



The Belle Isle City Council met in a City Council Workshop on April 30, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at the City Hall Chambers located at 1600 Nela Avenue, Belle Isle, FL 32809.

Present was:

Mayor Nicholas Fouraker  
Commissioner Gold  
Commissioner Anthony Carugno  
Commissioner Karl Shuck  
Commissioner Harv Readey  
Commissioner Jim Partin  
Commissioner Sue Nielsen

Absent was:

Commissioner Mike Sims

Also present were City Manager Bob Francis, Chief Houston, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Mayor Readey called the City Council Workshop Session to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge to the flag. City Manager Francis informed the Council that Commissioner Sims would not be present for the workshop.

**ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES DISCUSSION**

City Manager Francis provided a copy of the Orange County Millage Rates for 2009-2018 and said the City of Belle Isle is the only municipality that has not had a tax increase for the past ten years. He further provided a list from the Florida League of Cities stats on Revenue Sources. He spoke on the City's need to look to several revenue sources besides property taxes to continue to provide the services that residents have to expect from the City. Mr. Francis spoke on Franchise Fees and Non-AD Valorem assessments that include Street/Sidewalk Improvements, MSTU, Local Government Neighborhood Improvement Districts, Street Lighting and Special Assessments for Infrastructure Projects.

Mr. Francis addressed certain areas in the City that was experiencing flooding issues. He stated that the City could not impose a tax when only a few residents benefit from the project; however, a special assessment may be considered. Mr. Francis stated a State Law that states individual stormwater cannot contribute to, or encroach on the neighbors' problem.

Comm Readey asked if the City will be experiencing a revenue shortage shortly. Mr. Francis said it is likely because the services the residents have come to expect will be funded from the General Fund to maintain.

Council discussed the following options for consideration,

Other Sustainable/Renewable Revenue Resources

- Solar City – City can provide their utilities
- Sidewalk repair – Have residents be responsible for their sidewalk repair
- Tree Care - The homeowner should maintain trees on residential property and ROW
- Utility Tax - Create a utility tax for paving cost only
- Create a Street Light Ad Valorem Tax – Electricity (Duke Energy)
- Franchise Fee – Create a franchise fee for utilities (gas and telecommunications)
- Property Review - Review of the current property list for the City to ensure all parcels are paying existing stormwater and garbage fees. Council discussed hiring a third party vendor for the initial review of ad valorem and communication fees, or should it be staff responsibility.
- MSTU Tax (Fire) collected by Orange County and not paid through the General Fund. Pass the cost/fee directly to residents who utilize the EMS/Fire services more frequently (i.e., hotels, assisted living facilities)
- Annexation possibilities on the east side of the City (Daetwyler, Hoffner, Judge, and McCoy)
- Grant opportunities – Create an elected official/volunteer budget committee or task force
- Cost sharing revenue with the City of Edgewood with smaller projects
- Installation of Red Light Cameras

### Communication

- Provide handouts/materials with upcoming tax increases before adoption
- Establish a goal and create a budget analysis of the total cost/shortfalls for review before starting a project
- Provide education to residents via video on revenue options during the implementation phase and provide resources to help reduce certain utilities/cost.

### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

Mayor Fouraker opened for citizen comment.

- Clay Van Kamp proposed looking at the top 20 expenses and find ways to reduce cost and look for external funding if needed to maintain the continued services.
- Ralph Yarborough spoke on the hardship this may cause to those on a low/fixed income. Controlling the cost should be the priority.

Mayor Fouraker asked the City Clerk if there were any further comments asked on the Facebook page. The City Clerk said there were 4-posts but no questions posted.

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

After discussion, Council consensus was to have staff research several of the options and provide a report to include

- Post the link to the Franchise Fee webinar to the City's website
- Investigate with the County on gas tax revenue
- Cost projection and comparisons to revenue and shortfalls
- Request information from the County on the ownership of the ROW off of Hoffner
- Contact County and City of Edgewood on the MSTU on Fire Services
- Create top 3 target areas to annex into the City with an analysis showing the added cost and incoming revenue.
- Contact Orange County and the City of Edgewood on MSTU Tax (Fire) collected by Orange County and not paid through General Fund
- Create a threshold and pass the cost/fee directly to residents who utilize the EMS/Fire services more frequently (i.e., hotels, assisted living facilities)
- Research external revenue options, i.e. red light cameras

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Mayor Fouraker closed the workshop discussion at 8:25 p.m.

Yolanda Quiceno, CMC, City Clerk