

**CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING NO. 2008-27**

Held on Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2008, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Palm Bay, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at the hour of 6:30 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>MAYOR:</b>	John J. Mazziotti	Present
<b>DEPUTY MAYOR:</b>	Ed Geier	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Patrick Woodard	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Milo Zonka	Present
<b>COUNCILMEMBER:</b>	Kristine Isnardi	Present
<b>CITY MANAGER:</b>	Lee Feldman	Present
<b>ACTING CITY ATTORNEY:</b>	James Stokes	Present
<b>DEPUTY CITY CLERK:</b>	Terese Barber	Present

Also present were Sue Harn and Jon Lewis, Deputy City Managers; and John Coffey, Budget Administrator.

**COMMENTARY BY STAFF:**

**1. Discussion of tax rate.**

Mr. Feldman stated the proposed tax millage rate was \$5.30 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation which was lower than the TRIM defined rolled-back rate by seven point four four percent (7.44%).

The major reason for the proposed tax rate was the recently State-enacted property tax reform, the decreased taxable property valuation, the desire to minimize the reduction of municipal services, and the desire to reduce positions only through attrition wherever possible. He reviewed various reductions in the budget.

**2. City Manager's amendments to proposed budget.**

Mr. Feldman reviewed the changes to the proposed budget since its initial distribution to the City Council.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Tentative millage rate for tax year 2008 and proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.**

The public hearing was opened. An individual asked how much had been appropriated for raises for police officers. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Woodard advised that negotiations were between staff and the Police Department, not the City Council. Mr. Feldman said it was important not to assign a specific number at this point and bargaining would continue with the Fraternal Order of Police. Mr. Zonka questioned how it was handled in the budget once an agreement was reached. Mr. Feldman said it was up to the City Manager to determine where the funds would come from.

**BUSINESS:**

**1. Re-computation, if needed, and announcement of tentative tax rate and percentage increase over rolled-back rate.**

There were no changes, therefore, no re-computation was needed.

**2. Consideration of the tentative millage rate for tax year 2008.**

Motion by Deputy Mayor Geier, seconded by Mayor Mazziotti, to approve the tentative millage rate of 5.3 for tax year 2008 in the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Motion carried with members voting as follows:

Mayor Mazziotti	Yea
Deputy Mayor Geier	Nay
Councilman Woodard	Yea
Councilman Zonka	Yea
Councilwoman Isnardi	Nay

**3. Ordinance No. 2008-56, adopting the final budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, for first reading.**

The Acting City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.

Motion by Mr. Woodard, seconded by Mr. Zonka, to adopt Ordinance No. 2008-56. Mr. Woodard said the Council had been short-sided on the future of the issues. He did not feel the capital maintenance and fleet maintenance concerns had been addressed. Mr. Zonka explained how he felt the next budget process should be approached. He felt Council was

concentrating on the small issues rather than the big ones. With the next budget year, he wanted Council to converse in depth with the department heads.

Deputy Mayor Geier concurred with Mr. Zonka on his evaluation of the budget process this year. He said he would not support the budget. He said his main focus was the crossing guards which were funded. He said many of the 'needed services' were being funded.

Mrs. Isnardi said she would not support the budget. She felt there were many issues in the budget that were not clear. She felt the primary focus should be on public safety and infrastructure. She said, if it was felt necessary to do so, an independent auditor would be considered at the end of the upcoming budget year to review the appropriations.

Mr. Zonka felt the Council needed to be looking five years out. Mr. Woodard said the budget format had been different every year. His concern was the future years out. He felt Council needed to determine where the City was going and how it was going to fund it to get there. He said he would support the budget, but was not happy with it.

Mayor Mazziotti did not feel it was a great budget. He said he would support it as the City needed a budget.

Motion carried with members voting as follows:

Mayor Mazziotti	Yea
Deputy Mayor Geier	Nay
Councilman Woodard	Yea
Councilman Zonka	Yea
Councilwoman Isnardi	Nay

Mayor Mazziotti opened the floor for public comments. Tim Goodwin, staff representative with the Fraternal Order of Police, commented on the need for public safety and support of law enforcement.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:07 P.M.

ATTEST:

Terese Barber, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

  
John J. Mazziotti, MAYOR

