

# **CITY COUNCIL MINUTES TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING**

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

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Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Everyone present recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Joe LaCascia

Mayor LaCascia announced this is the Tentative Budget Hearing; comments on Ordinance 2011-1283 and/or Ordinance 2011-1284 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 by the Mayor, and then speak into the microphone giving your name and address.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Trudy Block, Councilor Nancy Adorno, Councilor Mike Blethen, Councilor Don Kimsey, City Attorney Thomas Cloud and City Clerk Jackson.

Absent: City Manager Matt Brock

A quorum was established.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Pursuant to Florida Statute Ordinances must be read in full

### **ORDINANCE 2011-1283, 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 2011-2012 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Mayor LaCascia read Ordinance 2011-1283 in short title, and City Clerk Jackson read Ordinance 2011-1283 in its entirety. Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing; no one from the public spoke and Mayor LaCascia closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor LaCascia made a motion to accept Ordinance 2011-1283 in its entirety; the motion was seconded by Councilor Adorno. Under discussion, Councilor Kimsey asked what the millage rate was last year (this fiscal year); Mayor LaCascia advised the proposed millage rate for FY 2012 was 9.3199 before the City Council workshop, at which time it was the consensus of Council to keep the millage rate at the current rate (8.6547). Councilor Kimsey advised he wanted the audience know that.

Roll Call: Councilor Kimsey-aye, Vice Mayor Block-aye, Councilor Blethen-aye, Councilor Adorno-aye, Mayor LaCascia-aye

5-ayes  
0-nays

The motion carried.

**ORDINANCE 2011-1284, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Mayor LaCascia read Ordinance 2011-1284 in short title, and City Clerk Jackson read Ordinance 2011-1284 in its entirety. Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing.

Laura Lambert, 552 Meandering Way, addressed Council. At this time Mayor LaCascia advised taxpayers of Polk City would be allowed to speak; however, Council agreed for Ms. Lambert to continue. Ms. Lambert questioned where the legal fees were located in the budget summary. Ms. Lambert was advised the budget summary shows totals for General Government; however, total fees budgeted for FY 2012 is \$70,000 (item 514.310). Brief discussion took place regarding legal fees paid to date; Pam advised the fees shown is through the end of June 2011.

Mayor LaCascia closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Adorno made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2011-1284; the motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Under discussion, Councilor Adorno questioned the percentage increase in salaries; Pam Lawson advised the total increase in salaries and benefits was approximately \$37,000. Discussion then took place regarding the 13% increase.

Roll Call: Mayor LaCascia-aye, Councilor Blethen-nay, Vice Mayor Block-aye, Councilor Kimsey-nay, Councilor Adorno-aye

3-ayes  
2-nays

The motion carried.

At this time Attorney Cloud advised he heard a rumor that Council was going to vote on an annexation at tonight's meeting; he advised this cannot occur by State Law in a Special Meeting, and he is not aware of any annexations taking place. A resident from the audience approached Council and gave the Mayor a copy of an email she received concerning this. Mayor LaCascia asked the City Clerk to read the email into record; a copy is attached and made part of these minutes (the email was circulated by Al Topolski). Mayor LaCascia advised Council has not considered any annexation. Councilor Kimsey advised if there was a straw

vote he would vote no. Mr. Ed Bland, a resident of MOSN, commented that based on what he has just heard no action would be taken on those phases (mentioned in the email) without proper and due notice. Attorney Cloud advised the City would be required to have a vote. At this time City Clerk Jackson read the other portion of the email, which was sent by Laura Lambert.

Mr. Lou Nelson, from MOSN, addressed the Council and complemented them on the decision they made of waiving impact fees; to date eight new structures have been built, and the City has 11 new structures overall. He then spoke of his concerns for Polk City as well as the Water and Sewer Availability Charges, the housing market and property taxes (decrease in home valuations). He expressed his feelings concerning the non-ad valorem tax and Council needs to uphold the public trust.

Mr. Gene Fleming, owner of Statutes and More addressed Council concerning the Water Availability Charge and how they were applied to his property (5 lots faces Highway 33 and he owns a back lot).

Mr. Davis Taylor, 12648 C.R. 51 in Clermont, addressed Council concerning Water and Sewer Availability Charges for the two lots he purchased this past May; the only notice he received was the letter advising if the bill was not paid, it would be turned over to a collection agency (he read the letter he received from the City Manager).

The meeting adjourned upon voice vote. Mayor LaCascia advised there would be a brief recess before going into the special meeting.

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Patricia R. Jackson, City Clerk

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Joe LaCascia, Mayor