



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

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 \* 6:30 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 – Stan Smith  
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

NA

**Budget Hearing & Adoption**

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

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the City Clerk confirmed the quorum. Also present were Interim City Manager Grimm, Attorney Langley, Public Works Director Phil Price, Finance Director Tracey Richardson, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

**2. Second Public Hearing and Budget Adoption - FY 2023-2024**

a. Budget Presentation - Interim City Manager Grimm

Interim City Manager Grimm presented at the Second Public Budget Hearing. Chief Grimm stated at the first Hearing that the Council adopted a tentative millage and Budget. Interim Chief Grimm said the following,

- The rollback millage rate is 4.0398
- Proposed millage rate for approval is 4.4018
- Percentage increase over rolled-back rate is 8.96%
  - o Requires a two-thirds vote of the governing body
  - o The rolled-back rate is the rate that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the prior year.
- Reasons for Increase
  - o Maintain the current level of service
  - o Competitive salary increases
- FY 22/23 Gross Taxable Value \$955,343,578 with Ad valorem Proceeds of \$4,205,231
- FY 23/24 Gross Taxable Value \$1,045,718,431 with Ad valorem Proceeds of \$4,603,043

**Comm Holihan moved to approve Resolution 23-09.**

c. Citizen Comments

Mayor Fouraker opened for citizen comments before hearing a second to the motion made by Comm Holihan. There being none, he closed citizen comments and called for the approval of the following.

Mayor Fouraker said as a formality, he would like to add the Social Media position back to the Budget as an amendment for consideration. He reminded Council that it was a directive from Council at a prior meeting and innocently omitted from the current Budget for approval.

The Council thanked staff for the explanations regarding the Budget decreases. They said they would also like to see an explanation for increases moving forward before the budget season. Some examples were discussed.

- d. Resolution 23-09 FY23-24 Adopting Final Millage Rate  
**Interim City Manager Grimm read Resolution 23-09 by Title.**  
**Comm Holihan moved to approve Resolution 23-09 FY23-24 Adopting Final Millage Rate.**  
**Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
  
- e. Resolution 23-10 FY23-24 Adopting Final Budget  
**Interim City Manager Grimm read Resolution 23-10 by Title.**  
**Comm Smith moved to approve Resolution 23-10 Adopting Final Budget.**  
**Comm Holihan seconded the motion, which passed by roll call 7:0.**
  
- f. Resolution 23-11 FY23-24 Adopting Five-Year CIP  
**Interim City Manager Grimm read Resolution 23-11 by Title.**  
**Comm Lowell moved to approve Resolution 23-11, Adopting Five-Year CIP.**  
**Comm Holihan seconded the motion, which passed by roll call 7:0.**

#### **Close Public Budget Hearing**

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker closed the Budget Hearing at 6:48 pm.

#### **Open Regular City Council Meeting**

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

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:49 pm, and the City Clerk confirmed the quorum.

##### **2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Comm Randy Holihan, District 4**

##### **3. Consent Items**

- a. Approval of the City Council Workshop minutes - August 29, 2023
- b. Approval of the City Council Special Called Session minutes - August 29, 2023
- c. Approval of the City Council Special Called Session minutes - September 13, 2023 (Clarification of Motion Required)
- d. Proclamation - 90th Birthday Dale F Robinson

Comm Carugno moved to pull item c for discussion. He stated that the motion was written incorrectly. The motion was to involve the City Attorney and Colin Baenziger in the negotiation process. After a brief discussion, Comm Gold stated that his intent for the motion was to include the Mayor.

The Council consensus was to correct the motion as follows,

The motion read, "Comm Gold moved to direct the City Attorney, Colin Baenziger, and the Mayor to draft and negotiate a contract for Council approval and appoint Paul Carlisle subject to contract negotiations."

Should read, "Comm Gold moved to direct the City Attorney, Colin Baenziger, ~~and the Mayor~~ to draft and negotiate a contract for Council approval and appoint Paul Carlisle subject to contract negotiations."

Attorney Langley said the Council could move to correct the minutes as discussed and open discussion later in the meeting to correct if needed.

**Comm Gold moved to approve the consent agenda items as discussed.**

**Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Mayor Fouraker read the Proclamation for the record.

#### **4. RVi Planning - Comp Plan Presentation Update**

The RVi Planning team presented a PowerPoint presentation providing the Comprehensive Plan update: Stephen Noto, Director of Planning, Patrick Murray, and Alexis Crespo. He noted that the team is revisiting the Council's Strategic Plan goals from 2019-2020 to determine relevancy and connection to the Comprehensive Plan update. They stated that they would schedule a community workshop, hold public hearings, map amendments, and submit a city-wide survey for community input throughout the process.

#### **5. Citizen's Comments**

Mayor Fouraker opened for citizen comments.

- Gary Meloon, residing at 6101 Matchett Road, spoke on the Wallace Field Use Agreement and said he did not see a map for the eight-foot hedge or vegetation barrier wall.

There being no further comments, Mayor Fouraker closed citizen comments.

#### **6. Unfinished Business**

##### **a. Approval of the Wallace Field Use Agreement**

Interim City Manager Grimm stated that April Fisher could not attend the meeting. He presented the updated Wallace Field Use Agreement for Council approval. Interim City Manager Grimm noted that the changes to Section 3 of the agreement were made for consideration per the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting discussion regarding hours of operation.

Comm Partin said he was the one who requested the change for clarity, is happy to see an end date for using the field, and favors the agreement as written now.

Comm Smith and Comm Holihan shared their concerns with the verbiage "exclusive" and "100%" use.

Attorney Langley said the verbiage can be changed to the following with CCA approval, Section 3a, "Notwithstanding CCA exclusive use provision upon reasonable notice, the City may request and obtain use of the property during the hours of Monday through Friday for other public purposes." Mr. Brooks said he favors the change if the use is tied to a specific event.

Comm Carugno asked for clarification on the following,

- Stipulation of use during the holiday season and summer hours  
*CCA may have summer football camps and may use the field.*
- Drainage System update; and  
*CCA Engineers are speaking with the County to coordinate a system.*
- Consideration of turf vs. artificial turf due to the reports on safety in an artificial field.  
*CCA initially decided on artificial turf because it is sustainable throughout the season rather than turf and fertilized grass. And it is the same material used on the playing field. He noted that he is aware of the reports and found documentation on both sides of the argument, and many of the injuries were not caused because of AstroTurf.*

Comm Holihan asked if the indemnification insurance in the Use Agreement is sufficient. Attorney Langley said the cost is fair since the City can pursue Sovereign Immunity and has its insurance. Additionally, CCA will add its insurance.

Mr. Brooks noted they are moving forward with the landscaping plan and relocating most existing trees found on the CCA Landscaping Plan. CCA will remain competitive with sound and light screening.

After further discussion, Attorney Langley recommended the following change for Section 3a. Notwithstanding CCA's exclusive use provisions, if this paragraph 3a, upon at least twenty days advance written request by the City to CCA, the City will have the right to use the property for a special event for a period not to exceed seven consecutive days per special event. The consensus was to have the edit sent to Attorney Owens for CCA approval to include verbiage in front of the paragraphs that start with, CCA will have exclusive use during the school calendar year...

Mayor Fouraker opened for citizen comments.

- Donella Altice, residing at 1309 Wallace Street, asked if the City and CCA would allow dogs on the property. Interim Chief Grimm noted that leash dogs will be allowed, and the law will be enforced. Mr. Brooks said the construction plans include doggie bag stations for park users.

**Comm Partin moved to approve the CCA Use Agreement as incorporated.**

**Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed 5:2 with Comm Carugno and Comm Shuck, nay.**

## **7. New Business**

- a. Approval of the Police Salary Step Program - Resolution 23-15  
**Interim City Manager Grimm read Resolution 23-15 by Title.**  
**Comm Gold moved to approve Resolution 23-15 Police Salary Pay Plan.**  
**Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed by roll call 7:0.**
- b. Resolution 23-12 Amending Retirement Plan  
**Interim City Manager Grimm read Resolution 23-12 by Title.**  
**Comm Partin moved to approve Resolution 23-12 Amending Retirement Plan.**  
**Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed by roll call 7:0.**
- c. Resolution 23-14 FY22-23 Budget Amendment #2  
**Interim City Manager Grimm read Resolution 23-14 by Title.**  
**Comm Holihan moved to approve Resolution 23-14 Budget Amendment #2.**  
**Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed by roll call 7:0.**
- d. Pete Madison - Debris Management Contract Extension  
**Comm Carugno moved to approve the Debris Management Contract Extension.**  
**Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.**

## **8. Attorney's Report – No report.**

## **9. City Manager's Report**

- a. Special Events Committee - Centennial Celebration Update  
Holly Bobrowski, Chairman of the Special Events Committee, gave an update on the upcoming Centennial celebration. She noted they would use a local artist for the centennial logo, design a commemorative book for the event, and merchandise to help with fundraising. She briefly updated the upcoming events: January-Food Drive, May-Movie Night, April–Abor Day Tree Planting, and Easter.
- b. Chief's Report – Sgt McCormick briefly updated the Police Department stats.
- c. Public Works Report – Mr. Price briefly updated on Conway & Quando repair, Windsor Place sidewalk replacement, and Hoffner Bridge graffiti cleanup.

## **10. Mayor's Report – No report.**

## 11. Items from Council

The Council reported on the following,

- Staff to research audio sound options for Zoom calls during council meetings.
- Concerns about traffic and speeding on Gondola asked if the City could contact Orange County.
- Pond weeds are overtaking the Lake – requesting to coordinate with the Lobbyists to speak with FWC.
- Council moved to revisit the motion made at the September 13, 2023, meeting as follows,

**Comm Gold moved to reconsider the motion to authorize the Mayor to work with Colin Baenziger and the City Attorney on negotiations of the City Manager contract.**

**Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed 6:1 with Comm Carugno, nay.**

## 12. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously at 8:35 pm.