

**Special City Commission Workshop
June 25, 2024**

Video of the Meeting and Agenda Packet can be found [HERE](#)

Mayor Cleveland, Vice mayor Perrine and Commissioners, Martin, McGuirk and Hartman were present. There was no public participation

City Manager Khalid Resheidat introduced the newly hired Finance Director, Mr. Kenneth Abidde (from Atlanta, GA where he spent 20 years in municipal governance and finance). Resheidat then stated that the millage was raised last year, and he instructed the Assistant Finance Director, Sheliza Bhola. that the goal was to only increase the rate by 0.222 due to the employee contractual agreement. They used the difference between the revenue from last FY and the next FY for the 2024-25 FY budget, looking at requests made at the April Workshop and listed both the approved prioritized funded requested items and the unfunded ones, showing their costs in terms of millage percents. The budget was based on a 95% tax collection rate. Sheliza Bhola then presented the 2024-25FY Budget.

Overview proposal \$138,767,440

- Capital Equipment - \$30,021,000 (Funded via General Fund)
- Capital Outlay/Projects - \$31,238,806 (Funded via General Fund, Grants, Fees, Donations)

Salaries and Benefits

- 10.5 new positions
- 3% salary increase (per contract)
- 3.6% increase for FL Health Care and 7.8% for BC/BS

Proposed Millage

- Operating Millage - 4.6370 (last year's amount of 4.415 plus 0.222).
- 2018 Voted Debt Millage - 0.0914
- Total - 4.7284

In comparison of the other 16 Volusia County cities, we are third from the bottom. In July, we will have paid off the 2005 Voted Debt Millage.

Top Expenditures from the General Fund Revenues of \$52,256,567

- Public Safety - \$23,722,194 (45%)
- General Government - \$13,798,642 (26%)

Unfunded Capital Equipment Requests. The top two are listed below:

- \$2,700,200 - streetlights on Canal St. and Flagler Ave.
- \$215,103 - three new foreman Maintenance Ops positions

CM Resheidat stated that Commission review of materials will occur during July. The Commission must set the maximum millage rate at the July 23rd Budget Meeting.

TRIM notification notice is due August 4th at the Property Tax Appraiser's Office. The city's 25% Required Budget Reserves have been replenished from last year's purchase of firetrucks and there is an additional \$9,472,754 which we can be utilized use for any unfunded budget requests.

Some Discussion Highlights

- A clarification was made that projects and equipment that are funded are budgeted at 100%. Another clarification was needed to explain the increases noted in "amended" budgets. The CM stated that sometimes grant money isn't included in the budget if the grant hasn't be awarded yet, but the total cost is shown as the cost has to be paid upfront. When a grant is awarded, the money is put back into the General Fund. In some instances, projects don't get completed in the expected time frame, so they must be "carried forward" and often, in those cases, the cost to complete has risen due to several factors.
- Commissioners would like to see hard dollar amounts from past years to see the rate of growth of our government as it will help to explain the cost of providing existing services from one year to another.
- Commissioners would also like to see what they have control over and what they don't when looking at the budgetary items. For example, they have no control over passed referendums, but they do for normal operating expenses like for the Brannon Center. They would like to hold city staff accountable for running their departments and managing their budgets.
- The Commission would like the department heads who will participate in the August 7th All Day Budget Workshop to be prepared to answer the Commission's questions, concerns and clarifications at a per line-item level at that workshop.

Dates to know:

- July 23 – Vote on millage
- August 4 – TRIM Certification Notice Due at Appraiser's Office
- August – All-Day Budget Workshop
- September 11 – First Public Hearing
- September 24 – Second Public Hearing