

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 2024-25

Held on Tuesday, the 1st day of October 2024, at the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road, SE, Palm Bay, Florida.

This meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Palm Bay, Florida.

The meeting was called to order at the hour of 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR:	Rob Medina	Present
DEPUTY MAYOR:	Donny Felix	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Kenny Johnson	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Philip Weinberg	Present
COUNCILMEMBER:	Vacant	
CITY MANAGER:	Suzanne Sherman	Present
CITY ATTORNEY:	Patricia Smith	Present
CITY CLERK:	Terese Jones	Present

CITY STAFF: Present was Joan Junkala-Brown, Deputy City Manager; Juliet Misconi, Deputy City Manager; John Pearson, Chief Building Official; Gabriel Bowden, Utilities Director.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Statement and discussion of tax rate, millage rate and final budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 - City Manager.

The public hearing was opened.

Ms. Sherman advised that the City had tentatively adopted an operating millage rate of 6.7339 for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. The tentative operating millage rate of 6.7339 exceeded the Truth in Millage (TRIM) current year aggregate rolled-back rate of 6.5627 by 2.61%. The percentage increase being above the 3.0% cap was caused by new construction being excluded from the 3.0% cap.

Contributing to the operating millage rate increase over the rolled-back rate was:

- Anticipated health insurance benefit associated expenditure increases of 5.0%
- Funding required Police and Fire Pension Contribution Obligations of \$9.6 million resulting in a 29.9% increase from the previous fiscal year

- \$1.7 million in high priority funding needs including contractual obligations requiring payment
- Road Maintenance Fund investments totaling \$3.25 million
- \$4.0 million in personnel adjustments including 35 additional full-time employee (FTE) positions for the Fire and Police Departments; and seven (7) additional FTE positions for Internal Service Departments to support the City's growth

The City of Palm Bay, Florida had also tentatively adopted a debt millage rate of 1.1210 for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. The tentative debt millage rate shall generate estimated revenues totaling \$10,013,557 based on the gross taxable value certified by the Property Appraiser's Office assuming an estimated 96.0% collection rate. These revenues were restricted and were designated for payments of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019 debt service payment totaling of \$3,525,250; the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021 debt service payment totaling \$3,447,650; and the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023 debt service payment totaling \$3,040,825, all due in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget year.

Ms. Sherman added that the operating millage versus rollback percentage difference with the proposed rate of 6.7339 brought in taxes of \$64,762,980; the rollback rate of 6.5627 brings in \$60,568,774; with a difference of 2.61%.

The public hearing was closed.

BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2024-28, establishing fees, rates, and charges pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Administration, Chapter 33, Fire Department.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adopt Resolution 2024-28. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

2. Resolution 2024-29, establishing fees, rates, and charges pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Title III, Administration, Chapter 36, Recreation Department.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adopt Resolution 2024-29. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

3. Resolution 2024-30, establishing fees, rates, and charges pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Title IX, General Regulations, Chapter 96, Florida Building Code.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Bill Battin, resident, supported the military, but felt this was a case of preferential treatment and military persons should be supporting their local government.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mayor Medina, to adopt Resolution 2024-30. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

4. Resolution 2024-31, establishing fees, rates, and charges, pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Title X, Impact Fees, Chapter 103, Impact Fees.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mayor Medina, to adopt Resolution 2024-31. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

5. Resolution 2024-32, establishing fees, rates, and charges pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, Title XVII, Land Development Code.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adopt Resolution 2024-32. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

6. Resolution 2024-33, establishing fees, rates, and charges pursuant to the Code of Ordinances, for specified chapters and sections therein.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adopt Resolution 2024-33. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

7. Resolution 2024-34, adopting the Classification and Pay Plans, and Position Control Plan for employees of the City of Palm Bay for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt Resolution 2024-34. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

8. Resolution 2024-35, adopting the Five-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 through 2028-2029.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Resolution 2024-35. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

9. Resolution 2024-36, approving the Ad Valorem Operating Millage Rate and the Voted Debt Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Resolution 2024-36.

Motion carried with members voting as follows:

Mayor Medina	Yea
Deputy Mayor Felix	Yea
Councilman Johnson	Nay
Councilman Weinberg	Yea

10. Resolution 2024-37, authorizing a military discount on Building Permit Fees.

The City Attorney read the resolution in caption only.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Mayor Medina wanted to include the military branch into the name of the program.

Deputy Mayor Felix asked how the procedure would work from builder to resident. Mr. Pearson explained the intention was not for the builder to utilize the discount program, it was intended if Veterans wanted to add on to their homes and different homeowner projects that would require a building permit. Veteran contractors doing work for themselves would also qualify for the discount program.

Mr. Johnson was concerned that builders and developers would try to manipulate the program. Mr. Pearson agreed and said that it would be up to the Building Department to monitor the applicants for approval.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, seconded by Mayor Medina, to adopt Resolution 2024-37, naming the discount program after Marine Corp Veteran Cesar Ramirez-Villamil. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

11. Consideration of departmental travel and training for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Mr. Johnson asked how many travel requests were not included in the annually approved requests. Staff would provide the information to Council.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to approve departmental travel and training for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Ordinance 2024-49, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 200, Utilities Code, by adjusting the rates, fees and charges for the City's utilities system and services, final reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.

The public hearing was opened. Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adopt Ordinance 2024-49. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

2. Ordinance 2024-50, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 201, Sewer Use, Subchapter 'Miscellaneous Provisions', by adjusting the permit fees and other charges related to the City's utilities wastewater system, final reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.

The public hearing was opened. Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2024-50. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

3. Ordinance 2024-51, amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 202, Reclaimed Water, by adjusting the rates, fees, and charges for reclaimed water, final reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.

The public hearing was opened. Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council.

Bill Battin, resident, wanted to know how the water could be distributed back into the City rather than disposed of through deep well injections.

Mr. Bowden explained that there was a significant amount of water from the water resource recovery facility in the north being redistributed back into the City to be used for irrigation, approximately 800,000 gallons per day. Mr. Bowden explained that staff was looking at implementing more facilities for same.

Deputy Mayor Felix asked how many subdivisions had access to reclaimed wastewater. Mr. Bowden stated that when new communities were being developed, that would be the optimal time to include irrigation water from the reuse. Deputy Mayor Felix and Mayor Medina agreed that the topic should be discussed with the Growth Management Department.

The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Deputy Mayor Felix, to adopt Ordinance 2024-51. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

4. Ordinance 2024-52, adopting the final budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, final reading.

The City Attorney read the ordinance in caption only.

The public hearing was opened. Ms. Sherman presented the request to Council. The public hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weinberg, to adopt Ordinance 2024-52. Motion carried with members voting as follows: Mayor Medina, Yea; Deputy Mayor Felix, Yea; Councilman Johnson, Yea; Councilman Weinberg, Yea.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:00 P.M.

Rob Medina, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Terese M. Jones, CITY CLERK