

MINUTES
2nd BUDGET WORKSHOP &
2nd MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2012
6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ralph Moore, Councilmembers Angelette Mealing, Shirley Jackson, Brian Jones, and Vince Williams, City Attorney Dennis Davenport, City Manager Steve Rapson and Assistant City Clerk Tameca P. White

Absent: City Clerk Jacqueline R. Cossey

CALL TO ORDER

The Budget and Millage Rate meeting was called to order by Mayor Moore.

1. Council to consider the 2nd Millage Rate Public Hearing and 2nd Budget Workshop.

Steve Rapson recapped from the last millage hearing and budget workshop. He stated that there is one more meeting on August 21st at 7:30 am and 7:00 pm. There is a tentative meeting for August 28th if needed.

Mr. Rapson stated that the millage rate is increasing to the rollback millage rate which is 10.598. He stated that this will get us less in property taxes than last year, but it is similar to what was done last year. We will increase the millage rate, even though it is not a property tax increase. Mr. Rapson referred to the slideshow which he stated compares us to surrounding municipalities and shows Union City less than the other municipalities.

Mr. Rapson referred to the slideshow that showed options for the jail. He stated that as discussed in the last meeting, the option to refund and refinance the jail will retain the ownership, correction budget, staffing and true-up the loans and the shortfalls and will put us at a breaking point with the jail. He continued that we have negotiated the medical service contract that will go into effect in September and redirect the \$389,000 COPS to be funded out of the General Fund. The eight jail positions will remain vacant, which leaves it at minimum staff, but safe.

Mr. Rapson stated that he was asking for guidance from the Council to inform financial advisors to continue with all the prep work, such as, the preliminary official statement and the meetings for rate agencies. He stated that this way with anticipation that the budget will be approved on the 21st, we will not lose the week of prep work between now and when the budget is actually adopted on the August 21st. He stated that typically we would submit packages and the rate agencies would have a meeting before the end of August, then go before the Jail Authority and get the bond resolution approved for the financing. He continued that the dates tie back to Council's normal meeting dates.

Mr. Rapson continued with the slideshow and stated that we are taking the internal loans and the operating deficit, and rolling it into the existing revenue bonds while making co-provisions, restructuring it and taking the debt payments to get a long term solution for the jail.

As a final recap, Mr. Rapson stated that the budget, as it exists, calls for no property tax increase and no reduction in service delivery. He stated that we have balanced new revenues with new expenditures coming in and this all provides some breathing room and a long term solution for the jail. Mr. Rapson concluded by asking if there were any questions.

Councilman Brian Jones asked if the Clean and Lien Program was in conjunction with those that pick up the Wal-Mart shopping carts.

Mr. Rapson replied that we have Clean and Lien, Clean and Secure and other programs. He continued that all those programs are funded out of our solid waste program. Some of them may be moved over to the stormwater program.

Councilman Jones asked if they go out once a week.

Mr. Rapson stated that they pick up the carts on a daily basis. He informed Council that we have an agreement with Wal-mart and the security people to come and pick them up from us, or we store them and when we get a bunch of them, we call Wal-mart and they come pick them up.

Mayor Moore inquired that if it was possible to ask MARTA if they would sub their services to us so we can clean around the bus stops. He stated that it is getting bad.

Mr. Rapson agreed that the MARTA Park and Ride is horrible and that it is not just the trash, it is actually the infrastructure. He stated that we are trying to set up a meeting with MARTA. He informed Council that he believes they have cut back some of their services and now instead of picking it up every day, they are picking it up once a week. He stated that we have brought this to their attention and he thinks Sylvester is trying to set up a meeting with them so we can come up with a solution.


Mayor Moore stated that if they would pay us, we could sub out the work.


Mr. Rapson stated that we could certainly ask if they are willing to do an IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement).

Mayor Moore inquired about the printing and binding for each department. He asked if it is cheaper to do it in-house or if it is not something we are capable of doing.

Mr. Rapson responded that we rarely go outside to third parties for printing and binding. He stated that we do it in-house unless it is a big job and then we look at it on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Rapson.


Tameca P. White, Assistant City Clerk


Ralph Moore, Mayor