

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

BUDGET HEARING

September 13, 2016

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

ROLL CALL – City Manager Patricia Jackson

Present: Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wanda Harris, Commissioner Don Kimsey, Commissioner Keith Prestage and City Manager Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Mike Blethen and City Attorney Thomas Cloud and Sheandolen Dunn, Assistant to the City Manager.

Mayor LaCascia declared a quorum was present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

ORDINANCE 2016-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR POLK CITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. First Reading

Mayor LaCascia read Ordinance 2016-03 in short title. City Manager Jackson announced the gross taxable value for operating purposes is \$72,477,319; the millage rate is 7.663 mills, which is the rolled-back.

Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing.

Sandra Cutts (315 Central Avenue) addressed the Commission and stated that the millage rate was good.

There being no additional comments from the public, Mayor LaCascia closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Kimsey made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-03, adopting the levying of Ad Valorem Taxes on first reading; the motion was seconded by Mayor LaCascia.

Under discussion, Commissioner Prestage discussed the millage rate of 8.25 mills versus the millage rate of 7.6663 mills – a home valued at \$100,000 with \$50,000 homestead exemption would have a savings of \$29.35 per year; a home valued at

\$350,000 after homestead would save approximately \$200 a year. Commissioner Prestage does not feel, in his opinion, the savings is enough significance to change the millage rate from 8.25 mills to the rolled-back rate (7.6663 mills). Commissioner Prestage recommended leaving the millage rate at 8.25 rather than lower it.

Mayor LaCascia thinks we are going about it backwards; you have to look at the budget and if it satisfies a little bit of everybody's needs; i.e. the purchase of the software is budgeted, the possible land purchase is in the budget and the possibility of hiring a Public Works Director is in the budget. At this time Sandra Cutts asked if \$50,000 was quoted as homestead exemption. Mayor LaCascia advised a homestead exemption for one person is \$25,000 and \$50,000 would be for two people.

Additional discussion took place.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Prestage—nay, Mayor LaCascia—aye, Commissioner Kimsey—aye and Commissioner Harris—nay. **The motion failed.**

Mayor LaCascia asked what happens at this point. City Manager Jackson advised the City could not move forward until a millage rate was adopted; however, the Commission can have a continuance of this meeting, which will need to be advertised. If the City does not adopt a budget by September 30, the City will operate on the same budget that is currently in place. The City Attorney was called and confirmed what the City Manager had told the Commission. After additional discussion, the Mayor suggested splitting the difference between the millage rate of 8.25 and the millage rate of 7.6663. Commissioner Kimsey mentioned a millage rate of 8.0000. City Manager Jackson left the meeting to refigure the millage rate and the budget then returned (5 minutes). The millage rate of 8.0000 would be an increase over the rolled-back rate of 4.35% and the FY 2016-2017 budget would be \$4,135,871 (an increase of \$22,977).

Commissioner Kimsey made a motion to adopt a millage rate of 8.000 (Ordinance 2016-03, first reading); the motion was seconded by Commissioner Prestage.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Prestage—aye, Commissioner Don Kimsey—aye, Vice Mayor Wanda Harris—aye, Mayor Joe LaCascia—aye. **The motion carried.**

ORDINANCE 2016-04 - AN ORDINANCE OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. First Reading

Mayor LaCascia read Ordinance 2016-04 in short title; City Manager Jackson advised the FY 2016-2017 Budget is \$4,135,871 (9.9% Increase over last year).

Mayor LaCascia opened the Public Hearing; there being no one from the public come forward Mayor LaCascia closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Prestage made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-04 on first reading; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimsey.

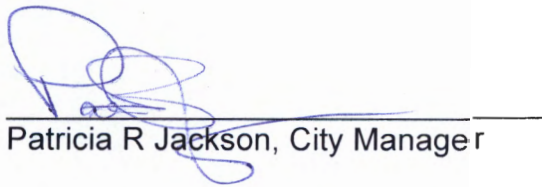
Roll Call Vote: Mayor LaCascia—aye, Commissioner Prestage—aye, Vice Mayor Harris—aye, Commissioner Kimsey—aye. The motion carried.

Commissioner Kimsey would like to ask Sheriff Grady Judd to be the Grand Marshal of the Christmas Parade; City Manager Jackson will contact his office to check on his availability that day.

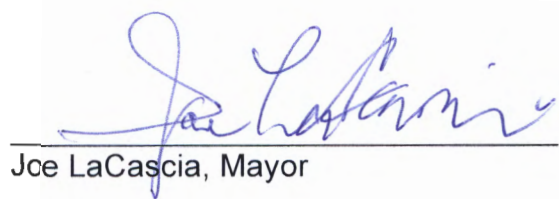
Commissioner Kimsey would like for Polk City to show support for law enforcement in light of the violence that has been taking place; City Manager Jackson will have something prepared for the next meeting.

Mayor LaCascia advised he is working on something with the Polk City Baseball League (older boys) to recognize the team for winning a Championship (he read an email) – they will be at the next meeting to present the bracket trophy to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Patricia R Jackson, City Manager



Joe LaCascia, Mayor