

City of Davenport 1st Budget Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2024

Minutes of the First Budget Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the City of Davenport, Florida, held Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room after having been properly advertised with the following members present Mayor Brynn Summerlin and Vice-Mayor Jeremy Clark. Commission Members: Linda Robinson, Bobby Lynch and Donna Fellows-Coffey. Also present were City Manager Kelly Callihan and City Attorney Elisabeth Crane.

Mayor Summerlin declared a quorum present and opened the meeting with an invocation and a salute to the flag.

1. PROCLAMATION – Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Proclamation was taken off and will be placed on the October agenda.

2. FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

a) PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1306 SETTING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

The Mayor and City Manager read from a prepared script which outlined the proposed millage rate of 7.2500 and the tentative budget funding for FY 2024/2025 at \$61,432,460.

Finance Director Donald Carter noted the incorporated changes since their July 5th Budget Workshop. These included:

- General Fund changed by \$380,070 since the Workshop, which included;
 - a) Increase to health insurance due to the premium coming in higher than anticipated.
 - b) Increase to City Manager and City Clerk salary line item due to the merit raises that were given that had not been approved at that time and had to be added.
 - c) Slight payroll changes were made.
 - d) Took out some items from the City Clerk budget that are not needed at this time.
 - e) Added website redesign in the amount of \$19,000.
 - f) Added \$35,000 for the replacement or repair of the marquee sign
 - g) Forgot to include the cost impact of overtime pay as pensionable salary for the Police and Fire.
 - h) Other minor changes

Donald noted that as a result of all of this, the Reserve Carry Forward was reduced to \$349,735.

- Water/Wastewater Fund adjustments included:
 - a) Added grant funding received for the emerging contaminate pilot program
 - b) Position change differential added
 - c) Added North Lake cleanup

Donald noted that the amount of changes totaled to about \$1.75 million bringing the budget from a little over \$59 million to \$61.5 million.

The City Manager announced that the City's rolled-back millage rate is 6.7736 mills, and the millage needed to fund this budget is 7.2500 mills. This represents an increase in taxes of 7.03%.

The Mayor noted that the millage rate was the same as last year.

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No.1306 by title.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark to approve on first reading Ordinance No. 1306. Motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

d) PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1307 ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No.1307 by title.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey and seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark to approve on first reading Ordinance No. 1307 adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

The Mayor announced that the second hearing to adopt the millage rate and budget for FY 2024/2025 was scheduled for September 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion by Vice-Mayor Clark and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the Order of Business. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor asked if there was anyone who wished to address the City Commission on anything not on the Agenda.

Randy Neal of 411 West Bay Street informed the Commission that he was there for guidance from them on what he could do regarding his neighbor. His new neighbor was causing a lot of noise because of his business, and he believes he is running a hot shot business and bringing in vehicles and is out there till 12:30.

He has had to call the Police Department several times because of the loud noise. He told them that he would only have 2 to 3 vehicles on his lots, but he has counted more than that. He told them that he would be doing audio and tinting but he is working on cars. The road is torn up because he's destroyed the base of the road bringing in his vehicles. Darryl can't keep up with the road because of the water runoff on the property.

Commissioner Fellows-Coffey asked Mr. Neal if the modifications made by Mr. Luciano have affected his property. Mr. Neal responded that they have. Commissioner Fellows-Coffey further informed the Commission that at least two (2) other property owners in the area have come to her and complained about this property owner.

Brief discussion ensued with the Commission informing Mr. Neal that they could help with the noise issue and Code Enforcement of the property, and the issues regarding the runoff, but the other he would need to seek counsel.

There being no one else, the Mayor closed Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the August 19, 2024 Planning Commission and the August 19, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1286 ANNEXING 109 EAST FULLER STREET (OWNER OF RECORD: LAWANA NYOKI KING)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1286 by title.

City Planner Raymond Perez explained that this was second and final reading of the ordinance and there had been no changes since first reading.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve Ordinance No. 1286 on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1287 ANNEXING SEVERAL PARCELS ON EAST JAMES STREET (OWNER OF RECORD: CINTRA ENTERPRISES LLC)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1287 by title.

Raymond explained that this was second and final reading of the ordinance and there had been no changes since first reading.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Lynch that the Commission approve Ordinance No. 1287 on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1304 AMENDING THE PURCHASING POLICY

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1304 by title.

Finance Director Donald Carter explained that this Ordinance revised the purchasing limits, authorization levels and purchasing methods.

He proceeded to outline the suggested thresholds as follows.

Purchasing Method	From	To	Purchasing Limits	From	To
Informal	\$0	\$4,999.99	Supervisor	\$0	\$4,999.99
Verbal Quote	\$5,000	\$19,999.99	Dept. Director	\$5,000	\$19,999.99
Written Quote	\$20,000	\$49,999.99	City Manager	\$20,000	\$49,999.99
Bid/RFP/RFQ	\$50,000	Up	Commission	\$50,000	Up

He further outlined the other suggested changes which included:

- Future financial amount changes to be approved by resolution.
- Remove the restriction denying any Commissioner or employee the ability to bid on, enter into or be in any manner interested in any contract for city purchase.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Clark and seconded by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey to approve Ordinance No. 1304 on second and final reading amending the Purchasing Policy. Motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. REQUEST TO REAPPOINT MEMBERS ON THE DAVENPORT EVERGREEN CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The City Clerk advised that the terms of Warren McKnight, Joseph Locke, Joyce Hunter and Jeffrey Odenkirk expired at the end of August. Staff contacted these individuals, and all have agreed to serve another term.

Motion by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to reappoint the members to the Davenport Evergreen Cemetery Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager announced that there were a couple of homes on West Boulevard and Magnolia Street that they would have the opportunity to purchase. Acquiring them would enable them to increase the size of their lower well property and eventually own the whole block. He will be bringing them the contract for the purchase of one of them at their next meeting.

For the record, the Mayor stated that the homeowner had come to them and that the city wasn't forcing anyone out of their home. He further added that this would give them more room for equipment, maybe another well and more room to accommodate the North Lake project. Mike also added that the infrastructure for the Alternative Water Supply was also going to take up a lot of room on this property.

At this time the City Manager asked Mike to explain his next request. Mike shared that where Powerline Road crosses North Boulevard at the new subdivision Crosswinds, the developer would be installing infrastructure that would require them to closed the road for about a week and a half. They would be responsible for the signage to go up before they closed the road and to let people know of the closure. He was therefore making a request to close the road for the duration of the time needed, which would be about a week and a half.

The Mayor entertained a motion to approve the road closure for a period of 10 to 14 days.

The motion was provided by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark to close North Boulevard East for the length of time it takes to get the work done that needed to be done.

Commissioner Robinson clarified that the road wouldn't be closed for longer than 14 days. Mike responded that this was correct. In answer to her other question, Mike answered that it would take about a week to let everyone know of the road closure.

There being no other discussion, the Mayor called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Manager also drew their attention to the Reader Choice Awards that they won.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – Nothing to Report.

CITY CLERK REPORT – Nothing to Report.

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Fellows-Coffey voiced that she was disheartened to see the Neals back again complaining. She had voiced her concerns then when they did the reclassification because it would potentially lead to some issues with the neighboring property owners. She understood that commercial development was important. She was a proponent for growth, but they had to be cognizant of their existing residential homeowners. Everyone had to be good neighbors and work together to have the kind of Davenport community that they pride themselves on having. As the Mayor had mentioned earlier, there were some things that were beyond their control, but she hoped that anything that was within their control that they would be able to make the situation better for all the property owners in that area. She encouraged him to continue to be vocal to them and let them know his concerns.

Adding to Fellows-Coffey's comments, Commissioner Lynch further asked that they look into this and the noise issue and the decibel level. Also, if the gentleman was tearing the street with his equipment, then they needed to address that.

He was also glad that they were through their first reading of the Budget. He was looking forward to their Halloween event on the 31st. The Commission also noted that they had the Multi-Cultural event on October 5th and Homecoming Parade on October 10th coming up.

Commissioner Robinson also asked that they revisit the noise ordinance. She also thanked staff for the excellent work in preparing the budget and keeping the millage rate down.

Vice-Mayor Clark announced that as they grew it was going to create growing pains and as commercial came in, it was going to mix in with residential. It was important to know that they were going to listen to them and do their due diligence and look into the situation.

He asked that they look at their noise ordinance. He would also say that there are 3 sides to every story, your side, their side and the truth. He wanted them to figure out what the truth was and fix it and make everybody happy.

He also thanked their staff. He was excited about the Multicultural event. The makeup of their city has drastically changed and it was long overdue. He also thanked the Police Chief and his Department for everything they did.

The Mayor voiced that the Vice-Mayor was correct. They have been growing at an unprecedented rate and have been for a number of years. However, this Commission and staff have worked hard for the last couple of years and sometimes hard decisions were made and they always didn't get it right, but he felt that they got it right most of the time.

Having said this, he shared that Beyonca has posted a lot of things on their Facebook page and website about things that are happening in northeast Polk County, within the Davenport postal district and things that are happening within the city limits. A lot of those things are great; they have restaurants coming that are just outside of their city limits and other things happening at Posner Park. He further emphasized that no these were not in the City of Davenport but it was within the postal district, so it was still called Davenport. It disheartened him to see the comments from people that they didn't do enough, or that they're not doing it right or not paying attention to the right things. They have gone to great pains to acquire a piece of property that is going to be one of the crown jewels of parks in northeast Polk County, and they wouldn't believe the negative comments that were made about that. It was very disheartening because the cruelest comments came from the people that didn't live in the City of Davenport. They came from the people in the postal district and a lot of them were north of I-4.

Their city staff worked very hard in bringing them things that they could do as a city. The Tom Fellows Center was phenomenal, yet everybody complained because it closes at 8:00 and didn't have childcare. Once again, the people complaining were not the people that are paying the taxes to pay for the employees to run it 24/27.

They have worked so hard and done so much, but it wasn't good enough and this disheartened him.

There being no further business, the Mayor entertained a motion to adjourn which was provided by Vice-Mayor Clark.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.


Raquel Castillo, City Clerk