

**City Commission Budget Workshop
Meeting Minutes
(APPROVED)**

8/13/2019 - Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Mayor Eugene Fultz, Terrye Howell, Al Goldstein, Robin Gibson, Curtis Gibson

Staff Present: Kenneth Fields, City Manager; Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk

Mayor Eugene Fultz called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

2.1. Draft Budget FY 2019'20 And Draft 5-Year CIP

Dorothy Abbott, Director of Finance, reviewed the draft budget. She reviewed the budget summary on page 4. This year's budget will be \$53,678,314. This includes all funds and departments. This budget goes to the rollback rate of 6.9339 and it is a balanced budget. This budget requires the use of some reserves. The first budget hearing is September 10th.

Kenneth Fields, City Manager, said that this budget goes to rollback rate and is balanced. He asked each department to cut 1.5% from their proposed budgets which they did. They reviewed the draft budget and made adjustments according to commission comments and further adjustments will be made through the year. Mr. Fields said that we are waiting for reimbursements on several projects so our reserves are below where we would like them to be. He said we are in good financial shape going forward. The key elements of the CRA Plan was funded within the CRA budget such as design work for Park Avenue and for Grove Manor. We have not yet budgeted for an affordable housing program. There is money available for this though. The City operating budget is conservative and we should be in good shape going forward.

After comments from the public Mayor Fultz asked for comments and questions from the commission.

Commissioner Howell asked what the changes are between the previous draft of the budget and the current one. Ms. Abbott said the first version was unbalanced before any cuts were made. The current version is balanced with some projects were cut.

Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson asked for more information about the status of the reserves. Ms. Abbott explained that, in the general fund, we will have \$2.2 million in the reserves at the beginning of the fiscal year. This is an aggressive budget based on the current growth. At the end of the next fiscal year our ending reserves will be about \$500,000. The only way to avoid this change is to not have capital projects. In March she will have to report to the Commission that we are doing fine or we will be waiting on funds to come back in. Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson asked if the reimbursements that come back go into the reserves. Ms. Abbott said that money is accounted for already. Mr. Fields said that expenses were higher than anticipated as we were not reimbursed by FEMA on some projects and some projects cost more than anticipated. one Airport project cost \$1 million over. When that money comes back it repays the advanced payments not into reserves. We have ended up with lower reserves this next year. He is comfortable going forward with the current status of reserves. Ms. Abbott said the reserves on October 1 will be higher than it has been in many years. The City is healthy in the general funds. In order to maintain this the capital projects proposed in the next budget will have to be canceled. Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson asked what those Capital projects are. Ms. Abbott said they are on page 18. Mr. Fields said that some of the new growth isn't reflected in the budget. Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson

wanted to get a list of the projects specific to the \$1.7 million. Ms. Abbot said she would provide that. Deputy Mayor asked about the affordable housing and Grove Manor projects if they were separate. Mr. Fields said they are in the CRA along with the restaurant incentive.

Mayor Fultz asked about Serenity which is well under way and if money from that is coming in. Mr. Fields said that income is impact fees. Ms. Bangley said the city impact fees will come in within the month and the county fees will be paid later. She gave an update on forthcoming projects.

Commissioner Curtis Gibson thanked staff for cleaning up some of the wording in the CIP document. He asked that additional changes be made to be clear where the funding is coming from. Ms. Bangley said that she is going to continue to work on the CIP document to include that change.

Commissioner Curtis Gibson said that the performance stage and bathrooms at Lake Wailes Park are a priority.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

John Turley, resident, addressed the item in the museum budget for the yellow depot. He explained that there is a new Friends of the Museum organization that will help raise the match for this project. There will be fundraisers and membership drives. There are several areas that his group can help the Museum with. They appreciate the City's support. Mayor Fultz said we are proud of our investment in the museum.

Catherine Price, resident, brought up a house in poor condition on her block and asked for the process to clean it up to be expedited. She recommended additional funds for Code Enforcement activities. Kathy Bangley, Planning Director, reported on the status of this site. They are working on getting a price from a contractor. Mayor Fultz said something will be happening at that site soon.

Allison Snyder, Green and Gold Foundation, read a list of additional needs at Green and Gold Foundation including additional staff, air conditioning, fencing and computers. Mayor Fultz reported on a conversation with Clinton Horne, on behalf of the Green and Gold Foundation, asking for additional support. He asked Ms. Snyder how much they needed. Ms. Snyder said \$40,000. Mayor Fultz asked about fundraising efforts. Ms. Snyder said they are having a gala on November 2nd. Due to board member turnover an event wasn't done yesterday. Additional fundraising efforts for Green and Gold were discussed. Commissioner Goldstein expressed support to increase contributions to \$40,000. Mayor Fultz said we have consensus among the Commission. Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson asked if the people they serve are residents or non-residents? Ms. Snyder said they are mostly residents. Commissioner Howell described some of the Center's funding. Ms. Snyder reported that some funds were cut over the past few years. Commissioner Curtis Gibson said we should help as we cannot let that fail. He has seen what they do. Ms. Snyder thanked the Commission for their support. Mr. Fields said he will take care of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.