

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Special City Commission Meeting
September 22, 2005

The City Commission met in a formal session Monday, September 22, 2005, at 5:05 p.m. in the Alcazar meeting room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Burk, and the following were present:

1. Roll Call:

Susan Burk, Vice Mayor/City Commissioner
Joe Boles, City Commissioner
Donald A. Crichlow, City Commissioner
Errol D. Jones, City Commissioner

Absent: George Gardner, Mayor/City Commissioner (excused)

William B. Harriss, City Manager
James P. Wilson, City Attorney
Martha V. (Nell) Porter, City Clerk
Timothy A. Burchfield, Chief Administrative Officer
John Regan, Chief Operations Officer
Robert Leetch, Director of Utilities
Mark Litzinger, City Comptroller
Jason Sheffield, Administrative Services Group Manager
Meredith Little, Financial Services Group Manager
Loran Lueders, Police Chief
Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary

2. Public Hearing – Resolution 2005-22, establishing the final millage rate for the FY 2005/2006 Budget.

Jason Sheffield, Administrative Services Group Manager, stated that it was the final of two budget hearings as required by the Florida Department of Revenue. He said that the budget meetings were structured in a particular order by state law, and it was important to process the agenda items as identified. He said that the current meeting had been advertised on Monday, September 19, 2005. He said the City Commission had adopted Resolution 2005-18 approving the tentative millage rate of 6.6000 mills for the 2006 fiscal year or 15.64% over the rolled back rate of 5.7075 mills. He added that if the budget was approved it would be the 11th consecutive year the City maintained or lowered the millage rate.

Mr. Sheffield stated that the incremental increase in advalorem tax revenue would be used to fund four incremental positions, increased wages, benefits and operating

expenditures and increased levels of services as approved by the City Commission.

Vice Mayor Burk opened the public hearing.

Don Heine, 21 Fullerwood Drive, expressed appreciation to the City staff for all their help and the City in general for their services. He stated that he was paying approximately 1000% more property tax than his predecessor had paid, which represented a greater burden in increased taxes to new home owners. He said that increased advalorem taxes seemed to be approximately 24% higher than the previous year's rate. He suggested that the increased budget for the fire department was too much as was the increased budget for the office of Finance and Budget and the allocation for recreation parks was excessively high, which he did not consider high priority. He further suggested that the allocation of revenue for a dog park was not mainstream recreation and recommended that the Commission reduce the aforementioned allocations. He

concluded that he would be more prepared for the subsequent budget year.

Vice Mayor Burk closed the public hearing.

MOTION

Commissioner Boles MOVED to approve and read in its entirety Resolution 2005-22 establishing the final millage rate for the 2005/2006 budget. Vice Mayor Burk SECONDED the motion.

Mr. Wilson read the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION 2005-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, has conducted a public hearing on its final millage rate of 6.6000 mills and has determined its rolled back rate is 5.7075 mills, as required by Florida Statutes 200.065.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2005-2006 final millage rate of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, is 6.6000 mills, which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 5.7075 mills by 15.64 percent.

2. The City Manager of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, is hereby directed as Chief Executive Officer of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to appropriately notify and advise the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector of the County of St. Johns of said millage rate.

ADOPTED at a special meeting of the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, at 5:18 p.m., this 22nd day of September, 2005.

Commissioner Jones said that although the overall advalorem taxes had increased the City had minimum impact on that increase, as the City held the millage to the same rate as the previous year. He added that there was a certain quality of life in St. Augustine that the Commission attempted to maintain.

Commissioner Crichlow pointed out that the only commitment the City had to the proposed skate park was the land. He said that the bulk of the funding would be from private funds or grants.

Mr. Harriss added that the City had budgeted \$30,000 on the Commission priority list for the skate park.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Boles, Burk, Crichlow, Jones

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Public Hearing – Ordinance 2005-29, concerning the final Budget for FY 2005/2006.

Mr. Sheffield stated that ordinance 2005-29 had been approved during the first budget meeting on September 8, 2005 and it ratified, approved and adopted the budget for the 2005/2006 fiscal year as presented and discussed.

Vice Mayor Burk opened the public hearing.

B. J. Kalaidi, 8 Newcomb Street, stated that there was no need to increase the water and sewer rates by .58¢, because the surplus funds should go back into the utility fund instead of being used for items on a wish or priority list. She said that there was no justification to pay \$53.83 toward the utility bill of 50 employees that lived in the City, as that was treating them as a select group of City residents, but they were not entitled to tax dollars to pay their utility bill. She suggested that low income City residents were being abused through the misuse of tax dollars collected by the City. She stated that

by deciding not to collect impact fees on construction in 1997 the City government had failed to properly use tax dollars in a responsible manner. She encouraged the Commissioners to vote against the ordinance.

MOTION

Commissioner Crichlow MOVED that Ordinance 2005-29 be placed on second reading, read by title only and approved. Commissioner Boles SECONDED the motion.

Mr. Wilson read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-29

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, 2005, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2006; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Crichlow, Boles, Burk, Jones

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Public Hearing - Ordinance 2005-30, as amended, concerning a utility rate adjustment.

Mr. Sheffield stated that the ordinance modified section 26-51 and 26-55 of the Code adjusting the reservation capacity fees and water and sewer rates for the City. He reported that there had been a scrivener's error and a rounding error in the ordinance, and he referred to the outline of the amendments.

Vice Mayor Burk opened the public hearing for Ordinance 2005-30, but there was no response.

MOTION

Commissioner Crichlow MOVED to adopt the motion to amend Ordinance 2005-30 as presented. Commissioner Boles SECONDED the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Crichlow, Boles, Jones, Burk

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION

Commissioner Crichlow MOVED that Ordinance 2005-30, as amended, be placed on second reading, read by title only and approved. Commissioner Boles SECONDED the motion.

Mr. Wilson read the title as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-30

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 26-34 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE TO ESTABLISH OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY OF FIRE HYDRANTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS; AMENDING SECTION 26-51 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE TO SET WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION CHARGES FOR CUSTOMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS; AMENDING SECTION 26-55 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE TO SET THE MONTHLY WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR CUSTOMERS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE FOR THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VOTE ON MOTION

AYES: Crichlow, Boles, Jones, Burk

NAYES: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting
was adjourned at 5:28 p.m. ¹

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

¹ Transcribed by Karen Rogers, Recording Secretary