

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Public Budget Hearing September 21, 2023

The Lakeland City Commission met for the Second Public Budget Hearing in the City Commission Chambers. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Sara McCarley, Mike Musick, and Samuel Simmons were present. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, City Attorney Palmer Davis, Assistant Finance Director Deidra Joseph, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 P.M.

PRESENTATIONS

Proposed FY2024 Annual City Budget, City Manager Shawn Sherrouse

City Manager Shawn Sherrouse first provided answers to questions from the previous (9/7) hearing.

Gina Jacobi came forward to answer questions about purchased power. She explained the difference in costs of purchase power and generated power. There was about a \$10 difference between the two. It does vary year to year depending on the weather when the units are in outage.

Mark Farrington explained how many employees were affected by the pay study. 139 employees would receive a market adjustment.

Shawn Sherrouse then gave a brief overview of the budget and asked for questions.

- Timeline
- Assumptions
- Strategic Planning Target Areas
- Budget Investments and Adjustments
- Proposed Commission Initiatives
- Pie Charts for Revenues and Expenses
- 7% property tax
- 70% charges for services
- Millage Adoption
- Questions

Mayor Bill Mutz asked the Commission for questions. There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (Second Reading)

Ordinance 6001; Proposed 23-034; Ad Valorem Millage Rate for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO AD VALOREM TAXATION; ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF LAKE LAND, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES; FINDING THE MILLAGE RATE IS 8.58% GREATER THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title. The proposed rate was 8.58% greater than the rollback rate. He also reviewed required changes to the ordinance: Section 2: the word tentative needs to be deleted. Section 5: the word tentative needs to be deleted. The proposed rate was 5.4323 mills.

Motion: Commissioner Bill Read moved to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Samuel Simmons, Mike Musick, Sara McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-seven. Nays-zero. The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 6002; Proposed 23-035; Appropriations; Budget for 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF MONIES FOR THE CITY OF LAKE LAND, FLORIDA, FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Samuel Simmons seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience. The Commission discussed:

Commissioner Bill Read wanted to move the \$1 Million from affordable housing to the new fire station. He made a motion to amend the motion to approve but it failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden asked what moving the \$1 Million from the general fund would do to the Days Cash on Hand (DCoH). It would drop 3 days in FY24.

The station at the airport (Station 7) was approximately \$7 Million. That would not be typical for a residential fire station. There was no charge for the land.

The Commission discussed marking additional funds for a new fire station on the northside as a positive message for the community.

Motion to Amend: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to allocate \$1 Million out of surplus for the fire station. Commissioner Sara McCarley seconded.

The Commission debated the issue and the effect on the DCoH. The City had a total of \$3.8 Million earmarked for the fire station.

Commissioner Chad McLeod clarified Commissioner Mike Musick wanted to maintain the flexibility. The budget does show our commitment to a new fire station.

Commissioner Mike Musick explained where it is really going to matter is how the Commission votes when we have land to purchase.

Commissioner Samuel Simmons agreed with Commissioner Mike Musick and Commissioner Chad McLeod. He wanted the public to know the Commission was in favor of a new station.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the audience on the amendment to move \$1 Million from surplus. There were no comments.

Action on Amendment: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote on the amendment and the motion failed 3-4.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote on the original motion to approve the ordinance. Upon roll call vote Commissioners Samuel Simmons, Mike Musick, Sara McCarley, Stephanie Madden, Chad McLeod, Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Commissioner Bill Read voted nay. Ayes-six. Nays-one. The motion carried.

City Commission Set Compensation

Palmer Davis explained that the Charter now granted the City Commission the same Across the Board (ATB) increase afforded to the general employees. If they Commission want to increase their salary beyond that, they would have to first open a public hearing.

Action: Commissioner Bill Read moved to approve the ATB. Commissioner Samuel Simmons seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION - None

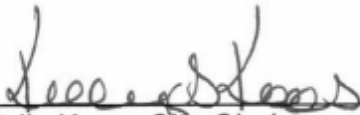
AUDIENCE – None

Shawn Sherrouse thanked the Commission on behalf of the employees. The employees have supported the growth without adding staff. He appreciated the Commission's support on behalf of the employees. We should not go as long between market rate studies. Now that this one is in place, we should do one every 3 years. It will be less costly to complete.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT - 6:45 pm



H. William Mutz, Mayor



Kelly Koos, City Clerk

