

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 2009**

The Workshop was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Mayor Minning.

PRESENT:

Mayor Bob Minning		Present
Commissioner Phil Collins – Vice Mayor	District 1	Absent**
Commissioner Ed Gayton	District 2	Present
Commissioner Carol Coward	District 3	Present
Commissioner Alan Bildz	District 4	Present

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

I. Budget Update

Mr. Silverboard gave the Commission a handout detailing budget adjustments for Sunset Beach. These items were the result of the special workshop that was held on Sunset Beach. He used the items that had a cost associated with them and appeared to have support from the Commission. He then read from the list of items that were discussed.

Commissioner Bildz stated that he felt that the figures for the weekend pick ups were off as some of the weekends were already covered. He then asked about the recycling containers that would be used.

Mr. Murphy gave an explanation of the charges for the weekend pick ups. The extra pick ups would be on Sunday, with additional Saturday pick ups during spring break weekends and holiday weekends. He then gave a description of the recycling containers that would be used. They would be a tamper proof container with an opening at the top. Commissioner Coward asked if they were the containers that are often seen in parks. Mr. Murphy answered in the affirmative.

**Commissioner Collins arrived at 5:23 p.m.

Commissioner Coward asked for clarification on when the additional pick ups would be made. Mr. Murphy explained that it would be done first thing on Sunday morning so that Saturday's trash would be cleaned up before beach goers arrive on Sunday. There would be trash picked up on the beach every day.

Commissioner Gayton asked if Mr. Silverboard was proposing to hire a new additional full time police officer. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Gayton then asked what affect that would have on the overtime that was previously proposed, or if the intended to have an officer at Sunset Beach. Mr. Silverboard explained that there would be an officer in that area most of the time. In the evenings the officer would be stationed wherever needed. Chief Casey explained that the additional officer would not reduce the overtime significantly. This would be the community police officer concept. The officer would be there on Saturdays and Sundays for twelve hours per day. The officer would be dedicated as

a community officer to Sunset Beach. He stated that this would be for the next few years. Commissioner Gayton stated that he hoped it wouldn't be for the next few years. He wants the problem resolved. It should reduce the amount of overtime if an additional officer is hired. He wants to see a breakdown of how it will reduce the overtime. Chief Casey stated that this was not a method to reduce overtime. It was a method to address the problems at Sunset Beach. After 6:00 they would be watching for DUI's, and on Sunday evenings they would be monitoring the drum circle. Community policing is very successful. Commissioner Gayton stated that he understands that it is important, but wants to see a breakdown.

Commissioner Gayton questioned the need for 66 Neighborhood Watch signs. Mr. Murphy stated that he provided enough signs in his estimate to cover the entire neighborhood of Sunset Beach. Commissioner Gayton stated that most neighborhoods only have one or two signs for each neighborhood, and this was two signs for each street. Commissioner Bildz asked if they were going to have a neighborhood watch, and if so, was the new officer going to help with that. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative. He stated that the officer wasn't being recommended as a way to substitute current policing hours. They are proposing to add additional hours that would be primarily dedicated towards community policing in the Sunset Beach area for now.

Commissioner Gayton stated that Commissioner Coward made an excellent point in her e-mail to the City Manager. We are getting more money than anticipated in ad valorem taxes. We are collecting 97% as a minimum. He thinks that they should try to reduce expenditures and increase revenues so that they can compensate for the extra that the City Manager was requesting. If we maintain our millage rate at 2.4999 the taxes levied would be \$3,749,000 which would give us a shortfall of \$179,000. If we were to go with our 97% receivables the difference would be \$292,000. The reason that we are talking about \$367,000 is because we are using a collection rate of 95% which will be more than that for this year, and should be more than that for next year. That would leave a difference of \$292,000. When we talked in July we added revenues to a point where the difference was \$205,000. If we go back and collect at 97% and remove the \$205,000 we would only need \$86,000 more to give the City Manager exactly what he wants. If we look at the expenditure and revenue reports for the 3rd quarter we have an excess in collections of \$278,000 in General Fund revenue that we will receive. We have a \$46,000 revenue source where we have less expenditures. The excess we will have is \$278,000. We have \$52,000 more than the 15% required as a fund balance. We have \$166,000 in County Gas Tax Fund balance. If we keep the tax collection rate at 97% and reduce the expenditures by \$205,000, we are only looking for \$86,000. He would be willing to go with 96%. He feels that they have enough revenue here to keep our millage rate at 2.4999. We have an excess of \$278,000 in projected revenue for the end of the year. His recommendation is that they keep the millage at 2.4999 and give the City Manager instructions to do whatever he has to do to make up the difference. We have enough money to keep our millage rate at 2.4999.

Commissioner Bildz stated that it doesn't take into account what he just gave them. Commissioner Gayton stated that it did not, but there is still plenty of money. Mr. Silverboard stated that part of what was included as revenue was the money that they received from the house. Instead of putting it aside it would be spent. He needs time to take a look at this. The Commission needs to make some

fundamental decisions. Do they want to keep the fund balance at 15%? There would be even less money to account for future needs. He feels that they should get away from the 15% and move toward a number closer to 25%. That is a prudent thing to do for a city our size. You also need to decide what they are going to do with the Causeway House money. He thinks that we are going to be seeing some expenses with the bridge and they need to make a decision what they want to do. They also need to make a decision on what they want their fund balance to be. Commissioner Gayton stated that he doesn't want to increase the fund balance to 25%. He doesn't think the millage should be increased to increase fund balance.

Mayor Minning stated that the information presented by Commissioner Gayton is new and they all need time to look it over. He stated that he would not want to be put in the category of increasing taxes for no reason. By increasing the millage rate from 2.4999 to 2.7576 it is not increasing taxes. It is less than the rollback rate, so would be a slight deduction in taxes. Anything between 2.4999 and 2.8 would give the citizens a reduction. It is incumbent upon the Commission to present a good budget at a reasonable tax rate, and also look at the future. Commissioner Gayton stated that ()

Commissioner Bildz asked at what rate do we want to collect ad valorem taxes. He asked if Mr. Silverboard still wanted to use 95%. Mr. Silverboard answered in the affirmative. Commissioner Bildz then asked about the revenues and the money from the Causeway House. Mr. Silverboard explained that he is not suggesting that they go to a fund balance of 25% in one year. He is suggesting that they start putting money aside for major expenses.

Commissioner Coward asked about the \$75,000 in the contingency fund. She asked if it would increase if it wasn't used. Mr. Silverboard explained that whatever balance wasn't used would fall out and would be reappropriated next year. Commissioner Coward had questions about what would be left over after everything was paid.

Mayor Minning stated that they would have to take a look at this and asked how they would like to do so. Commissioner Gayton stated that having a workshop before a Commission meeting was not a good idea. Everything has to be redone. Mr. Silverboard presented the Commission with some updated budget figures. It was agreed to hold another workshop on Tuesday, August 25th. They want to see an analysis of Commissioner Gayton's numbers, an updated budget, and the additional Sunset Beach items. Mayor Minning stated that if the alcohol ban gets passed then a lot of the needs on the list will go away. Mr. Silverboard stated that they would still need to do that garbage pick up. Mayor Minning asked if he was going to discuss the overtime situation with Chief Casey. Mr. Silverboard stated that it was not going to save overtime. If they were to use that position to save overtime then that officer would not be available for Sunset Beach. Mayor Minning asked for the breakdown for them to look at. The workshop will be held next Tuesday. The time will be determined.

Commissioner Collins asked about the \$5,000 difference between a full time or part time police officer. Mr. Silverboard will get the Police Chief's memo to the Commission.

The workshop was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.