



City of Pompano Beach

100 West Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Detailed Minutes - Final

City Commission

Rex Hardin, Mayor
Andrea McGee, Vice Mayor
Alison Fournier, Commissioner
Barry Moss, Commissioner
Beverly Perkins, Commissioner
Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton, Commissioner

Gregory P. Harrison, City Manager
Mark Berman, City Attorney
Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

5:15 PM

Commission Chamber

Special City Commission Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the Special City Commission meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Note: Comr. Sigerson-Eaton joined the meeting remotely via conference call.

Present: Commissioner Alison Fournier
Commissioner Barry Moss
Commissioner Beverly Perkins
Commissioner Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton
Vice Mayor Andrea McGee
Mayor Rex Hardin

INVOCATION

Mayor Hardin offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the Agenda be APPROVED AS SUBMITTED. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hardin stated this is the Final adoption of the proposed millage rates and proposed budgets of the City of Pompano Beach for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

B. CONSIDERATIONS

1. [23-674](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGES FOR THE 2023 TAX ROLL; LEVYING A TAX ON ALL PROPERTIES, REAL AND PERSONAL, WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR OPERATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH USING A GENERAL OPERATING MILLAGE RATE OF 5.2705; LEVYING A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST FOR 2018 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDED INDEBTEDNESS USING A MILLAGE RATE OF 0.3183; LEVYING A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST FOR 2021 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDED INDEBTEDNESS USING A MILLAGE RATE OF 0.2175; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE (GENERAL OPERATING MILLAGE (5.2705) AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT MILLAGE (0.5000)) OF 5.7705 REPRESENTS A 10.00% INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES WHEN COMPARED TO THE ROLLED-BACK MILLAGE RATE OF 5.2458; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(Fiscal Impact: N/A)

(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti)

Erjeta Diamanti, Budget Director, introduced the item and stated this is the final adoption of the General Fund Millage Rate of 5.2705 as well as the two G.O. Bond Debt Service Millage Rates for Series 2018 and 2021. The proposed millage rate represents a 10% increase over the rolled-back rate, which is due to the increase in the City's property valuation. Lastly, Ms. Diamanti stated the budget books will be published on the City's website 30 days from the adoption of the budget.

Mayor Hardin opened the floor for public input.

Michael Solley, 621 NE 34th Street, Pompano Beach, said the appraised increased values are not realistic. He said raising their property taxes by this much is unsustainable and residents do not have the money. He said they need a better plan because this does not work.

Michael Skversky, 1630 SW 6th Avenue, Pompano Beach, spoke about food drives during the pandemic, commenting on the large number of city employees that were present distributing food. He said the City is overflowing with employees and if they wanted to cut taxes, they could cut the workforce by 10-15% and save millions of dollars. In addition, he suggested the City needs to review projects under \$75,000 that the City

Manager makes decisions on. Therefore, he advised the City to lower taxes similar to the City of Miami or follow after Wilton Manors that either lowered taxes or kept them even.

Silvia Sauve, 3430 NE 14th Terrace, Pompano Beach, stated she and her husband purchased a home 11 years ago under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). She said it was an amazing program and was the only way they could have purchased a home at the time. She expressed concerns about the proposed taxes, stating she does not understand why the taxes are being raised, therefore she kindly urged the Commission to reconsider.

Alexandria Day, 705 NE 5th Avenue, Pompano Beach, lived at her home since 1984 and stated property values have increased so much. She spoke about all the developments around her area. She said the City wants to take money from her, but she cannot get simple things fixed in her neighborhood, citing that 5th Avenue has been redone several times and speed bumps should have been put-in years ago. The area was meant to be a nice community; however, people are selling themselves along Dixie Highway. Since these issues have yet to be addressed, she requested to no longer be taxed by the City.

Patricia McGill, 1131 SW 3rd Terrace, Pompano Beach, asked if the new high rises are paying taxes, so the residents do not have to be taxed more. Mayor Hardin confirmed that new developments do come on the tax rolls when they receive their Certificate of Occupancy. He said that new construction does help offset expenses, but the City is also at the mercy of higher expenses like everyone else.

Dorota Krol, 40502 Martinique Way, Coconut Creek, said her husband was working for New York City and they decided to move to Florida when they retired. She said they paid \$2,300 last year in property taxes and now her proposed tax bill is \$4,500. She stated people are hoping to manage their retirement, however they are being pushed into foreclosure.

Mayor Hardin said what Ms. Krol is describing is part of the Save Our Homes law and assessed valuation, which has nothing to do with property taxes that are levied at the local level.

Merceydes Morassi, 3451 NE 14th Terrace, Pompano Beach, stated she attended the budget hearing last week, and expressed her disagreement with Comr. Moss' comments about the lack of residents that attended the hearing to comment about the taxes. She reiterated that she is not in support of increased taxes. She invited residents to attend tonight's hearing. Although some of the residents were unable to attend, she said it does not mean they are in support of increased taxes. She briefly commented on the City receiving an 18% increase in revenue. In closing, she said the residents have their eyes on members of the Commission and they know who is in support of the people.

Rev. John Mohorn, 2600 NW 2nd Street, Pompano Beach, stated the residents are just getting over Covid-19, which was devastating. He said the timing is not right and asked the Commission to reconsider raising taxes.

Matt O'Brien, 1600 SW 5th Avenue, Pompano Beach, agreed with the last 2 speakers. He said if Comr. Moss was interested in what the people think, then this matter should be put to a vote. He said the City should have no shortage of income.

Rev. Tim Griffin, 20871 NW 1st Street, Pompano Beach, said he speaks to residents on a continual basis, to include seniors on fixed income and he believes this is an inopportune time to raise taxes. He suggested phasing-in the tax increases, if possible. In closing, he stated the residents are not in attendance tonight due to circumstances, not because they do not care.

Jack Lowther, 1411 NE 35th Street, Pompano Beach, lived in the City since the 8th grade, and it saddens him to see what is going on. He said he is a youth pastor, and many young families cannot continue to live here. He said the residents cannot afford it now and they do not need to pay more money out; therefore he agreed with the recommendation to put this matter to a vote.

Ernie Sauve, 3430 NE 13th Terrace, Pompano Beach, said he agrees with his wife (Silvia Sauve), who spoke earlier and believes the City may not be in touch with the reality of what is going on in people's lives.

Suzanne Courtade, 1521 NW 5th Avenue, Pompano Beach, expressed concerns about the proposed tax increase, stating that now is not the time to raise taxes and suggested the City should take another look at the budget instead. She said a neighboring town's millage rate is around 3%, and recommended the City to do more with less money.

Mayor closed public input and invited further Commission discussion on the item.

Mayor Hardin asked why they start the meeting at 5:15 P.M. Ms. Diamanti answered that State Statute requires the City to hold the meeting during the weekday after 5:00 P.M. or anytime on a Saturday. The City can start the meeting later but not earlier than 5:00 P.M. Mayor Hardin said they could hold the meeting next year at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Hardin inquired if the budget hearings were on the trim notification that went to each homeowner by the Property Appraiser's Office. Ms. Diamanti said the first budget hearing was on the trim notice, but the final hearing was sent via a press release and published in multiple locations. She confirmed the trim notices were mailed out around August 12.

Mayor Hardin acknowledged that everyone's situation is different. He said he understands that no one wants to pay more on their taxes, including him. He said that the government pays what residents pay. He spoke about the improvements in the city through the G.O. bond, however additional expenses were incurred to operate the new facilities, parks, and fields. In closing, he said each department has to justify any requests for increases.

Vice Mayor McGee said she is grateful for the residents who showed up at tonight's hearing and she acknowledged those who are hurting. She believes the Commission needs to look at what they can cut and where they can push back projects.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, to cut \$300K from the budget for charitable giving. The motion failed for lack of second.

Vice Mayor McGee recommended looking for areas where they can trim for the next budget cycle. She said

for the 2024-2025 budget year, they need to review it closely and consider not expanding some services.

Comr. Fournier thanked everyone for coming out to the hearing. She agreed with the suggestion to push back the hearing time next year so more residents could attend. Moreover, she spoke about the trim notice and noted the City is just one part of it, stating the recent referendum to increase pay to teachers is a big driver of the tax increases. She briefly commented on the attempt to find cost reductions around Sand and Spurs but received pushback from the public. She acknowledged they never went back to find the \$400K after that discussion. Therefore, she suggested some areas where they could cut in the budget. She agreed with the Vice Mayor on the recommendation to cut charitable giving.

A motion was made by Comr. Fournier, seconded by Vice Mayor McGee, to reduce the millage rate enough to find \$400K of cost savings, by eliminating the FT Event Planner position, reducing \$100K in charitable giving, reducing overhead expenses such as auto related expenses, clothing/uniform expenses, and publications.

Mark Berman, City Attorney noted this is a millage rate matter and it is not an appropriate time to discuss budgetary changes.

Comr. Fournier said she wants the budget cuts to come from cost-savings and not revenue increases.

Greg Harrison, City Manager commented on the itemized list suggested by Comr. Fournier stating the vote concerning the Event Planner position did not pass, which is why it is still in the budget. He said the automobile allowances is part of the compensation for some employees. He noted he has never had a Commission dictate how he deals with employee compensation and advised doing so maybe a charter violation in terms of how the City operates.

Vice Mayor McGee acknowledged the budget approval is the most difficult, but it is the most important thing they do. She said they may need more budget workshops in the future. She noted that other cities are figuring out how to keep taxes lower.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton, who joined the hearing remotely, thanked the residents for coming out and agreed with reducing the millage rate. She noted they did not raise the rate this year in which they levy taxes. She said they should try to lower it moving forward because they will be in a better financial position with developers over the next 1-2 years. She agreed to a reduction in charitable giving and stated they need to be more involved in the budget process. In closing, she noted the City has no control over the School Board and other taxing authorities.

Comr. Moss agreed that any way to cut taxes is a good thing, however this is not the time and place to be doing it as it is unfair to the staff who work to put the budget together. He agreed to more workshops next year. He said they need to pass the budget that they have.

Comr. Perkins indicated she voted no for the budget at the first hearing, primarily because of the property taxes. She said the Commission needs to work more closely throughout the year with the City Manager and noted it is important to meet with the City Manager and find out how the money is being spent. She intends to

vote no because the taxes are too high, too much money is spent on consultants, and BSO continues to receive raises. She does not agree with cutting funding to non-profits and she reiterated the need to work with the City Manager throughout the year to find ways to cut and not just during budget discussion.

Comr. Fournier noted if auto allowances is contractually obligated, then they can review vehicles parts, publication, and clothing.

The motion failed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fournier

Perkins

McGee

No: Moss

Sigerson-Eaton

Hardin

A vote was taken on the initial motion, which was as follows:

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the Resolution / Regular Agenda be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Moss

Sigerson-Eaton

McGee

Hardin

No: Fournier

Perkins

Enactment No: RES. No. 2023-219

2. [23-675](#) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS/REVENUES FOR THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 TOTALING \$400,154,323; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(Fiscal Impact: \$400,154,323 for FY 2024)

(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti)

Ms. Diamanti presented the item stating this is the final approval of the overall City budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 of approximately \$400M. She clarified that the EMS budget was excluded from the proposed total budget, however the EMS budget will be adopted at the EMS Taxing District meeting this evening.

Mayor Hardin opened the floor to public input and invited further Commission discussion on the motion. However, no one provided further comments on the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the Resolution / Regular Agenda be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Moss

Sigerson-Eaton

McGee

Hardin

No: Fournier

Perkins

Enactment No: RES. No. 2023-220

3. [23-676](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2028; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(Fiscal Impact: \$33,863,399 for Capital Improvement Projects FY 2024)

(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti/Tammy Good)

Ms. Diamanti introduced the item, stating this is the final adoption of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2024-2028. The plan was presented to various City boards for input and adjustments were made by City staff. The boards all unanimously voted to approve the plan as presented. The board recommendations were provided during the July Budget Workshop. During the Workshop, the City Commission recommended staff to postpone the design and construction of the Hillsboro Inlet Bridge Improvements and NE 14th Causeway Bridge, of which have been removed from the plan. Therefore, the total amount for capital improvement projects for FY 2024 is approximately \$33.9M.

Mayor closed public input and invited further Commission discussion on the item.

Comr. Moss asked if these are projects that are planned over the next five years. City Manager Harrison replied the projects will begin in 2024.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the Resolution / Regular Agenda be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fournier

Moss

Perkins

Sigerson-Eaton

McGee

Hardin

Enactment No: RES. No. 2023-221

4. [23-715](#) **P.H. 2023-87: (PUBLIC HEARING 2ND READING)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 34, "CITY POLICY," OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 34.107, "POSITION CLASSIFICATION PLAN," BY RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN POSITIONS, BY CREATING NEW POSITIONS, BY RETITLING CERTAIN POSITIONS, AND BY RETITLING AND RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN POSITIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Fiscal Impact: \$869,790 for FY 2024)

FIRST READING: SEPTEMBER 13, 2023



Strategic Plan Initiative

(Staff Contact: Bobby Bush)

Bobby Bush, Acting HR Director, presented the item and stated this is the second reading of the Ordinance and there has been no changes since first reading.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the Ordinance / Regular Agenda be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fournier

Moss

Perkins

Sigerson-Eaton

McGee

Hardin

Enactment No: ORD. No. 2023-69

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Special meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

COMMENCE MEETING AS EMS TAXING DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the EMS Taxing District meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

B. CONSIDERATIONS

1. [23-677](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF POMPANO BEACH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE 2023 TAX ROLL; LEVYING A TAX ON ALL PROPERTIES, REAL AND PERSONAL, WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE POMPANO BEACH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT, FOR OPERATION AND/OR MAINTENANCE EXPENSES OF THE POMPANO BEACH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT USING A MILLAGE OF 0.5000; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE REPRESENTS A 11.21% INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES WHEN COMPARED TO THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 0.4496; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(Fiscal Impact: N/A)

(Staff Contact: Erjeta Diamanti)

Ms. Diamanti stated that this is the final adoption of the EMS millage rate of .5000, which is the capped millage rate for the EMS Taxing District, and it represents a 11.21% increase in property taxes when compared to the rolled-back millage rate of 0.4496. The property tax increase is also due to the increase in the City's assessed valuation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Fournier, that the Resolution / Regular Agenda be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fournier

Moss

Perkins

Sigerson-Eaton

McGee

Hardin

Enactment No: RES. No. 2023-222

2. [23-678](#) A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES AND RECEIPTS OF THE POMPANO BEACH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL

YEAR 2023-2024 TOTALING \$25,523,255; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
(Fiscal Impact: \$25,523,255 for FY 2024)

(**Staff Contact:** Erjeta Diamanti)

Ms. Diamanti stated that this is the final approval of the EMS Taxing District Budget for FY 2023-2024 of about \$25.5M.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor McGee, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the Resolution / Regular Agenda be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fournier
Moss
Perkins
Sigerson-Eaton
McGee
Hardin

Enactment No: RES. No. 2023-223

C. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hardin thanked the residents for coming out to the meeting and he assured them their voices were heard by all members of the Commission. He also thanked City Manager Harrison, Ms. Diamanti and the entire City staff for their efforts in putting together this year's budget. He commented on the work and labor of City staff, stating that to review and put together the budget, and to deliver the services to residents and businesses, is not a matter taken lightly and it is a long journey to reach this point of the process; therefore, he expressed appreciation for their work on the budget.

The EMS Taxing District meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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Kervin Alfred

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Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

DocuSigned by:

Rex Hardin

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Rex Hardin, Mayor

DocuSigned by:

