

**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
Monday August 26, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Pro Tem Drummond called the workshop to order at 4:04 p.m. City Clerk Meeks noted the Council Members in attendance, along with support staff.

**City Council Attendees:**

Ray Bagshaw, Mayor  
Dan Drummond, Council President Pro Tem  
Neil Powell, DDS, Council Member  
Pamela Henley, Council Member  
Michael Hendrix, Council Member

**Absent:**

John Dowless, Council President

**Staff Attendees:**

Bea L. Meeks, City Clerk  
Chris Francisco, Police Chief  
Shannon Patterson, Police Clerk/Accreditation Manager  
Sgt. Vince Jackson  
Sandy Repp, Administrative Assistant

Council President Pro Tem Drummond referred to Mayor Bagshaw to see if there were any changes made to the proposed budget since the last workshop. Mayor Bagshaw pointed out that revenues are still coming in, and said this is difficult when you are putting a budget together. Mayor Bagshaw said this can be a problem with the spreadsheet that Council Member Hendrix prepared because it is a forecast. In response to Council Member Powell, Mayor Bagshaw explained foreclosures and how the City recoups their money.

In response to Council Member Hendrix, Mayor Bagshaw said that the red light camera funds are only shown in his forecast. He said he pulled the funds out of the budget so Council could see what the

shortfall could be. He said if Council decides to stay at a 4.7000 millage rate, the reserve would be roughly 65%.

Council President Pro Tem Drummond explained to attendees that there was a council discussion about the amount of reserve to maintain.

**Council Member Henley is in attendance (4:24)**

Mayor Bagshaw said the struggle is verifying that Council is comfortable with the numbers and increasing reserve. He reminded Council Members that there will be some non-reoccurring budget items in the next fiscal year, just as there are in the current fiscal year. Mayor Bagshaw explained the difference in the ad valorem to the City based on the different millage rates. Council President Pro Tem Drummond said resident's taxes are still going up because the value of homes increased approximately 12%. Mayor Bagshaw confirmed that if \$587,911 of cash reserve is used, that leaves reserve at 61%.

In response to Council President Pro Tem Drummond, Chief Francisco said he had no changes to make to his budget.

Mayor Bagshaw said he has no problem with changing the format of the budget; he just needs to know in advance if Council has a different format preference. He said he talked to Sage (f/k/a Peachtree) representatives and they confirmed for the Mayor that a lot of the accounting functions that would be useful to the City, Sage does not have the capability. Council Member Hendrix said Sage offers a fund accounting software.

Council President Pro Tem Drummond said he likes Council Member Hendrix' spreadsheet; he said he would like to see percentages. Council Member Hendrix said that can be done.

Council President Pro Tem Drummond made reference to the comparison that Chief Francisco did using local communities' budget.

Council President Pro Tem Drummond polled Council and residents on what they think the millage rate should be:

**Residents:**

**Lee Chotas** commended the Mayor, staff and Council for their work on the budget. He said he likes setting money aside for roads. He said he supports a 5.0 millage because he thinks the 4.7 is stretching things.

**Resident Bob Olsen** said increasing the millage rate is not going to affect him.

**Resident Roxanna Sigler** thanked Council President Pro Tem Drummond for asking. She said she does not want to change the 4.7000 millage rate.

**Council Members:**

**Council Member Henley:** Maintain the 4.7000.

**Council Member Powell:** 5.2000 mills. Council Member Powell said he doesn't want to take reserve too low. He said he believes quality of life in this community means something even if it takes a few more of his dollars.

**Council Member Hendrix** 5.000 - 5.2000 millage rate: He said he has talked to some residents and they don't have problems with a tax increase because they see the improvements being made to the City. He said having a high 60 percent reserve makes him feel good.

**Mayor Bagshaw:** Mayor Bagshaw said he heard a lot of what Council Member Hendrix said, as he has talked to residents too. He said incremental increases do not hurt as much as a full mill increase. He said other comments he received is that residents are use to a certain quality of life. He said he can make the budget work at 4.7000 mills. He said he would hate to go above 5.0000 mills. Mayor Bagshaw reiterated that he can make it work at 4.7000 mills but 5.0000 mills would make it easier.

**Council President Pro Tem Drummond:** Said he would like to keep the reserve at 62%. He said he thinks the millage should go up so that a future council doesn't have to make a big jump.

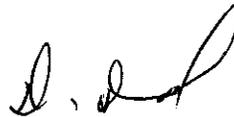
**Council Member Henley:** Said she would like to keep the millage under 5 mills. She said the City needs to keep itself attractive as it relates to annexation.

*It was the consensus of Council to move forward with 4.95 mills in the budget hearing on September 8, 2015.*

Mayor Bagshaw confirmed for Council Member Hendrix that the City is insured by FDIC. Mayor Bagshaw explained the City's banking relationship.

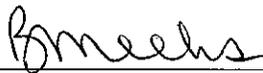
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further comments or discussion, the budget workshop adjourned at 6:05 p.m.



Dan Drummond  
Council President Pro Tem

**ATTEST:**



Bea L. Meeks, MMC, CPM, CBTO  
City Clerk

Approved by City Council on OCT. 20, 2015