



# city council minutes

## MINUTES September 23, 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing and Adoption 6:30 pm

The Belle Isle City Council met in a Budget Hearing session on September 23, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. on a virtual webinar (zoom.us/j/84840587552)

Present was:

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

Absent was:

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

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fouraker called the City Council Budget Hearing session to order at 6:00 pm, and the City Clerk confirmed quorum. Commissioner Readey gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the flag. Mayor Fouraker introduced and welcomed Attorney Chumley.

Mayor Fouraker opened for the presentation of the Budget Hearing and Adoption FY2020-21.

City Manager Francis presented the proposed Budget for FY 2020-21 for adoption. Mr. Francis announced the increase over rollback rate as required;

- Florida law requires the City to announce the percentage increase of the proposed millage rate increase which exceeds the rollback rate
- The current rollback rate is 4.1576 p/\$1000 of assessed valuation, and the percentage of the rollback rate is 5.78%.
- The proposed millage rate is 4.4018 p/\$1000 of assessed valuation increase over this rollback rate. Mr. Francis said this rate covers the cost of the newly adopted Police Department Pay Plan, an increase in health care costs, capital items, park improvements, and a few other services. He also stated that this is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that the millage rate has not increased.
- The City did not make any changes to the budget since the last budget hearing.

Mayor Fouraker opened for Citizen Comments on the proposed budget.

The City Clerk stated that she did not receive any comments for the proposed budget FY2020-2021.

Mayor Fouraker opened for approval of the following Resolutions.

- a. RESOLUTION NO. 20-13 - 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 ROLES OF THE YEAR 2020

**Mayor Fouraker read Resolution 20-13 by title.**

**The City Clerk said she did not receive any public comment for Resolution 20-13.**

**Comm Carugno moved to adopt Resolution 20-13 as presented.**

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

- b. RESOLUTION NO. 20-14 - 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, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

**Before moving forward with a motion to approve, Comm Carugno spoke on the proposed 3% COLA for non-uniformed staff. He motioned to change the COLA to 5% for non-uniformed staff, which will increase the budget by approximately \$10,000. Comm Sims shared his agreement with the proposed motion.**

**Comm Nielsen shared her concern and said it might be best to give a bonus of \$1,000 at the end of the year instead of a 5% increase. Discussion ensued.**

**Com Readey asked if this increase will take away for a City project, or if the budget will suffer from an additional 2% increase. City Manager Francis said if, given the opportunity, he will forego his 3% COLA increase to give the employees a 5% COLA increase due to the evaluations an employee has received. He believes there is a stipulation in Florida Law that does not allow the City to compensate employees with a merit bonus for a job already performed. He further said he is required to evaluate all employees annually, and all increases are based on a satisfactory evaluation, which may or may not have been earned.**

**Attorney Chumley said he shares some of the same concerns with a merit bonus, as stated by the City Manager. He referenced Section 215.425 Compensation Plan and did not recommend moving forward with a bonus at this time.**

**Comm Gold shared his concern and agreed with a merit bonus because it will have non-uniformed staff receive an equal amount. Discussion ensued.**

**Comm Shuck said he would prefer to see the staff's base salary increase instead of a one-time bonus. Comm Sims agreed with the statement.**

**Mayor Fouraker read Resolution 20-14 by title.**

**Mayor Fouraker opened for public comment.**

**The City Clerk said she had received a comment from resident Rick Miller.**

**Rick Miller, a resident residing at 2001 Nela Avenue, shared his concern with the impacts on the City's bottom line due to COVID 19. He supports a one-time bonus for staff to compensate them for their hard work; however, the Police Pay Plan has increased from 7% to 40% and may price us out and not be sustained without raising the millage rate. He strongly urges the Council to reconsider their motion.**

**Comm Carugno moved to adopt Resolution 20-14 with the 5% COLA increase for non-uniformed staff.**

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

- c. RESOLUTION NO. 20-15 - RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.

**Mayor Fouraker read Resolution 20-15 by title.**

**City Manager Francis gave a brief overview of the proposed City projects.**

**Mayor Fouraker opened for public comment.**

**The City Clerk said she did not receive any public comment for Resolution 20-15.**

**Comm Nielsen said she would like to see the projects on Gibson and Stockbridge moved forward if any funds remain upon completing the year's proposed capital projects.**

**Comm Readey moved to adopt Resolution 20-15, as presented.**

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

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. Approval of the September 15, 2020, Budget Hearing and City Council minutes.

**Mayor Fouraker opened for approval of Consent Items.**

**Comm Sims moved to approve Consent Item a**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously at 7:40 p.m.

Yolanda Quiceno, CMC, City Clerk