

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

City Commission Special Meeting
Thursday, September 5, 2024

The City Commission met in formal session Thursday, September 5, 2024, 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
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Meredith Breidenstein, Assistant City Manager
Reuben Franklin, Assistant City Manager
Stephen Slaughter, Director, Public Works & Utilities
Melissa Burns, Director, Finance Department
Jennifer Michaux, Police Chief
Elyse Wiemann, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comments

The Commissioners heard from the following members of the public:

- Jeffrey Pepper

3. Public Hearing – Consideration of Resolution 2024-32, establishing the tentative millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Melissa Burns, Finance Director reviewed the Resolution 2024-32, establishing the tentative millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget.

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

Commissioner Blonder noted the budget process had been an ongoing process for many months and now was the time to make a decision.

MOTION

Commissioner Blonder MOVED to pass Resolution 2024-32. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Horvath.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, read the Resolution in its entirety as follows:

RESOLUTION 2024-32

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

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 6.9329 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 2024-2025 tentative millage rate of the City of St. Augustine, Florida is 7.500 mills which represents an increase in the rolled-back rate of 6.9329 mills of 8.18 percent.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida commenced at 5:05 p.m. this 5th day of September 2024.

Mayor Sikes-Kline thanked Mr. Pepper for attending the meeting and speaking. She said this was very late in the process but encouraged him to participate in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Springfield invited Mr. Pepper to speak with him individually after the meeting to discuss the budget process.

Commissioner Blonder said the City and County were different for many reasons.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Public Hearing – First Reading – Consideration of Ordinance 2024-29, establishing the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Ms. Burns reviewed Ordinance 2024-29, establishing the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Public hearing was opened, and the Commission heard from the following individuals:

- Jeffrey Pepper

MOTION

Mayor Sikes-Kline MOVED to pass Ordinance 2024-29 on first reading. The motion was SECONDED by Commissioner Blonder.

Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney, read the Ordinance in its entirety as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-29

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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; 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 2024-2025, 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 2024-2025 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 2023-2024 and Fiscal Year 2024-2025 may be transferred within by the City Manager for the purpose of equalization, when necessary.

Section 4. All funds for the current Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and budgeted Fiscal Year 2024-2025 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, 2024, 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 2023-2024 an amount from unappropriated surplus to balance same and to close all such accounts for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

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 19th day of September 2024.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

NAYES: NONE

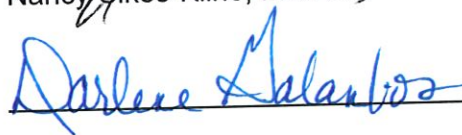
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 P.M.¹



Nancy Sikes-Kline, MAYOR



Darlene Galambos, CITY CLERK



¹ Transcribed by Elyse Wiemann