

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**FINAL BUDGET HEARING**

**September 23, 2009**

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Mayor Donald Penton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Penton then announced the following: Comments on Ordinance 1254 and/or Ordinance 1255 will be allowed by Polk City Taxpaying Residents only. To make comments or ask questions, you need to come to the front of the room, wait to be recognized, and then speak into the microphone giving your name and address.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Donald Penton.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Donald Penton, Vice Mayor Nancy Adorno-excused, Councilor Kristi Eilertsen, Councilor Joe LaCascia, Councilor Paula Roddenberry, City Manager Cory Carrier, City Attorney Jeff Sullivan-excused and City Clerk Patricia Jackson. Also present were Assistant City Manager Pam Peterson, City Planner Gene Kniffin, Finance Administrator Pamela Lawson, Code Enforcement Officer Kathy Delp and Librarian Mary Ellin Barrett.

A quorum was established, and Mayor Penton turned the meeting over to City Manager Carrier.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

City Manager Carrier announced that pursuant to Florida Statute Ordinances must be read in full.

**ORDINANCE 1254, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF POLK CITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Manager Carrier read Ordinance 1254 in its entirety. The millage rate is 7.6991, which is equal to the roll back rate.

At this time Mayor Penton opened the Public Hearing; no one from the public addressed the Council and Mayor Penton closed the Public Hearing.

Under review and discussion, Councilor LaCascia asked for clarification of the two Resolutions which will be discussed later. When he got into the numbers, he understands the millage rate that is being approved is going to fund the General Fund. If we are voting to approve the millage rate and thence the budget, are we automatically ratifying the two or three Resolutions that follow in the special meeting? He doesn't want it to come back later that it wasn't discussed. City Manager Carrier advised the Ordinance dealing with the Millage only impacts the General Fund Budget. She advised if Council decides to pass the Ordinance adopting the Millage, they may want to table the Ordinance adopting the Budget until the special called meeting. Discussion took place regarding the rate increases in water and sewer, which will be about 20 percent. During discussion, City Manager Carrier advised that the appropriate time for

discussion would be when the next Ordinance is brought up. Mayor Penton asked about the Resolution; City Manager Carrier advised Resolutions take one reading; the City Manager also advised the rate increases were discussed at the last budget hearing. Councilor LaCascia doesn't want to pass something and be sorry later; Councilor Eilertsen agrees, she wants to make sure the public is aware. After further discussion, Councilor LaCascia advised he is only looking for disclosure. Further discussion took place about the water and sewer availability fees. City Manager Carrier advised Council once they get to the Budget Ordinance and are fine with the other rates, to pass it based on the condition of the passage of the water and sewer rate increases.

A motion was made by Councilor Eilertsen to pass Ordinance 1254; the motion was seconded by Councilor Roddenberry.

Roll Call: Councilor Eilertsen-aye, Mayor Penton-aye, Councilor Roddenberry-aye, Councilor LaCascia-aye.

4-ayes

0-nays

**ORDINANCE 1255, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

City Manager Carrier read Ordinance 1255 in full.

Mayor Penton opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Al Schneider, 775 Teaberry Trail, approached the podium and asked what the Public Safety Budget consisted of; he was advised it consisted of the Police, Fire, Building and Code Enforcement. He asked if there was a breakdown, and City Manager Carrier advised it was broken down in the Budget; however, the Law Enforcement is \$311,000. Mr. Schneider advised that was what he was wanting and sat down.

Michael HoShing, 505 Orange Blvd., approached the podium and asked if there could be a breakdown between capital expenditures versus repair and maintenance; City Manager Carrier advised it is broken down in the budget; you have Operating Expenses and the Capital Outlay is at the bottom of the page. If you look at the explanation pages that follow, it gives you more detail for the line items. Mr. HoShing then commented on how the City acquires income -- it needs to be re-examined; more emphasis needs to be placed on developing and getting new businesses in the city and diversify in terms of helping small businesses get a foothold and making allowances. City Manager Carrier advised it is hard to do under Florida Statutes. The City is actively working on trying to get new businesses, but it is difficult under the current economic conditions. The City has created a Core Area, and should a business go into that area, impact fees are waived. Councilor Eilertsen also commented on the development of new businesses and how it is not going to come back any time soon because of the economic situation. City Manager Carrier advised the City has done all of the groundwork to entice companies to come here; however, banks are not releasing money. Councilor LaCascia advised you have to look at the short term disposition of available inventory; residential would be the first area to look at. Fountain Park has new developers, and he feels they will be aggressive in building; however, the revenue from those new units will not get into the revenue stream for two to three years. Mr. HoShing doesn't understand why we are not thinking outside the box, most small businesses start at the kitchen table, and asked what the City is doing to help allow residents to open businesses; there are no incentives and it is something to look into. City Manager Carrier advised the City allows home-based occupations as long as it doesn't impact a

residential neighborhood. City Manager Carrier told Mr. HoShing she would like to speak with him more on this issue, and to please call her.

Mayor Penton closed the Public Hearing. A motion was made by Councilor LaCascia to adopt Ordinance 1255 with the understanding that should Resolution 2009-07, Ordinance 1256 or Ordinance 1257 fail, the budget will be amended accordingly; the motion was seconded by Councilor Eilertsen.

Roll Call: Councilor LaCascia-aye, Councilor Roddenberry-aye, Councilor Eilertsen-aye, Mayor Penton-aye.

4-ayes

0-nays

The meeting was adjourned.

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Patricia R. Jackson, City Clerk

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Donald L. Penton, Sr., Mayor