

**SPECIAL CALL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 5:10 P.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

A) Roll Call

Mayor Robbie Brackett, present; Vice Mayor Rey Neville, present; Councilmember Honey Minuse, present; Councilmember Bob McCabe, present and Councilmember Dick Winger, present **Also Present:** Monte Falls, City Manager; John Turner, City Attorney; and Sherri Philo, Deputy City Clerk

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) An Ordinance of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, Providing the Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 at a Millage Rate of 2.5000 which equates to \$2.5000 per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value.

The Deputy City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Ms. Cindy Lawson, Finance Director, explained that the TRIM Law requires that the first issue they discuss is the percent increase in the millage rate over the rollback rate if they needed that to fund the budget and the reason for that increase. She reported that for the millage rate of 2.5000 that is in the final millage Ordinance is an increase of 4.6% over the rolled-back rate, which is 2.3901 mills. She said that it generates about \$494,000 in additional revenue and that revenue has been used primarily to offset the decrease in residual cash from the electric sale proceeds, as well as increases in personnel costs, such as salaries and health insurance.

Mayor Brackett opened the public hearing at 5:12 p.m.

Mr. Brian Heady said as always this time of the year they are in the election season and this year there are seven (7) candidates. He said by all rights they should hear at least seven (7) people speak on what they think about this budget. He said don't spend more money than they expect to take in. Revenues should support your expenditures. He said another basic thing that elected officials should know and remember is that "we the people" give you the authority and citizens have a right to speak. He said it is wrongful the way they treat him. It has been going on for years. He said there are some candidates present and maybe they could hear their opinion. He said they should probably stop wasting money on lawsuits from citizens that sue the City because they refuse to allow them to speak. He said maybe they could get some candidates to agree that you shouldn't spend more than you expect to take in.

Mayor Brackett closed the public hearing at 5:14 p.m., with no one else wishing to be heard.

Mr. Neville made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. McCabe seconded the motion.

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

On a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Winger voting yes, Mr. McCabe yes, Mrs. Minuse yes, Vice Mayor Neville yes, and Mayor Brackett 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, 2021 and Ending September 30, 2022; 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, 2021; Providing a means to amend the Annual Budget to reflect Grants received after September 30, 2021; and authorizing the Transfer of Funds Appropriated so long as the total combined appropriations shall not be increased thereby; Providing an Effective Date.

The Deputy City Clerk read the Ordinance by title only.

Ms. Lawson reported that the budget includes an increase of three (3) positions City-wide, an additional Street Sweeper and two (2) positions in the Water and Sewer Utility, a 2% salary increase, and the changes the City Council approved at the first public hearing to rebalance the budget. She recommended adoption of the final budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2122.

Mr. Monte Falls, City Manager, thanked all the Department Heads and Ms. Lawson and the Finance Department in putting this budget together.

Mr. Winger questioned the numbers listed under Interest on Investment located on page nine (9) of the budget book.

Ms. Lawson explained that she tries to take the long term approach with these numbers as their average earning over a ten-year period at about 1.25% so rather than try to predict what is going to happen year over year she consistently adopted a budget that is 1% the annual average of the money in the General Fund in the idle cash holdings. This coming fiscal year she lowered it to about .75% because of the advice of the City's Investment Consultant because this was going to be a tough year.

Mayor Brackett opened the public hearing at 5:21 p.m.

Mr. Brian Heady said there are probably only seven (7) voters that watch this and are all in the room (Chambers) and they are all candidates. He said it is pretty sad when not one (1) candidate wouldn't support, other than himself

Mayor Brackett said they are not going to talk about the election.

Mr. Heady continued with his statement, wouldn't support the basic principle of not spending more money than you expect to receive. He said the Mayor doesn't like what he has to say, that is usual. He said you have the Police ready and have two (2) Officers present today ready to haul him out when he gets to things that you don't like. He said the same thing is true with the other candidates, but not one (1) of them is willing to stand up and say that the public has a right to speak.

Mayor Brackett said Mr. Heady we are not going to campaign from the podium.

Mr. Heady said it is not a campaign. It's a basic principle that you don't understand.

Mr. Ken Daige asked if the body cams for the Police Officers were included in this fiscal budget.

Mayor Brackett answered yes.

Mr. Daige asked when would the Police Officers be able to go on the road with the body cams.

Mrs. Minuse said that she has asked for a presentation on this when it becomes a reality.

Captain Matt Monaco reported that they hope to have them some time in November or December.

Mr. Daige asked when would the additional Street Sweeper go on the road.

Mr. Falls explained that they have to get this budget approved first and then they would have to go through the procurement process for the street sweeper and as they get a delivery date they would get someone hired. He said as soon as the budget is approved they would begin the process.

Mr. Daige said that he knows this is an important issue. They have all discussed the health of the Lagoon. He thanked the City Council for including the body cams in the budget. He said they are very important and so is the health of the Lagoon.

Vice Mayor Neville made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. McCabe seconded the motion and it passed 5-0 with Mr. Winger voting yes, Mr. McCabe yes, Mrs. Minuse yes, Vice Mayor Neville yes, and Mayor Brackett yes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

/sp