

APPROVED BY
July 16, 2008
CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF BRADENTON

City Council Special Meeting

July 2, 2008 / 9:00 a.m. / City of Bradenton Council Chamber

Minutes

In Attendance

Mayor Poston; Councilpersons Roff, Smith, Byrd, Gallo. Councilwoman Barnebey excused from meeting.

Department Heads: Lisch/City Attorney, Callahan/City Clerk, Polk/Planning, Radzilowski/BPD, Cross/IT, Souders/BFD, Moore/Human Resources, Tankersley/Public Works.

Also attending: McCann/P.I.O, Bradenton Herald

**This meeting was held in lieu of the City Council Workshop
previously scheduled for July 9, 2008.**

Meeting was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Poston.

TOPIC: (Callahan) 2008-09 Budget

Mr. Callahan announced that the final valuation numbers had been received from the Property Appraiser's office, allowing him to determine the amount of anticipated property tax revenue for budget purposes. The city's current millage rate is 4.1134. He announced the 2008-09 rollback rate will be 4.6382. The maximum millage rate that can be approved by majority vote of council will be 4.4433, which would still be a reduction to taxpayers. Anything above this rate would require super majority vote of council.

Further discussion included: budget projections indicating a two-fold impact to the city (reduction in revenues and increase in costs), take-home vehicles for city employees, employee benefits, longevity, rising chemical and utility costs, enterprise and fee-based city operations.

MOTION to adopt a 5% pay cut for Mayor and City Council was made by Councilman Gallo, seconded by Councilman Smith, and carried 4-0 for approval (Councilwoman Barnebey excused from meeting).

Mr. Callahan explained Council is legally allowed a 4.15% increase in the millage rate based on this year's personal income growth in the state of Florida, which would increase this year's millage rate from 4.1134 to 4.2843 and allow for an additional \$500,000+ in property tax revenue. He explained that even with this additional revenue, the city will need to make up for a \$2.5 million shortfall. Council authorized Mr. Callahan to proceed with the 4.2843 figure as a guideline for budget discussion purposes. Mr. Callahan will prepare a draft of the budget document taking this millage rate into consideration.

As a potential benefit in lieu of raises for city employees, Councilman Gallo brought forward the concept of a four-day workweek (ten-hour days). Discussion included: impacts to employees, citizens, and overall operations; apply to city hall and ancillary operations at this time; each department to make arrangements as necessary for their operations; creating a more productive workforce. Flexible times may be needed to accommodate some employees. Efforts will be made to maximize customer service. A policy will need to be established regarding holiday time.

Councilman Smith voiced his concern about the effect this scheduling would have in the Planning Department (permits, inspections, code enforcement). He requested a more detailed plan be brought forth for Council approval.

MOTION to implement a 4 x 10-hour day workweek for the appropriate departments in the city was made by Councilman Byrd, seconded by Councilman Gallo, and carried 3-1 for approval (Councilman Smith dissent; Councilwoman Barnebey excused from meeting.)

Councilman Smith encouraged the public to participate in budget process.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

NEXT WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR: Wednesday, August 6, 2008, 9:00 a.m.
Central Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting Room
302 Manatee Avenue East, Suite 308

Audio recording of this meeting is available from the City Clerk upon request.