

**MINUTES OF THE FY 2017 – 2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE FLORIDA, HELD AT 305 Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd., August 8, 2017, 12 O'clock Noon**

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Buzzett, Lowry, and Thursbay. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, Financial Analysts Mike Lacour, Police Chief Matt Herring, Public Works Director John Grantland, Surface Water Treatment Plant Director Larry McClamma, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Director Kevin Pettis were also present.

The purpose of the Workshop was to provide an overview of the FY 2017 – 2018 Budget.

Copies of the preliminary 2017 – 2018 Fiscal Year Budget were distributed.

City Manager Jim Anderson noted the purpose of the meeting and reminded the Commission that the current Millage Rate is 3.5914, the proposed Millage Rate of 4.5914 was submitted for Budget planning purposes, and the rate can't be increased but can be decreased. He also shared that the First Public Hearing on the Budget will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 5:01 P.M. and the Final Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, also at 5:01 P.M.

Financial Analyst Mike Lacour discussed the budget process and how the current budget was determined. He noted that the General Fund is out of balance by about \$69,000 but that can be resolved. There is an increase of approximately \$44,777 in property taxes for the coming year. Health Insurance had a 2.91% increase in premium which will be a monthly premium of \$714.02 for Plan 1 and \$759.73 for Plan 2. Both monthly plans are over the current of the cap of \$693 and will be absorbed by the Employee. There is a \$10,675 increase in the City's contribution to FRS for the coming year. He noted there could be a savings on insurance rates for Liability and Workers Comp.

Mayor Patterson stated he was not in favor of raising taxes.

Commissioner Lowry noted that he brought the issue of Commission raises up and felt they were needed.

Commissioner Buzzett stated that he did not support an increase for Commission salaries.

Commissioner Thursbay noted that he had researched School Board and County Commission Salaries and they are \$25,460 and \$27,640 respectively, and he favors a raise for the Commissioners.

Mayor Patterson again stated that he was not in favor of raising taxes for raises, but felt cuts could be made to the budget to provide them.

Commissioner Ashbrook does not support raising taxes for raises, but is not opposed to a raise for Commissioners if other changes can be made.

Commissioner Ashbrook asked that the Waste Pro Contract be reviewed as he continues to receive numerous complaints about the lack of service from them. He requested that this issue be on the August 14, 2017, Agenda.

Mayor Patterson has been talking with Gulf County officials Don Butler, Michael Hammond, and Warren Yeager about the possibility of having the County Building Inspector cover the City. He feels there would be savings for the citizens and asked that this be on the next Agenda.

Mayor Patterson shared that the City of Tallahassee had cut 22 employees. He questioned if the City was overloaded and if cuts could be made anywhere. He also noted that he would like to see changes in the Code Enforcement Position, reduction of salary, designated hours for each week, and have that office moved to Public Works. Mayor Patterson feels that he should have an office in City Hall and Code Enforcement is the only employee that could be moved.

Cathy Colbert, representing the Friends of the Library, asked the Commission for their continued support and would appreciate any funds that could be provided. When the County reduced their funding it also caused the state funding to be less and the Library is providing more than books. Mrs. Colbert offered to answer any questions or provide additional information if needed.

Commissioner Thursbay left the meeting at 1:00 P.M.

Greg Johnson addressed the Commission with his concerns about the direction the City is headed. He feels that the approximate 400% raise for the Commissioners is outlandish. He noted that had 3% raises been given since 1997, they would equate to 60% which is much more acceptable. Mr. Johnson also expressed his concern about the time two employees are using for attending County and School Board functions. He shared that one employee had been off 20 days to attend events all while being compensated by the City and County. Mr. Johnson also questioned 3 Commissioners attending the FL League of Cities Conference and felt the City Manager and 1 Commissioner should go. He estimated the expenses for the conference would be about \$5,000 for the 3 to attend. He asked that these issues be readdressed.


Mayor Patterson's responded that when the Administrative Leave was established, there were unknowns, and the issue needs to be revisited.

Guerry Magidson noted that he had computed the suggested Commission raises and as a tax payer and citizen, he could not support a 420% salary increase for the Commission.

Commissioners were asked to review the information provided prior to the next Workshop. The next Budget Workshop will be held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 24, 2017, at Noon. The meeting scheduled for August 15, 2017, has been cancelled and moved to Monday, August 14, 2017, at Noon in the Ward Ridge Building. Three Commissioners will be attending the FL League of Cities Conference and will not be available for the meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2017.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn the Workshop at 1:30 P.M.

Approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017.

  
James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

  
Date

  
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

  
Date