



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

City Hall – Council Chamber
405 Bagshaw Way, Edgewood, Florida
Wednesday, August 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Horn called the City Council budget workshop to order at 9:04am.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ATTENDEES

Mayor John Dowless
Council President Richard Horn
Councilmember Lee Chotas (by phone)
Councilmember Susan Lomas
Councilmember Ben Pierce
Councilmember Chris Rader

STAFF ATTENDEES

Sandra Riffle, Interim City Clerk
Brett Sollazzo, Administrative Assistant
John Freeburg, Police Chief
Shannon Patterson, Police Chief of Staff
Scott Zane, Officer/IT Department
Stacey Salemi, Code Compliance Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Horn called the workshop meeting order at 6:30 pm

REVIEW & DISCUSSION (Provided in order of line items)

- Interim Clerk Riffle explained the changes made to the budget since workshop #1.
 - Worker's Compensation numbers came in with an increase to \$45, 000. The City's rating increased due to the number of workers' compensation claims during the past year.
 - \$25,000 was added to the sidewalk budget to cover the removal of trees and stump grinding during the project.
 - The IT budget increased to include \$12,000 for the iPads and PD Chief of Staff Patterson said the supporting software was an additional \$10,000, making it \$32,000. Mayor Dowless said the Mayor's salary was moved into iPads. Officer Zane said there is also a one-time fee of \$2,000 for setup.
 - \$5,000 was removed from the City Hall budget for Neighborhood Grants as it was a redundancy.

Councilmember Pierce entered the meeting at 6:41 pm.

- Councilmember Chotas said that the City can use reserves if estimates are not correct.
- Councilmember Rader asked about the additional funds for the sidewalk project. Mayor Dowless said the quote the City received did not include removal of trees and staff had to estimate the cost of tree removals versus just the cost of grinding down roots.
- Councilmember Lomas asked when the final numbers will be available and Interim Clerk Riffle said they should be available in August. Originally, the numbers were supposed to be available in July.
- Councilmember Rader remarked that the budget deficit appears to be less because ARPA funds are included in the budget.
- Chief Freeburg said that it appears that the City can put the second installment of ARPA funds into an interest bearing account. They are waiting to hear back from Florida League of Cities on how to report the funds. Chotas said we should not count on the interest to cover the shortfall.
- Councilmember Chotas said he was inclined to keep the millage rate the same at 5.25 and use reserves to cover the shortfall. He said he expects the City to still be in a fluid situation this year, and if the millage is to be raised, next year would be better.
- Need to confirm with Ms. Campbell about tracking of ARPA money and ensure the way to prove the money was spent and tracked.
- Council President Horn stated his concern that the City is required to have no more than 75% in reserves and Mayor Dowless said he thought the City was below 75%. Councilmember Chotas said the goal of the maximum reserve was to avoid hoarding money. Mayor Dowless said the overage can be moved into Roads and Streets. Ask
- Interim Clerk will speak with Ms. Campbell about
 - Tracking ARPA money
 - Amending \$10,000 to the IT budget for potential software.
 - Moving the Mayor's \$12,000 stipend to IT.
 - (line 13) Check on reserves after making the transfer to roads and streets.
- Councilmember Chotas requested the bank statement showing reserves funds as of 7/28/2022.

Mayor Dowless stated the next budget workshop is on August 15th. Interim Clerk Riffle stated the first hearing is on September 6th. A decision was made to have a tentative third workshop at 5:00 PM on September 6th and the first budget hearing at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Horn adjourned the budget workshop at 10:19 am.

Richard A. Horn
Council President

Attest:

Sandra Riffle, CMC, CBTO
Interim City Clerk

Approved in the _____ Council meeting.

DRAFT