

**SPECIAL CALL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 5:01 P.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: John Cotugno, Mayor; Linda Moore, Vice Mayor; Tracey Zudans, Councilmember; John Carroll, Councilmember; and Rey Neville, Councilmember **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

A) Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cotugno led the Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

B) Roll Call

The City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Providing the Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 at a Millage Rate of 2.7680 which equates to \$2.7680 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, stated that this was the final public hearing on the budget and they have included all the changes to the budget that Council wished to have in the 2023-2024 budget with a millage rate of 2.7680.

Mayor Cotugno opened the public hearing at 5:04 p.m.

Mr. Brian Heady commented that he was opposed to the budget and was not in favor of it. He said that governing authorities should have budgets that fit within their expected income and they shouldn't be borrowing from their reserves. This budget doesn't fit their expected revenue stream. It spends extra money from where the City has been putting money away for a rainy day. They shouldn't be spending more money than they have. He said liars, cheats, and thieves should not be in charge of governing agencies. Most of the candidates run a campaign saying that they are going to do one thing and they never do it, which means they are cheating the public all the time. He asked how many days did it take to put this budget together. His question was not answered. He said the amount money stolen by the government is mindboggling.

Mayor Cotugno told Mr. Heady that he would give him two (2) more minutes to conclude his comments.

Mr. Heady felt that the time limit was nonsense and the public should not be restricted.

Mayor Cotugno closed the public hearing at 5:11 p.m., with no one else wishing to be heard.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Vice Mayor Moore seconded the motion.

The City Clerk read Section I and Section II from the Ordinance into the record.

The City Clerk performed the roll call and the motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans no, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno 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, 2023 and Ending September 30, 2024; 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, 2023; Providing a means to amend the Annual Budget to reflect Grants received after September 30, 2023; 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 only.

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

Vice Mayor Moore made a motion to adopt the Ordinance. Mr. Neville seconded the motion and it passed 4-1 with Mr. Neville voting yes, Mr. Carroll yes, Mrs. Zudans no, Vice Mayor Moore yes, and Mayor Cotugno yes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. ADJOURNMENT

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

/tb