

**CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA
COMMISSION BUDGET PLANNING WORKSHOP
JULY 23, 2015**

A Budget Planning Workshop of the Fort Meade City Commission was held at 6:00 PM Thursday, July 23, 2015 at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway, Fort Meade, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Nelson.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor	Maurice Nelson	Present
Vice Mayor	James Watts	Present
Commissioner	Barbara Manley	Absent
Commissioner	Richard Cochrane	Present
Commissioner	Robert Elliott	Present

Also present was Deputy Yates, arrived at 6:23 PM

Staff Present

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
City Attorney	Thomas Cloud	Absent
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
Finance Director	James (Mel) Parker	Present
Human Resources Director	Donna Parker	Absent
City Planner	April Brown	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Water and Wastewater	Robbie Ward	Present
Streets/Stormwater	Mike Bolin	Present
Parks Supervisor	Roc Eiland	Present
Library Director	Kay Jackson	Present
Recreation Director	Marcella Nelson	Present

3. DISCUSS PROPOSED FY 2015-2016 BUDGET

Finance Director, Mel Parker summarized the budget stating that the General fund is off by approximately \$14,000. Mr. Parker stated that the Solid Waste fund has a revenue of approximately \$20,000 for the first time in years. The contract for the Sheriff's Department will increase 3.5% or \$40,000.

Mr. Parker stated that the enterprise funds are balanced other than sewer which is \$69,924 short. There were some changes to the CMHP fund and there is still a gap of about \$14,000 that needs to be closed.

Overall the whole budget is short \$98,000 in all funds.

Commissioner Cochrane asked about the increase in the Electric fund from last year and Mr. Hilliard explained that the contribution to the General fund would remain the same and the difference would go to a reserve fund to help fund needed transformers.

Mayor Nelson asked if there had been any clarification on the \$20,000 contribution from FPU for the sale of the gas system where Mr. Hilliard replied that he would get with FPU on that issue.

Commissioner Elliott asked about the land fill revenue from WCA and Mr. Parker stated that they are paying just over what they obligated to pay.

Commissioner Cochrane asked how they proposed to close the gap in the budget. Mr. Hilliard stated that the Sewer fund could get a loan from the Gas fund that would need to be paid back as debt services. Also, there is a rate study that will be done to increase the wastewater rates and that will increase the revenue.

Mr. Hilliard stated that Biosolids were still in operation and the meter was in place and we will start to bill them for services as stipulated in the agreement. Also, the expenses will come down for sludge hauling.

Commissioner Elliott asked about the July 4th event line item, Mr. Parker stated that we received contributions for this event on the revenue side and if this event is going to get bigger we will need to enter this only one line item.

City Manager Hilliard stated that the City has been running on a flat line budget and it needs to find new ways to increase revenue such as improving infrastructure and working with other entities.

Commissioner Elliott asked what the rates for the FLC loan would be and if it would be better to borrow from the gas fund and have debt services with no interest to be paid back.

Mr. Parker stated that the auditors would like to see the Gas fund closed out.

Commissioner Cochrane suggested that the money from the Gas fund be setup in a reserve fund that could be used if needed but be paid back at some point.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if the bond principle payment in the CMHP budget had been paid off and Mr. Parker stated the last payment was in May and

they would use that payment for the engineering and renovation to the Activity Center.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to set the millage rate exactly the same as last year at 5.6484.

Motion carried with all yeas.

4. COMMENTS

Commissioner Cochrane, along with Commissioner Watts wanted to thank staff for all the hard work they have done with the budget process.


City Manager Hilliard, on behalf of staff, thanked the Commission for their support and good direction.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if the laundry facilities at the CMHP would be renovated as well and Mr. Hilliard stated he would let the engineer access that as well.

Mayor Nelson asked City Manager Hilliard if he had a Vision for the City and if he has seen any of his accomplishments in his Vision. Mr. Hilliard stated that he does have a Vision and has seen some accomplishments in the way the utilities are being maintained and operated but the corridors of the City have more potential and need more focus.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Budget Planning Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission on Thursday, July 23, 2015 at 7:01 P.M. Motion carried with all yeas.



Maurice Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk

