

**CITY OF ANNA MARIA
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TENTATIVE MILLAGE / TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2006
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL: Mayor SueLynn, Commissioner Dale Woodland, Commission Chair John Quam, Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer

Absent with excuse: Commissioner Christine Tollette, Commissioner Duke Miller

Also present: Public Works Director George McKay, Building Official Kevin Donohue, City Attorney Jim Dye, City Clerk Alice Baird, Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe

Press: Sun, Islander

1. OPEN 2006/2007 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING.

Commissioner John Quam declared the Public Hearing open.

2. DISCUSS PROPOSED TENTATIVE BUDGET'S PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MILLAGE OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE TO FUND BUDGET (IF ANY), AND SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH AD VALOREM TAXES ARE BEING INCREASED.

Chair Quam indicated that the percentage increase over the rolled-back rate is 14.64 percent. He noted that the current year's rolled-back rate is 1.7446, and defined the rolled-back rate as the rate projected to produce the same revenue as the previous fiscal year by factoring higher property value assessments.

Commissioner John Quam announced that the proposed millage rate is 2 mills. He explained that one mill is equal to \$1.00 for every \$1,000 of assessed value, less any exceptions. The Commissioner clarified that for Anna Maria homeowners, a home valued at \$500,000 and claiming a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$950 in city taxes next year.

Commissioner Quam stated that the specific purpose for the increase in ad valorem taxes was to offset the increases in the City's operating and non-operating expenses. He asked the Commissioners to add any other specific purposes they may have identified.

Commissioner Dale Woodland requested that, in acknowledgment of its responsibility to the public, the Commission take a look at individual line items causing the 14.64 percent increase at its next meeting.

3. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT.

Jim Conoly of North Shore Drive said, relative to the 7 percent increase in City staff salaries, that he would like to comment regarding the Mayor's statement that

she had to work fifty to sixty hours per week because the staff was not competent. Mayor SueLynn denied having made any such statement.

4. CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chair John Quam declared the Public Comment portion of this public hearing closed.

5. AMEND TENTATIVE BUDGET, IF NECESSARY.

Commissioner Quam asked the City administration and staff to bring forth any proposed amendments to the tentative budget.

Building Official Kevin Donohue indicated, relative to Line Item #112, that after communication with the service provider, Digital Eel, Inc., he was requesting an increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000. He said the reason for this was that detailed information had not been available at the time the budget was being prepared, and that the increase related to various start-up expenses. The Building Official noted that maintenance of the website, once re-constructed for live, real-time input, was expected to cost \$1,000 annually.

There was consensus to increase Line Item #112 from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Public Works Director George McKay referred to his memo to the Mayor relative to swale maintenance and stormwater management, and explained that specific information regarding the failed water pipe (under Gladiolus at the intersection of Gulf Drive and Gladiolus), the stormwater discharge filters, and the mowing equipment necessary for swale maintenance had not been available to him at the time the budget was being prepared.

Mr. McKay requested that Line Item #224 – Stormwater Maintenance Outlets be increased by \$6,000. Commissioner Dale Woodland inquired whether the failed pipe was located under the road, or in the right-of-way. The Public Works Director indicated that the pipe was underneath the roadway. Commissioner Woodland confirmed that roadwork in this area would not begin before the pipe had been replaced.

There was consensus to increase Line Item #224 by \$6,000 and to obtain these funds from the general contingency fund.

Public Works Director George McKay requested that the funds for two replacement stormwater discharge filters, in the amount of \$1,552, be added to Line Item #172 – Maintenance Gladiolus / North Shore Drainage. **There was consensus to make the requested increase. It was agreed by all present, with the exception of Commissioner Woodland, to obtain the funds necessary from the general contingency fund.**

Relative to the mowing equipment necessary for the maintenance of swales, the Public Works Director confirmed to Commissioner Quam that the contractor doing the right-of-way mowing did not have equipment to handle the slope of the swales.

Commissioner Linda Cramer received clarification from Mr. McKay that the state contract proposed related to purchase of equipment, and that the alternative lease proposed would be for four years.

The Public Works Director explained for Commissioner Woodland the difficulties relating to the size of the cut required for the swales, as well as the angle of the slopes, for the mowing personnel and their equipment.

There was consensus to purchase the mowing equipment for \$6,098.49. Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe indicated that this expense could be put under the Fixed Assets section in the budget. Commissioner Quam confirmed with Public Works Director McKay that the two mowers currently owned by the City were 10 years old and 2 years old, respectively. The Public Works Director recommended putting the older mower out to the highest bidder on surplus equipment. **There was consensus to place the mowing equipment purchase funds in the amount of \$6,100 under Fixed Assets. With the exception of Commissioner Woodland, the Commissioners agreed to obtain the funds from the general contingency fund.**

Relative to Line Item #210, and the street cleaning on Gulf Drive, Pine Avenue, North Shore Drive, and North and South Bay Boulevards, required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, Public Works Director George McKay recommended adding \$3,000 for the street sweeper and there was consensus for this. With the exception of Commissioner Woodland, the Commissioners agreed to obtain the funds from the general contingency fund.

Discussion followed relative to the proposed hourly employee salary increases, and Commissioner Quam's Email to the Mayor on this subject. Commissioner Cramer indicated that she agreed with the proposed 7 percent increase.

Commissioner Woodland objected to making any decisions solely based on what is done in the neighboring cities. He noted that the cost of the total benefit package to employees was always increasing.

Mayor SueLynn expressed the opinion that each of the employees was worthy of the 7 percent increase, and indicated that she was currently working on performance appraisals, to be completed by the time her term in office expires this Fall. Relative to benefits, the Mayor noted that the neighboring cities pay for more employee life insurance than Anna Maria does, and also pay for long-term

disability, which currently is an option and must be paid out-of-pocket by Anna Maria employees.

With the exception of Commissioner Woodland, the Commissioners present agreed to increase the salaries of five hourly employees by 7 percent, instead of 5 percent.

Mayor SueLynn proposed a 10 percent increase in the salary of the Building Official, and referred to copies of his job description, distributed to the Commissioners for this meeting. The Mayor reviewed comparisons with the neighboring cities, noting that not only are their Building Officials paid more, they retain more staff in each city to do work that currently the Anna Maria Building Official does on his own.

With the exception of Commissioner Woodland, the Commissioners present agreed to increase Line Item #80 – Building Official by \$2,894.

Commissioner Linda Cramer indicated that she had seen Dan Burden's Power Point presentation relative to Walkable Communities, and would like the City to invite Ken Owens to make a one-day audit and a written report with his findings to help the Commission with the planning process. The Commissioner indicated that Mr. Owens is based in Orlando and booked through February 2007. She recommended allocating \$3,500 for this purpose.

Commissioner Quam indicated that he would like more information on the subject. Mayor SueLynn expressed her support for Commissioner Cramer's suggestion, indicating the possibility that funds expended could be reimbursed in the year 2010. Discussion followed relative to involving the Environmental Enhancement and Education Committee (EEEC), and the Mayor said she would contact the Committee Chairperson, Tim Eisler. Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoc noted that Line Item #158 – City Planner could be used for this expense. Commissioner Woodland expressed the opinion that funds for this should come from somewhere else other than the general contingency fund.

Commissioner Woodland confirmed that the proposed reserves at the beginning of the new fiscal year in October 2006, the City would have 33.49% of its operating budget in reserves. Deputy City Clerk Percycoc explained that at the end of fiscal year 06/07, the City was expected to have 38.1% of its operating budget in reserves. Commissioner Quam noted that if the projections were accurate, the City would be better off next year relative to the target for reserves.

Commissioner Quam recommended changing Line Item #205 to \$1,500 and changing the revenue Line Item #52 to zero. **There was consensus among the Commissioners for making the recommended changes.**

Mayor SueLynn confirmed to Commissioner Quam that the Pier Committee is responsible for the pilings.

Commissioner Cramer addressed the survey of the dunes and preservation line that had been recommended by Comprehensive Plan Facilitator Tony Arrant. The Mayor indicated that the cost for this was to be covered by the surveys line item and that she would be contacting Leo Mills for this purpose. City Attorney Dye confirmed that it would require an expert to survey the line of uplands and the dune system for Comprehensive Plan requirements.

Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe indicated that at the last meeting, she moved projects from the Capital Improvements section of the budget, and had changed the draw down of funds to the next fiscal year, according to figures provided by City Engineer Tom Wilcox.

6. RECOMPUTE TENTATIVE MILLAGE – ANNOUNCE PERCENT MILLAGE EXCEEDS (IF ANY) THE ROLLED-BACK RATE. IF MILLAGE EXCEEDS THE ROLLED-BACK RATE, THIS IS CHARACTERIZED AS THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES.

Chair Quam announced that the percentage that millage exceeds the rolled-back rate is 14.64%, and that the current rolled-back rate is 1.7446. He indicated that the proposed millage rate is 2.00.

7. ADOPT TENTATIVE MILLAGE, (AS AMENDED).

MOTION: Commissioner John Quam moved to adopt 2.00 as the tentative millage rate for the City of Anna Maria for tax year 2006, seconded by Commissioner Linda Cramer.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET, (AS AMENDED).

MOTION: Commissioner John Quam moved to adopt the budget (as amended) as the tentative budget for the City of Anna Maria for 2006/2007, seconded by Commissioner Linda Cramer.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

9. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 06-668, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FY 06/07 AND RECEIPT AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES.

Commissioner Linda Cramer read the Ordinance by title.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL MILLAGE AND BUDGET HEARING DATE. (SEPTEMBER 20, 2006 – 6:30 P.M.)

Chair John Quam announced that the second and final millage and budget hearing date is scheduled for September 20, 2006 at Anna Maria City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION: Commissioner John Quam moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Linda Cramer.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Clerk Alice Baird

Date