

MINUTES
OCOEE CITY COMMISSION
AUGUST 16, 2023

BUDGET WORKSHOP

• **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Johnson called the workshop to order at 6:00 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Brad Lomneck**, *Ocoee Resident*, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by **Mayor Johnson**. **City Clerk Sibbitt** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Present: Mayor Johnson, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Firstner

Absent: Commissioner Wilsen and Commissioner Hart

Also Present: City Manager Frank, Finance Director Roberts, Chief Accountant Hovanec, Accountant Meruena, and City Clerk Sibbitt

• **FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Finance Director Roberts informed the City Commission of two handouts before them, one provided changes since publication, and the other were pages that were unintentionally omitted from the budget books.

She announced the millage rate and the percentage increase over the rollback rate and provided the ad valorem revenue.

• **DISCUSSION**

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for questions from the City Commission.

Commissioner Firstner shared he has no comments for the budget, and is happy with what is being proposed.

Mayor Johnson shared he knows that there is a proposed increase of 4.5% for cost of living, and asked if it could be changed to 5% without increasing the millage rate. **City Manager Frank** addressed his question, and explained there were funds put into contingency in case there were any proposed changes. **Finance Director Roberts** confirmed that the millage rate can retain at 4.9500 mills with the change being requested. **Mayor Johnson** further commented on some cutbacks he will like to discuss related to the \$10,000 in Youth Council contract.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired about the CRA Study Funding and about the status of updating the reports and documents for the CRA. **Deputy Development Services Director/CRA Administrator Corless** addressed his questions and explained that professional services funds in this fiscal year are covering those updates and expansions. She provided further explanation on development services funds for downtown. **Commissioner Kennedy** inquired if the master developer funding was included in the funds she referenced. **Assistant City Manager Shadrix** addressed his question, and explained information will be brought before the City Commission on this topic at a future time. He briefly summarized the process and shared that funding has not been budgeted at this time.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired about the AED heart stations for the parks. **City Manager Frank** addressed his question, and shared with their current pilot program the City Commission by consensus can provide staff with a number for additional stations. **Consensus of the City Commission was to budget for four (4) additional AED heart stations.**

Commissioner Kennedy inquired if the Youth Council Coordinator was in attendance. He further summarized a discussion he had with the Youth Council Coordinator on creating a scholarship criterion, and inquired if the City Manager had received any information. He further requested reallocation of the \$10,000 budgeted for the Youth Council contract to go toward scholarships and travel, and for a scholarship program to be established. He expressed his concerns with the paid position for the Youth Council Coordinator, and encouraged each department director to consider mentoring a Youth Council member. Brief discussion ensued on seeking volunteers to assist, and reallocating the funds. **After discussion, consensus of the City Commission was to move the \$10,000 allocated for the Youth Council Coordinator into contingency funds.**

Commissioner Kennedy voiced the need of speed limit signs on Ingram Road, and further inquired if the City's portion of the traffic light on Ingram Road was funded. **Public Works Director Krug** addressed his question. Brief discussion ensued on using impact fees to fund, if needed. **Public Works Director Krug** advised he would look at the interlocal agreement for that signal. **Commissioner Kennedy** inquired about the Fountains West signal. **Development Services Director Rumer** summarized the discussion he had with Orange County, and explained the mitigation funding that could be used toward that signal. A brief discussion ensued on radar speed limit signs on Clarcona Ocoee Road, and Public Works Director Krug provided a response on the County's plans.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired about the Crown Point Reserve park and if funding could be added. **Development Services Director Rumer** advised it could be added to the Capital Improvement Plan. Brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired about the Parks and Recreation Event Marketing position, and funding for a July 4th event. **Parks and Recreation Director Johnson** addressed his questions.

Commissioner Kennedy expressed concerns with the City's website and inquired if there is a revamping of the website planned. **City Manager Frank** addressed his question, and advised it is a costly project. **Assistant City Manager Shadrix** explained this is a topic of discussion with staff, and there is a need to put a plan in place after identifying goals. **Commissioner Kennedy** shared some issues he experienced with the website, and changes he would like to see considered. Brief discussion ensued on merchant fees charged when paying utility bills online. **Mayor Johnson** inquired if the Finance Department could reach out to other local cities to see how they are handling convenience fees.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired if the Ocoee-Apopka Road Project needs funding for a study. **Assistant City Manager Shadrix** addressed his question. **Commissioner Kennedy** inquired if they are at a point of completing all of the contracts related to the ARPA projects. **Utilities Director Croteau** addressed his question, and advised they plan on being completed with all projects by end of 2025.

Mayor Johnson inquired about adding four (4) pickleball courts if it will not affect the millage rate. **City Manager Frank** shared they can look at the costs and determine location. A brief discussion ensued on using recreation impact fees for this request.

Commissioner Kennedy commented on maintaining their Discretionary Fund, but expressed that he does not agree with purchasing signs from that line item. He further commented on spousal travel, and inquired if that was removed. **City Manager Frank** shared that it is not a large budgetary item so the City Commission has the discretion to change the resolution at any time, should they like to incorporate spousal travel back in.

Commissioner Firstner commented that he has personally spoken with staff on items he wanted to see in the budget, and they have incorporated his requests. He further inquired about the emergency traffic signal on Maguire Road. **Public Works Director Krug** addressed his question.

Mayor Johnson inquired about the paving and concrete projects. **Public Works Director Krug** addressed his question. **Mayor Johnson** expressed the need to start with the older sections of the City before starting in newer sections of the City.

Mayor Johnson commented on the Christmas Jamboree, and asked if they can dress up the entrance of City Hall. He inquired if the vendor information he forwarded was received. **City Manager Frank** addressed his question, and advised the information was received.

Commissioner Firstner inquired about the funding for the City's 100-year recognition celebration for this year. Discussion ensued and it was decided to budget up to \$50,000.

Mayor Johnson commented on the budget and thanked staff for their role in keeping the millage rate down for the residents.

Mayor Johnson inquired if there were any changes in the employees' health insurance. **City Manager Frank** addressed his question, and advised there are no proposed changes.

Finance Director Roberts summarized that the following are the proposed changes that were discussed this evening:

- Addition of .5% to salaries
- Reallocation of the \$10,000 from Youth Council to be placed in Contingency Funds for scholarships and Youth Council travel
- Request of up to \$50,000 for the City's 100-year recognition celebration
- Addition of Crown Point Reserve Park into Capital Improvement Plan – no additional budgeted funds needed
- Pickleball courts to be covered under recreational impact fees

Mayor Johnson shared that the next Budget Workshop is not needed; therefore, the next budget meeting is the Tentative Budget Public Hearing scheduled for September 13th.

• **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

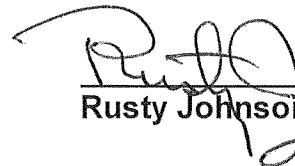
APPROVED:

Attest:



Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk

City of Ocoee



Rusty Johnson, Mayor