

SPECIAL/WORKSHOP
JULY 31, 2007

A Special Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, was called to order by Mayor Rita Ellis in the Commission Chambers at City Hall at 6:09 p.m., on Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

Roll call showed:

Present - Commissioner Gary P. Eliopoulos
 Commissioner Fred B. Fetzer
 Commissioner Woodie McDuffie
 Commissioner Brenda B. Montague
 Mayor Rita Ellis

Also present were - David T. Harden, City Manager
 Susan A. Ruby, City Attorney
 Chevelle D. Nubin, City Clerk

Mayor Ellis called the special meeting to order and announced that it had been called for the purpose of considering the following items:

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

1. **PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE:** Consider approval of a *proposed* millage rate for FY 2008, and set the budget review and adoption schedule.

David T. Harden, City Manager, presented this item. Mr. Harden suggested a proposal that would keep millage at nine percent (9%) below the rollback rate or 6.5783 mills for the Fiscal Year 2008. Department Heads have suggested a number of steps to either cut costs or increase revenue, which staff will continue to work on. As a result, the number of layoffs has been reduced from sixteen (16) to two (2), and those positions could possibly be funded when the process is completed.

Mr. Harden noted that \$1,763,884.00 in changes would be added back to the budget which would include the additional cost for the Police and Fire Pension Plan of \$433,000.00.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Ellis announced this is a public meeting and opened the floor to public comments on the millage rate proposal.

Jim Smith, 1225 S. Ocean Boulevard, Delray Beach, requested that the shuttle be saved. He expressed his concern that Delray businesses would be at a serious competitive disadvantage. Mr. Smith presented to the Commission, the results of a survey conducted on the necessity of the shuttle bus. Mr. Smith advised that Diane Colonna, Director of the Community Redevelopment Agency; Scott Aronson, Parking Management Specialist; David T. Harden, City Manager; and Marjorie Ferrer, Downtown Marketing Cooperative Coordinator, were also given a copy of the survey.

Todd L'Herrou, 830 Kokomo Key Lane, Delray Beach, stated the discussion of cuts scare him. He urged the Commission to do something less than the nine percent (9%) cut that the Legislature has mandated.

Robert Heath, 1 Harbourside Drive, Apartment #1402, Delray Beach, discussed property taxes and stated Mr. Harden's proposal in the Palm Beach Post has no lasting cost reductions. He explained his displeasure with Mr. Harden's proposal.

Sergeant Vinnie Gray, Delray Beach Police Department, speaking on behalf of the Police Benevolent Association, recommended having the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office take over the police services in the City of Delray Beach. This takeover would save the City ten to fifteen (\$10-15) million dollars over the next three (3) years.

Gabriel Bargerstock, representing the Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches, discussed their budget cuts and requested that the Commission lower the millage rate to the state mandated nine percent (9%).

Eugenia Deponte, 24 Marine Way, Delray Beach, a resident and landlord, requested that the Commission vote for the full nine percent (9%) decrease in the millage rate as mandated by the State. Ms. Deponte says that she cannot afford to subsidize a rental property she has in the NW/SW area of Delray.

Denise Ziemba, business owner located at 640 E. Atlantic Avenue, Suite #5, Delray Beach, requested Commission reconsider its decision to cutback or stop some special events completely. Special events draw residents and tourists to the City; generate income for both businesses and the events, and they appreciate the arts.

Mayor Ellis closed the public hearing

Commissioner Fetzer made the motion to set the millage rate at 6.5783 and comply with the State's nine (9%) rollback, seconded by Mr. McDuffie. Upon roll call, the Commission voted as follows: Mr. Fetzer – Yes; Mr. McDuffie – Yes; Mrs. Montague – Yes; Mayor Ellis – Yes; Mr. Eliopoulos – Yes; Said motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Harden requested authorization from the Commission to proceed with offering an additional one (1) year retirement credit for General Employees who choose the general retirement option.


Commissioner McDuffie made the motion to approve one (1) year retirement credit to General Employees who choose the early retirement option, seconded by Mrs. Montague. Upon roll call, the Commission voted as follows: Mr. McDuffie – Yes; Mrs. Montague – Yes; Mayor Ellis – Yes; Mr. Eliopoulos – Yes; Mr. Fetzer – Yes; Said motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Harden introduced David James, the City's new Fire Chief, who introduced himself to the Commission and expressed his gratitude to work with his new colleagues, the City, and the Commission.

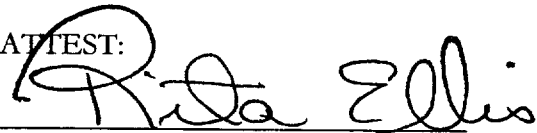
Mr. Harden stated the first hearing of the budget adoption schedule meeting will be held on September 4, 2007 and the second hearing on September 18, 2007. Mr. Harden recommended, as a usual practice, to have an extra workshop session on August 28, 2007 for budget discussion, as well as, budget discussion during the Commission's August 14, 2007 Workshop.

Mayor Ellis concurs with Mr. Harden's recommendation. She stated it is the direction of the Commission to have the budget review and adoption meetings on the scheduled dates as recommended.

Mayor Ellis adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:57 p.m.

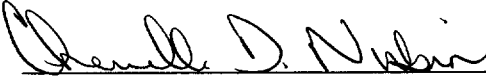


City Clerk

ATTEST:


MAYOR

The undersigned is the City Clerk of the City of Delray Beach, Florida, and the information provided herein is the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Commission held on Tuesday, July 31, 2007 which Minutes were formally approved and adopted by the City Commission on August 7, 2007



City Clerk

NOTE TO READER: If the Minutes you have received are not completed as indicated above, this means they are not the official Minutes of the City Commission. They will become the official Minutes only after review and approval, which may involve amendments, additions or deletions to the Minutes as set forth above.