

City Commission Special Meeting July 28, 2020

[View Video of meeting \(2 hours, 21 minutes\)](#)

All Commissioners were present. City Staff present: City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, City Police Chief, City Finance Director.

Presentations:

James Halleran, CPA from James Moore gave an overview of the annual audit completed September 30, 2019. The City is in good shape with its unmodified Financial Statements report. However, there are still two weaknesses regarding reconciliation of account balances and preparation of schedule for federal awards. Three recommendations included IT administrative access, pension benefit payments, and fund balance policy (sanitation is below policy level due to increased fees with no rate increase). New this audit was looking at the impact fees and how they were assessed and spent. Monies saved (as a percentage of expenditures) for "a rainy day" is 32.1% - over the minimum of 16.7% planned. Monies in the General Fund were up, and cash flow is good. Other governmental funds are also fine, and the three pension funds (FRS, police, and fire) is at a \$10.6 mil. liability, but are all funded at above 82% which is great compared to many other cities. Mr. Halleran cautioned that Covid-19 response will result in some uncertainties with future funds.

- ❖ Mayor Owen addressed that the two material weaknesses, which are the same as last year, will be fixed due to the change of team leadership members.
- ❖ City Manager, Khalid Resheidat, stated that he sees three challenges to keeping the millage rate the same in the coming fiscal year:
 1. Making up for the loss of tax revenues due to Covid-19
 2. grants funded by state agencies must now be included in the budget
 3. maintaining a balanced budget
- ❖ Natalia Eckroth, Finance Director, stated nothing had changed from the proposed FY 2020-21 City budget presented at the [June 30th meeting](#). The City budget and City debt have been stable for the past 10 years. The City tax roll keeps growing as NSB home values rise and more homes are built. Residential property values represent the the largest segment of the tax base.

There are several unfunded potential Capital Projects that will be discussed and ranked at the August 19th Budget Workshop which will include the 5th St. Bridge, Barracuda Bridge, construction of Washington St., and US1 and SR44 median landscaping (working with county to change resolution of CRA) with the best method, like a bond, to fund these projects being discussed.

Staff recommends that the Non-Ad Valorem assessment stay the same at \$92.00 annually **and proposed a millage rate of 4.1700.**

Three meetings on the budget are planned.

- August 19th 9:00am -City Commission Budget Workshop - Dept. Presentations
- September 9th 5:00pm – First Public Hearing - Tentative millage and budget set
- September 22nd 6:30pm – Second Public Hearing - Final Millage and budget set

Public Participation:

Three members from the Southeast Chamber of Commerce spoke. Chamber President Bryan Tudeen introduced the new Executive Director, Paul Secor and the new Director of Member Relations, Stephanie Ford. Mr. Secor is impressed with the tech of the Chamber and was excited to be here. Rebecca Crews said there are 11 businesses wanting to move here, and that “tech and think” businesses are ideal fits for the area.

Chad Truxall, Executive Director of the Marine Discovery Center said that their lot is available for additional boat-trailer parking, but the FWC would have the final say.

Four resolutions allowing for a maximum millage rate to be advertised as part of the upcoming TRIM notice to taxpayers were passed unanimously.

Ordinance No. 77-20: Set a referendum on a proposed revised Charter for the City and adopt ballot language for the electorate to consider on November 3, 2020.

The original and two alternatives were shown and discussed. ([See pg. 99 in Agenda Packet for alternative A and B.](#)) Two concerns were raised concerning a few word choices and how to fairly word the question in 75 words or less. The City plans to launch an educational campaign similar to what it did with the Turnbull Creek Initiative.

Ballot question wording:

Shall the City of New Smyrna Beach adopt a revised Charter incorporating a preamble, reorganizing existing language, removing obsolete language, revising election procedures, revising qualifications and duties of members of the City Commission and Charter officers, adopting provisions related to sustainability, including limitations on the transfer of ownership or lease of certain lands, establishing requirements for financial management, providing for citizen participation, including an initiative and referendum process, and requiring regular reviews of the Charter?

The motion to approve the language above for the November 3rd ballot was approved unanimously.

Trailer Parking, N. Causeway (AOB) and Swope was discussed in depth with a myriad of opinions. The City Manager presented a plan for the AOB site that would organize the parking area and have a designated 176 spaces. The plan would close off two entrances. There would be a manned booth at the main entrance. The lot would close when full. The cost would be \$65,000 w/o the gates. That option was not desirable due to the cost. What was agreed upon, however, was that the area needs to be more organized, but just how it will be done will wait until after the August 11th City Commission meeting where costs for timber stops and labor to delineate spaces would be presented. It was also suggested that the Commission find out if the MDC still would want the overflow parking in their lot. Vice Mayor Kolody suggested raising the parking fee to \$20 which is what the beach lot fees are and to look at this more closely for next year.

Parking on US1 for the Swope ramp also was discussed. It was suggested that the area across US1 at the airport be converted to a parking lot at the end of Runway 25 in addition to more cars parking on the US1 right-of-way (would need FDOT approval).

The overall feeling was that we cannot accommodate everyone, but we can be more organized at both sites. No motion was made, but it was decided that the the no parking signs near the Swope ramp area be removed to facilitate parking at the airport.

An FAA Grant at 100% was awarded (\$273,610) to design and renovate Taxiway "C" at the municipal airport. This will include a ramp closer to the Administration Building and additional parking for businesses there.

The **Motion to approve the grant was passed unanimously.**

Considered was either extending or sunseting the Turnbull Creek Land Preservation Committee which has five members and is set to expire August 1st. Brian Fields, Assistant City Manager, stated that this group has done due diligence for all properties/parcels considered for purchase and was used on an "as needed" basis. The committee may become part of a sustainability group, but the Neighborhood Council may take that on which will be discussed at their next meeting. Commissioner Sachs and Vice Mayor Kolody wondered if the committee would want to continue as a committee to monitor the City's environmental stewardship.

Motion to extend the committee in its present form for six more months (and reappoint as needed) was approved unanimously.