

## FINAL BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

September 27, 2016

---

Mayor Joe LaCascia called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** Mayor Joe LaCascia, Vice Mayor Wanda Harris, Commissioner Keith Prestage, Commissioner Don Kimsey Commissioner Mike Blethen, City Attorney Thomas Cloud, and City Manager Patricia Jackson

**Public Comments** – None

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Public Hearing – ORDINANCE 2016-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE (TENTATIVE/FINAL) LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR POLK CITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, **second reading****

Mayor LaCascia read Ordinance 2016-03 in its entirety (the millage rate is 8.0000 mills, which exceeds the rolled-back rate by 4.35%). Mayor LaCascia opened the public hearing; there being no questions or comments, Mayor LaCascia closed the public hearing.

**Motion by Commissioner Prestage** to approve Ordinance 2016-03; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimsey.

Commissioner Blethen discussed removal of the Public Works Director position on page 52 from the budget - \$60,000

City Manager Jackson responded the City Commission decided to leave that position in the budget. Position will be filled in the new fiscal year.

Mayor LaCascia clarified it is appropriate to leave this line item in the budget. At this time this position may not be a full twelve months so this may not happen until December or later.

Commissioner Blethen inquired about how the millage rate went from 8.0 to 7.6663.

Mayor LaCascia stated Mr. Blethen was not present for any of this discussion regarding a change in the millage rate. The original vote of 7.6663 failed. The vote for an 8.0 millage rate passed.

Commissioner Blethen stated Polk City is spending more money than it's making; he disagrees with the budget as presented.

City Manager Jackson stated the line items in the budget includes the \$70,000 down payment on the property we are interested in purchasing. The remainder of the money is for paving projects. If the property is not purchased, the money goes back into Reserves. It is our job to be fiscally responsible.

Mayor LaCascia stated an offer has been made (in writing), but was not accepted on the abovementioned property.

Discussion ensued.

**Vote:** Mayor LaCascia-aye, Commissioner Blethen-nay, Vice Mayor Harris-aye, Commissioner Kimsey-aye, Commissioner Prestage-aye

**Motion carried 4/1.**

**Public Hearing – ORDINANCE 2016-04, AN ORDINANCE OF POLK CITY OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE (TENTATIVE/FINAL) BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017, PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, second reading.**

Mayor LaCascia read Ordinance 2016-04 in its entirety (total budget \$4,135,871). Mayor LaCascia opened the public hearing; there being no questions or comments, Mayor LaCascia closed the public hearing.

**Motion by Commissioner Prestage** to approve Ordinance 2016-04; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Kimsey.

Commissioner Blethen asked for a copy of the Public Works Director position job description.

City Manager Jackson stated the job description was presented at a previous meeting, but will provide Commissioner Blethen another copy.

Mayor LaCascia inquired about what Polk City can achieve having a Public Works Director that we are not currently achieving.

City Manager Jackson stated preparing to take back the utilities. Kathy Delp is trying to handle multiple departments and she's stretched very thin. The person coming in would be doing actual field work. We are reorganizing and trying to give more responsibility to the appropriate person/department without me having to be a part of each area's day-to-day operation. We would be able to get more projects done with a Public Works Director out in the field.

Commissioner Kimsey asked what was the estimated cost to take back Utilities?

City Manager Jackson stated a net savings of approximately \$100,000. We can do some other things in-house overall.

Commissioner Prestage stated City Manager Jackson is working to meet the needs of Polk City's future, which is where the City Commission's focus should be. We are not doing Polk City any justice by just staying where we are now.

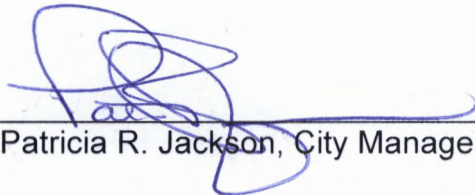
Lengthy Discussion ensued. Commissioner Prestage called for the question.

**Vote:** Commissioner Prestage-aye, Commissioner Kimsey-aye, Vice Mayor Harris-aye  
Mayor LaCascia-aye, Commissioner Blethen-nay

**Motion carried 4/1.**

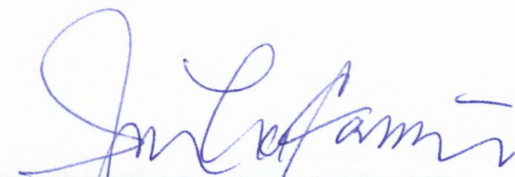
**ANNOUNCEMENTS** - None

**Adjournment** – 7:45 pm



---

Patricia R. Jackson, City Manager



---

Joe LaCascia, Mayor