

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

August 8, 2016

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Assistant to the City Manager Sheandolen Dunn

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wanda Harris, Commissioner Keith Prestage, Commissioner Mike Blethen, City Manager Patricia Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Don Kimsey, City Attorney Thomas Cloud

ORDER OF BUSINESS

FY 2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Mayor LaCascia stated City Manager Jackson will present the budget and asked everyone to note their questions which will be addressed after the presentation.

City Manager Jackson discussed notable bullet points highlighted in the proposed 2016-2017 budget. A copy is attached and made part of the minutes. City Manager Jackson briefly discussed the reorganization of city staff.

Commissioner Prestage asked about the payment for the purchase of property? City Manager Jackson responded it is in Department 517. Those payments are budgeted at \$28,500 per year with a 15-year amortization.

Commissioner Prestage inquired about the City taking back the Utilities as Aquarina's fee is almost \$500,000.

City Manager Jackson clarified that Meter Reading could come back to the City. The millage rate was not increased.

Commissioner Blethen asked for better clarification on the property the City is looking to purchase. He is against increasing the City's debt and wants to investigate using some of the property we have.

City Manager Jackson clarified what the Public Works (PW) Director position entails which includes extensive field work. Kathy Delp is currently doing some of the work and she cannot do it all.

Mayor LaCascia talked about the savings over a two-year period. The salary of the Public Works Director comes out of the General Fund. Would need to see a compelling

argument in order to change from Aquarina. We can make changes to the budget. Remove \$88,000 and reduce the General fund by that amount.

Kathy Delp stated she has the old and the new Flood Plain maps. You can store certain materials on that property.

Commissioner Prestage reiterated the cost savings.

Vice Mayor Harris asked if we took back the Meter Reading would we have to have more equipment.

Kathy Delp stated items are stored all over Polk City. Having one central location for all storage, it would be more cost effective and time efficient.

Keith Burge (Aquinara) clarified further discussing that you have a turn-key operation in this piece of property.

City Manager Jackson reiterated we are looking at the future, not today. . Everything is centrally located. This property is exactly what Polk City needs to have a true Public Works and Utilities Facility. To build a piece of property that is raw, there has to be site development, stormwater, drainage, etc. It would cost more money in the long run to build something from scratch.

Mayor LaCascia asked if there was a consensus for the City Manager to look at the price and bring that back at our next meeting.

City Commission Consensus provided.

Lengthy discussion ensued regarding the budget and millage rate; it was the consensus of the Commission to reduce the budget by \$42,000; Mayor LaCascia mentioned a 7.50 millage rate.

City Manager Jackson stated the next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 for the First reading of the Budget Hearing (Public Hearing). The second and final reading will be on September 27, 2016 (Public Hearing).

Commissioner Blethen inquired about the location of the exercise equipment? City Manager Jackson responded on the TECO Trail (Polk City side of the Trail).

Mayor LaCascia inquired about the Health Insurance cost.

City Manager Jackson stated we've had the same plan for the last 3-4 years. However, there is a 6.7% increase. A few years ago there was a 9% decrease. City pays 100% of the employees. The employee only pays for any supplemental insurance.

Mayor LaCascia shared positive comments regarding the Library.

Commissioner Blethen stated Ann Blethen has volunteered to implement a Teen Reading Tutoring Program at the Library.

City Manager Jackson has agreed to this project at the library.

Commissioner Blethen asked about the Deed for the library property.

City Manager Jackson stated the City Commission has authorized to move forward with activity center architectural design grant monies. The deed on the existing library has a caveat stating that if the building is not used in 99 years, it reverts to the owner that originally deeded it to the City. At this point there is no one to deed it back to, so that becomes a legal issue. So, this is a moot point.

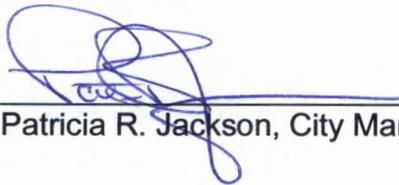
Commissioner Blethen wants a workshop to discuss water and sewer in November/December to plan for the future.

City Manager Jackson stated that will be done.

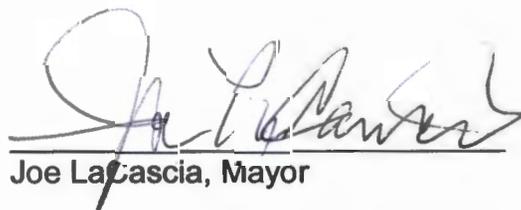
Other business that may be presented - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

ADJOURNMENT – 8:29 p.m.



Patricia R. Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor