

**CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF WILDWOOD, FLORIDA
SPECIAL MEETING
July 18, 2022 9:00 AM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBER**

(meeting taped)

1. Call to Order

ATTENDANCE	TITLE	STATUS
Ed Wolf	Mayor	Present
Pamala Harrison-Bivins	Mayor Pro-Tem	Present
Joe Elliott	Commissioner	Present
Marcos Flores	Commissioner	Present
Julian Green	Commissioner	Present
Joshua Bills	City Attorney	Present
Jason McHugh	City Manager	Present
Cassandra Smith	Asst. City Manager/CFO	Present
Susan Patterson	City Clerk	Present

Mayor Wolf called the meeting to order and immediately turned the meeting over to City Manager Jason McHugh.

2. Consent Agenda/Informational Items

None.

3. Presentations and/or Proclamations

None.

A. First Budget Presentation

City Manager Jason McHugh presented the First Budget meeting content. McHugh went over the budget preparation schedule. McHugh said he would like to set the tentative millage rate today in the first budget meeting. McHugh stated that the proposed budget workbook was included in the first budget presentation packet with details by departments and funds. McHugh stated that it also included a Fund Balance Summary along with a list of enhancements, such as new personnel, new equipment, new projects, and the 5-Year Capital Improvement Project Fund. McHugh stated that because the second budget workshop would be two weeks earlier than what has been done in the past, there may or may not be insurance rates at that time. McHugh also stated that the department head's goals would not be finalized at the time of the third budget workshop but that he would still provide them when they were finalized. McHugh stated that with the continued growth in the City's tax base, the taxable value is estimated at 4.4 billion, and fiscal year 2022 was estimated at 3.015 billion. McHugh stated that the new construction in The Villages is fueling ad valorem tax gains. McHugh stated that along with growth, the demand and costs for

providing facilities and services continue to increase.

McHugh discussed the millage rate and proposed the millage rate be tentatively set at 3.0. McHugh stated that this would decrease from the current millage rate of 3.2478 by 7.6% or 0.2478 mills. McHugh stated that the calculated rollback rate is 2.8684. McHugh presented millage rate options to the Commission. McHugh reviewed the operating equipment needed by the Police Department, Public Works, Fleet, and Parks and Recreation. McHugh stated that the revenues in the Utility Revenue Fund are based on a CPI increase of 4.0%. McHugh stated that expenditures would exceed revenues due to project delays, but the projected reserve balance remains healthy at 85%. McHugh went over Utility Revenue Fund major projects such as CR 209 water main extension, wastewater treatment facility rehabilitation/expansion, SR 44 force main, and millennium park reuse water line extension. McHugh reviewed the organizational changes and department restructuring to increase efficiencies and meet added service demand with new personnel positions.

McHugh reviewed the salaries and benefits. McHugh stated that there is an RFP to update pay classifications and salary ranges to meet market demands and the City's benefits package. McHugh proposed a 4% COLA for all pay grades of 7 or below. McHugh stated the City would still maintain the performance evaluation system. McHugh stated the City did anticipate an increase in health insurance but no increase in dental and vision. McHugh reviewed the projected reserve balance, stating that the end balance in the General Fund is \$5,168,855 (25% of the operating budget). The Utility Revenue Funds projected ending balance is \$5,819,710 (85% of the operating budget). McHugh reviewed the Capital Improvement Project Funds and the projected ending balances for future years.

McHugh stated that now was the time to discuss the Commission's and City managers' salaries if that is what the Commission wanted to do. Also, employee recruitment and retention will be covered in the FY 23-27 draft of the Strategic Planning goal. McHugh stated that some additional benefits that are not currently included are new holidays such as Veterans Day and Juneteenth. Also, the major item in the survey of the employees was to consider contributing towards family health insurance coverage and an increase in tuition reimbursement.

Commissioner Elliott presented his thoughts on the Commissioners' salaries. Commissioner Elliott disagrees that a COLA would bring the Commission to the salary base it needs to be. Commissioner Green also stated that he felt the commissioners' salaries should be between \$1200 to \$1500 per month. Mayor Wolf stated that he did not feel comfortable with anything higher than the COLA. Commissioner Bivins and Commissioner Flores stated they also agree with the COLA. Commissioner Green stated that he felt the Mayor should be rewarded for his knowledge. Commissioner Green felt that with the work he does on different boards, there should be some rewards, not just the COLA. Commissioner Bivins stated that the Commission would work with the COLA, but if the Commission felt that working with the COLA going forward would not bring the salary base to where it needs to be, what would the suggestions be on how to make that happen? Commissioner Green stated that it might be a hard decision if the Commission decided to make the salaries between \$1200 and \$1500 and then move forward with a COLA. Still, it would make it easier for commissioners in the future. McHugh stated that if you added the COLA in recent years since the Commission had a raise, it would be close to Commissioner Elliott's figure of \$9362.00 annually, which is a 14% raise. Commissioner Elliott reviewed the research he had done on the city manager salaries in the state. Commissioner Green suggested bringing the city manager's salary from \$150K to \$168K. The motion was made and passed for a salary of \$168K.

Commissioner Elliott spoke about Ad Valorem's taxes and millage rate. Commissioner Elliott suggests a tentative adoption of 3.0% millage. Mayor Wolf agrees with the 3.0 percent millage rate. Commissioner Flores stated that he was in favor of the rollback rate. Once the millage is tentatively set, it can be lowered but cannot be increased. The motion was made to tentatively adopt the 3.0% millage rate.

McHugh presented the Strategic Plan's proposed goals of community engagement, transportation, affordable housing, downtown redevelopment, infrastructure, and employee recruitment and retainment. McHugh stated that the City would create a Community Engagement Specialist position and a Welcome to Wildwood Program. McHugh stated the City would be working on a road overpass on highway 301 for pedestrians and bicycles. McHugh stated that Code Enforcement would be concentrating on abandoned houses and possibly donating them to organizations like Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Elliott congratulated the city manager for all the effort put into the strategic planning and all his work.

4. Public Hearings - Timed

5. Public Forum - 4 minute time limit

6. Ordinances First Reading Only (No Vote)

7. Resolutions for Approval

8. Financial & Contracts & Agreements

9. General Items for Consideration/Discussion and Other Business

A. Setting the FY23 Millage Rate

10. Appointments

11. City Manager Reports

12. Other Department Reports

13. Commission Members Reports

14. City Attorney Reports

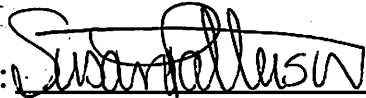
15. Adjournment

Upcoming Events

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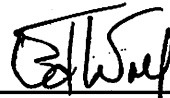
SEAL

ATTEST:



Susan Patterson, City Clerk

BY:



Ed Wolf, Mayor