

CITY OF BRADENTON
CITY COUNCIL – SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING
September 12, 2011
5:01 P.M.
MINUTES

The City of Bradenton City Council met in SPECIAL SESSION in the City Hall Council Chamber, 101 Old Main Street, Bradenton, Florida, at 5:01 p.m. on September 12, 2011 for the first public hearing of the budget.

Present: Councilman Ward I Gene Gallo; Councilwoman Ward II Marianne Barnebey; Vice Mayor and Councilman Ward III Patrick Roff; 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; Chuck Edwards, Fire Chief, Warren Merriman, Police Captain, and Tim Polk, Department of Planning & Community Development Director.

Councilman Smith was excused from the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Poston.

Mr. Callahan administered the oath to any individuals who wished to speak during the public hearings.

Carl Callahan, City Clerk & Treasurer / Chief of Staff, presented the resolutions to adopt the 2011-12 proposed budget and set the ad valorem tax rate. Resolution 11-43 would provide for the setting of the rollback millage rate at 5.2002 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. Once adopted, the millage rate cannot be raised, but it could be lowered. Resolution 11-44 would accept the proposed budget of \$102,259, 014 and allow for preparation for the necessary public advertising to allow for the second budget hearing.

He gave an overview of the proposed budget, itemizing various departments, and the hard times and decisions still being faced.

RESOLUTION 11-43 FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

A RESOLUTION LEVYING TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2011, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012, AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS ARISING FROM SAID LEVY; ALSO THE DISBURSEMENTS OF CERTAIN OTHER FUNDS.

The meeting was opened to public comment.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Tami Spyker, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for the Bradenton Police Department, said that over the past two years, Neighborhood Watch programs have been greatly expanding and helping to reduce crime. She read a statement expressing thanks for the police department's support. She said that each member of the police department is invaluable, and the Neighborhood Watch programs would be useless without them.

Sean O'Leary, Bradenton police officer and representative for the Police Benevolent Association, asked City Clerk Carl Callahan how much the rollback rate would cost per family. The response was approximately \$25 per year on a valuation of \$100,000. Officer O'Leary expressed concern about the

need to maintain quality individuals in the department and questioned if the proposed millage rate would be high enough to be able to retain personnel. The reality of the COPS grant being discontinued makes the need for more revenue sources necessary. He stressed that safety is one of the major factors in making a city a desirable place in which to live.

Rocco Salvatori, Bradenton Fire Department firefighter and resident of the Pine Lakes subdivision, compared what city taxpayers pay versus county taxpayers as his neighborhood is divided between both. County residents pay as much for their fire district alone as he pays for his entire city taxes, which includes the city's fire district and other excellent city services. He encouraged Council to seek revenue via different and varied means including higher taxes to maintain the excellent services we all enjoy.

He further addressed the issues of the Firefighters' Pension & drop program and said that the pension has more money in it than it has ever had and that the market value of assets is higher than it has ever been. He felt that through collective bargaining, contribution numbers could be returned to reasonable levels.

Chard Winheim, nephew of a city resident, spoke to Council about reconsidering the proposed change in the millage rate as times are difficult for many and it would translate to more than \$25 per household depending upon property assessments.

The public hearing was closed.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 11-43 was made by Councilman Gallo, seconded by Vice Mayor and Councilman Roff, and approved 4:0. (Councilman Smith was excused)

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 11-44 was made by Vice Mayor and Councilman Roff, seconded by Councilman Gallo, and approved 4:0. (Councilman Smith was excused)

Mayor Poston stated that the 2nd Budget Hearing would be held at 5:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, and thanked all in the audience for coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Their being no further business, Mayor Poston adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

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