

## CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting  
Monday, September 14, 2023

The City Commission met in formal session Monday, September 14, 2023, at 5:05 P.M. in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, and the following were present:

**1. Roll Call:** Nancy Sikes-Kline, Mayor/City Commissioner  
Roxanne Horvath, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner  
Barbara Blonder, City Commissioner (via Teams/electronic)  
Jim Springfield, City Commissioner

Absent: Cynthia Garris, City Commissioner

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

Mayor Sikes-Kline announced there was physical quorum; however, due to a serious medical condition Commissioner Blonder would be present electronically. She asked for a motion to confirm.

### **MOTION**

**Commissioner Horvath MOVED to allow Commissioner Blonder to attend and participate electronically. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.**

### **VOTE ON MOTION:**

**AYES: Horvath, Springfield, Blonder, Sikes-Kline**

### **2. General Public Comments**

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

(None)

### **3. PUBLIC HEARING**

**3.A. Resolution 2023-26:** Establishes the tentative millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. (M. Simpson, Director Finance)

Mr. Simpson presented Resolution 2023-26. He said the tentative millage rate was 7.5 mills; however, the rollback rate was 6.6789 mills, and the increase was 13.48%.

Commissioner Blonder asked how the 7.5 mills would impact the previous proposed millage rate.

Mr. Simpson replied there would be no effect. He said the total Ad Valorem tax would remain the same.

The Commissioners heard from the following member of the public:

- BJ Kalaidi

## **MOTION**

**Commissioner Springfield MOVED to Approve Resolution 2023-26. The motion was SECONDED by Mayor Sikes-Kline.**

### **VOTE ON MOTION:**

**AYES: Springfield, Sikes-Kline, Blonder, Horvath**

**NAYES: NONE**

## **RESOLUTION 2023-26**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.**

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida has conducted a public hearing on its tentative millage rate of 7.5000 mills and has determined its rolled back rate is 6.6089 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 2023-2024 tentative millage rate of the City of St. Augustine, Florida is 7.5000 mills which represents an increase in the rolled-back rate of 6.6089 mills of 14.48 percent.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida commenced following the 4:30 CRA Special Budget Meeting after 5pm this 14th day of September 2023.

## **4. PUBLIC HEARING**

**4.A. Ordinance 2023-28:** Establishes the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the five-year Capital

Improvement Plan. (M. Simpson, Director Finance)

Mr. Simpson presented Ordinance 2023-28. He noted the Code Enforcement/Nightlife Manager was added but other than that the budget had not changed from the workshop in mid-August.

Mayor Sikes-Kline questioned if a sound study could take place to update the Sound Ordinance. She asked if the budget would allow that to take place.

Mr. Simpson advised there was an additional \$130,000 available for other strategic items and that request could be accommodated.

Commissioner Springfield was concerned with the 'other miscellaneous revenues'; however, that was one item from the Department of Transportation for the STAR circulator.

Commissioner Blonder recalled at the workshop there would be a \$50,000 recurring expenditure that would be reviewed annually for Land Conservation and did not see that listed in the budget.

Mr. Simpson noted it was in the City Commission operating budget.

Commissioner Horvath asked what the total budget was.

Mr. Simpson replied the total budget was \$84,671,333 and located in the budget book.

Mayor Sikes-Kline asked for the amount in the reserve fund and general fund.

Mr. Simpson replied the reserves were calculated based on fiscal year (FY) end 2022. He said \$1.25 million had been used in reserves in FY23. He said he did not have a surplus calculation for what would be left at the end of FY 23; however, unrestricted reserves were \$3.7 million. He said after \$1.5 million was used the

balance left was approximately \$2.5 million in this year's budget. He said \$1 million of those reserves was appropriated for land conservation. He stated there was \$1.5 million of unrestricted funds in the general fund; however, thought it would be around \$2 million for FY 23, although the final numbers would not be available until late March. He reiterated it would be around \$3.5 million in surplus.

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

(None)

## **MOTION**

**Commissioner Horvath MOVED to approve Ordinance 2023-28 read entirely. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.**

## **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-28**

**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, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; 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 2023-2024, 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 2023-2024 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 2022-2023 and Fiscal Year 2023-2024 may be transferred within by the City Manager for the purpose of equalization, when necessary.

Section 4. All funds for the current Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and budgeted Fiscal Year 2023-2024 may over-expend adopted budgets to the extent that actual revenues exceed the adopted budget.

Section 5. All unencumbered appropriations, except for special projects or commitments, be and are canceled as of September 30, 2023, 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 2022-2023 an amount from unappropriated surplus to balance same and to close all such accounts for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

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.

PASSED by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, in special session, at 5:05 p.m., this 28th day of September 2023.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**AYES: Horvath, Springfield, Blonder, Sikes-Kline**

**NAYES: NONE**

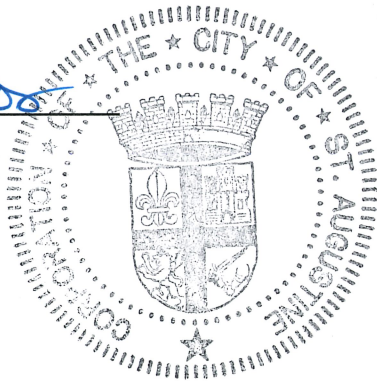
Mayor Sikes-Kline commented that the budget had been worked on since the beginning of the year. She said it was a lot of discussion and how it was shaped. She felt it was a sound budget and thanked the staff and commissioners for their hard work. She announced the next meeting for final adoption of the budget would take place on September 28, 2023, at 5:50 p.m.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:26 P.M.<sup>1</sup>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



<sup>1</sup> Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann