

**CITY COUNCIL TOWNHALL MEETING
August 17, 2010**

APPROVED BY
September 8, 2010
CITY COUNCIL

The City of Bradenton City Council met in special session in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida on August 17, 2010 at 7:00 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

Press: The Herald and The Bradenton Times.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Poston.

Mr. Callahan stated the purpose of the town hall meeting was to hear the opinions of the citizens as to how the city should best invest its financial resources and what the communities' priorities are on city services. No city residents were present in the audience, with the exception of city employees.

Mr. Callahan gave a brief overview of the proposed 2010-2011 general budget of, \$32 million, down \$1.6 million from the current year. The proposed budget included utility revenues, of approximately \$97 million, down from \$104.7 million this year. He stated this was a bare-bones budget that would have to carry over from year to year.

Mr. Callahan gave a scenario of past budgets: The 2005-2006 budget allowed for, 583 city employees; this year's proposed budget sustains around 500 employees, which was the number of employees the city had in 1995. There were 88 police officers in 1995, we currently have 120 officers. There had been no significant increase in the city's population. In 2000 the city population was 49,336; currently the population was 54,051. He stated he did not expect the situation to change much in the next year.

Mr. Callahan reminded everyone that the first public hearing on the budget had been set for 5:01 p.m. on September 8th. He suggested holding the second public hearing on September 22nd at 5:01 p.m. as this was immediately prior to the regular city council meeting set for 6:00 p.m. that evening.

ACTION: Council gave no objections.

Mayor Poston stated this was a tight budget with no frills; it was a budget about operations and not about capital. Mayor Poston stated he had talked with the Florida League of Cities which confirmed that other cities had the same issues that we were facing.

Police Officer Sean O'Leary, Firefighter Rocco Salvatori and Public Works Employee Keith Dibell all city residents, thanked Mr. Callahan and the City Council for working hard on this year's budget. They all encouraged the City Council and stated they supported the city, as to the tough choices that had to be made which may not be popular with residents.

The Council thanked the city employees for their comments and support.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 7:45 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.