



CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009

September 8, 2008

The **BUDGET WORKSHOP** of the Winter Garden City Commission was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Mayor John Rees following the regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board.

Present: Mayor John Rees, Commissioners Harold L. Boulter, Bob Buchanan, H. Gerald Jowers and Colin Sharman

Also Present: City Manager Mike Bollhoefer, City Clerk Kathy Golden, Police Chief George Brennan, Finance Director Robin Hayes, Comptroller Brian Strobeck, Human Resources Director Frank Gilbert, Building Official Skip Lukert, Fire Chief John Williamson, Information Technology Director Bob Reilly, Recreation Director Jay Conn, Planning Director Ed Williams, Public Services Director Don Cochran, Building Maintenance Supervisor James Dillon, Community Relations Manager Andrea Vaughan and Economic Development Director Dolores Key

Finance Director Hayes presented the attached Exhibit “A” PowerPoint presentation.

City Manager Bollhoefer presented the attached Exhibit “B” PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Rees stated that his review leads to suggest that staff look at our bonds to see whether or not they can be refinanced to a lower rate. He would like to have a list of the capital improvement projects cut to prioritize them if funding becomes available.

Commissioner Jowers stated that he saw in the budget where the Fire Department would be going from four to three firefighters per response vehicle and asked if we later find out that three firefighters is not enough, was there enough funding in the budget to bring the vehicles back to four firefighters?

City Manager Bollhoefer responded that he is confident that if four firefighters per vehicle were needed it would come back to the Commission to remedy the situation.

Commissioner Sharman stated that his concerns were addressed with not raising the millage.

City Manager Bollhoefer shared that next year’s budget process will begin in January and will include public input.

Commissioner Buchanan stated that with no funding coming from the state and the good idea regarding the bonds, it is apparent there needs to be an in-depth review of our current operations. This type of review may pull out even more available funding.

Mayor Rees stated that the department heads have taken budget cuts and asked them to list the top two things they would want restored if we have a better year than anticipated. He asked the Commission to possibly consider their items in the future if possible.

Commissioner Sharman stated that a lot of positions have been cut but two analyst positions are being added and asked for more detail justifying the new positions.

City Manager Bollhoefer responded that the analyst positions will be instrumental with the new performance measurements and financial analysis. In the long term, we will only need one analyst and the other analyst will transition into a purchasing position in about a year. The purchasing position will analyze the cost differences between contracting out versus in-house.

Commissioner Sharman asked how many employees lost their jobs. City Manager Bollhoefer responded that 14 positions are being eliminated and two are being added. Two employees were impacted. One has already found another position and we are assisting the other person to secure other employment.

Commissioner Buchanan asked how much property does the City own in the Southside Park. Recreation Director Conn responded 13 acres. Commissioner Buchanan asked about the area the City is using around the tower. Mr. Conn confirmed the City does need to revisit usage of that site. Commissioner Jowers noted the tower site does have new owners.

Mayor Rees noted that the cost for employee group insurance could be reduced if any of the Commissioners don't need it, they could opt out. Mr. Bollhoefer noted that the total insurance cost was actually reduced by \$68,000.

Commissioner Sharman asked about two properties for sale. Mr. Bollhoefer referred him to page 4 of his "Budget Notes" presentation and the fact that these are only estimates and not appraised values. The item identified as "Tanner Property" is the property just south of the bridge on Daniels Road. One property not listed, because it is not in the general fund, is the old utility building.

Commissioner Jowers asked about the old youth center property on Henderson. Mr. Bollhoefer replied that the City owns it and the Police Department will be using it for a training room, lockers, etc.

Commissioner Boulter asked what the number one project is. Mr. Bollhoefer responded that it is hard to say. In the future, he would like to find out from our citizens through a survey what they actually want. From his perspective he thinks Dillard Street and Plant Street gateway projects are important.

Commissioner Boulter asked about Story Road improvements. Mr. Bollhoefer replied that the old 2020 Plan for sales tax to pay for road projects included Winter Garden's part but since that plan no longer exists, neither does the funding. Ultimately he wants a second corridor road paralleling Plant Street to efficiently move traffic.

Commissioner Jowers stated that he will go through the presentations and ask his questions. Mr. Bollhoefer shared that he or the Finance Director are available to answer any questions.

The budget workshop concluded at 7:54 p.m.

APPROVED:

/S/
MAYOR JOHN REES

ATTEST:

/S/
City Clerk Kathy Golden, CMC