

COMMISSION BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 P.M.

MAY 11, 2010

Present: Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler
Vice Mayor Romney Rogers
Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts
Commissioner Charlotte Rodstrom.
Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager - George Gretsas
City Auditor - John Herbst
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
Sergeant At Arms - Sergeant Bill Schultz

Mayor Seiler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at City Hall, 100 North Andrews Avenue, 1st floor Chambers.

Invocation was offered by Vice Mayor Romney Rogers, followed by the recitation of the pledge of allegiance led by Richard Mancuso.

Mayor Seiler emphasized that taxpayer dollars make up the City budget, describing the Commission's role as that of trustee. He noted the Commission's desire to align priorities with those of the citizens. He stressed the Commission's focus and emphasized the need to reduce spending.

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Calendar Highlights

Shonda Singleton-Taylor, Acting Director of Management and Budget, reviewed slides concerning this matter. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes.

Projected Ad Valorem Loss

Ms. Singleton-Taylor continued her review of the slides.

Public Input

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Dennis Ulmer, 1007 NW 11 Place, noted that Fort Lauderdale is a popular tourist city that is viewed positively by most people. He wondered how cutting services may affect the citizens and the city as a tourist destination. He believed the city has an edge over others and encouraged the Commission to maintain that edge while balancing the budget.

Gus Rodriguez, 10241 NW 33 Street, Sunrise, claimed that his idea for Project SAFA (Safety For All) could provide income to the City. He believed there are two technologies that could prevent hurricanes and tornadoes from reaching land, and asked the City to help him implement this. Mayor Seiler suggested that he submit written information describing the program.

Mayor Seiler recognized and thanked the Budget Advisory Board.

John Ropes, 1299 North Rio Vista Boulevard, recalled a prior discussion about whether the City should outsource some services. He believed that outsourcing provides leverage and flexibility to the City as there is no long-term expense. He was not advocating outsourcing, but believed it is worthy of investigation. Mayor Seiler did not recall discussions, but assured him that all options to reduce costs would be examined.

Jack Loos, 1815 Cordova Road, encouraged the City to hold the line on the budget and taxes. He elaborated upon the poor state of the economy. He asked the Commission to view their analysis of staffing, pay-scales, and benefits as though the City were a private sector business and ensure they are based on necessity and affordability.

Genia Ellis, 1801 Marietta Drive, reminded the Commission that the NCIP (Neighborhood Capital Improvement Program) and BCIP (Business Capital Improvement Program) programs are matched funds with neighborhoods that invest in the community with their own sweat equity and cash. These programs were cut back last year and she was concerned it would happen again. She encouraged the Commission to seek cuts elsewhere.

Ray Dettmann, 1900 Miami Road, questioned whether basic steps are taken by the City to conserve energy. He suggested the City replace all paper correspondence with electronic mail. He believed that the City's legacy costs are too high and believed that pension reform should be considered. He also advocated outsourcing.

Reid Morgan, 911 SW 9 Avenue, noted his position as a facilities manager for Florida Atlantic University. He claimed he had reduced energy costs by 59 percent over the last six years by maintaining the facilities in a like-new condition, suggesting that the City do the same. He urged the City to investigate solar and other alternative forms of energy. Overtime should be scrutinized and managers be held accountable. Mayor Seiler inquired whether the solar roof installed on Florida Atlantic University was successful. Mr. Morgan indicated that it is a small solar roof area, but provides an approximate 16 percent savings. He mentioned his appointment to the Broward County Management and Efficiency Study Committee, inviting the Commission to review the benefits to Broward County brought about by this committee.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Seiler closed the public hearing.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Ms. Singleton-Taylor reviewed information from the slides on budget meeting dates that include opportunity for public input.

There being no other matters to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jonda K. Joseph
City Clerk