

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024  
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE; ORDINANCE 604 AD VALOREM  
TAX ORDINANCE; 605 2023 - 2024 BUDGET FOR FY 2023 - 2024 WITH THE  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE,  
FLORIDA, HELD IN THE WARD RIDGE BUILDING, September 22, 2023, at  
5:01 P.M.**

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

The purpose of the Special Meeting was Ordinance 604 – 2023 / 2024 Ad Valorem Final Public Hearing; Ordinance 605 – 2023 / 2024 Budget Final Public Hearing; City Attorney Contract; Resolution 2023-05; 2023 / 2024 Utility Rates, and Resolution 2023-06, City Pay Scale.

**Ordinance 604 Ad Valorem Tax**

***Public Hearing***

Christy McElroy questioned the difference between this year's and last year's budgets.

Mayor Buzzett shared that taxes have gone up, increasing the funding, but the City has not raised their millage rate in many years and the City cannot operate on the same budget as last year.

Ms. McElroy also asked about funding for roads, and it was noted that monies have been escrowed, a grant has been received, and cameras are being run on infrastructure in some of the roads.

*Ordinance 604 Ad Valorem Property Taxes 2023 – 2024, Public Hearing, Second Reading and Adoption*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to have the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 604. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 604 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, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, 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 3.1043 mills (computed pursuant to Florida law) is 16.59%

**Ordinance 605 2023 – 2024 Budget**

***Public Hearing***

Christy McElroy questioned the salaries of different administrative positions.

City Manager Jim Anderson noted that what she was referring to is the salary ranges for each position and not salary increases.

Robert Branch thanked the Commissioners for their time and noted that raises were an issue with him.

It was reiterated that the figures he was looking at are salary ranges not increases. All employees will receive a 6.5% raise across the board.

*Ordinance 605 Budget 2022 – 2023, Final Public Hearing, Second Reading and Adoption:*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman second by Commissioner Langston, to have the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 605. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 605 by Title only.

**Citizens to be Heard**

Mr. Branch also questioned the notice of today's meeting. It was pointed out that the meeting was on the website and posted at both City buildings. The Public Hearings on Ad Tax and the Budget were printed on the TRIM Notices.

**City Attorney Contract**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve the contract for two years with a monthly increase of \$500 per month. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

**Resolution 2023-05, 2023 / 2024 Utility Rates**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Utility Rates for 2023 – 2024. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0. It was noted that there has not been an increase in Utility Rates since 2020.

**Resolution 2023-06, City Pay Scale**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Langston, to approve the City Pay Scale for FY 2023 – 2024. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

**Discussion items by Commissioners**

Neither Commissioner Hoffman nor Commissioner Langton had anything to share with the Commission.

Mayor Buzzett noted that he is looking forward to another good year.

**Motion to Adjourn**

Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 5:27 P.M.

Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2023.

Rex Buzzett  
Rex Buzzett, Mayor

10/3/23  
Date

Charlotte M. Pierce  
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

10/3/23  
Date