

**City Commission Budget Workshop**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 14, 2018**  
**(APPROVED)**

8/14/2018 - Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

**Commissioners Present:** Mayor Eugene Fultz, Terrye Howell, Curtis Gibson, Flora "Tonya" Stewart,

**Commissioners Absent:** Robin Gibson

**Staff Present:** Kenneth Fields, City Manager; Zaillet Suri, Deputy City Clerk

Mayor Fultz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Jack Van Sickle, resident from Lake Ashton, expressed concern about the proposed stormwater assessment. Their sewer systems and retention ponds are in good condition. Lake Ashton may get double taxed as they take care of their own streets and stormwater systems.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.I. Draft Budget For FY 18-19 And Draft CIP

Kenneth Fields, City Manager, said that the proposed budget is balanced at current millage rate. The CRA budget is not balanced yet. The staff will come back in the fall to get priorities from the Commission. The stormwater assessment will help address many needs that haven't been able to be dealt with for years.

Dorothy Ecklund, Finance Director, reviewed the draft budget. The budget is balanced and we have met reserve requirement set by the City Commission. Some expenditures for the CRA and the stormwater assessment will be addressed in budget amendments later. Some street projects were cut to wait and see if the stormwater assessment is approved. We have reserves if needed.

Commissioner Curtis Gibson asked about the location of the North library in that building behind the Fire Station. How much work will be needed. Mr. Fields said that it is structurally sound and that things like bathrooms need to be added.

3.II. Discussion Of Stormwater Assessment Program

James Slaton, Assistant City Manager, explained the need for a stormwater assessment. Some areas are underfunded such as sidewalk and street maintenance. He introduced Sandy Walker with GSG who was hired to study the issue November to study this issue and come up with a preliminary rate assessment.

Sandy Walker, GSG - Government Services Group, said that they were hired by the City in November to study this issue and she is here to present their analysis. She explained what a stormwater assessment and how it is used. It can only be used for stormwater projects. There are 165 programs throughout Florida and the Florida Supreme Court has upheld these kinds of assessments. The methodology they use is how much impervious area a parcel has. The average rate statewide is \$6.40 and can generate about \$3.6 million. Many cities use Utility bills to collect the assessment.

There are credits for those with on-site systems. Staff has identified 10 neighborhoods with private systems that they maintain and would be taken out of this. There are three rate categories residential, condominiums and general parcels. The hired engineering firm, AECOM, to determine what is impervious area. A parcel must have 100 feet of impervious area to be considered. There will be a tier system for the residential properties. They have a sampling technique that is 95% accurate. This is based on the square foot of the building footprint. For condominiums they look at the whole complex and divide by number of parcels. There are 873 general parcels that are not residential areas with buildings. They have quality control and verification testing. She recommended a master plan to identify a list of priority projects. They take a 3 year average budget including collection costs. Based on all these costs is how the rate scenario was developed. ERU is a billing unit or how to charge each parcel. She described the tier system. If someone feels they are in the wrong tier adjustments can be made. Out of the 4,319 residential parcels there are 2,747 ERUs in the city. There are 116 ERUs for condos and 7,954 ERUs for general ERUs. It would be on a cost of approximately \$5.40 for each ERU. There could be exemptions for government and non-profit facilities. Next step is an Ordinance to put a program in place with methodology.

Mr. Fields said that Lake Ashton and other neighborhoods that take care of their own stormwater will be exempt from this.

Commissioner Howell asked if this would help with flooding problems around town. James Slaton, Assistant City Manager, said that several projects have been identified as a priority but all areas of the City need to be looked at to establish what we need. Mr. Slaton said that some road projects will get transportation money freed up from being budgeted for stormwater.

Commissioner Stewart asked if these funds could be used on Chalet Suzanne RD. Mr. Fields said that it is a county road. Ms. Stewart asked can roads be widened with these moneys. Mr. Fields said that road widening would be paid by transportation funds unless there is a sewer component which would allow stormwater fees to be used.

Commissioner Curtis Gibson said that we need more funds for roads.

Mayor Fultz said that this is a good opportunity to help us prepare for growth. This will help us clean up our lakes. The assessment will help us in many ways.

Mr. Fields will move forward with this and will start in October. The commission gave consensus on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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Mayor/Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk/Deputy City Clerk

