

**SPECIAL CALL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 5:10 P.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Mayor Val Zudans, present; Vice Mayor Tony Young, present; Councilwoman Laura Moss, present; Councilman Robbie Brackett, present and Councilman Harry Howle, present

1) CALL TO ORDER

A) Roll Call

The Mayor opened the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

2) PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Providing the Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 at a Millage Rate of 2.5000 which equates to \$2.5000 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, explained that for the millage rate there is an increase in the budget at a millage rate of 2.5000, which is 3.87% greater than the rolled back rate of 2.4069. The increased tax revenue has been used primarily as an offset to the loss of revenues from the sale of the electric utility and to fund increased personnel costs and insurance costs. She said that Council needs to adopt the millage rate first and then the budget by two (2) separate votes. They do need to take public comment on each of the Ordinances before action is taken. Before adopting the millage Ordinance the Clerk will read Sections I and Sections II into the record after the motion and before the vote is taken.

Mayor Zudans commented that when the notice came out in the paper he wanted to clarify that Council did cut the millage rate of 2.5194 to 2.5000, which is a small cut amounting to about \$60,000. It is reported in the newspaper of a notice of tax increase and that is related to the criteria. He knows that there are certain things that they have to have in there because of the law, but asked if they were allowed to include the information as to what the actual rate was the previous year and what it is this year or are they not permitted to do so.

Ms. Lawson explained with those Trim ads that appear in the paper no one is allowed to change a single word of the verbiage in order to remain Trim compliant.

Mayor Zudans asked if they were permitted to have a second ad explaining their rates if they wanted to.

Ms. Lawson did not think that DOR would approve that.

Mayor Zudans opened the public hearing at 5:13 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Vice Mayor Young made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion.

The Clerk read Sections I and Sections II of the Ordinance into the record.

The Clerk polled the Council on the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Howle voting yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Councilwoman Moss yes, Vice-Mayor Young yes, and Mayor Zudans yes.

B) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Adopting the Annual Budget of the City for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2019 and ending September 30, 2020; appropriating funds for the Operating Expenses, Supplies, and Personnel, and otherwise appropriating funds for the Efficient and Effective Operation of the Government of the City of Vero Beach and its Departments; such appropriations being from anticipated revenue; providing a means to amend the Annual Budget to carry forward the funding of Purchase Orders, Work Orders, and Grants outstanding as of September 30, 2019; Providing a means to amend the Annual Budget to reflect Grants received after September 30, 2019; and authorizing the Transfer of Funds appropriated so long as the total combined appropriations shall not be increased thereby; Providing an Effective Date.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title into the record.

Ms. Lawson stated that as adopted by Council at the first public hearing held on September 9, 2019, the final proposed budget includes the revenues and expenses associated with the operation of Leisure Square pool for the full FY 1919-1920. In addition, the proposed final budget separates the Recreation Department revenues and expenses into individual cost centers to provide additional clarity and transparency as to the net cost of each facility/activity in future fiscal years. The proposed final budget was also revised (per Council direction) to move the \$20,000 originally added to the City Hall – Building Maintenance budget for carpeting to the Grounds Maintenance – Landscaping budget for a raingarden and Florida friendly plants project on 14th Avenue. In this final budget the \$2.0 million in electric sale proceeds originally appropriated to balance the budget for year 2 of the 5 year transition plan has been reduced by \$231K to \$1.769 million in this final budget.

Mayor Zudans opened and closed the public hearing at 5:16 p.m., with no one wishing to be heard.

Mr. Howle made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Brackett seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Howle voting yes, Mr. Brackett yes, Councilwoman Moss yes, Vice Mayor Young yes, and Mayor Zudans yes.

3) PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4) ADJOURNMENT

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

/tb