CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission – Budget Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2022

The City Commission met in formal session Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:25 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Tracy Upchurch, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call:

Tracy Upchurch, Mayor/City Commissioner
Nancy Sikes-Kline, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Roxanne Horvath, City Commissioner
John Valdes, City Commissioner
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner

Also Present: John Regan, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
David Birchim, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Director, Public Works
Todd Grant, Director, Utilities
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Colleen Kuhn, Recording Secretary

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2. General Public Comments (3 minutes per individual)

The Commission heard from the following members of the public:

- B.J. Kalaidi
- Meme Vreeland

3. Public Hearing – Consideration of Resolution 2022-26, increasing the water & sewer rates for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

Mark Simpson, Director of Financial Services, presented Resolution 2022-26 and said it increased utility rates for residential and commercial customers both inside and outside the City limits. He noted the following:

- 4% increase inside the City limits
- 1% decrease outside the City limits
- 4% increase in Utility Service fees

Mr. Simpson reviewed updates to the rate sheet which he provided to the Commission.

Mayor Upchurch opened the public hearing.

- B.J. Kalaidi

Public hearing was closed.

MOTION
Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2022-26. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Valdes.

Commissioner Blonder said that fully funding infrastructure was important and noted current issues with water in Jackson, Mississippi and prior water issues in Flint, Michigan that were a result of those jurisdictions trying to cut costs. She asked staff to examine the utility rate structure to balance user costs.

VOTE ON MOTION:
AYES: Sikes-Kline, Valdes, Horvath, Blonder, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Public Hearing – Consideration of Resolution 2022-27, increasing the Stormwater fee for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

Mr. Simpson presented Resolution 2022-27 and said it increased monthly stormwater fees for both residential and non-residential customers from $9.00 to $9.82 for Single Family Units.

Mayor Upchurch opened the public hearing.

- B.J. Kalaidi

Public hearing was closed.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2022-27. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Upchurch.

VOTE ON MOTION:
AYES: Sikes-Kline Upchurch, Blonder, Horvath, Valdes
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Public Hearing – Consideration of Resolution 2022-28, increasing the fees for solid waste disposal for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

Mr. Simpson presented Resolution 2022-28 and said it increased solid waste rates from $22.44 to $27.44 for residential customers and increased rates for construction, demolition, yard debris, and other types of services.
Mayor Upchurch opened the public hearing.

B.J. Kalaidi

Public hearing was closed.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Resolution 2022-28. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

VOTE ON MOTION:
AYES: Sikes-Kline, Horvath, Valdes, Blonder, Upchurch
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Public Hearing – Consideration of Resolution 2022-29, establishing the tentative millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

Mr. Simpson presented Resolution 2022-29 and said it established the tentative millage rate at 7.5 mills which represented an increase in the roll-back rate of 6.6168 mills of 13.35%. He said revenues would cover the cost of items discussed at the Commission's Budget Workshop.

Mayor Upchurch opened the public hearing.

- Jim Springfield
- B.J. Kalaidi

Public hearing was closed.

MOTION

Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve Resolution 2022-29, read in its entirety and moved to second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Upchurch.

Ms. Lopez read Resolution 2022-29 in its entirety:

RESOLUTION 2022-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE

TENTATIVE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida has conducted a public hearing on its tentative millage rate of 7.500 mills and has determined its rolled back rate is 6.6168 mills as required by Florida Statute 200.065;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida that:

The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 tentative millage rate of the City of St. Augustine, Florida is 7.500 mills which represents an increase in the rolled-back rate of 6.6168 mills of 13.35 percent.

VOTE ON MOTION:
AYES: Sikes-Kline, Upchurch, Valdes, Horvath, Blonder
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Public Hearing – First Reading – Consideration of Ordinance 2022-27, establishing the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Simpson presented Ordinance 2022-27 and stated it contained the proposed budget for FY 2022-2023 for all Funds. He said that during the Commission's Budget Workshop there was a question about a Planning and Building project that he wanted to answer. He clarified the Land Development Code updates applied to the Environmental Protection Chapter of the Code, and created a Resilient Shoreline Ordinance; a project sponsored by Commissioner Blonder.

Public Hearing was opened; however, there was no response.

MOTION
Commissioner Sikes-Kline MOVED to approve Ordinance 2022-27, read in its entirety and moved to second reading. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Upchurch.

Ms. Lopez read Ordinance 2022-27 in its entirety:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-27

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, RATIFYING, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OR BUDGET ESTIMATES OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERANCE OF INVALID PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The annual budget estimates of revenues and expenditures of the City of St. Augustine, Florida for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023, as prepared, amended and submitted to the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida by the City Manager, as considered and acted upon by said City Commission, under and by authority of the Charter of said City and the Laws of Florida, are hereby ratified, approved and adopted by the City Commission of said City, and the amounts of money set forth therein are hereby appropriated.

Section 2. The said budget of revenues and expenditures adopted for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2022-2023 shall be spread in full upon the minutes of the City Commission.

Section 3. The appropriations within an activity or sub-activity for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Fiscal Year 2022-2023 may be transferred within by the City Manager for

the purpose of equalization, when necessary.

Section 4. All funds for the current Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and budgeted Fiscal Year 2022-2023 may over-expend adopted budgets to the extent that actual revenues exceed the adopted budget. Page 15 of 29

Section 5. All unencumbered appropriations, except for special projects or commitments, be and are canceled as of September 30, 2022, and the City Director of Finance is directed to transfer all appropriation credit balances to unappropriated surplus and place to the credit of all appropriation accounts which show a debit balance for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 an amount from unappropriated surplus to balance same and to close all such accounts for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Section 6. If any provisions of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, are held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinances which can be given effect without this invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 7. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective upon passage.

VOTE ON MOTION:

AYES: Sikes-Kline, Upchurch, Blonder, Valdes, Horvath
NAYES: None
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Staff Reports and Presentations

None

9. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

None

10. ITEMS BY CITY CLERK

None

11. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

None

12. Items by Mayor and Commissioners

None

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 P.M.[1]

T. U. Upchurch

Tracy Upchurch, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

[1] Transcribed by Colleen Kuhn