

**CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA  
BUDGET HEARING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

A Budget Hearing of the Fort Meade City Commission was held at 6:00 PM Tuesday, September 22, 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	Present
Commissioner	Richard Cochrane	Absent
Commissioner	Robert Elliott	Present

Also present were Lieutenant Ken Hall and Deputy Dale Roberts

**Staff Present**

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
Finance Director	James Mel Parker	Present
Human Resource Director	Donna Parker	Present
City Planner	April Brown	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Water and Wastewater	Robbie Ward	Present
Streets Supervisor	Mike Bolin	Present
Parks Supervisor	Roc Eiland	Present

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 15-10 Amending the Code of Ordinances related to wastewater rates, fees and charges on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Hearing.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA;  
AMENDING SECTIONS 24-6, 24-9 AND 24-11 OF THE CODE  
OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE RELATED  
TO WASTEWATER RATES, FEES, AND CHARGES;  
MODIFYING THE WASTEWATER RATES OF THE CITY;**

**PROVIDING FINDINGS; MODIFYING WASTEWATER RATE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL INDEXING ADJUSTMENTS, ENFORCEMENT & DIRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 26-132 OF THE CODE; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 99-12, SUBSECTION 2.1; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS OF PAST RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF FORT MEADE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Nelson opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Roger Wright asked the Commission to consider lowering the residential cap of 10,000 gallons of water per month for the adult mobile home park. He stated that there is mostly only two residents per unit and that they don't use that much water but they all have irrigation systems and he would like them to use them.

Ms. Brittany Sampson, 16 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that she was opposed to the wastewater rate increase and that she had done her research and finds that for her utility bill is higher than those of the bigger cities. She would like to know why the wastewater rate is double that of the water.

Ms. Audrey Johnson, 923 E. Broadway St. Apt. 7, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that she had a problem with the increase stating that her apartment complex is frequently flooded by the sewer system and that the utility bills are already too high.

Mr. Curtis Bankston, 1370 Highway 17 N. Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that he received a letter of the wastewater increase and that he doesn't even have sewer service at his property. Mr. Bankston stated that he still contributes to the city budget and would like some of these services available to him. He also stated that the City should do more and be more active in the north section of town where he resides.

Mr. Byron Sampson, 16 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that the water that used to water the grass does not go into the sewer system so why should they have to pay for it. Mr. Sampson stated that the city is not checking the reads on the meters correctly because they are machines and they malfunction.

Mr. Michael Jones, 321 S Railroad Ct. Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that he is against raising the rates when every year his mother's house floods from the sewer backing up in her house.

Mayor Nelson closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 15-10 amending wastewater rates.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

- B.** City Manager Fred Hilliard presented the Commission with the proposed millage rate of 5.6484 and tentative budget for FY 15-16.

Mayor Nelson opened the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Elliott wanted to note that the millage rate has remained unchanged for the last several years.

Mayor Nelson closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to approve the proposed millage rate of 5.6484 and the tentative budget.**

Mayor Nelson – Aye  
Vice Mayor Watts – Aye  
Commissioner Elliott – Aye  
Commissioner Manley – Nay

Motion carried 3 to 1.

- C.** City Attorney Tom Cloud read the title to Ordinance 15-08 –Levying Taxes – 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF FORT MEADE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Nelson opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Nelson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 15-08 Levying Taxes FY 2015-2016 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

Mayor Nelson – Aye  
Vice Mayor Watts – Aye

Commissioner Elliott – Aye  
Commissioner Manley – Nay

Motion carried 3 to 1.

- D.** City Attorney Tom Cloud read the title to Ordinance 15-09 – Adopting the Final Budget – 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 wanted to clarify if the loan for the City Mobile Home Park remodel was in the budget.

Mayor Nelson closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to adopt Ordinance 15-09 Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Reading.**

**Mayor Nelson – Aye  
Vice Mayor Watts – Aye  
Commissioner Elliott – Aye  
Commissioner Manley – Nay**

**Motion carried 3 to 1.**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Approve Resolution R15-16 adopting the CRA Budget

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to adopt Resolution R 15-16 approving the CRA Budget.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**


**5. COMMENTS**

Commissioner Manley commented on the reason the wastewater rates needed to be increased, stating that the utility system is very old and needs to be upgraded and that is the only way to accomplish this, you either raise rates or taxes.

Commissioner Watts directed staff to check into the drainage problems the citizens had complaints of.

**6. ADJOURN**

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the budget hearing of the Fort Meade City Commission on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 6:47 P.M. Motion carried with all yeas.



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**Maurice Nelson, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



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**Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk**

