

CITY OF BRADENTON
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING #1
September 11, 2013
5:01 P.M
MINUTES

The City of Bradenton City Council met in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida, at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2013, for the first of two public hearings on the proposed 2013-2014 City of Bradenton budget.

Present: Mayor Wayne Poston; Vice Mayor/Councilman Ward 1 Gene Gallo; Councilman Ward II Gene Brown; Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; Councilman Ward IV Bemis Smith; and Councilman Ward V Harold Byrd, Jr.

City Officials: Carl Callahan, City Clerk & Treasurer/Chief of Staff; Michael Radzilowski, Police Chief; Claude Tankersley, Public Works Director; Chuck Edwards, Fire Chief; and Tim Polk, Department of Planning & Community Development Director.

William Lisch, City Attorney, was out with an excused absence.

City Clerk & Treasurer, Carl Callahan, provided an overview of the setting of the tentative millage rate of 5.8976, which was over the rollback rate of 5.4005 or a 9.2% increase. That millage rate would result in an additional \$1.2 million dollars with a net of \$900,000 overall after meeting financial obligations.

He reviewed the overall budget which reflected little change in expenditures since 2004 with the costs decreasing in operating costs but with public safety costs greatly increasing. He highlighted the top three major reasons that necessitated an increase in the millage rate and the budget:

1. Public Safety Pensions - \$500,000 increase
2. FRS Pensions - \$206,000 increase
3. Paving Program - \$100,000 to maintain city streets

The desire of the City was to maintain the status quo and not reduce services.

Claude Tankersley, Public Works Director, gave an overview of a pay-as-you-go plan to complete projects to maintain the city's infrastructure: rehabilitation of our 60-70-year-old water mains, replacement of a lift station, replacement of all water meters as they are now 15-years old, expansion of the storage capacity of the water system to account for growth, and road paving.

Mr. Callahan said that police union negotiations were ongoing and the results would be reported. He also said that salary adjustments would be made to employees who were working for wages beneath comparable salaries in like positions.

The Public Hearing was opened.

Speaking in support of the Bradenton Police Department, **Tami Spyker**, **Joshua Small**, and **Sean O'Leary** urged Council to increase the millage rate more to allow for salary increases to be become competitive with other cities to retain experienced personnel here.

The Public Hearing was closed.

The Public Hearing was reopened.

Carl Callahan explained that no funds had yet been set aside for the police department as negotiations were ongoing. When an agreement was reached, the monies would be incorporated into the budget. He restated that pension costs **MUST** be funded, even though Council would prefer to see funds go to salaries.

The Public Hearing was closed.

RESOLUTION 13-36

A RESOLUTION LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2013 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014, AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS ARISING FROM SAID LEVY; ALSO THE DISBURSEMENTS OF CERTAIN OTHER FUNDS.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-36 WAS MADE BY Vice Mayor/Councilman Gallo, seconded by Councilman Brown, and approved 5:0.

RESOLUTION 13-37

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET AND SETTING REVENUES AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Callahan said approving this resolution would adopt the budget on a tentative basis subject to the outcome of the final budget hearing at 5:01 p.m. on Sept. 18, 2013, which would be properly advertised in Saturday's Bradenton Herald.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 13-37 WAS MADE BY Vice Mayor/Councilman Gallo, seconded by Councilman Roff, and approved 5:0.

Mr. Callahan said that budget adjustments could be made before the end of next week's meeting; however, the millage rate could not be raised, but it could be lowered.

He then thanked everyone who had been involved in the preparation of the tentative budget, including department heads and staff.

There being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 6:01 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.