

**CITY OF ANNA MARIA  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
FINAL MILLAGE / FINAL BUDGET 2005 / 06  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2005  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioner Dale Woodland, Commissioner Carol Ann Magill, Commission Chair John Quam, Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer, Commissioner Duke Miller

**Also present:** City Attorney Jim Dye, Sheriff's Department Sgt. John Kenney, Mayor SueLynn, Building Official Kevin Donohue, Public Works Director George McKay, City Clerk Alice Baird, Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe, Minutes Clerk Sylvie Reichmann  
**Press:** Sun, Herald

**1. OPEN 2005/2006 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING, INCLUDING SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING RE: ORDINANCE 05-643, ADOPTION OF BUDGET FOR FY 05/06 AND RECEIPT AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES**

Chair John Quam declared the public hearing for the final 2005/2006 budget open.

**2. DISCUSS PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE IN PROPOSED FINAL MILLAGE OVER ROLLED-BACK RATE**

Commission Chair John Quam reported that at the First Public Hearing of the 2005 / 2006 budget held on September 7, 2005, the Commission set the tentative millage at 2.1 mills, with a rolled-back rate of 1.7040, the percentage increase over the rolled-back rate would be 23.24 percent at a 2.1 millage rate.

Chair Quam explained that at 2.1 mills, one mill is equal to one dollar for every one thousand dollars of assessed property value, less any exemptions. He said that in Anna Maria, a homeowner with a home valued at \$500,000 with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$997.50 in ad valorem taxes next year at a 2.1 millage rate. A homeowner with a home valued at \$1,000,000 with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$2,048 in city taxes for City services at the 2.1 millage rate.

**3. DISCUSS PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET AND AMEND IF NECESSARY**

Commission Chair John Quam noted the current budget was calculated based on 2.1 mills, and in order to lower it to 2.0 mills, the Commission would need to find 65,566. He said that if the Commission decided to lower the millage rate to 2.0, with a 1.7040 rolled-back rate, the increase over the rolled-back rate would be 17.37 percent, which would be a possible 5.87 percent reduction of the increase

over the rolled-back rate. Commission Chair John Quam called for the Commissioners' input on where they would like to set the millage rate.

**Commission Chair John Quam received consensus to review the budget with the goal of achieving a 2.0 millage rate.**

Commission Chair John Quam said *Line Item #199.0 - Lake La Vista Dredging* was an ongoing item, and suggested it be removed for a year. Mayor SueLynn showed an aerial photo of the Lake La Vista channel taken on September 14, 2005. She noted that the channel had been totally dredged in January 2005, and that in approximately eight months, had almost been filled in.

Public Works Director George McKay said it was a gamble to stretch dredging intervals to eighteen months, although it had been put off for more than two years in the past. Mayor SueLynn said that the City had finally entered into an agreement for regular dredging with a contractor. She asked if the Commission wanted to wait until the City began once again receiving complaints from boaters before taking action. Public Works Director George McKay said that dredging had been delayed in the past because of the rising cost of the work, and the difficulty in getting a contractor out for such a small job.

Relative to the jetty, Mayor SueLynn said that the City expected to wait six months to a year before it received the permit it applied for from the DEP. Discussion followed as to whether the jetty would be built before or after dredging. Mayor SueLynn said perhaps the dredging could be done as part of building the jetty.

Deputy Commission Linda Cramer suggested taking the money out the jetty line item. Mayor SueLynn said she would need to verify whether the DEP would permit work that was not funded in the budget. Public Works Director George McKay said that some seed money would need to be in place for the jetty.

Commissioner Dale Woodland said, regarding the jetty extension, that back in 1991 the DEP had not allowed the jetty to be extended, although it did allow the cloth type of barrier. He said he would not recommend any delay in applying for the permit to do the extension because it would have an long term benefit.

Relative to the dredging, he said the City was on schedule, and had not yet applied for another extension. Public Works Director George McKay said that DEP funding for dredging was in jeopardy because it was going to other government programs. Commissioner Dale Woodland said he would be willing to take the risk on postponing the dredging to next October if the fillet was cleared out (entailing considerably less cost). He noted from the photographs, that a good portion of the 16 ft. profile still remained open in the channel. Public Works Director George McKay informed Commissioner Dale Woodland that the City had an agreement with the same contractor for the dredging and the fillet. He said at this point, the fillet was not a problem, and that he checked it monthly.

Mayor SueLynn expressed the opinion that a year from now, should it become a necessity, more money may not be forthcoming from budget line items, and that the City may need to draw the money for dredging out of reserves. Public Works Director George McKay said he was concerned about renegotiating the contract, as well as about how taking away the funding for the dredging would look to the organizations like WSCIND that would assist with \$55,000 funding. The Mayor confirmed with Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe that if the \$110,000 in this line item is removed, \$55,000 would need to be taken out of revenues shown in this Draft #7 of the budget.

Commissioner Duke Miller said that he agreed with postponing dredging until the next budget, especially if Public Works Director George McKay monitored the fillet and the channel month to month.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said that she would not like to jeopardize the Lake La Vista program and suggested looking at other line items to cut. She recalled an emergency meeting to approve \$8,000 for dredging last year, and the Mayor clarified that since the City was legally obligated to keep the channel clear, the money was needed because the City had not been able to get the dredger in quickly enough.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill began her list of recommended cuts with Line Items #152, #155, and #136.

**The Commissioners showed favor, with a show of hands at 4 to 1, to remove *Line Item #152 – City Hall Sound System*. No consensus was achieved.**

Next up for discussion was *Line Item #155 – Public Works Addition* - \$9,000. Mayor SueLynn asked those present to keep in mind that if they reduced this line item, they would need to increase the expenditure for storage rental. Building Official Kevin Donohue explained that this storage space is needed to Building Department files. Commissioner Duke Miller, Commissioner Carol Ann Magill and Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer agreed with postponing the Public Works addition.

Discussion followed relative to *Line Item #136 – City Hall Roof Replacement* - \$60,000, and all agreed that this amount needed to remain in place.

Commissioner Duke Miller asked for clarification on *Line Item #94 – Building Department Copier*. Building Official Kevin Donohue said that this was a black and white copier that incorporated a fax machine and had networked printing capability. He said the current machine broke down constantly. **There was consensus among the Commissioners to keep the amount listed in *Line Item #94 – Building Department Copier*.**

Deputy Commission Linda Cramer requested further discussion of *Line Item #131 – City Planner*. Building Official Kevin Donohue said that the planner was being financed by site plan review fees. Commission Chair John Quam questioned

needing the planner eight hours every week, and recommended reducing the amount by \$8,000. Deputy Commission Linda Cramer recommended keeping the amount budgeted for this line item, unless the Commission wished to increase the City Attorney's budget.

Commissioner Dale Woodland said he looked at the amount as being \$25,000 instead of \$40,000, reduced by the amount that was to be reimbursed. He said he based his recommendation for reduction of the line item on the fact that the Comprehensive Plan would not be approved before the end of next year. He recommended reducing the Line Item by \$10,000.

Mayor SueLynn noted the City Planner was originally hired to do the Flood Plain Management Plan, and that subsequently, the Commission had asked him to look into parking. The Mayor noted that the City Planner had a great deal of varied experience, and that this capability could save the City money in attorney's fees.

Deputy Commission Linda Cramer said that she did not agree with eliminating anything she saw on the list of possible cuts. She said she would like to see the money taken out of the Lake La Vista line item. The Commissioner said she would like to see \$55,000 taken out of the Dredging or the Jetty Line Items.

Commission Chair John Quam said he agreed with Deputy Commission Linda Cramer. He said he could not see raising taxes 6% because of a possibility that dredging may need to be done. Mayor SueLynn said this was a political issue, and that she had heard that WCIND money would not be so easily forthcoming in the future. Public Works Director George McKay said he had no way of knowing how not using the money would affect future ability to pull it down. Commissioner Dale Woodland said it should be easy to persuade WCIND that the jetty work was more pressing, however funds were not available this fiscal year to do both.

Commissioner Duke Miller said he agreed with using the Dredging Line Item money.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill noted another \$10,566 was needed to reach 2.0 mills, and again suggested cutting *Line #152 – City Hall Sound System*.

Commission Chair John Quam said, regarding *Line Item #131.1 – City Engineer*, that no scope of work had been solidified, since the capital improvements list had not yet been approved. Commissioner Dale Woodland noted that Steve Minnis of SWFWMD had said that his agency would assist in grant writing. Mayor SueLynn indicated that City staff would not be available to write grants. **Commission Chair John Quam recommended cutting Line Item #131.1 by \$6,000 and there was consensus for this.**

Mayor SueLynn recalled that she had written a memo last week regarding Dr Dean and the erosion study, and the need for an additional \$2,000 to be added to that line item. **Commissioner Dale Woodland recommended the**

***Line Item #131.2 – Erosion Study* be increased by \$2,000 and there was consensus for this.**

**Regarding *Line Items #183.0 – Stormwater Maintenance Outlets and #185 – Swale Creation Maintenance*, Commission Chair John Quam recommended cutting these \$2,000 each and received consensus for this.**

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said she would not be in favor cuts to those line items, because they appeared to be cost effective stormwater measures. Commissioner Dale Woodland said he was not in favor of removing the money in these items, however, he recognized that even with the cuts, the amount left would be an increase over last year's budget. Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe noted that since June 30, 2005, more money had been spent than in previous months.

Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe reported that \$2,446 in cuts were still needed to reach a balanced budget at 2.0 mills. She said *Line Item #31 – Lake La Vista Dredging Grant*, was at \$0; *Line Item #131.1 City Engineers* had been reduced to \$30,000, *Line Item #131.2 – Baywater Study – Dr. Dean*; had been reduced to \$7,000; *Line Item #183.0 – Stormwater Maintenance Outlets* had been reduced to \$10,000, *Line Item #185.0 – Swale Creation / Maintenance* had been reduced to \$10,000, and that *Line Item #199.0 – Lake La Vista Inlet / Fillet* was at \$0.

**Commissioner Dale Woodland recommended cutting *Line Item #131.0 - City Planner* by \$2,446 and there was consensus for this.** Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe said \$37,554 was the new amount.

Commission Chair John Quam announced that the millage could now be set at 2.0 mills.

Mayor SueLynn asked how the Commission expected to spend the money in. Commission Chair John Quam recommended designating the monies in this line item at the Commission Work Session on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill recommended increasing *Line Item #201.1 – Roads and Drainage* by the \$6,500 that was in the *Line Item #152 – City Hall Sound System*, to make the amount closer to the \$200,000 originally discussed.

Deputy Commission Linda Cramer said she would be in favor of keeping the money in the budget for the sound system.

Commissioner Duke Miller suggested, relative to the 5% rise in the employee salaries, that they be only raised 3%, with the remainder being given as bonuses. He said that this would be a method of keeping the base salary expenses under control. City Clerk Alice Baird said that in the past, the City Auditor had said the disbursement of bonuses not be allowed. City Attorney Jim Dye said the City would need an approved and documented bonus system and program in place in order to do this.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill asked Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe when, during the year, the health insurance was scheduled to be increased. City Clerk Alice Baird responded that the City had entered into a new plan on July 1, 2005.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Margaret Jenkins of 241 Chilson Avenue asked what the grounds maintenance included. Public Works Director George McKay said this represented the City Hall grounds, the rights-of-way and parks. Ms. Jenkins noted that this work used to be done by Public Works staff, and added that cleaning of City Hall used to be done by them also.

Tara O'Brien of 545 Magnolia observed that *Line Items #175, #176, and #181 totaled \$42,000*. She suggested civic groups, such as Adopt-a-Highway, could possibly be employed to maintain beach accesses. She also recommended reducing the COLA salary increases.

Diane Canniff of 327 Tarpon Street asked what spending the money on a sound system (Line Item #152) entailed. She suggested that if the air conditioner blower could be stopped from interfering every few minutes, it would be helpful. Ms. Canniff also recommended speaking directly into the microphones and not putting hands in front of the mouth when speaking. The resident asked for an ordinance requiring each property owner to take care of the right-of-way in front of their lot[s]. She said with a 24% increase in City income, that she hoped the millage would not be raised above 2.0 mills.

**5. CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commission Chair John Quam closed Public Comment.

**6. CONSIDER ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS BASED ON PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor SueLynn said she was concerned about some of the decisions the Commission had made with this budget. She noted that road improvements needed to be done before the projects became exorbitantly expensive. The Mayor noted that the City still did not have a Stormwater Utility Fee. She noted that road conditions in the City were very poor. Mayor SueLynn said she expected that necessary capital improvements projects would be even more costly next year as a result of what the Commission believes it achieved with this budget.

Commissioner Carol Ann Magill said she was upset that money was being removed from Line Items #183 and #185, preventing City Public Works staff from serving to mitigate stormwater damage, and would not support the budget on those grounds. The Commissioner also noted that she also had previously suggested a 3.5% COLA increase, instead of 5%.

Commissioner Dale Woodland said he liked the suggestion of salaries and bonuses offered by Commissioner Duke Miller, but said that he did not feel it was the appropriate time to change the increase in salaries.

**7. RECOMPUTE FINAL MILLAGE – ANNOUNCE PERCENT MILLAGE EXCEEDS THE ROLLED-BACK RATE AND RATE OF INCREASE OF PROPERTY TAXES**

Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe announced that at 2.0 mills, with the rolled-back rate being 1.7040, the millage exceeded the rolled-back rate by 17.37%.

**MOTION: At 8:14 p.m., Deputy Commission Linda Cramer moved for 7 minute recess, seconded by Commissioner Carol Ann Magill.**

**Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.**

The Commission Chair called the meeting back to order at 8:23 p.m.

Deputy City Clerk Diane Percycoe announced that there would be 40.25% of the City's operating budget in reserves at the beginning of this fiscal year, and 35.2% at the end of it.

Commission Chair John Quam read Resolution # 606, fixing the millage rate for 2005 / 2006 at 2.000 mills, for general municipal purposes. He announced that the 2.000 millage exceeded the rolled-back rate by 17.37%.

**MOTION: Commissioner Duke Miller moved to adopt Resolution #606 and Deputy Commission Linda Cramer seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Dale Woodland – Ayes; Commissioner Carol Ann Magill – Aye; Commission Chair John Quam – Aye; Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer – Aye; Commissioner Duke Miller – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.**

Commission Chair John Quam read Resolution # 607, establishing and adopting a budget for the City of Anna Maria for the fiscal year 2005 / 2006 making appropriation of municipal funds and providing for an effective date.

**MOTION: Deputy Commission Linda Cramer moved to adopt Resolution #607, seconded by Commissioner Dale Woodland.**

**Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Dale Woodland – Ayes; Commissioner Carol Ann Magill – Nay; Commission Chair John Quam – Aye; Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer – Aye; Commissioner Duke Miller – Aye. Motion carried by a vote of four to one.**

**7. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE #05-643, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FY 05/06 AND RECEIPT AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES**

Deputy Commission Linda Cramer read the Ordinance by title.

**MOTION: Deputy Commission Linda Cramer moved to adopt Ordinance #05-643 authorizing the budget for the City of Anna Maria for fiscal year 05/06 and receipt and collection of ad valorem taxes for 2005 / 2006. Commissioner Dale Woodland seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Dale Woodland – Ayes; Commissioner Carol Ann Magill – Aye; Commission Chair John Quam – Aye; Deputy Commission Chair Linda Cramer – Aye; Commissioner Duke Miller – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.**

**8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL MILLAGE AND BUDGET HEARING DATE (SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 – 6:30 PM)**

Chair Quam announced that the Final Millage and Budget Hearing of the Commission of the City of Anna Maria would take place on September 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Commissioner Duke Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Commissioner Carol Ann Magill.**

**Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Baird  
City Clerk

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Date