

City Council Budget Meeting
July 28, 2014
9:00 A.M.
Bonita Springs City Hall
Council Chambers
9101 Bonita Beach Road
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Ben Nelson, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

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

III. ROLL CALL.

Mayor Nelson and all Council Members were in attendance.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT.

9:04:18 AM Bob Hilliard was present to ask that Council look at the farmer's market property and consider adding signage and plantings to depict the market location.

9:05:28 AM Martha Simons referred to page 38 and suggested that the \$80,000 depicted for Economic Development be reduced to \$25,000. She stated that she supports Mr. Hilliard's request to enhance the farmer's market property. She further suggested that \$50,000 instead of \$80,000 be budgeted for Historic Preservation. She also informed Council that Kentucky Street Park was in need of maintenance, and suggested that \$10,000 be budgeted for maintenance. She also suggested \$100,000 be budgeted for Cullum's Bonita Trail, and that \$10,000 be budgeted for the street light uniformity program. She also suggested that median landscaping be revised to reflect median and "roadside" landscaping.

9:09:03 AM Fred Forbes feels that there needs to be minimum of \$3 million budgeted for streetscaping. He also feels the need to relook at lighting on Bonita Beach Road. He also urged Council to remove the \$11.4 and the \$2.2 million for the proposed widening of Bonita Beach Road. He also stated that no money has been budgeted for the DR/GR to get the water right, as there's still a lot of work that needs to be done.

9:12:35 AM Carolyn Gallagher, a resident of Cedar Creek, stated that the Citizens Water Strategy Task Force is working towards a solution to the water, and so funding will be needed. She also stated that there is a need to ensure there is funding for work by Kevin Erwin. She supports the City buying the modeling Mr. Erwin has done and completion of this effort.

9:13:59 AM Linda Schwartz stated that funds should be removed for Bonita Beach Road widening, as widening the roads is not consistent with a walkable community. She also addressed the need for funds for roadside and median enhancements. She also wants to ensure there are funds for improvements to Spring Creek.

9:15:57 AM David Gallagher addressed the need for funding for the Citizens Water Strategy Task Force to address forthcoming recommendations by the Task Force.

V. PRESENTATION OF FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN.

9:18:04 AM Lisa Pace, Finance Director, presented the Five Year Financial Plan.

VI. PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 PROPOSED DRAFT BUDGET.

9:29:03 AM City Manager Carl Schwing began by thanking Staff for their work on the budget. He presented the City Manager Budget Memorandum via a PowerPoint presentation. The City of Bonita Springs entails only 5% of the total tax bill. Page 16 reflects the Taxable Property Value, and the Taxable Property Value with respect to the downtown redevelopment area. The estimated taxable value in the downtown redevelopment area has increased by 13.85% over the last year.

9:36:40 AM Finance Director Lisa Pace and Assistant City Manager John Gucciardo next presented the 2014-2015 proposed Draft Budget. They addressed budget highlights, Budget at a Glance, the Budget Summary, and revisions made to the various department cost centers, reserves, the General Fund, etc.

VII. PRESENTATION OF UPDATED SALARY SURVEY.

10:36:37 AM City Manager Schwing introduced the City's Human Resources Manager, Meg Weiss to address this item.

Ms. Weiss introduced Katie Miller-Busch with HR Compensation Consultants LLC, who conducted an additional study, who is present to address changes.

10:37:32 AM Ms. Busch furnished a PowerPoint presentation on the Pay Plan Update Recommendations. She explained that the goal of the study was to address the ability to attract, retain and motivate the right employees in the right jobs, and to address the classification and compensation plans. She also reviewed the City's Performance Evaluation System. The intent is to evaluate the labor market every other year to find out what sort of shifts have occurred and to make recommendations/modifications to pay ranges.

Her general findings were that there have been shifts in the benchmark values that range from 1.7% to 9.3%. Also, that most pay ranges should increase in value. And that most employee pay fits within the ranges. There are 15 employees whose pay is under the new minimum and there are five employees still over the maximum.

10:44:32 AM Council Member Steve McIntosh referred to those employees who are over their maximum pay range and asked if they were eligible to receive performance pay. Ms. Weiss responded yes.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION CONCERNING FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 BUDGET.

A. City Council Member Items for Discussion-see Other Information Tab. (Page 149 of Budget Packet)

10:48:10 AM 1.) Historic Preservation Grant Program: Reestablish program for \$80,000.

Council Member Janet Martin furnished a brief overview, explaining that the Historic Preservation Board has asked her as their liaison to bring this request before Council to bring back the Historic Preservation Grant Program for \$80,000. It's important that funds are available.

Council Member Bill Lonkart motioned the reestablishment of the Historic Grant Program for \$80,000; Council Member Mike Gibson seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

10:48:51 AM 2) Lemon Tree Lot: Landscaping and upgrades to make a part of our park but continue to allow for use as market location. Staff is scheduling a Downtown Revitalization Workshop in the beginning of August and no amounts are currently budgeted for this item.

Council Member Martin addressed this item regarding the Lemon Tree Lot and explained that the request is for a sign to indicate that there is a seasonal farmer's market at that location. She is also requesting some landscaping. City Manager Carl Schwing reminded Council of their August 12, 2014 Downtown Redevelopment Workshop, which will entail numerous components for the entire picture for downtown. He stated that a sign is not an issue in terms of funding, however, there will be some items discussed at the workshop as to whether that particular use should continue in that location. Mayor Nelson stated that he felt that the larger problem at the park was that they were running out of room. He feels there is a need to incorporate that lot as part of the larger plan. He would support looking at that as being all part of one park. Council Member Martin stated that as being in the budget process, she would like the security of Council's support. City Manager Schwing assured Council Member Martin that the sign will go up, as the question regards landscaping.

Council Member Slachta entered a motion to put up signage and install landscaping; Council Member Peter Simmons seconded. Council Member Martin suggested a placeholder for landscaping in the amount of \$10,000. The motion carried unanimously.

10:54:40 AM 3) Bonita Trail: Continue eastward. No future phases are included in the budget.

Council Member Martin addressed this item, stating she would like to see the trail continue eastward. Assistant Manager Gucciardo furnished an update, explaining that Lee County 2020 is not opposed to the City continuing the trail, as their only hesitation in giving permission was that they knew that eventually they wanted to pursue the possibility of rehydrating some of the natural flowways in that area, and they didn't want to give the City permission to spend money for a structure and fixed path that might change. Two items that may be advantageous regarded the work the Citizens Strategy Water Task Force was doing and a recommendation he feels may come out of the Task Force to rehydrate some of the natural flowways around the Kehl Canal. This would result in both the County and the City having an interest in doing that. Also, the City's Public Works Director has also had conversations with the Lee County Department of Natural Resources and other County departments on the work they do jointly for NPDES. That could also be something the City does for water quality and gets credits, and the County is also aware of the possibility of a joint project. He further explained, noting it's probably one to two years out, however, he was confident the idea of extending the trail would be easier to do.

Council Member Martin questioned working on the trail on the other side meanwhile, from Carpenter Lane. Mr. Gucciardo responded by addressing concerns with gaps. Staff to look at that to see where they are and to see if the climate has changed in terms of working with the property owners to get access. Staff to research the feasibility of continuing the trail in both directions.

10:59:51 AM 4) Conservation Fund for Land Acquisition: Council Member Martin motioned for Staff to research and find a way to dedicate a funding source for the acquisition of conservation lands within the City; Council Member McIntosh seconded. Staff to also identify lands that would be part of that. The motion carried unanimously.

11:02:39 AM 5 & 6 addressed together 5) Beach Access Acquisition and Parking: Funding requested with no amount specified; and 6) Land Acquisition with Water Access: Funding of \$100,000 requested and no funds budgeted.

Council Member Martin addressed this item, which is part of her vision for the City in relation to the need for beach and water access and parking. Mayor Nelson agreed it's something they need to work towards in that if there's a piece of property adjacent to another access that becomes available to create more parking. Council Member Slachta motioned for \$100,000 to be included in the budget as a place holder only for items 5 and 6; Council Member Gibson seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

11:10:25 AM 7) Downtown Revitalization: Continue funding and focus. Budget currently includes \$16,000,000 for Downtown Redevelopment Area Improvements and \$50,000 has been included in the General Fund.

Council Member Martin addressed this item, and the need for a crosswalk or traffic calming device on Old 41 Road, near Bonita Drive. Council Member Martin entered a motion for a crosswalk. Assistant

Manager Gucciardo stated that was something he may be able to add to the potential list of CDBG projects since crosswalks are part of public infrastructure if in the pre-designated geographic area. Mayor Nelson suggested also adding a cross-walk near Shangri-La per numerous requests he received from Bonita Springs Elementary.

11:13:33 AM Dog Park: Improvements requested for walking trails, neighborhood sized tot lot and gopher tortoise preserve area with boardwalks and educational signage. No additional funding for the dog park is included in the budget.

Council Member Martin addressed this item, and the vision for a Phase 2 with a community tot lot and a small playground for those who live in that area. It was also funding for a fitness walk to go through the back of the property. It's something she would like to see get approved and tied into the project now. Ms. Perino stated they can't tie it to the existing construction as those agreements are approved. Council Member Martin stated that this next phase would be in next year's budget, however, it would nice to have it earmarked to go. Ms. Perino stated that she did receive cost estimates on a tot lot of \$25,000. To complete the asphalt path around the medium and large dog area and connecting all the way to Bonita Drive would be approximately \$30,000, pending no gopher tortoises are found. They would have to do it after completion of the dog park in the fall. It was designed in the original design plan, however, it wasn't included because of costs. It would be \$25,000 for the tot lot and \$30,000 for completion of the asphalt paths.

Council Member Martin motioned \$60,000 to complete the project; Council Member Gibson seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

11:17:15 AM 9) Natural Gas powered Vehicles: Bonita Springs Utilities (BSU) has the facilities and a possibility to share resources may exist. BSU is scheduling a follow-up study this fall to evaluate their program results and its future.

Council Member McIntosh addressed item 9, informing Council of discussions he had with the City Parks and Recreation Director regarding the potential of creating natural gas powered vehicles, as BSU has done. Ms. Perino furnished an overview, explaining that the issue regards the costs involved. Her budget request was for a Ford F150 truck for their additional Staff person, which cannot be retrofitted for natural gas. It would require them to purchase an F250 and the kit to retrofit it, which costs \$10,000. There are currently no vehicles that utilize natural gas. They would also have to put in a fill station. The Ford Motor Company is coming out with their own natural gas vehicles next year.

Council Member McIntosh explained that this is something the City can start thinking about for Code Enforcement and Community Development vehicles. He would like the City to transition to alternative fuels as new vehicles are purchased. He also suggested waiting to hear BSU's evaluation results.

11:24:03 AM 10) Electronic Notification of Vendor Proposals: Staff has begun researching software for a vendor notification system that can be implemented on the City website.

Council Member McIntosh addressed this item, informing Council of questions he receives from various vendors on the process, why they weren't accepted, etc. His request to Staff was to look at this and to have a standard that would apply to everyone with an easy way to get that information. To provide transparency and equity for contractors. Lora Taylor, Communications Manager, explained that they have been doing some research for this type of software implementation for the website. It's a multi-departmental project that will take some intricate programming. Staff feels this will be helpful, and would like additional time to research it. They are looking at a cost of \$35,000.

11:25:42 AM Council Member McIntosh entered a motion to include \$35,000 in the budget; Council Member Gibson seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Additional Item: Water Tower near Liles Hotel.

11:27:04 AM Assistant Manager Gucciardo informed Council of an expenditure that may be forthcoming involving the water tower near the Liles Hotel. The tower is not in good shape and may have to be torn down and completely repaired.

A short break taken.

11:42:10 AM The meeting reconvened at 11:42 A.M.

ADDITIONAL ITEM:

11:42:33 AM Council Member Martin stated that she wants to make sure they continue to fund the City-wide landscaping project. She also suggested adding to the line definition the word "roadside" and median landscaping. She also wants to make sure that funds for landscaping for projects that have not been completed roll over into the budget. She also addressed the Arroyal Road pond project and the FDOT grant they were applying for, to which funds have been allocated. She wants to make sure this is still going forward.

She also referred to Leitner Creek Park funding line, which she thought was going to be self-sufficient. Ms. Perino explained that the reason for the funds shown was because the City is required to fix any major issues that occur per the Agreement.

Council Member Martin addressed lightning rods on the buildings. Ms. Perino explained that those were lightning detection systems. There is not one at the beach. She explained that what Mr. Gucciardo was referring to was lightning protection for City buildings; not detection, but protection. She explained that Marnie fields does not have one because they are under the power lines, and there isn't a building on which to install it. There are lightning detection devices

installed at the soccer complex, the baseball fields, the skate park, the community pool and at the Bandshell.

11:46:20 AM Council Member Martin next addressed the implementation of recommendations made by the Citizens Water Strategy Task Force and asked if funds were available. City Manager Schwing responded that Council is welcome to create a line item, however, page 24 includes a reservation of \$1.383 million for water quality improvement projects. Once the Task Force comes forward with recommendations they will create a line item and include a specific amount that will come out of those reserved funds.

11:48:24 AM Council Member Martin suggested some funds for the City's Streetlight Committee to start looking into a program to implement some type of street light uniformity program to ensure a more unified look with streetlights. Assistant Manager Gucciardo addressed the current process with FPL. Council Member Martin suggested the Committee conduct an inventory of the number of lights that would be needed and what it would cost to know how much they would need to budget per year to retrofit them. Council Member Gibson suggested an on-going program and do so many per year.

Council Member Martin motioned to begin a fund with \$10,000 to begin with to start getting some of the older lights addressed. Assistant Manager Gucciardo stated that the Committee is given \$5,000 annually. This would be in addition to that \$5,000 budgeted. It would be for a certain amount of funds to be earmarked as a proactive replacement plan of substandard lights - \$5,000 for the additional street lighting, and \$10,000 for the proactive replacement program. Council Member Gibson seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

11:54:46 AM Council Member Martin next addressed the possibility of the kiddie splash pad area, which she would like to see move forward now. Ms. Perino explained that the costs for a kiddie splash area is \$375,000 and would require additional staffing. Funds are reflected in next year's budget. Council Member Martin motioned that funds for the kiddie splash pad be moved to this year's budget; Council Member Gibson seconded. Ms. Perino to come back with the fiscal costs involved, i.e., construction, bidding time. After further discussion, Council consensus to wait to Council's next budget meeting when they are furnished with all the associated costs. Council Member Martin withdrew her motion to allow Staff to come back with all fiscal costs to allow for a more informed decision. Council consensus to include a placeholder in this year's budget. Ms. Pace clarified direction to take the \$375,000 capital cost out of FY 2015-2016 and move it to FY 2014-2015, with the additional information to the General Fund Operational Impact to be provided to Council at their September 4, 2104 budget meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

11:59:57 AM Council Member Slachta referred to landscaping from Barefoot Beach heading north on Hickory Boulevard, informing Council that the Bonita Beach Improvement Association is willing to provide \$10,000. He requested \$10,000 be budgeted for landscaping for Barefoot Beach North. Council Member Slachta motioned to include \$10,000 for

Barefoot Beach North landscaping; Council Member Simmons seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

12:01:40 PM Council Member Slachta next referred to funding for the widening of Bonita Beach Road and motioned to remove funding for the widening of Bonita Beach Road from Old 41 Road to U.S. 41; Council Member Martin seconded. Ms. Pace explained that funds were currently in the FY 2019-2020 budget. The motion carried 5-2 (Mayor Nelson and Council Member McIntosh opposed).

12:10:06 PM Council Member Simmons entered a motion for \$100,000 as a placeholder to hire a firm to create a vision for Bonita Beach Road for street beautification - a grand vision; Council Member Gibson seconded; and the motion carried 6-1 (Mayor Nelson opposed).

12:15:33 PM Council Member Gibson referred to West Terry Street improvements on page 142. Matt Feeney, Public Works Director, responded. Staff is looking at what can be done for mobility as a whole per direction received at the Strategic Planning Session.

12:22:26 PM Council Member Lonkart expressed his support of setting the millage rate at .8173. He is also in agreement with all suggestions made today.

12:24:02 PM Council Member Lonkart addressed membership fees at City facilities and the consideration of increasing membership fees. Ms. Perino explained that currently there are 1,400 members. She further explained.

12:33:07 PM Council Member Lonkart next addressed Lee Tran and \$171,000 the City was paying, which is now at \$190,000, which includes \$19,000 for the shelters. The City pays \$1,358,412 into the General Fund for Lee County for Lee Tran. He further explained, and suggested that the City not pay the \$190,000 this year. Assistant Manager Gucciardo responded, addressing decisions made by previous Council and the two routes that were now in operation. Removing funds would impact both routes, which he addressed. Council Member McIntosh, Mayor Nelson and Council Member Slachta spoke opposed to removing any funds from Lee Tran. No action taken.

B. Fund Balance Allocation.

IX. ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED OPERATING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE FOR 2014 TAX YEAR AND SET DATE FOR THE FIRST REQUIRED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2014, AT 5:01 P.M.

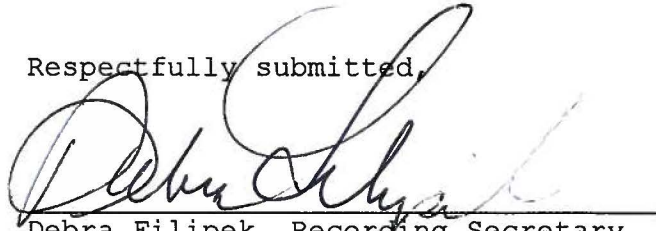
12:46:54 PM Council Member Martin motioned to set the millage rate at .8173; Council Member Slachta seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT. No members of the public were present.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:48 P.M.

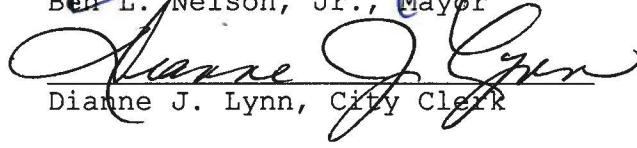
Respectfully submitted,


Debra Filipek, Recording Secretary

APPROVED:
BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL:

Date: 8-6-14
AUTHENTICATED: _____


Ben L. Nelson, Jr., Mayor


Dianne J. Lynn, City Clerk