

**City Commission Budget Workshop
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019
(APPROVED)**

5/14/2019 - Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Mayor Eugene Fultz, Terrye Howell, Curtis Gibson, Al Goldstein, Robin Gibson

Staff Present: Kenneth Fields, City Manager; Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk

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

2. Agenda For City Commission Budget Workshop On May 14, 2019

[Begin Agenda Memo]

SYNOPSIS: The City of Lake Wales budgetary calendar for Fiscal Year 2019'20.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Florida State Statute 166.241, each municipality shall make provision for establishing a fiscal year budget for the period beginning October 1st of each year and ending September 30th of the following year.

As the City Commission begins this annual process, it is customary for the City Commission to first hold "priority setting workshops" so that the Commissioners may discuss, as a governing board, their priorities relating to community level of service, special projects, and future capital outlay.

- 05/14/2019 - City Commission Meeting - Budgetary Fiscal Year 2019'20 priority setting workshop.

Other Important Budgetary Dates Include:

- 06/01/2019 – Property Appraiser – June 1st Estimate of Taxable Value

- 07/01/2019 – Property Appraiser – July 1st Certification Date for Preliminary Tax Roll (TRIM Day 1)

- 07/09/2019 – City Commission Meeting
Budget Workshop #1

- 07/16/2019 – City Commission Meeting
Interim Millage Rate – Approved by City Commission (TRIM)

- 08/02/2019 – Must notify Property Appraiser Office (2pm) of:

1. Interim Millage Rate

2. Current year rolled-back rate

3. Date, time & place of 1st budget hearings

- 08/13/2019 – City Commission Meeting
Budget Workshop #2

- 08/27/2019 – City Commission Meeting
Budget Workshop #3 (tentative)

- 09/10/2019 – City Commission Meeting

1. 1st Reading of ordinance adopting millage rate

2. 1st Public Hearing, Millage Rate

3. 1st Reading of ordinance adopting FY 19'20 budget

4. 1st Public Hearing, FY 19'20 Budget

- 09/19/2019 - Advertisement of FY 19'20 Budget Summary (TRIM Ad)

Advertisement of 2nd Public Hearing

(State Statutes require the 2nd Public Hearing must be held between 2 and 5 days after advertisement)

- 09/24/2019 – City Commission Meeting
 1. 2nd Reading of ordinance adopting millage rate
 2. 2nd Public Hearing, Millage Rate
 3. 2nd Reading of ordinance adopting FY 19'20 budget
 4. 2nd Public Hearing, FY 19'20 Budget
- 09/27/2019 - Deadline to forward ordinance adopting millage rate to Property Appraiser and Tax Collector
- 10/08/2019 - Within 3 days of receiving notice of final adjusted tax roll, Deadline to certify form DR-422 to Property Appraiser
- 10/24/2019 - Deadline to forward Certificate of Compliance (DR-487) to Department of Revenue. Within 30 days after final hearing

[End Agenda Memo]

Kenneth Fields, City Manager, reviewed this item. He said the goal of this workshop is for staff to hear what the Commissioner's priorities are. He said that our reserves are fully funded and there were no unforeseen events that negatively impacted the budget. We will not have information about revenues until June 1. As the state economy grows hopefully our revenues will grow. Some issues that need to be addressed include older infrastructure including buildings. We have done a study of our buildings to identify ways to keep buildings up to standard in the future. Hopefully we can also address Commissioner's priorities. The operating budget is in good shape. The labor market is tightening so we may need to increase salaries and wages to remain competitive. We may be able to go back to rollback rate again this year. We hope to invest in more technology to help different departments. We can now start to address stormwater needs because of the new assessment.

Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson said we need to help residents and businesses currently here with their property. We should follow the plan by Dover-Kohl when its presented. We need to put dollars in the CRA budget for for the priorities in the plan if adopted. Park Avenue should be a priority. Grove Manor should be a second priority. He is glad about the strong working relationship with the Northwest area and that should be a priority. He would like to see First Street become America Street and tie the town together. He would like to see numbers attached to priorities to put into the budget.

Commissioner Howell agreed with the idea that every place gets some. She would also like to see dollar amounts for the priorities including for Park Avenue and other areas. Commissioner Howell asked about the priorities in the CRA plan. Mr. Fields explained that those priorities will be addressed by Dover-Kohl. She would like to see some of our athletic fields to be tournament ready so we can draw teams and sporting events to Lake Wales. Commissioner Howell asked about funding PAL (Police Athletic League) as there are part of Lake Wales. Mr. Fields said they aren't a part of the City. They have a seat at the Recreation Commission but do not receive funding like other recreation programs they are separate. She said she would like to keep our millage rate down.

Commissioner Curtis Gibson commended the Finance department on their hard work on the budget. He agreed with Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson about the master plan from Dover-Kohl. He said we need to review our CIP and see what we can cross off. He is glad the Housing Authority is at the table about Grove Manor. He cautioned against giving money to one organization because we will have to fund all the recreation programs. He agreed with dropping the millage. He asked for a stage or amphitheater at big Lake Wailes. He would also like to see restrooms down there. He asked if the \$600000 for the walking trail includes the \$200,000 grant. James Slaton, Assistant to the City Manager, said yes it does but we are fine tuning those figures. He asked about the \$150,000 for property at the Airport. Teresa Allen said that is not in this year though. He noted the Master Plan and agreed that was needed. Commission Curtis Gibson asked about the Gazebo. Kathy Bangle, Planning Director, said that was an early word for the stage. Mr. Slaton concurred and said as they complete a Master Plan for Lake Wailes Park some of these plans will be updated. Commissioner Curtis Gibson asked about the funds for the Soccer Complex. Mr. Slaton said that is for expansion in the future. Mr. Fields discussed possible future funding sources for field expansion. Commissioner Curtis Gibson recommended scratching the public works building from this year. Ms. Allen explained that it will not be in next year's budget. Commissioner Curtis Gibson encouraged continuing to repave road and agreed with improving sidewalks. He said he would like to see these plans completed.

Commissioner Goldstein said we should hold off on some decisions until Dover Kohl report comes in. He expressed concern about asbestos in old buildings and once the asbestos is removed let fire department use them for training. We need to address all our condemned buildings. We need to be competitive in the fire and police departments and prevent turnover. This is an urgent matter.

Mayor Fultz agreed that we need to wait for Dover-Kohl plan before making decisions concerning funding. He asked for updated equipment in the Commission Chambers with new tv screens. He expressed support for the new library and city facility in the North part of the City. He asked if the design was complete. Mr. Fields said it was. Mayor Fultz expressed concern about the different football groups. We need unity before we can support either group. He would like to do a rollback and possibly a reduction of the millage rate. He would like to do something as far as raises for employees too including first responders. Mayor Fultz said he supports an amphitheater at Lake Wailes Park if not this next year then the following year. He would like to have bathrooms at the Lake Wailes Park. This would bring more people to use the trail and facilities. Mayor Fultz said we should support more repairs at the Depot Museum. He said he is in favor of t-hangars at the Airport and we need to discuss what todo on those. He asked about the status of the YMCA. Mr. Fields said they would like to do a workshop on Tuesday June 25 to discuss the contract. Some other recreation issues may be discussed as well. Mayor Fultz said there are many areas where sidewalks are needed and where repairs are needed. He also said we need street lighting in some neighborhoods. Mayor Fultz said we need to identify projects for the stormwater assessment including cleaning up our lakes.

Mr. Fields said the staff will keep all these priorities in mind as they put budgets together.

Deputy Mayor Robin Gibson said he would like the CRA to be more distinctive in the budget. Dorothy Abbott, Finance Director, said they could identify what is just the CRA trust fund and eliminate the words referring to the CRA as a City Department.

3. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

The workshop was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor/Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk