

City Council
Special Meeting
September 11, 2003

The City Council of the City of Titusville, Florida met in special session in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 555 South Washington Avenue, on Thursday, September 11, 2003.

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At 6:30 p.m., Mayor Ronald Swank announced that there was no quorum due to a council member being delayed. He placed the council meeting in recess at 6:31 p.m. Mayor Swank called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. Present were Vice-Mayor Jeff Rainey and Council Member Ken Ward. Also in attendance were City Manager Tom Harmer and City Attorney Dwight Severs. Members Christopher Broome and Conrad Eigenmann were absent due to work commitments.

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Mayor Swank spoke in recognition of the second anniversary of the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. He referred to the many heroes of two years ago and urged that all citizens need to remember the many heroes and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the many brave men and women. The entire assembly stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the first of two public hearings on the proposed City of Titusville Operating and Capital Improvement Plan budgets for Fiscal Year 2003/2004.

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City Attorney Dwight Severs read, Ordinance 56-2003, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA AMENDING SECTIONS 21-241(a) AND 21-292(1)(a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY REDUCING THE WATER RATE INCREASE THAT WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2003; PROVIDING FOR A RECLAIMED WATER RATE INCREASE EFFECTIVE WITH THE FIRST BILLING CYCLE BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2004; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE the first time by title only.

City Attorney Severs then read, Ordinance 57-2003, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING SECTION 16-116 BY INCREASING THE RESIDENTIAL MONTHLY CHARGE FOR SOLID WASTE FEES AND ESTABLISHING A MONTHLY CHARGE FOR THE NEWLY CREATED MULTI-FAMILY CLASS; AMENDING SECTION 16-117 BY INCREASING THE COMMERCIAL MONTHLY RATE FOR SOLID WASTE FEES AND ESTABLISHING A MONTHLY CHARGE FOR DUMPSTER RENTAL FEES; AMENDING SECTION 16-118

BY DELETING THE MONTHLY CHARGE TO OPEN GATES ON ENCLOSURES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE the first time by title only.

City Attorney Severs then read, Ordinance 58-2003, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE MILLAGE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE the first time by title only.

City Attorney Severs then read, Ordinance 59-2003, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE GENERAL AND RELATED BUDGETS OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE the first time by title only.

City Attorney Severs then read, Ordinance 60-2003, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE ENTERPRISE FUND AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM BUDGETS OF THE CITY OF TITUSVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE the first time by title only.

The mayor announced the second and final public hearing would be conducted September 25, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

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City Manager Harmer presented council an overview of the proposed 2003-2004 budget. His overview addressed the Budget Foundation; the Budget Developmental Keys; the City Strategic Focus; and fiscal challenges faced by the City. He reported the current property tax millage rate as being \$5.8504, 6.45 percent above the rolled-back rate. He said the total assessed value of \$1.271 billion represented a ten percent increase in the tax base. City Manager Harmer said the proposed 2003-2004 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets were balanced. He recommended Council confirm the date of the final public hearing on the budget to be September 25, 2003. He recommended Council adopt the tentative millage rate of 6.0453, recommended at ten percent over the rolled-back rate. He recommended Council adopt the tentative operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2003-2004, as presented. City Manager Harmer then referenced the requirement as outlined in the *Florida Statutes* that states, "In the hearings required, the first substantive issue discussed shall be the percentage increase in millage over the rolled-back rate necessary to fund the budget, if any, and the specific purposes for which ad valorem tax revenues are being increased. During such discussion, the governing body shall hear comments regarding the proposed increase and explain the reasons for the proposed increase over the rolled-back rate. The general public shall be allowed to speak and to ask questions prior to adoption of any measures by the governing body. The governing body shall adopt its tentative or final millage rate prior to adopting its tentative or final budget". City Manager Harmer explained each proposed ordinance separately.

Mayor Swank complimented staff and council on the balanced budget and the actions taken to keep the budget balanced.

Mayor Swank opened the public hearing.

Joan Wheeler asked council to clarify the millage rate proposed increase. Mayor Swank explained to her the City Manager's recommendation and confirmed that the millage rate should remain the same in the upcoming fiscal year as it was during fiscal year 2002/2003. City Manager Harmer clarified that 5.8504 was the current millage rate and the 6.0453 millage rate was temporary pending adoption of the fiscal year 2003/2004 budget and was based on a ten percent increase over the roll-back. Mrs. Wheeler asked if taxes would be raised. Mayor Swank replied that the millage rate should not change. City Attorney Severs said if the assessed value of her property remained the same as last year, her taxes should not increase. City Attorney Severs also stated that, by law, the assessed value of her property cannot increase more than three percent in a single year. Mrs. Wheeler asked for property tax increase information since 1999.

Mayor Swank closed the public hearing.

Vice-Mayor Rainey moved to adopt the tentative millage rate of 6.0453 representing a ten percent increase over the roll-back rate. Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Mayor Rainey moved to adopt the tentative operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 2003-2004, as presented. Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Mayor Rainey moved to confirm the second and final public hearing on the proposed budget would be September 25, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, second floor, 555 South Washington Avenue, Titusville, Florida 32780. Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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There being no other citizens to speak, Mayor Swank adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Ronald G. Swank, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karan J. Rounsavall, City Clerk