



Final Budget Hearing Minutes
Wednesday September 23, 2020

Call to Order, Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Manager Campbell

Roll Call Councilmembers Noble, Zemaitis, Hauft, Mayor Dudley, Vice-Mayor Howell
Manager Campbell and Attorney Mora

Old Business

- a. Resolution No. 20-08 adopting a final millage rate of 5.4374 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, read in full by Attorney Mora

Motion: Vice-Mayor Howell
Second: Councilmember Hauft

Manager Campbell stated that there was considerable discussion on this topic at the previous hearing this month. He had nothing to add, unless there were questions.

Public Comment:

Teresa Zemaitis, 5201 57th St N was concerned that this is a critical time in history, with a lot of people not getting increases. She believes cuts should have been looked for and, that increases were uncalled for.

Vote: Councilmember Noble - yes
Councilmember Zemaitis - yes
Mayor Dudley - yes
Vice-Mayor Howell - yes
Councilmember Hauft - yes

Resolution passed unanimously

- b. Resolution No. 20-09 adopting a final budget of \$5,266,362 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, read in full by Attorney Mora

Manager Campbell clarified the balanced budget breakdown as follows:

General fund total	\$ 2,929,362
Beautification fund	\$ 205,000
Capital improvement	<u>\$ 2,132,000</u>
	\$ 5,266,362

Motion: Councilmember Hautt
Second: Vice-Mayor Howell

Councilmember Noble wanted to know what the status of the roof for the Fire Department was, and what we were doing to upgrade their facility. She stated there were a lot of carcinogens being emitted due to diesel vehicles being started, there was mold at the fire department and the A/C was leaking.

Manager Campbell stated we received three quotes for the roof. The contractor, Urethane Systems was selected. They are scheduled for mid-October to start for work. Kenneth City has a strong working relationship with Pinellas Park, and relies on them to provide valuable feedback on any issues with the building. Manager Campbell has not been made aware of the mold within the building, an, issues with the ventilation system, or the A/C leaking.

Councilmember Noble was concerned that no solutions are being provided, she stated that it is Management's job. She stated with the budget this year we need to make cuts, and the Managers solution was to cut an FTE out. Councilmember Noble was looking for recommendations to consolidate, combine or cut items. She stated there are duplicate lights on 54th Avenue, that we are paying for. She wants to be presented with solutions and recommendations in the budget to save money.

Manager Campbell stated the in the budget, the big areas that could be cut were cut. The wage adjustments were very conservative and it will at least give employees something to help with their quality of life.

Manager Campbell asked Councilmember Noble for more detail on the duplicate lights on 54th, the mold in the Fire Department, and the leaking A/C. Manager Campbell stated he has a good rapport with the Fire Chief, and if there was an issue of substance, he would have reached out to the Town Manager and Ken Moore.

Councilmember Noble also stated she asked for Paragraph 6 to be removed from the Manager's letter in the budget binder and she was looking for that update.

Manager Campbell stated he has a copy of the update. However, Councilmember Noble did not like getting information on the dais right before a meeting. A copy was circulated at the meeting.

Mayor Dudley suggested that the questions Councilmember Noble were asking need to occur at Town Hall. This meeting was to discuss the budget.

Councilmember Noble wants a timeline for the search for a new Chief and it to occur before the Chief retires. Mayor Dudley agreed.

Manager Campbell has meet with the Chief Riley and is generating an updated position description, and will advertise with the Florida Police Chiefs Association and International Association of Chiefs of Police. Manager Campbell indicated Chief Riley has agreed to work with the Town Manager throughout the transition.

The job description can be ready and an advertisement placed by next Friday. There will be a three-week soak period. Manager Campbell stated we expect upwards of 50 applicants, then will boil it down to 7-10, and select 3-5 to present to Council during a workshop.

It is the Manager's duty to select a Police Chief, but he wants to include the council. A new Chief could be seated by Mid to late December, with the right candidates.

Vice-Mayor Howell asked Attorney Mora what the Council's place is in hiring a Chief of Police.

Attorney Mora stated a Police Chief is an employee of the Town, not a charter official. The last time there was an opening for a Police Chief there was an Interlocal agreement with Pinellas Park, and Kevin Riley was asked to serve in an interim capacity. There was not a need to undertake a nationwide search for a Police Chief at that time.

Vice-Mayor Howell asked about the role of a Councilmember, was it to micromanage.

Attorney Mora, stated the Town Manager implements the vision of the Council. If the Council wants to focus on a certain item, the Manager would present plans for the item. He provides recommendations, and executes policy.

Attorney Mora stated the Council is the policy arm of the Town. They are not there to micromanage day to day activities.

The Council can't interfere with the operations of staff, but they can get information from them that may inform their ability to develop policy.

If the Council feels that the Manager's efforts to execute the policies the Council develops are not aligning, with the Council's vision, then the Council could redirect the Manager.

Vice-Mayor Howell asked about the budget.

Attorney Mora stated that once the proposed budget is developed, which is a recommendation it is submitted to Council. You have the ability to manipulate the budget. If you were to come to a consensus, then the budget would be adopted.

The Town Manager can operate accordingly within the parameters of the budget

Manager Campbell stated the budget is based on what is needed for the Town within a given year. We have tried to make small changes, but if they include substantial cost that we have not budgeted for, it would be appropriate to bring that back for a workshop.

Manager Campbell stated, for example a suggestion by Councilmember Noble to prioritize Capital projects, this would require Council consensus, and a future work shop Manager Campbell is adaptable to Councilmember suggestions and comments, and has made some changes already to the website.

Vice-Mayor Howell stated that in his years on Council everyone has been working together as a team, however with different personalities, if appears some people are on the attack.

Mayor Dudley wanted to confirm what Councilmember Noble was saying that she wanted to see a timeline of the steps that will occur to hire a new Chief of Police, rather than wanting to be part of hiring the person.

Consensus by the Council to see the timeline that will be in place to have a replacement for the Chief before he leaves.

Public Comment:

Barbara Roberts, 6412 44th Ave N, had a couple of statements to make.

She was disappointed that as a small, poor Town we have a budget like we are a big, rich Town. She doesn't think the residents are being taken into consideration. She stated even if you got a 1.00 raise, you got more than some people who lost their jobs. She is disappointed that the Town lost sight of what the Council should be doing for the Town, instead we have a 5- million-dollar budget and we raised our millage rate up and it will affect people that already don't have jobs.

Regarding the Police Chief, Matt needs to have the Council look at the candidates and discuss with them with the Council, with the Chief,

The Chief works for Matt, but Matt works for the Council. Everyone should be able to meet the choice Matt has made, and it not be Matt's own personal person. We need to make sure we have someone qualified, and the Council should be focused more on why all of this is taking place, instead of who we bring in, and what we do so this never takes place again with a Police Chief leaving a Town.

Vote:	Councilmember Noble	- yes
	Councilmember Zemaitis	- yes
	Mayor Dudley	- yes
	Vice-Mayor Howell	- yes
	Councilmember Hautt	- yes

Resolution passed unanimously

Adjournment

Motion: Vice-Mayor Howell

Second: Councilmember Zemaitis

Meeting Adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy M. Matson, Town Clerk

