

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING  
CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016  
9:00 A.M. CITY HALL  
9101 BONITA BEACH ROAD  
BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA 34135  
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Peter Simmons called the budget meeting to order at 9:02 A.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

At the request of Mayor Simmons, Council Member Steve Slachta led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL.

Mayor Simmons and all City Council members were present with Councilwoman Quaremba arriving at 9:04 AM.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

[9:03:16 AM](#) Rick Steinmeyer, resident of Bonita Springs, addressed the budget topics.

[9:04:41 AM](#) Alan Mandel, CEO of Good Wheels, requested that City Council support a letter requesting \$30,000 for a local match. The organization provides transportation for the disadvantaged to medical facilities.

[9:05:59 AM](#) Kathy McGrath asked that the splash pool at the recreation center be placed back in the budget. She feels that the City should provide something for the children that live in the downtown Bonita Springs area.

[9:07:49 AM](#) Dallas Revord, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, referenced land development Codes 501(a)(4) and (a)(5). He expressed his support in continuing to look for grant opportunities to continue the vision of the city. He distributed pamphlets and before and after pictures as well (copy in Clerk's File).

[9:13:36 AM](#) Nathan Solara and Marge Kateena (sp), residents of Bonita Springs, spoke on behalf of the recreation facility expansion.

[9:16:12 AM](#) Charlie Strader, a member of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board, appreciates the transparency of the budget plan and requested to increase funding for the Historic Preservation Society.

[9:18:44 AM](#) Bonita Springs Little League advocates requested to have the little league facilities improved.

V. PRESENTATION OF FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN.

[9:21:35 AM](#) Carl Schwing, City Manager, presented the Five Year Financial Plan for the City of Bonita Springs. He addressed the revenue sources and expenditures by fund type, expenditures by cost, operating expenditures and available fund balance by type. He also addressed the financial shifts throughout previous years and the projected needs for 2017. He explained that the downtown improvement project was viewed separately. He also addressed the millage rate and roll-back rate.

[9:57:02 AM](#) Anne Wright, Finance Director, addressed the 5 Year Financial Plan, which reflects a strong fund balance for each budget year shown. She also addressed the various funding sources and projections for each.

[10:27:54 AM](#) Council Member Greg DeWitt addressed the increase in impact fees and questioned the reason permits are decreasing. John Dulmer, Community Development, explained that people were paying in credits. Councilman DeWitt also addressed the reason for the gas tax being flat. Ms. Wright explained that the number shown was conservative. Also, the budget was prepared before the Finance Department received the State estimate. City Attorney Audrey Vance explained that the gas tax was based on population and lane miles.

#### VI. PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 PROPOSED DRAFT BUDGET.

[10:31:34 AM](#) Ms. Wright next addressed page 27 of the budget to briefly address the General Fund Revenue Summary and page 34 to address the General Fund Expenditure Summary. Council Member Peter O'Flinn referred to page 34 referencing the operating expenditures and operating budget.

[10:31:34 AM](#) Council Member Fred Forbes stated he felt it would be helpful to get an itemization of what the expenditures were.

Department Directors next furnished an overview of the department's budget.

City Attorney Vance explained there are limited uses with the building fee reserves under the Florida Statute. Arleen Hunter, Assistant City Manager, addressed the development services budget portion on page 61 and the increase in the amount for the comprehensive review on page 63.

[11:45:28 AM](#) Councilman DeWitt asked about changing the meters in the dog park and Bonita Springs Utilities fees. He also asked about mowing services and macro-bulk purchase contracts.

[11:59:30 AM](#) Councilman Forbes suggested changing the street lights to LED in order to reduce costs. Matt Feeney, Public Works Director, referenced decorative lighting maintenance on page 95 line item 950.541.3472 as a typical expense for when pedestrians knock the lights down but there are no programs to exchange the existing lighting to LED's. Mr. Schwing stated that staff will look into this. Councilman Forbes suggested investigating the matter further.

[12:00:38 PM](#) Councilman Forbes asked whether the contract for a roadway and separate path are administered through the parks and recreation department or public works department. Mr. Feeney explained roadway work is typically administered through the public works department. Councilman Forbes asked about more frequent mowing.

[12:02:48 PM](#) Mr. Schwing stated that there is a \$25,000 program within the budget to change out street light heads to recessed. This program is handled by the Street Light Committee and it does not involve LED lights, only recessed lighting.

[12:07:22 PM](#) Council Member Mike Gibson referenced page 89 item 3429 central locating services cost increase. He asked if this can be charged to the building department as it is associated with pulling permits.

[12:08:44 PM](#) City Attorney Vance stated that Florida Building Code requirements will need to be researched in order to determine the legality.

[12:09:12 PM](#) Ms. Hunter referenced the increase in downtown redevelopment costs on page 39 line items 00.101.552.3102 and 3103. She also referenced page 90, non-departmental expenditures and contingency.

[12:46:51 PM](#) At the suggestion of Council Member Peter O'Flinn, Council addressed concerns that the public raised earlier. Mr. Schwing stated that since he has been the City Manager, the City of Bonita Springs has not paid out to non-profits with taxpayer money. Ms. Hunter addressed the previous Partnering for Results Committee program and explained its purpose. Staff to research other municipalities and bring back data.

[12:50:27 PM](#) Councilman O'Flinn referenced the Historic Preservation Grant program. Mr. Schwing stated that this program was not in the budget and explained that the reason for removal within the budget was based on the anticipation of City Council's priorities. The grant program can be placed back in the budget though. Councilman O'Flinn suggested putting the grant program back into the budget, but was unsure of amount. Discussion was held. It was determined that \$50,000 should be put in for the Historic Preservation Program.

[12:57:28 PM](#) Councilman O'Flinn referenced the recreation center. He suggested that the peak demand should be reduced.

[1:08:39 PM](#) Councilman DeWitt expressed his agreement with Councilman Slachta's statements where he believes that the residents can be assured there is a place for them to go.

[1:13:30 PM](#) Mr. Schwing wanted clarification on the direction of Council. Whether Council wanted \$35,000 going to sodding of the soccer fields or little league. Councilman DeWitt asked about the policy for the city going out for bid. Councilman Forbes asked about East Terry Street.

## VII. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION CONCERNING FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET.

- A. CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ITEM FOR DISCUSSION – SEE “OTHER INFORMATION” TAB.
- B. FUND BALANCE ALLOCATION

[1:18:04 PM](#) Mayor Simmons referenced Cullum Hasty's Property on page 139 Item 1. Councilman Forbes

stated that he would support this plan as long as the owner was going to finance the property for 5 or more years with no interest and the city allowing for closing costs. Mr. Schwing suggested looking at the criteria prior to making a decision so there can be a justification. City Council consensus was yes.

[1:22:10 PM](#) Councilman O'Flinn referenced Item 2 on page 139. Councilman DeWitt explained that the fund is for building maintenance and expanded stating that if there needs to be an alteration then millage does not need to be raised in order to do so. No action was taken.

[1:24:15 PM](#) Councilman O'Flinn referenced Item 3 Stormwater Utility Fee. He stated that this is a subset of a larger list in order to take pressure off of the budget.

[1:33:00 PM](#) Councilman Gibson referenced Item 7 aerator for Arroyal Pond and stated that this request is to be pre-emptive. City Council consensus was yes.

[1:35:25 PM](#) Councilman O'Flinn referred to Item 8 sidewalk on Cockleshell and Shangri-La. He stated that the implementation should be looked at holistically including the funds within the Capital Improvement Plan.

[1:37:51 PM](#) Mr. Schwing referenced Item 9 Traffic light for the High School. He stated that it was a request from the school board staff for the City of Bonita Springs to contribute half of the total cost for a northern traffic light to be placed on Imperial Road in front of the planned high school. This light would be in addition to the one that was installed on Shangri-La and Imperial. Mr. Schwing stated that the county owns the road. Councilman O'Flinn suggested that the school board contact Lee County Department of Transportation and speak with them about splitting the costs of the light. The direction from City Council is to have the school board approach Lee County. City Council would like to have a roundabout considered for the area as well.

[1:43:44 PM](#) Ms. Hunter referenced Item 10 Funding for the EAR amendments. City Council consensus was to budget \$50,000 toward these amendments.

[1:44:44 PM](#) Nicole Perino, Parks and Recreation Director, referenced Item 11 Skatepark repairs. Councilman Forbes suggested 4,000 square feet for \$165,000. Councilman Gibson agreed with Councilman Forbes and suggested a location where the Skatepark can be used any time towards the downtown area and further away from restricted areas. Councilman Slachta expressed concerns about the uses of the Skatepark. Councilwoman Quaremba suggested that the Skatepark would be a lower priority compared to the other Items. City Council consensus was to add \$175,000.

[2:07:13 PM](#) Mayor Simmons referenced Item 13 Enhanced Landscaping. Ms. Hunter stated that there was discussion on having welcome signs on Bonita Beach Road and I-75. Councilman O'Flinn suggested looking holistically at the cost of signs including entrance signs. City Council consensus to include \$60,000.

[2:12:48 PM](#) Mayor Simmons referenced Item 15, City Council consensus was to add \$50,000. Item 16, Councilwoman Quaremba suggested delaying the request.

[2:15:00 PM](#) Ms. Hunter referenced Item 17, Possible donation of land for the Multi-Use Path on Terry

Street. Ms. Hunter explained that the property owners were willing to donate the property and keep the use as a pedestrian/ bicycle pathway. Council consensus was for Ms. Hunter to bring the proposal to the July 20<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

[2:21:24 PM](#) Councilman O’Flinn addressed the Capital Improvement Projects that were placed on hold. He referred to pages 119 and 25.

[2:39:26 PM](#) Councilman O’Flinn would like staff to go back and see where money can be saved. City Council also wanted to look at increasing some of the fees.

[2:42:52 PM](#) Councilwoman Quaremba clarified Councilman O’Finn’s views regarding recuperating the \$5 million.

[2:46:46 PM](#) Councilman Forbes asked about the percentage of people homesteaded.

[2:50:36 PM](#) Councilman O’Flinn suggested some options to regain funds.

[2:51:07 PM](#) Mr. Schwing clarified that the Downtown Improvement Project was not over budget.

[2:53:00 PM](#) Mr. Schwing suggested that Council see the entire budget packet so that the fund allocations are shown. City Council consensus is to clarify the numbers and put in CIP. Councilman Forbes requested for the costs to be listed on one page.

VIII. ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED OPERATING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE FOR 2016 TAX YEAR AND SET DATE FOR THE FIRST REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2016, AT 5:01 P.M.

[2:58:25 PM](#) Councilman Forbes entered a motion to leave the millage rate the same; Councilman Slachta seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

[3:00:03 PM](#) Ms. Wright stated that Special Revenue Funds on page 93 were not covered.

[3:02:08 PM](#) Councilman DeWitt requested an overview of Road Impact Fees and Building Fees from City Attorney Vance and what they can be spent on.

[3:15:12 PM](#) Ms. Perino addressed the splash pad and provided a PowerPoint visual.

[3:17:32 PM](#) Ms. Wright referenced page 105 debt service fund. Councilman DeWitt asked when the 2011 debt services can be paid off to which Ms. Wright answered as early as November of 2016.

[3:20:09 PM](#) Ms. Wright referenced page 117. Councilman O’Flinn stated that his goal is for staff to find \$5 million.

[3:23:08 PM](#) Ms. Wright referred to the agreement with the YMCA that requires \$150,000 but is not in the budget. Councilman DeWitt stated that the funding for the agreement can be pulled from the \$1.9 million.

3:25:35 PM Mr. Schwing stated that the next scheduled budget meeting is the first public workshop for public hearing in September and the budget would need to be adopted before October. He suggested having the budget meeting after the regular August 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.


IX. PUBLIC COMMENT.

3:32:14 PM Rick Steinmeyer stated that the Bonita Beach Improvement Association is a not for profit organization and he wanted to know if there were any funds that would be allocated to not-for-profits. He also suggested that the City of Bonita Springs may be getting too big.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further items to discuss, the budget meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Charlen Wade, HR/ City Clerk Assistant


APPROVED:

BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL:

Date: 8/18/16

AUTHENTICATED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Simmons, Mayor

  
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Debra Filipek, City Clerk