

## BUDGET TASK FORCE

### Minutes of March 17, 2009

#### **Item 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Franklin Wheat at 8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Mark Denkler, Vincent Dole, Howard Ellingsworth, Todd L'Herrou, Robert Moore, Alexander Simon, James Smith and Franklin Wheat

**Members Absent:** Peter Arts

**Guests Present:** Lisa Herrmann, Rebecca O'Connor, Joseph Safford and Karen Schell

#### **Item 2. Approval of the agenda:**

Mr. Smith moved to approve the March 17, 2009 agenda, seconded by Mr. Dole. Said motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 3. Comments from the Public:**

There were no individuals from the Public; however, Mr. Safford addressed an e-mail from Mr. Kevin Warner. Mr. Safford questioned how the Task Force Members wanted to respond to this e-mail.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Simon moved to have a copy of the Budget Task Force report forwarded to Mr. Warner along with a "Thank you" to eliminate further back and forth communication, seconded by Mr. Smith. Said motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 4. Approval of the Budget Task Force Minutes for February 17, 2009:**

Mr. Simon requested a correction in the paragraph of discussion of pension totals stating roughly \$10 million is needed to cover this "annually" not monthly.

Mr. L'Herrou requested the correction of "another approach would be to pressure weigh cans" be changed to weight.

Mr. Simon moved to approve the February 17, 2009 minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. L'Herrou. Said motion passed unanimously.

#### **Item 5. Review of new handout material:**

Mr. Safford stated there have been continuous Department Head meetings for implementation of recommendations in the initial Budget Task Force report.

The Police Department double overtime and holiday pay have been resolved; employees will be notified shortly.

Mileage logs have been submitted for review by the City Manager.

The Police and Fire Departments have resolved the IRS issues on take home vehicles; policy letters will be issued shortly. The City Manager stressed all fire vehicles must be marked.

Sick leave accrual will be capped in the same format as vacation pay. Individuals who currently have more than 1,120 hours accrued will be allowed to use those hours as stated with the usual sick leave procedures. At the time of termination/separation from the City, any excess hours will not be paid.

Mr. Safford continued indicating staff is currently and continuously working on the following issues:

The insurance claims with Hurricane Wilma (actual versus estimate) which includes further data collection for the rebuilding of Fire Station 4.

Even though the Task Force approved to shut down the College Tour Program, further research was completed to obtain a final dollar figure for the report.

Mr. Safford reiterated the City retains the franchise and administration fees for waste collection for residents. The commercial Waste Management had a rate increase of 80%; however it was noted the franchise fees were not increased. The City is following up requesting the correct back revenue and new revenue going forward. Waste Management indicates revenues did increase, however businesses are closing and others are sharing containers leading to a decrease in pick up.

The rate increase was primarily due to the cost of oil. This was a five year contract with a stipulation fees could not increase more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year. The CPI never went over 3%; their operating costs were much more significant than that.

Members discussed and agreed there was a great concern for the need to have an individual strictly for reviewing contracts to eliminate any over sights. The expense of having this individual may be offset dollars saved in the end.

It was the consensus of the Task Force Members to continue the discussion of formulating a recommendation to have an independent individual review and follow up on all contracts for adherence at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

A new project being developed is to reconcile rented properties to the property tax rolls ensuring rented properties are not receiving the homestead tax exemptions and "Save Our Homes" tax exemptions. Other counties and cities have found a significant misclassification adding numerous dollars to their tax rolls. In addition to rental properties, owners of multiple properties in Palm Beach County will also be reviewed for their proper tax exemptions.

**Item 6. Review of previous handout material:**

None.

**Item 7. Other Business:**

None.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

There being no further business, Mr. L'Herrou moved to make a motion for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Moore. Said motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:57 a.m.

The undersigned is the Finance Director of the City of Delray Beach. The information provided herein is the minutes of the City of Delray Beach Budget Task Force of March 17, 2009, which minutes were formally approved and adopted by the Budget Task Force on April 21, 2009.

  
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Joseph M. Safford, Director of Finance

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cc: Budget Task Force Members  
Lisa Herrmann, Budget Officer  
Rebecca O'Connor, Treasurer  
Joseph Safford, Director of Finance