

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE; ORDINANCE 599 AD VALOREM
TAX ORDINANCE; 600 2022 - 2023 BUDGET FOR FY 2022 - 2023 WITH THE
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE,
FLORIDA, HELD IN THE WARD RIDGE BUILDING, September 13, 2022, at
5:01 P.M.**

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Hoffman, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, City Attorney Clinton McCahill, and Finance Director Mike Lacour were also present. Commissioners Ashbrook and Langston were absent.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was Ordinance 599 – 2022 / 2023 Ad Valorem Tax Millage Rate Public Hearing, First Reading; Ordinance 600 – 2022 / 2023 Budget Public Hearing, First Reading.

City Attorney –

Ordinance 599 Ad Valorem Property Taxes 2022 – 2023, Public Hearing, First Reading:

Kevin Holden asked if the Millage rate was an increase or decrease. Mayor Buzzett shared that the Millage rate, 3.5914, is the same as it has been for a number of years, and the percentage by which the Millage levied is 16.59% more than the rolled-back rate.

Curtis Brown, representing Barefoot Cottages, asked if the City had considered reducing the Millage rate. Mayor Buzzett responded that the increase in property taxes will bring in more money, inflation is currently at 9%, and the Commission has concentrated on taking care of the employees, infrastructure, and roadways.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to have the First Reading of Ordinance 599. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 599 in its entirety.

The Ad Valorem Property Tax Millage Rate for Municipal Purposes to be levied on the taxable property within the City limits of the City of Port St. Joe for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023, is set at the rate of 3.5914 mills. The percentage by which this millage rate to be levied is more than the rolled-back rate of 3.0803 mills (computed pursuant to Florida law) is 16.59%

Ordinance 600 Budget 2022 – 2023, Public Hearing, First Reading:

No one from the public wished to address the Commission.

Mayor Buzzett complimented City Staff on a job well done allocating the funds and noted the total Budget for FY 2022 – 2023 is \$38,480,962.

Commissioner Lowry stated that he had been out a lot lately, but had a lengthy meeting with City Manager Jim Anderson yesterday and appreciates all the hard work that has been done on the Budget.

Mr. Anderson shared that most municipalities in our area have gone up on their rates. He noted that the City has not had an increase in City Water or Sewer rates, and by contract, garbage collection may go up 3% in January.

Commissioner Hoffman reminded everyone that water supplied by the City of Port St. Joe has passed the state criteria each quarter where the water provide by the County has failed the criteria each quarter and their customers have had to be notified of the situation. He also shared that he feels the City has a solid budget, bringing new employees on is a service to the City, the Commission has held the line on water and sewer rates and noted that all Bay County municipalities have increased their rates. Commissioner Hoffman stated that, in his opinion, the City is way behind in wages for employees, wants to have a more competitive workforce, and thanked the Commissioners and Employees for their support.

Commissioner Lowry noted that water and sewer rates have been held at 3% and he hoped to continue this trend.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry, to have the First Reading of Ordinance 600. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 600 by Title only.

Citizens to be Heard

Kevin Holden questioned why the area of Jones Homestead Road was annexed into the City, stated he did not feel the residents of Jones Homestead Road were receiving sufficient benefits from being in the City, and asked what would be required to de-annex that section from the City.

Chief Richards shared that the voluntary annexation had taken place around the time work was begun on the hospital and long before any of the houses were built.

Mr. Anderson noted that Jones Homestead Road is a County road, the ditches, sidewalks, and 60' Right of Way are all County Property.

Tim Hightower shared about issues with his water filters and encouraged the Commission not to de-annex the Jones Homestead area.

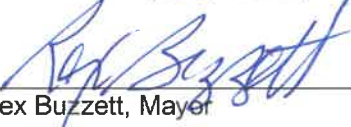
Discussion items by Commissioners

There was no discussion by Commissioners

Motion to Adjourn

Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 5:25 P.M.

Approved this 20th day of September 2022.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

9/20/22

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

9/20/22

Date