CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2023

The City Commission met in formal session Thursday, September 28, 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
Cynthia Garris, City Commissioner
Jim Springfield, City Commissioner

Also Present: David Birchim, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Elyse Wiemann, Acting City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager
Amy Skinner, Director, Planning and Building
Mark Simpson, Director, Finance
Melissa Wissel, Director, Communications
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief
Michele Fudo, Recording Secretary

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2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

- Perry Weaver

Mr. Simpson replied to public comment and advised there was a 25% surcharge for outside the City limits for water and sewer. He noted there had been a decrease of 1% every year for the past few years which resulted in a 5.2% decline for outside the City. He said the water bill should stay the same even with the increase.

3. RESOLUTION 2023-27

3.A. Public Hearing - Establishing the final millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. (M. Simpson, Director Finance)

Mr. Simpson Finance Director presented Resolution 2023-27.

The Commission heard from the following member of the public:

- Perry Weaver

MOTION

Commissioner Springfield MOVED to pass Resolution 2023-27 to be read in its entirety. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, read Resolution 2023-27 in its entirety.

RESOLUTION 2023-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE FINAL 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 final 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 final 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 13.48 percent.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida commenced at 5:05 p.m. this 28th day of September 2023.

VOTE ON MOTION:
AYES: Springfield, Horvath, Garris, Blonder, Sikes-Kline
NAYES: NONE
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ORDINANCE 2023-28

4.A. Public Hearing - Adopts the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. (M. Simpson, Director Finance)

Mr. Simpson Finance Director, presented Ordinance 2023-28

Public hearing was opened, and Commissioners heard comments from the following member of the public:

- Paul Weaver

Commissioner Blonder thanked staff for their hard work.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked the staff and noted most of the work for the budget was done throughout the year and that was the reason for how brief the meetings were.

MOTION

Commissioner Horvath MOVED to pass Ordinance 2023-28 to be read in its entirety. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Springfield.

Ms. Lopez read the Ordinance as follows:

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, Garris, Blonder, Sikes-Kline
NAYES: NONE
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Blonder thanked the staff for accommodating her while she was unable to attend meetings in person.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 P.M.[1]

Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR

Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK

THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE
CORPORATION OF 1598

[1] Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann