

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET MEETING  
September 22, 2010**

**APPROVED BY  
October 13, 2010  
CITY COUNCIL**

The City of Bradenton City Council met in special budget session in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida on September 22, 2010 at 5:01 p.m.

**Present:** Mayor Wayne Poston; Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Councilwoman Ward II Marianne Barnebey; Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; Councilman Ward IV Bemis Smith and Vice Mayor and Councilman Ward V Harold E. Byrd, Jr.

**City Officials:** Carl Callahan, City Clerk and Treasurer/Chief of Staff; Claude Tankersley, Public Works Director; William Lisch, City Attorney; Mark Souders, Fire Chief; Michael Radzilowski, Police Chief; Tim Polk, Department of Planning and Community Development Director; Staci Cross, Information Technology Director, and Carolyn Moore, Human Resources Director.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Poston.

*Mr. Callahan administered the oath to any individuals who wished to speak on any non-agenda items and during the public hearings.*

Mr. Callahan stated following the TRIM guidelines this was the final public hearing to set the millage rate and adopt the budget for the fiscal year 2010-2011 for the City of Bradenton. He also indicated that the proposed millage rate with a roll-back rate for the City of Bradenton was 4.9452 which represented a 0% increase over the roll-back rate.

Mr. Callahan read the following two proposed resolutions:

**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION NO. 10-54  
A RESOLUTION LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2010 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011, AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS ARISING FROM SAID LEVY; ALSO THE DISBURSEMENTS OF CERTAIN OTHER FUNDS.**

**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION NO. 10-55  
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET; AND SETTING REVENUES AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 - 2011, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mr. Callahan gave a brief presentation on changes made since the first budget hearing and what was now reflected in the actual budget amount. He displayed graphs of "Evaluation of Operations" as to what the process was and how the budget had been finalized as it stood tonight.

The public hearing was opened, anyone wishing to speak in favor or opposition please come forward.

**Richard Thomas**, city resident, suggested the elected officials and department heads, who make good money, take a pay cut to understand how all the people feel who aren't making as much money or don't have a job.

Mayor Poston stated for the record that the elected officials had taken a 5% pay cut and the Department Heads have not had a pay increase in 3 years, just like the rest of the city employees.

**Linda Seabolt**, city resident, voiced her opposition to a tax increase as the city could outsource a lot of jobs to private businesses and cut medical insurance and other benefits which many taxpayers also do not have. She stated many times she has seen city employees just standing around doing nothing or 3-4 people cutting one palm tree.

General discussion: We do want to know about what people see out there regarding our employees. What looks like employees standing around may not always be and the perception may be deceiving when someone sees 3-4 city employees standing around not doing anything.

**Robert McGrath**, city employee and city resident, expressed the following: 1. Where does the money come from that was going to be spent on Manatee Avenue? 2. How much money does the city give to the Pittsburgh Pirates annually? 3. How could it be that the City of Palmetto was not laying off employees, and the employees were getting raises? 4. Raising water/sewer and trash pickup rates will hurt the city employees even more who were also residents. 5. Why was the city paying \$200,000 to an outside planning firm to better our neighborhoods, when we have our own planning department?

Answers given to Mr. McGrath: 1. The money for the Manatee Avenue project was being paid from state funds, federal stimulus money and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). 2. From a new contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, the city built two new facilities and the Pirates took over all costs for operations. In a long term contract, the \$1 million was to pay in debt service for the stadium and Pirates City. 3. The City of Palmetto was a smaller community with a higher millage rate and they had no fire department to pay for in that millage rate. 4. It was very difficult to raise water/sewer and trash rates, but with costs going up, the 3% increase still only pays for a portion of the expenses. To fully fund operations, it would be necessary to raise the rate to 8 or 9%, which was not something the city wanted to do. 5. The city was making changes to be better situated for long term planning by adopting a new planning method known as Form-Based Code. An experienced professional outside planning firm was hired to help us make this transition. The firm was being paid by the three CRA's and the CCRA, with the city's portion of being \$19,000.

**John Abbuhl**, city resident, asked why, with so many foreclosures and vacant properties utilizing less water, was the rate being increased?

Mr. Callahan stated the city had been seeing a decline in revenues for many years, while expenses of chemical costs increased each year. The city was seeing decreased water usage, but there were still water plant operation expenses, which have to be maintained to keep up the regulated high quality water standard.

**Calvin R. Armstrong**, Public Works employee stated that sometimes a work crew needed more than one person for safety reasons.

**Firefighter Rocco Salvatori**, city resident, expressed his support for the current budget and the proposed levy increase. He read his past tax bills since 2005, which had not increased drastically. He stated that you get what you pay for, and the City of Bradenton has the best services around for the taxes that we pay.

**Deputy Fire Chief Ezell**, city resident stated as a homeowner he has looked at the proposed tax increase and found it to be about \$5.00 more which was not that injurious. The city has done a lot of reductions and some employees have lost their jobs. He supported the proposed millage rate because if it did not go through, there would be more employees laid off and the level of services would decline.

General discussion: A lower millage rate of 4.2843 would result in a loss of revenue of almost \$1.7 million. The city would then have to rely on reserves, which was not good business practice.

Mr. Callahan displayed graphs of the departments reflecting that most of the cost was for salaries versus operational costs.

The public hearing was closed.

**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION NO. 10-54**  
**A RESOLUTION LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2010 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011, AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS ARISING FROM SAID LEVY; ALSO THE DISBURSEMENTS OF CERTAIN OTHER FUNDS.**

Mr. Callahan stated Resolution 10-54 listed the purposed millage rate as 4.9452 which was the roll back rate.

Councilman Smith stated he would support the motion as there was no other way to run the City which has to be run like a business. He stated we must be even more aware of the expenses and what can be done to lower the budget. He stated just like others, he has had income loss in his family and he feels the pain. There was just no other way, but to pass this resolution.

Councilwoman Barnebey stated these were very tough times and that we have all felt the pain of this economy. She stated we cannot continue to cut positions and people, as it does and will affect services throughout the city and that she would be supporting the motion.

Councilman Roff stated with all the cuts that we have done this year it has been very painful, personally painful. We let some good people go a week ago, people that he liked. He does feel bad for them, and was glad we didn't have to let more people go. That's what we are trying to avoid in the future.

Councilman Roff stated there used to be a belief in America that real estate values only go up and never go down, but that has been found to be false. In his opinion, what was being done today would help protect the investments of the taxpayers and business owners. As previously discussed today, the roadway improvements, the fact that we have a police force and a fire force that protects everyone's investment makes this town livable, and marketable. He emphasized that the only thing we could hope for was an economic recovery, and that economic recoveries don't have to go necessarily everywhere in America, but pick and choose where they want to go. He stated that this town was our town; we have to look out for our town. Although many may think this motion was wrong, he would support the motion, as it was being done to protect the investment in this community. Councilman Roff expressed hopes that recovery would come sooner rather than later.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-54 with the proposed millage rate of 4.9452 which is the roll back rate with a zero percent over the roll back rate was made by Councilman Roff, seconded by Councilman Gallo and passed 5-0 for approval.**

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**SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION NO. 10-55**  
**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET; AND SETTING REVENUES AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 - 2011, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mr. Callahan stated the resolution adopted the budget and set the revenues at \$98,651,117.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-55 adopting the budget; and setting revenues and making appropriations for the City of Bradenton, Florida for the fiscal year 2010 - 2011, providing an effective date.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: This is not a verbatim record. An audio CD or DVD recording of the meeting is available for a fee upon request.