



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
NEPTUNE BEACH CITY HALL
116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA 32266

Pursuant to proper notice, a Special City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Neptune Beach City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266.

Attendance:	IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Elaine Brown Vice Mayor Kerry Chin Councilor Lauren Key Councilor Nia Livingston Councilor Josh Messinger	STAFF: City Attorney Zachary Roth City Manager Richard Pike Community Development Director Heather Whitmore Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun Sergeant Liam Toal Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore City Clerk Catherine Ponson
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Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge	Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Messinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.
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ORDINANCES

Ord. No. 2023-07, Millage Rate	<u>Ordinance No. 2023-07, New Final Read and Public Hearing.</u> An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Adopting a Final Millage Rate and Levying Ad Valorem Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; Setting Forth Certain Information Regarding "Rolled-Back Rate"; Directing the City Manager to Adjust the Adopted Millage Rate in the Event of Changes in the Assessment Roll and Taxable Value; and Providing an Effective Date.
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Mayor Brown explained both ordinances are being reheard to correct a previous error.

Public Hearing	Mayor Brown opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.
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Made by Messinger, seconded by Key.

MOTION: **TO READOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; SETTING FORTH CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING "ROLLED-BACK RATE"; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ADJUST THE ADOPTED MILLAGE RATE IN THE EVENT OF CHANGES IN THE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND TAXABLE VALUE ON NEW AND FINAL READ**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Key, Livingston, Messinger, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Ord. No. 2023-08,
FY24 Budget

Ordinance No. 2023-08, New Final Read and Public Hearing. An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Adopting a Final Budget and Appropriating Funds for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024; and Providing an Effective Date

Public Comment

Mayor Brown opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, the public hearing was closed.

Made by Key, seconded by Messinger.

MOTION: **TO READOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AT NEW AND FINAL READ**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5- Livingston, Messinger, Key, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

St. Johns County
Utilities Continuing
Services Contract
with Gruhn May,
Inc.

St. Johns County Utilities Continuing Services Contract with Gruhn May, Inc. Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun stated an equalization basin allows wastewater flow to be fed to the treatment process at a consistent flow rate rather than subjecting the process to the morning and evening peak flows associated with customer water usage. Currently the equalization basin only routes to Plant 2. This project will connect Plant 1 as well.

Staff has identified a continuing services contract with St. Johns County Utilities and Gruhn May, Inc. for utility-related services. Gruhn May has provided an estimate of \$38,482.32 for this proposed work. Due to unknowns associated with excavating on the wastewater plant site, staff suggests a contingency be included.

Made by Messinger, seconded by Livingston.

MOTION: **TO APPROVE THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY UTILITIES CONTINUING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH GRUHN MAY, INC.**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Messinger, Key, Livingston, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Routing of
Wastewater
Equalization Basin

Routing of Wastewater Equalization Basin to Plant 1. Mr. Calhoun explained this request is to award up to \$45,000, which includes the contingency of approximately 16%.

Made by Messinger, seconded by Chin.

MOTION: **TO AWARD THE ROUTING OF WASTEWATER EQUALIZATION BASIN TO PLANT 1 TO GRUHN MAY, INC. IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.00**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Key, Livingston, Messinger, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Wastewater Plant Outfall Upgrades Reimbursement to the City of Atlantic Beach for Upgrades to Wastewater Plant Outfall Pipeline. Mr. Calhoun reported that Neptune Beach shares a common wastewater effluent outfall with Atlantic Beach and Jacksonville Beach. An interlocal agreement governs responsibilities for various pipe segments, including maintenance costs. This request is for Neptune Beach's share of upgrades to pipe segment as defined in the interlocal agreement.

Made by Messinger, seconded by Key.

MOTION: **TO APPROVE THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$55,568.19 TO THE CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH FOR UPRADES TO THE WASTEWATER PLANT OUTFALL PIPELINE**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5- Livingston, Messinger, Key, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Brown announced that there would be a town hall meeting regarding the improvements that are being recommended for Penman Road by the City of Jacksonville in January.

Public Comments Dave Hart, 1980 Penman Road, Neptune Beach, commented on the lighting on Penman Road. He mentioned all the lighting in Neptune Beach seems dark. He added that something needs to be done about the misuse of electric bicycles in the city. He also commended the Neptune Beach Police Department on their professionalism during a recent situation.

Thomas Gibbon, 1707 Forest Avenue, Neptune Beach, spoke regarding electric bicycles speeding in his area. He commented on the poor condition of the water fountains in Jarboe Park. He pointed out his property taxes had increased. He thought the Home stead Act stated they could not be increased more than three percent per year or CPI. His increased at least 13%. He stated that some of the increase is schools, but when you extract that, the millage rate must have increased. He questioned where the money is going.

Adjournment There being no further business, the Special Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.


Elaine Brown, Mayor

City Attorney Zachary Roth reported that three years ago, the law was changed to treat e-bikes the same as bicycles rather than as motorized vehicles. The legislature has prohibited municipalities from regulating their use on sidewalks. It was last year that municipalities were given back the right to prohibit e-bikes on the beach, which Neptune Beach did immediately. There is nothing the City, can do other than lobbying representatives.

Councilor Key suggested placing a QR code that could be scanned in places around Jarboe Park to report things they see that need attention.

Councilor Key also offered to speak to the citizen, [from the previous meeting], regarding the tax issue as there is information to share.

Mr. Roth clarified that the three percent cap is on assessed value and has nothing to do with the millage rate.

Councilor Key added that only 18 cents of every dollar stays in Neptune Beach. The rest is sent to COJ. Creative ways have been made to keep taxes in the City as well as opening up the Interlocal Agreement to retain more tax dollars.


Vice Mayor Chin commented that Penman Road is a City of Jacksonville Road. Anything that happens must be in coordination with them. It could also require the participation of Beaches Energy. He pointed out that the lighting could be brought up at the town hall meeting in January. When the master planning is done and actually doing the work on rehabilitating Penman Road, that would be a good time to switch out the lighting to something that is more illuminating

Councilor Messinger pointed out that the millage rate stayed the same as last year. The City does have creative funding in place, including paid parking. While the first three hours are free for residents, it is a significant monetary generator for those visiting the community, which goes to maintenance costs in the Beaches Town Center and other areas. When trying to generate new funding sources, we could do a better job of communicating that.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the workshop meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk


Elaine Brown, Mayor



Approved: 01/02/2024