

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

September 20, 2023

MINUTES

6:00 PM

FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM

Mayor Johnson called the final budget hearing to order at 6:00 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Commissioner Hart** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by **Mayor Johnson**. **City Clerk Sibbitt** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING 6:02 PM

A. Mayor's Announcement

This is an advertised public hearing to adopt a final millage rate and finalize the budget for the City of Ocoee for the fiscal year 23-24 commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. The City Commission has previously approved a tentative millage rate of 4.950 mills, which represents an 8.36% increase in millage over the roll-back rate of 4.568 mills. The advertised tentative millage rate of 4.950 mills is the maximum millage rate which may be adopted by the City Commission at this Final Budget Public Hearing tonight.

B. Briefing by Finance Director 6:03 PM

Director of Finance Roberts summarized the changes to the budget as requested by the City Commission during their Budget Workshop and Tentative Budget Hearing. She further announced the budget is balanced at 4.950 mills which is 8.36% increase in millage over the roll-back rate of 4.568 mills. The ad-valorem revenue generated at this rate will be used to provide City wide services such as public safety and parks and recreation.

1. Public Comments 6:04 PM

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments.

The following persons addressed the City Commission:

- **Jim Moyer**, *Ocoee Resident*, asked if some of the funds for the Public Works Department could be earmarked for signage on the North side of the City. **City Manager Frank** addressed his concerns, and inquired from the City Commission on how they would like to proceed with signage. **Mayor Johnson** shared they can have staff look into this request and verify the area he is referring to, and if signage is needed.

- **Brad Lomneck**, *Ocoee Resident*, voiced that instead of the additional funds that were placed in the Discretionary Fund for travel of spouse and items of that nature, if they could create a travel policy and place those funds in a separate line item for that type of request. **Mayor Johnson** agreed with his concerns and expressed his desire to return the resolution to its previous state before the recent amendment. **Commissioner Wilsen** voiced her disagreement regarding taxpayers covering the expenses of spouses' travel. Brief discussion ensued on travel of spouses and intended uses for Discretionary Funds.

2. Commissioners Comments – Discussion and amendments to the Budget, as reflected below.

C. Amendments to Proposed Tentative Budget 6:18 PM

1. Motion(s) on Amendments to the Adopted Tentative Budget

Motion: Move to amend the tentative budget of the City of Ocoee as follows: remove \$25,000 from Discretionary Funds, to be reallocated back into the beginning cash balance fund (Reserves); Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, Seconded by Commissioner Hart. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Kennedy commented on the use of Discretionary Funds and his reporting on his Commissioner's Report to inform the public. He further shared that his spouse attends all conferences with him, and not having her able to attend is an inconvenience. He shared his support in updating the travel policy.

Commissioner Wilsen shared that comments were made during the Regular City Commission Meeting about the lack of planning on City events; therefore, she is recommending they discuss placing funds in the budget for extra events the City Commission may be requesting. Discussion ensued on the planning and funding of events by the Community Relations Department.

2. 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.

3. Commissioners Comments – None

D. Announcement by Finance Director 6:25 PM

Finance Director Roberts announced the final millage rate will remain at 4.950 mills, which is 8.36% increase in millage over the roll-back rate of 4.568 mills. Brief discussion ensued about the \$25,000 that was reallocated back into the City's Reserves.

Commissioner Kennedy asked for clarification on City funded events. **City Manager Frank** addressed his question.

Mayor Johnson inquired if there was still funding in the budget for the monument at Unity Park. **Finance Director Roberts** addressed his question.

E. Adoption of Final Millage Rate 6:30 PM

City Attorney Geller announced the name of the taxing authority is the City of Ocoee. The rolled-back millage rate is 4.568 mills. The percentage by which the proposed millage rate exceeds the rolled-back rate is 8.36%. The millage rate proposed by the Ordinance is 4.950 mills.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

The ordinance as adopted carries the following title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OCOEE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A FINAL 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.

1. Public Comments 6:31 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

3. Motion to Adopt an Ordinance Setting Final Millage Rate (TIME: 6:31 PM)

Motion: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-16 setting a final millage rate of 4.950 mills for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. Moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Hart. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Adoption of Final Budget 6:32 PM

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

The ordinance as adopted carries the following title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-17

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

1. Public Comments 6:33 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

3. Motion to Adopt an Ordinance Adopting Final Budget (TIME: 6:33 PM)

Motion: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-17, approving a final budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. Moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Hart. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Johnson thanked City staff for the budget and the work they have completed this past fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT 6:34 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 PM.

APPROVED:

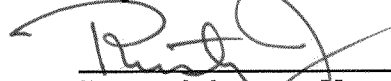
Attest:



~~Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk~~

Amber Landry, Acting City Clerk

City of Ocoee



Rusty Johnson, Mayor