

**OCOEE CITY
COMMISSION**
Ocoee Commission
Chambers 1 N. Bluford
Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

September 13, 2023

MINUTES

6:00 PM

TENTATIVE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

• **CALL TO ORDER 6:02 PM**

Mayor Johnson called the final budget hearing to order at 6:02 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Mayor Johnson** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by **Commissioner Wilsen**. **City Clerk Sibbitt** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Present: Mayor Johnson, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Wilsen, Commissioner Firstner

Absent: Commissioner Hart

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

• **PUBLIC HEARING 6:03 PM**

A. Mayor's Announcement

This is a public hearing on the tentative budget and proposed millage rate for the City of Ocoee. Notice of this hearing was contained in the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes mailed by the Property Appraiser. The City Commission has previously set a proposed millage rate of **4.950 mills** which represents an **8.36%** increase in millage over the rolled-back rate of **4.568 mills**.

B. Briefing by City Attorney 6:03 PM

The preliminary millage rate set by the City Commission and contained in the TRIM Notice is **4.950 mills**. The maximum millage rate, which may be levied by the City by regular majority vote for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is **6.9091 mills**, such maximum millage rate having been determined pursuant to Section 200.185(3)(a), Florida Statutes. The establishment of a millage rate between **6.9092 mills** and **7.600 mills** requires a *two-thirds vote (supermajority)* of the membership of the City Commission (*or 4 votes*). The establishment of a millage rate between **7.601 mills** and **10.000 mills** requires a *unanimous* vote of the City Commission. Additionally, any millage rate adopted above the preliminary millage rate of **4.950 mills** would require notice by first-class mail to each taxpayer. The tentative millage rate adopted at this hearing will become the maximum millage rate which may be adopted by the City Commission at the public hearing on the final millage rate. A unanimous vote or a two-thirds vote may be required to adopt the tentative millage rate as the final millage rate. At the final public hearing, the City Commission may adopt a millage rate which is less than the tentative millage rate.

C. Briefing by Finance Director 6:05 PM

Director of Finance Roberts announced the budget is balanced at 4.950 mills which is no change from 2023. She summarized the proposed budget and commitments for FY 2023-2024, and provided an update on the changes proposed by the City Commission during the Budget Workshop. Highlights in the presentation covered:

- Economic Highlights
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Budget Commitments
- Debt Service
- Incorporated Staff Changes
- Commission Directed Changes from the Workshop
- Changes Subsequent to Publication

1. Public Comments 6:12 PM

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments.

The following persons addressed the City Commission:

- **Dorcas Dillard**, *Ocoee Resident and OYC Coordinator*, inquired about the elimination of the \$10,000 from the Ocoee Youth Council Budget, and where the funding was placed. **Commissioner Kennedy** addressed her question and clarified that the funding is not being eliminated but was requested to be moved into a new line item for scholarships. Brief discussion ensued on the scholarship program proposal, the Consulting Service Fee for the OYC Coordinator, and having the Ocoee Youth Council Program overseen by City staff with volunteer assistance.

2. Commissioners Comments 6:19 PM

Commissioner Wilsen commented that the Spring Fling is being re-branded and will be changing to a Spring Conservation themed event. She requested that the line item be renamed to reflect this change. She further voiced her contentment with the sidewalk budget being increased.

Mayor Johnson commented on adding a part-time Cemetery staff member to maintain the cemetery, if it does not affect the millage rate. **City Manager Frank** confirmed it would not affect the millage rate. **Consensus of the City Commission was to approve the addition of a part-time Cemetery staff member to the budget.**

Mayor Johnson commented on increasing the Discretionary Funding from \$10,000 to \$15,000. **Consensus of the City Commission was to increase the Discretionary Fund to \$15,000.** City staff confirmed the millage rate would not be affected by this request.

NOTE: RECESS (if needed) to recompute the proposed millage rate and rolled-back percentage increase.

D. Announcement by Finance Director:

Finance Director Roberts announced there would be no adjustments to the millage rate to accommodate any of the changes requested. Therefore, the proposed millage rate would remain at 4.950 mills which is 8.36 % greater than the rolled-back rate of 4.568 mills.

1. Public Comments 6:25 PM

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments.

No speaker reservation forms were received; therefore, the public hearing was closed.

2. Commissioners Comments – None 6:25 PM

E. Motion to Adopt the Tentative Millage Rate 6:26 PM

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OCOEE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE of 4.950 MILLS FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF OCOEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR MILLAGE ADJUSTMENT; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION OF TAXES; PROVIDING FOR 8.36% INCREASE IN MILLAGE RATE OVER THE ROLLED-BACK RATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion: Move that the City Commission adopt the tentative millage rate at 4.950 mills for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, providing for 8.36% increase in the millage rate over the rolled-back rate; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Hart absent.

F. Motion to Adopt the Tentative Budget 6:27 PM

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OCOEE, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion: Move that the City Commission adopt the tentative budget as distributed along with the revisions resulting from the Budget Workshop and as amended at this Tentative Budget Public Hearing for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; Moved by Commissioner Firstner, Seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Hart absent.

Tentative Budget Public Hearing
September 13, 2023

Mayor Johnson announced the public hearing to consider the final millage rate, and final budget, is scheduled to be held Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the City Hall Commission Chambers. The hearing has been advertised in accordance with the provisions of Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, and Section C-37 of Article VI of the Ocoee City Charter. The appropriate Ordinances necessary to adopt the Final Millage Rate and Final Budget will be prepared by City staff, and all other action necessary to comply with the requirements of Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, will be undertaken.

• **ADJOURNMENT 6:30 PM**

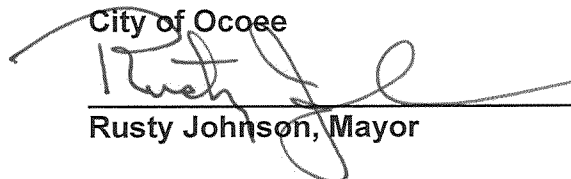
The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

APPROVED:

Attest:


Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk
Amber Landry, Acting City Clerk

City of Ocoee


Rusty Johnson, Mayor