

Special City Commission Budget Workshop
Wednesday, August 7, 2024
[Video and Agenda Packet](#)

Mayor Fred Cleveland, Vice Mayor Valli Perrine, and Commissioners Lisa Martin and Randy Hartman were present. Commissioner McGuirk had an excused absence. Also present were the new City Manager, Kevin Cowler and the new Finance Director, Kenneth Abidde.

City Manager Khalid Resheidat stated that each city department would present their budgets including changes that were made from the April 17th meeting. Questions could be asked after each presentation and after all of them.

Public Participation

- One resident asked why the Parking Task Force’s recommendation for a Mobility Department wasn’t in the budget. He also wondered why, with parking revenues growing, there wasn’t an increase in staffing.
- One resident expressed his concern about developers self-monitoring. He feels the city needs to closely monitor stormwater issues and projects scope delineated in MDAs and PUDS.
- One resident stated his dismay about the parking garage/retail mall proposed for 1300 S. Atlantic and feels that the city has no obligation to change its Ordinances. The developer knew what they were when the property was purchased. The new lot next to it is hardly filled.

WORKSHOP

IT DEPARTMENT - Director Thomas Farmer began with an organizational chart and stating that the seven full-time and one part-time staff members would remain the same but added that the budget keeps going up due to taking jobs that other departments once had as well as maintenance costs, network upgrades, and improving security, all of which will increase the 2024-25 FY budget request 1.7% to \$1,595,640. He also noted Vendor Costs have increased significantly and it is expensive to retain qualified and experienced staff.

Discussion Highlights

- Commissioner Hartman asked about Commissioners getting new laptops and mobile phones every two years. He is in favor of keeping them longer.
- Commissioner Martin asked what was done with the equipment after two years and the reason for the change. Mr. Farmer responded they are kept for spares, parts and/or given to other departments; the tablets only have a 2-year warranty and that is their average life cycle.
- VM Perrine commended the department for only a 1% budgetary increase but had concerns about the cost of cell phones.
- Mayor Cleveland asked if they bill each department (YES). He also thinks they can hold onto their equipment for four years and asked the city manager to collect data to see if this would lead to significant savings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT (36:30 on video counter, Pt. 1)

Fire Chief Shawn Vandemark stated the department has 56 employees within its three units: Fire, Emergency Response, and Transport. A total amount for the 2024-25FY budget was not given even though some budgetary requests were made for small ticket items

(Training Division Upgrades) and big ticket items (some are listed below).

Notable Capital expenses include the following:

- Two (2) medic transport vehicles (one is a replacement due to aging) - \$960,000
- Jaws of Life – approximately \$37,000
- Training Software - \$25,025
- Generator for Station 53 - approximately \$250,000; however the department is on a shortlist for an HMGP grant, which would then reduce the cost to \$62,500
- Air cascade breathing equipment - \$85,000
- Station alerting equipment upgrade - \$20,000 per station
- Midsize 4x4 pickup truck for the Fire Marshall - \$40,000

The Chief focused on a proposal to expand EMS transport services because they can respond the fastest of all providers. If they assume all the calls closest to NSB, the County could then be used to cover gaps throughout the county. The net result would be more income for the city. Based on prior years' statistics, the department would need nine (9) firefighters and one (1) EMS officer to man this unit but would be able to eliminate \$224,000 in overtime expenses. The total budget requested for transport is \$897,704.64. The new medical transport vehicle for the service expansion as well as equipment for the new employees is covered by Fire Impact Fund fees.

Discussion Highlights:

Mayor Cleveland and Commissioner Hartman had thoughts regarding the possibility of the County compensating the city for doing all the calls in the county's jurisdiction of unincorporated New Smyrna Beach since they are collecting fire services taxes from these residents. One factor in a discussion with the county is whether the city would be able to get a certificate of need in exchange for providing this service so we would have more autonomous control over our department.

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS (1:37 on video counter, Pt. 1)

Director David Ray and Assistant Director Kevin Brinkley gave a presentations that included an overview of the department's responsibilities, progress toward goals set for FY 24, capital projects slated for FY 25 and budgetary requests for FY 25. Maintenance Operations is responsible for maintaining city facilities (including piers and boat ramps), streets and sidewalks, fleet maintenance, the City Marina, the golf course, parks and playgrounds, solid waste, and storm water. A continued high priority is to inventory equipment and other assets (all types of vehicles and infrastructure such as pumps and trailers) and to implement life cycle planning to better manage them.

Assistant Director Brinkley provided two potential models for funding replacement vehicles and equipment. The City of Lakeland assesses each department to cover actual costs of vehicles, shifting responsibility for planning and accountability to each department. Ormond Beach's budget includes dedicated millage for vehicle and equipment replacement. He asked for input from the Commission regarding their preferences. Currently, the city has 329 assets with a median age of 7 years.

The total 2024-25FY budget request is \$6,238,172 out of the General Fund, which represents a 7.24% increase over the current year. (Note: Sanitation and Stormwater do not come out of the GF.)

Notable Capital Improvement Projects, Equipment, and Personnel requests:

- 27th Street playground– \$ 500,000
- Street resurfacing - \$1,200,00
- Crosswalks, traffic calming, homeless camp cleanup - \$135,000
- Anticipated increases in solid waste and recycling charges - \$357,000
- Fleet replacement program (general fund portion) - \$500,000

Discussion Highlights:

- Vice Mayor Perrine supports the idea of each department being responsible for their fleet budget. She noted that proposed budgets for janitorial services and solid waste were going up. Mr. Ray stated that the janitorial services increase is an estimate as that contract is up next spring. The Waste Pro contract goes through 2026.
- Commissioner Martin likes both options proposed by Mr. Brinkley for fleet replacement planning. She requested a future Commission agenda item regarding the possibility of increasing stormwater fees to generate additional revenue. She would also like an analysis of whether the recycling program is making a difference.
- Commissioner Hartman supports planning and budgeting for equipment and fleet replacement. He asked what steps can be taken to mitigate the negative environmental effects on equipment. Do we need to think about relocating the maintenance garage further inland? Do we have a maintenance program for ongoing undercarriage rinsing? He noted the increase requested for streetlights and asked if the city owned them. The City Manager clarified that the city owns the specialty lights, such as those on Canal and Flagler. The rest are owned by the Utilities Commission, and the city pays the UC for their maintenance.
- Mayor Cleveland praised Mr. Brinkley's presentation proposing plans for more responsible budgeting and departmental accountability. He asked for suggestions for the best way to "catch up." Mr. Resheidat suggested phasing it in over three years.

POLICE DEPARTMENT (05:20 on video counter, Pt. 2)

Chief Eric Feldman gave an [overview](#) of the department including department initiatives, staffing, vehicles, and Capital requests. Currently, there are 66 FT officers, 21 FT support staff, and 14 authorized parking staff (FT and PT). A compression of salaries to make progression of rank equitable is a major request. (Note: The total 2024-2025FY budget I was not provided.)

Notable 2024-25FY budgetary requests coming from Impact Fees:

- Three (3) new Corporal positions - Salaries with benefits: \$325,507
- Three (3) Patrol Vehicles for Corporals \$225,000
- Extension of Police Department Facility Phase I: \$200,000 Design Fee
- Marine Vessel Boathouse – est. \$250,000 (applied for a FIND grant which will cover 50% of the cost)

Notable Capital Requests:

- Four (4) Replacement Patrol Vehicles- Approx. \$288,000 (includes emergency equipment, and police graphics)
- Seven (7) Replacement Unmarked Vehicles- Approx. \$350,000
- Purchase of replacement and new surveillance license plate readers (21) and cameras (11)- \$150,000. They are changing companies and videos will be able to be shared with the County and vice versa.

- Two (2) Additional Electric Motorcycles for two more officers who would be assigned to that division in order to have better coverage/visibility and traffic enforcement. Approx. \$45,000 each or a lease for \$400 per month per motorcycle. UNFUNDED

Discussion Highlights:

- VM Perrine asked about revenue from parking tickets, specifically the outside service budgeted for \$50,000 to collect fines. The Chief responded that they are paid \$2.49 per ticket, and he will provide a report showing the data of revenues and costs.
- Commissioner Hartman asked if the TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) cost of \$15,000 was mandatory. The Chief explained it isn't mandatory, but they are the department that is called for Animal Control.
- Mayor Cleveland asked about the \$50,000 for the Humane Society. The Chief responded that a new Animal Control officer was hired, so costs will go down. The mayor also wanted clarification (as did Commissioner Martin) regarding maintenance costs. The Assistant Finance Director and the CM explained that Maintenance Ops has in their budget maintenance monies only for their departments; other departments have a set budget. No money comes out of the GF if problems are fixed in-house; any outside vendors are selected by the Maintenance Director. Mayor Cleveland asked about the new Department of Mobility which will include traffic, transportation and parking, and would like to see a Director hired to start it. CM Resheidat responded that the money for this will come out of the Parking Fund and won't affect the millage/GF, so it can be added into the budget at any time.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (48:40 on video counter, Pt.2)

Director Shane Corbin presented an [overview](#) of the department which currently has 29 Building Division staff, five (5) Planning Division staff, and five (5) Engineering Division staff as well as the challenges/solutions within the department. One solution he is looking into is an AI program that will help speed project reviews. Ten Capital Improvements are at various stages, and due to their complexity, another engineer may be needed soon. Current projects are complex. Single point responsibility within the department would speed review and oversight as issues could then be addressed as they arise. (No total 2024-25FY budgetary request was given.)

Noted Department Requests:

- Building Operating Budget - \$5,291,344 (up 7.16% mainly due to inflation.) CM Resheidat later added the new Development Services building will be built on land we already own, and its cost will come out of Planning Funds.
- Planning and Engineering Operating Budget - \$1,683,957 (up 12.32%)

Discussion Highlights:

- Commissioner Martin agreed that names for Code complaints (now a State Statute) is smart and asked for a time frame between a complaint being made and its resolution. Mr. Corbin will send that information to the Commissioners.
- Commissioner Hartman asked about contracts having project managers. Response: contracts are closely monitored using team oversight. The engineer has multiple project responsibilities. The new engineer is focusing on Venetian Bay.
- VM Perrine was concerned that we have less revenue since the volume of permits is down.

- Mayor Cleveland asked what could save time with procedural issues. Response was the AI programs. He then asked about the three LDR's that are being discussed and how many more have been reviewed recently and may need revision in the short term. Mr. Corbin answered 10, and it's up to the Commission to decide when to begin the next batch. He added that the Comprehensive Plan is of date as well, so they hope to work on updating that as well, rather than outsourcing.

AIRPORT (1:34:31 on video counter, Pt. 2)

Airport Manager Arvin Weese gave the budget [presentation](#) noting that the airport is self-sufficient. In 2025, no additional personnel will be added, and it is anticipated that expenses will remain intact except for capital projects and the increased revenue of \$200,000 for leasing the sports complex.

Brief Overview of the 2024-25 FY Airport Budget:

- Total budgeted revenue and expenditures for the airport - \$11,479,848
 - Personnel Services - \$478,981
 - Operating Expenses - \$2,980,857
 - Capital Outlay - \$8,020,000
- Capital Improvement Projects- Estimated cost is \$8,020,000 with all but \$566,200 paid by FDOT and FAA grants. (See PPT for projects.)

Discussion Highlights:

- Vice Mayor Perrine asked what plans Mr. Weese had to work with the Economic Development Board. Mr. Weese replied that he had met with Chris Edwards and has plans to meet with the new director.
- Mayor Cleveland would like to keep researching and working on grant monies.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (1:50:18 on the video counter, Pt. 2) Interim Finance Director Sheliza Bhola [presented](#) budget information. Administrative Services includes the offices of the city Commission, City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk, Finance, Human Services and Business and Economic Development. Director Bhola highlighted the following proposed increased expenditures for this coming fiscal year:

- City Commission - \$9,500
- City Attorney – No additional expenditures presented.
- City Clerk - \$6,151
- Finance – No additional expenditures presented.
- Business and Economic Development - \$60,700
- Human Resources - Funded request of \$45,126; unfunded request of \$25,000 (Note: See link provided for specific items under monetary requests.)

Discussion Highlights:

- Commissioner Martin commented that the Commission needed more data on NSB salaries and benefits compared to other cities in Volusia County. She also was glad to see activities to promote staff wellness but was disconcerted to see that some activities, like pickleball, occurred during work hours.
- Commissioner Hartman agreed with Commissioner Martin commenting that although NSB's salary is less than Ormond's, we may put more money into the retirement fund or provide other benefits. We need the total package to know where we are in a fair comparison.

- Vice Mayor Perrine stated we need benchmarking and comparisons for the number of holidays and retirement packages of 50 cities, not just 3 adjacent ones. She also asked if we could save money in benefits by hiring another half-time person for training instead of making a current half time employee full-time. HR responded, yes, as duties are being divided up differently and it has already been funded.
- Commissioner Hartman stated that the \$20,000 for staff training could be offset by reducing the commissioners' discretionary fund. Commissioner Martin added that we need to look at how we're spending so we know what we need for next year. The City Manager stated that they will find \$20,000 for training somewhere.
- Mayor Cleveland asked what the raises for staff have been for the past few years. Are they based on COLA and are they rolled into the budget we see here? If we have a new hire, that person's salary can cause problems with the other directors. The City Manager stated that he has that data for the past 5 years.

LEISURE SERVICES (2:21 on video counter Pt.2)

Director Rob Salazar presented an overview of the department's responsibilities and accomplished goals for the past year. The department oversees the Alonzo "Babe" James Community Center, City Gym, Brannon Center, Live Oak Cultural Center, Coronado Civic Center, skate park, city hardcourts (tennis, pickleball), the Sports Complex, the marina and golf course. The department is also in charge of all special events. Revenues are increasing at the golf course and marina. Leisure Services currently has 57 employees. Director Salazar indicated that the 8% budget increase for Leisure Services is largely due to increased costs, plus the addition of the skate park and electricity at the pavilions. The total 2024-25 FY budget request is \$1,921,409 for Leisure Services and \$1,415,993 for the Sports Complex.

Notable Capital Improvement Projects and Equipment requests:

- Paige Park pickleball courts Phase II - \$150,000 (lighting and a restroom trailer)
- Sports Complex LED light conversion – total cost is estimated at \$1.6 million. The budget reflects \$110,000 to hire a firm to raise \$1million from naming rights and then to request \$600,000 as an ECHO Grant.
- Coronado Civic Center improvements - \$300,000 (includes new kitchen, AC, ACA-compliant restrooms, flooring, shuffleboard resurfacing, paint, doors)
- New staff position - \$57,784 for an Administrative Specialist I for Leisure Services
- Golf Course – pumphouse replacement \$300,000

Discussion Highlights:

- VM Perrine stated that the city needs to be consistent and fair in how we ask the users of different facilities and activities to contribute to the usage of them.
- Commissioner Martin stated that the Coronado Civic Center is our most affordable venue, and the clubhouse is historic, so it warrants the investment in maintenance. It could also be a contender for a Donnadine Miller Award
- Commissioner Hartman stated that with the projected surplus of \$200,000 from the golf course, some of the additional outdated equipment should be considered for replacement.
- Mayor Cleveland stated that it might be helpful to separate out programs that generate revenue, such as Flamingo Follies, to show both the expense and revenue for those programs. He also stated that with the marina updates, a rate increase might be due to be in line with other area marinas.