AGENDA MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
VENETIAN CENTER, 1 DOZIER COURT
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City of Leesburg Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at the Venetian Center. Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Jimmy Burry
Commissioner Dan Robuck
Commissioner Mike Pederson
Mayor John Christian

Commissioner Jay Connell was absent. Also present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, City Clerk (CC) J. Andi Purvis, Budget Manager (BM) Brandy McDaniel, the news media, and others.

INVOCATION

Mayor Christian gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America at the Carver Heights / Montclair Area Community Redevelopment Agency meeting immediately prior to this meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

This section is reserved for members of the public to bring up matters of concern or opportunities for praise. Issues brought up will not be discussed in detail at this meeting. Issues will either be referred to the proper staff or will be scheduled for consideration at a future City Commission Meeting. Comments are limited to three minutes.

There were no public comments.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND NON-ROUTINE ITEMS:
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN INFORMATION SIGN-UP SHEET (YELLOW) AVAILABLE

A. Public Hearing on the Proposed millage and proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

CM Minner mentioned he had a presentation if the commission would like to review the highlights again. Otherwise, the only material change he would like them to know is the additional five hundred thousand dollar gas transfer. When we started the budget, we had allocated the typical ten percent transfer from the gas fund, but there was a little bit of a connection with the goal to get the electric transfer down to six percent and they were running short of money. We were going to do a one-time grab of five hundred thousand dollars from the gas fund to the general fund. We were okay with that until the auditors started getting goofy about it. So, for the last month, we have been kicking around how to fix that and the two fixes we came up with were one, change the transfer policy and two, call it a loan. From the staff level, we decided against the transfer policy because five hundred thousand dollars would make the transfer almost eighteen percent and that was too big. As the gas system grows, we are going to have growth and that will start filling in that gap of that extra five hundred thousand dollars if we brought it over and that is why he felt comfortable recommending doing it in the first place. On the loan issue, that just became too tricky and cumbersome. At the end of the day we would end up writing off the loan, so that was too much of a smoke screen. Now, another way we could do it, since the federal government is giving us the Cares Act money and it looks like the City is going to be in a position to reimburse ourselves for the losses we incurred due to Covid and, based on the formulas that the federal government gave us, we should have a million dollars that will replenish those losses. That million dollars will go into the bank account to replenish our loss of a million dollars based on the formula, and we will spend it and bring cash back to the general fund. Since that will replenish what we lost, we will have money for the three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for the trails, a hundred thousand dollars for the sports marketing contract and the five hundred thousand dollars to substitute the transfer, so then that five hundred thousand dollars stays in the gas fund, which would give us money for another capital project. **Commissioner Robuck** wanted to clarify when we said the auditors had an issue with this. They only had an issue with it because we have a policy that says ten percent and this was eighteen percent. If our policy had said eighteen percent, then they would have been okay with it. It is not like we were doing anything sketchy. **CM Minner** stated he was spot on. We were trying to break our own rules.

1. Announce the name of the taxing authority, the rolled back rate, and the millage rate to be levied.

Budget Manager Brandy McDaniel stated the name of the taxing authority is the City of Leesburg, Florida and the proposed millage rate of 4.0192 is zero percent higher than the current year rollback rate of 4.0192. The millage rate to be levied is 4.0192 mills per one thousand.

2. Discuss the proposed aggregate millage rate.

BM McDaniel stated on July 12th the Commission approved the tentative millage rate of 4.0192 mills per one thousand or the rollback rate. This is a decrease from the prior fiscal year whereas the proposed budget was developed using 4.0192 mills per one thousand. Therefore, the tentative millage rate of 4.0192 mills per one thousand represents a zero percent increase from the current year rollback rate and this is not a tax increase under trim guidelines.

3. Request comments from the public regarding the tentative budget.

Mayor Christian asked if there were any public comments regarding the adoption of the tentative millage rate. There were none.

4. Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida tentatively adopting 4.0192 mills as the Fiscal Year 2021-22 millage rate for the City of Leesburg, Florida, representing the current year proposed aggregate millage rate of 4.0192 which is 0.00% more than the current year rolled back rate; and providing an effective date.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 10,913

Commissioner Robuck introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only.

Commissioner Robuck made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Burry seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

The roll call vote was:
Commissioner Robuck Yes
Commissioner Burry Yes
Commissioner Pederson Yes
Mayor Christian Yes

Four yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

5. Request comments from the public regarding adoption of the tentative 2021-22 budget.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the public regarding the adoption of the tentative 2021-22 budget. There were none.

6. Resolution tentatively adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 10,914

Commissioner Robuck introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only.

Commissioner Robuck made a motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:
Commissioner Burry Yes
Commissioner Pederson Yes
Commissioner Robuck Yes
Mayor Christian Yes

Four yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

7. Announce the tentatively adopted millage rate.

BM McDaniel said the tentatively adopted millage rate to be levied is 4.0192 mills per one thousand.

8. Establish and publicly announce the date, time and place for the public hearing to finally adopt the millage rate and the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget.

BM McDaniel announced the date to finally adopt the millage rate and the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget is scheduled for Monday, September 27, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Venetian Center, 1 Dozier Court, Leesburg, Florida.

4. ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Pederson had nothing.

Commissioner Burry had nothing.

Commissioner Robuck thanked the department heads and the City Manager for all the details they put in the budgets. If you look at other cities' budgets, they do not have nearly the detail or information that Leesburg does. He really appreciates all the work that has been put into them and it is a big deal because, despite the challenges of Covid and the reduction of gas tax money, Leesburg is going with the rollback rate, lowering our tax rate, and lowering our electric rate. We are really trying to help the people out while still trying to grow the city.

Mayor Christian gave kudos to everything Commissioner Robuck said and to the department heads because he is sure they were beaten up pretty badly by the city manager before bringing us a good budget. He thanked them for working with the commission and the citizens during a rough year with Covid. He thanked the department heads and the staff who make sure our city continues to run effectively and efficiently. He was talking to a nurse who was really contemplating her loyalty; she had been with the local hospital almost twenty years. They are understaffed and she feels underpaid because other hospitals are paying more. He is sure our staff could probably say the same sentiments, but because of their loyalty to Leesburg, they stick around even though they may not be getting compensated as much as other people. He commended the staff because when they start looking at the budgets they may not realize when we start talking about spending three hundred thousand dollars for trails, they may be thinking they do not get paid that much, so he wanted to thank the city's staff for working hard and being loyal. He finalized his comments by thanking the city manager, the finance director and the budget manager because he is sure the numbers change all the time behind the scenes.

5. ADJOURN:

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THESE PROCEEDINGS SHOULD CONTACT THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, ADA COORDINATOR, AT 728-9740, 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

F.S.S. 286.0105 "If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, they will need a record of the proceedings, and that for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." The City of Leesburg does not provide this verbatim record.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.