

MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 Garrison Avenue, August 23, 2016, at 12 Noon.

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Buzzett, Lowry, and Thursbay. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, Chief of Police Matt Herring, Public Works Director John Grantland, Financial Analyst Mike Lacour, Attorney Tom Gibson, and Insurance Agent Dwight Van Lierop were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was an update of the PACES Affordable Housing Project and the proposed FY '16 – '17 Budget.

Affordable Housing update

Rick Haymond, PACES Development Associate, advised the Commission they are ready to start their project. All Impact Fees have been paid, and PACES will submit the documents needed for their Development Order this week. He thanked the Commission for their help in making this project a reality. Mr. Haymond introduced Allan Parauka, Royal America Construction (RAC) and Renee Sandell, Chief Operating Officer and Development Director of the PACES Foundation.

Mr. Parauka shared that it appears there are a number of local sub-contractors that will be able to bid on the project. He stated RAC is ready to pick up their work permits for the project.

The Commissioners reiterated their concerns that local hires be used when possible rather than hire workers from outside the area.

FY '16 – '17 Budget

Mr. Anderson noted that since the last Workshop, Staff has worked to create a balanced budget and they have accomplished that task.

Insurance – The cap for individual health insurance, Option 2, will be \$693 per employee per month. If an employee wishes to keep the current policy, the employee will be required to pay an additional \$45 per month for the existing coverage. There will be an increase in the deductible of Option 2 as well as an increase in co-pays for doctor visits.

Matching Grant Funds – Add \$62,500 in BP Funds to cover potential Grant Matching Funds.

Consulting Expenses were reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

Staffing Changes – Cut the new position in Water Distribution that included backfilling the Inmate Supervisor position with a Certified Correctional Officer. The savings would be utilized in the Recreation Department (\$5,000) and for Water System Improvements (\$41,000).

Non-Departmental

Mayor Patterson requested that the possibility of placing a well or a separate meter be addressed for the Humane Society. Their Sewer charges are high and most of the water is not going to the sewer as the water is used in washing animals. He also proposed that the following entities be given \$1,000 each for this year only: Gulf County Public Library, Life Management, and Early Childhood Coalition. These expenses would come from BP Funds and will be added to the Budget.

Commissioner Buzzett suggested that the water bills have a place for a voluntary charitable contribution and earmarked for charitable contributions. Mr. Gibson advised that the City cannot make charitable donations using taxpayers' money. However, the funds could be used on projects to benefit the community. This is to be on the next Agenda.

Mr. Anderson shared that the cost to the City for customers to use credit cards is increasing and suggested that a convenience fee for using credit cards may need to be considered in the near future. Staff will do a summary of expenses for the Commissioners to review.

Citizens to Be Heard

No one wished to address the Commission.

Commissioner Comments

Neither Commissioners Ashbrook, Buzzett, Lowry nor Thursbay had anything to discuss.


Mayor Patterson reminded the Commissioners of the North Port St. Joe Project Action Committee's Master Plan Update and Implementation meeting Saturday, August 27, 2016, from 11:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., at the Washington Improvement Group Building.

The next Budget Workshop will be on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, at Noon in the Ward Ridge Building.

Motion to Adjourn

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to adjourn the Meeting at 12:45 P.M.

Approved this 6th day of September 2016.


James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

9/9/2016
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

9/7/16
Date