund. She wanted to make sure it was included for this budget year. Council discussed the priority however; the appropriate amount of the fund needs to be researched further.

In addition, she addressed the purchase of emergency lights for use during special events or city emergencies. Council discussed several light styles. Comm Lance commented on “Going Green” and placing charging stations throughout the City.

- Council discussed the items listed in column two and three of the presentation and agreed they should be placed on the non-priority list.
 - Street lights/poles – research and purchase more attractive/ poles with brackets for banners
 - Neighborhood (Bing) Grants
 - Wallace property plans
 - Arborist tree assessments on Nela/Hoffner
 - Tree City USA funding
 - ~~Swann Beach – repair/replace wooden deck, repair chain link fence~~
 - Gondola Ave fencing from McCoy to Perkins
 - Code Enforcement on lake
 - Increased IT budget for website contractor
 - Wall on Hoffner Ave/Conway Estates
 - Converting to LED lighting for street lights
 - Cameras for under bridge
 - Streetscape/landscaping of major roads (Hoffner, Nela, Gondola, Matchett –north of Nela)
 - Beautify and improve utility of designated parks & open spaces
 - Funding to create Belle Isle senior citizen group
 - Scholarship funding – at least two awarded to outstanding residents/students for high school or college
 - Clock tower at Hoffner/Conway – brackets for seasonal banners or electronic sign for City information
 - City entrances – decorative/ornamental iron with pylons, repair/replace/repaint signs
 - Electric/hybrid vehicle charging stations at City Hall and Cornerstone
 - Make Belle Isle green – energy efficient light bulbs/ efficient thermostats, weather stripping, etc.

After further discussion, Council was in agreement that the priority projects for this budget year will be,

1. Police Department salaries
2. Police Department building
3. Retirement plan
4. Street repaving/paving of unpaved roads (McCawley and Avocado)
5. Repair/replace street curbs
6. Assess and repair sidewalks
7. Perkins Boat Ramp paving/drainage
8. Gene Polk Park drainage project (Delia Beach)
9. Cornerstone Charter/building and property inspection/maintenance/upkeep
10. ~~Swann Beach – repair/replace wooden deck, repair chain link fence~~

Council agreed that a low interest bond should be considered to pay for projects that will cost us more money in the long run; the absolute bare bones. Discussion ensued. Attorney Kruppenbacher stated that retaining such a large reserve at 41% is counterproductive. He will be bringing forward some options on ways to pay for priority projects using reserves and/or obtaining a bond.

- Comm Nielsen asked if the City has heard a response from the Gene Polk Park Grants. Mayor Pisano said she believes the City should receive a response by September.
- Council discussed maintenance of the Wallace Property. Attorney Kruppenbacher reported that he is currently working on a RFP for landscape maintenance. Discussion ensued on school use of the Wallace property. Attorney Kruppenbacher stated that he will contact the school and ask for a proposal within the next ten days to evaluate their needs for the property. Comm Nielsen stated that any agreements that are made with the use of the property be approved in writing.
- Council discussed and agreed to repair the chain link fence at Swan Beach for safety reasons.
- Council discussed code enforcement on the lake. Comm Nielsen said there are so many places around the lake where there are old docks and boat houses falling into the water; at present the City does nothing about it. She believes a good place to start and monitor the beach and the edge of the lake is to establish code enforcement on the lake. Attorney Kruppenbacher said he will have the Chief coordinate a schedule for a police officer to take the code enforcement officer on the lake to begin the process of enforcing the code on the lake.

Mayor Pisano clarified that one of the challenges is that the City does not have an ordinance regarding the enforcement of backyards. Discussion ensued. Attorney Kruppenbacher said that he will have April Fisher look into the issue and report back to Council.

Discussion ensued on the maintenance of the Hoffner Bridge. Attorney Kruppenbacher noted if maintenance of the Hoffner Bridge is County jurisdiction, the City should inform the County in writing.
- Council discussed security cameras on the Nela Bridge and at City Hall. Attorney Kruppenbacher reported that he has placed the security of the City buildings with the Chief of Police. He directed the Chief to place signs on the Nela Bridge that read "Under Surveillance by the Belle Isle Police Department".
- Comm Weinsier commented that there may be a small initial outlay to switch over to Google apps, which will be a savings over all.
- Council discussed streetscape and landscape projects. Council agreed that it is not a priority; however, believe that there are grants available and also tied into Tree City USA.
- Comm Nielsen spoke of the Lake Conway Estates brick wall, which was not completed due to the fact that some of the homeowners did not want to participate in the process. It would benefit the City to complete the wall because it is looked at as the gateway of the City. However, it is not the Cities responsibility. Attorney Kruppenbacher said, it may be more appropriate, to have Council encourage the Homeowners Association to apply for a grant to complete the project instead.
- Council spoke of purchasing electronic signs or a notice box to post city information. In addition, they discussed adding banners on the Nela Bridge and some of the street poles, specifically on Conway Road.
- Comm Nielsen spoke of creating a Community Redevelopment Assessment (CRA), which can be very lucrative to develop for projects throughout city such as development of the McCoy business district. **Comm Lance** said it will be beneficial to annex as much commercial property as we can, specifically **north** of the 528 and from Sand Lake to the airport. Discussion ensued.
- Comm Weinsier asked if the telephone systems can be integrated between the police department and city hall. He believes it would be a cost savings and a benefit to integrate through one fiber optic cable. Discussion ensued on utility cost savings programs available for the City and residents.

After project priority discussion, Attorney Kruppenbacher said he would report on options for accomplishing some of the projects by (1) raising the property taxes or, (2) using a portion of the reserves. Council discussed the possibility of raising property taxes and communication to residents. Attorney Kruppenbacher provided scenarios if taxes were raised per household between .01 and 1.0%. Discussion ensued.

On a different note, Mayor Pisano noted that it would be a great idea to have the Police Department staff move to City Hall while the police department is under construction.

Attorney Kruppenbacher reminded Council, during their discussions of the Police Department salaries and pensions, to not forget the City also has a non-police office workforce working just as hard. If Council does not make a point to notice administrative staff they may feel meaningless in their roles.

Council discussed the NAV Board and the possibility of asking for more funding toward City projects. Attorney Kruppenbacher advised the employees that the City will no longer expend City funds on any food, candy or coffee. Council discussed the use of gift cards and employee of the month programs.

Council briefly discussed the Warren Park slip application. It was agreed to have the item on the agenda for July 19th. Attorney Kruppenbacher asked the City Clerk to extend an invitation to Comm Pete Clark to speak on the proposed permit.

Attorney Kruppenbacher said he will be recommending doing away with the Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance and creating an ordinance for the Tree Fund and other projects that will benefit the City.

In addition, Attorney Kruppenbacher said he will be recommending on Tuesday, July 19th to formally confirm Deputy Chief Houston as Police Chief.

Attorney Kruppenbacher, in agreement with Deputy Chief Houston, said he would bring forward for approval an appropriate form that will state if a newly hired police officer leaves within the three years of employment he/she will be responsible to repay the City the cost of training and uniforms.

At the request of the City Attorney, Mayor Pisano called for a break at 1:05 pm.

Mayor Pisano reconvened at 1:30 pm and stated that Council will reschedule the City Manager applicants review process for another date.

There being no further business Mayor Pisano called for a motion to adjourn, unanimously approved, at 1:30 pm.

Yolanda Quiceno
CMC, City Clerk