



**CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE
SPECIAL MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 9, 2008**

Pursuant to due notice the Special Meeting for Public Hearing was held in the auditorium at the Pahokee High School at 900 Larrimore Rd., Pahokee, Palm Beach County, Florida on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

Mayor Wayne Whitaker called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M. Invocation was led by Mayor Whitaker followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Mayor Wayne Whitaker	Present
	Vice Mayor Keith Babb	Present
	Commissioner Allie Biggs	Present @ 6:44 p.m.
	Commissioner Henry Crawford	Present
	Commissioner Diane Walker	Present @ 6:44 p.m.
	City Manager Matthew Brock	Present
	City Attorney Mimi McAndrews	Absent
	Sgt. At Arms Lt. Alonso	Absent
	Deputy City Clerk Susan Feltner	Present

Approval of Agenda:

Approval of the Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Crawford. Second by Vice Mayor Babb.

Motion carried.

Mayor Whitaker advises Deputy City Clerk Feltner that Commissioner Biggs and Commissioner Walker are on their way, they had attended a meeting regarding the Inland Port in West Palm.

Receive and File Public Notice.

Deputy City Clerk Feltner reads into record:

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PAHOKEE CITY COMMISSION WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M., OR SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE, AT THE PAHOKEE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS:

FISCAL YEARS 2008-2009 PROPOSED MILLAGE & TENTATIVE BUDGET

Accept Public Notice of Special Meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Crawford. Second by Vice Mayor Babb.

Motion carried.

Percentage of Decrease in Millage Over Rolled Back Rate:

Finance Director Moore reads into record:

“On July 31, 2008, the City Manager executed a Certification of Taxable Value known as DR-420 and the Maximum Millage Levy Calculation Preliminary Disclosure known as DR-420MM-P. Palm Beach County Property Appraiser had provided notification of estimated Taxable Value and Net New Construction. In accordance with Truth in Millage TRIM Bill, the Commission shall hold a public hearing to adopt the tentative budget, and adopt a tentative millage rate. As stipulated in the TRIM Bill, the first substantive issue to be discussed shall be the adoption of the current millage rate of 7.05 necessary to fund the proposed budget. Adopting the millage rate of 7.05 which is below the rolled back rate of 7.3852 requires a majority vote from the Commission. The City of Pahokee’s Decrease in Millage over the Rolled Back Rate is negative 4.54 percent. Fiscal Year 2008-2009 rolled back taxes are \$710,205 and Fiscal Year 2008-2009 proposed taxes are \$677,970 with 95% budgeted as per standard governmental practices. Fiscal Year 2008-2009 proposed decrease is \$32, 235 and Fiscal Year 2008-2009 rolled back rate was 7.3852. Fiscal Year 2008-2009 proposed millage rate is 7.050 and Fiscal Year 2008-2009 proposed millage is 7.050. Fiscal Year 2008-2009 proposed millage increase is 0.03 and 2008-2009 rolled back rate is 7.3852. The Tentative Budget Comparison by Fund showed a Total Budget of \$7,918,215 for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 with a 7.020 millage rate, and a Total Proposed Budget of \$7,474,618 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 with a 7.050 millage rate. The 2008-2009 decrease from the 2007-2008- Budget showed a Budget decrease of \$443,597 with 0.030 millage increase.

Approve Resolution 2008-68

Motion by Vice Mayor Babb. Second by Commissioner Crawford.

Motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Feltner reads into record:

Resolution 2008-68- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, FIXING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 ON ALL TAXABLE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TO PROVIDE FOR GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, AND DECLARING A TAX LEVY UPON SAID PROPERTY.

Approve Percent Decrease in Millage

Motion by Vice Mayor Babb. Second by Commissioner Crawford.

Motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Feltner reads into record:

Resolution 2008-69 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO FINANCES, PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION AND FUNDING OF THE TENTATIVE MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,474,618 OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Approval of Resolution 2008-69

Motion by Commissioner Crawford. Second for discussion by Vice Mayor Babb.

Finance Director Moore advises Commission that he must read into record:

“The 2008-2009 proposed millage rate of 7.050 is .03 mills above the 2007-2008 millage rate, as compared to the rolled back rate of 7.3852. The City’s Percentage Decrease in Millage over the rolled back rate is negative 4.54%. We are also proposing to move the fixed assets threshold from \$500.00 to \$5,000.00.”

City Manager Brock speaking, inaudible, not at a microphone.

Vice Mayor Babb stated:

- Has not had opportunity to go line by line.
- Have some concerns regarding this budget.
- Commission approved travel allowance for Commission, inquires of City Manager and Finance Director, “What was the reason that it wasn’t included in budget?”

City Manager Brock speaking, inaudible, not at microphone.

Vice Mayor Babb continues:

- In a tight budget year, why not cut out all the travel allowances.
- City Manager receives \$4,800. Understands that it was part of the contract.
- Why does the Clerk and Finance Director receive travel allowances?
- Finance Director Mr. Moore has done an outstanding job.
- Need to make some hard decisions.
- Staff here 3-4 years, salaries are higher than employees who have been here 18-20 years.
- There have been staff cuts in each department.
- Not satisfied with this budget.
- Do not feel we should be paying all these travel allowances.

Finance Director Moore states:

- Travel allowances in Finance Department cover all employees.
- An example, occupational licenses, employee must receive training.
- One employee, one trip can cost up to \$1,000.
- Finance Director does receive \$350 per month, \$4,200 per year as part of their salary

Commissioner Crawford stated:

- Maybe Commission could not get \$330 -\$400 for travel
- Commissioners travel a lot
- Not complaining, hasn't seen an increase on the Commissioner's side since 1983-1984.
- Commissioners take trips to Orlando, Tallahassee, all related to city business.
- If anybody should be compensated, with the low wages we receive, we should be compensated for travel.
- Been on several trips where we spent money out of our pockets for the hotel and meals.
- We are not trying to get more money.
- Concurs with Vice Mayor Babb, Commission approved travel allowance for Commission, but to leave it out of the budget with no explanation is not acceptable.

Vice Mayor Babb stated:

- At this late stage not advocating for travel allowances
- But if not in the Commissioner's budget, why is it in all the other budgets?
- Everyone needs to be treated the same.

Finance Director Moore stated:

- When discussing the \$4,200 that I receive, it is part of my salary.
- Would have preferred it being placed in the salary.
- For it to be taken, would be taking from my salary.
- Do not know why, but that is how former city manager Ms. Latimore set it up.

Vice Mayor Babb stated:

- When comparing to other cities, even department heads in other cities are taking percentage reductions.
- Sometimes just need to show good judgment.

Finance Director Moore stated:

- When we got into the budget, we were over \$1 million short.
- Staff met on several occasions and cut many things including positions in order to balance the budget.

Commissioner Crawford stated:

- Did not see how we could make it.
- City Manager and Directors did a good job.

Mayor Whitaker stated:

- Manager and staff bent over backward to make this budget balance.
- Will have to tweak it along the road, there will be some changes.
- Already changes by bringing back some people on payroll in roads & streets because we cannot do without them.
- One thing about the impression on the per diem for the commission, after that vote, nobody heard anything about it
- We are trying to lead this city, it seems as what were telling you is falling on deaf ears.
- In the future I believe that we should at least talk about it.

Vice Mayor Babb stated:

- Knew we could not afford it.
- Staff did not even bring a memo back.
- None of the staff that is really responsible for the budget made any major personal sacrifice, example salaries or benefits.

Finance Director Moore stated:

- The former city manager agreed to pay my vehicle insurance as part of my salary.
- That has been removed from the budget. I will not receive that this year.
- Not opposed to cutting salaries as long as you do it fairly and equitably across the board.

Mayor Whitaker calls for roll call for Resolution 2008-69

Approval of Resolution 2008-69

Motion carried.

Deputy City Clerk Feltner reads into record:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPTION OF FINAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009.

Approve Announcement of Public Hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Walker. Second by Commissioner Biggs

Commissioner Crawford calls for discussion.

Discussion - Announcement of Public Hearing

Commissioner Crawford stated:

- We have recommendations from staff of the possibility of moving the meetings back to the cafeteria.
- There is more lighting.
- Restrooms are available inside.
- Do not have to walk all the way around the building regarding handicap accessibility.
- Cafeteria is newly renovated.
- Can be accessed from front or back.

Commissioner Biggs stated:

- With Everglades Preparatory leasing the facility
- Possibility of conflict for scheduling times.

Parks & Recreation Director Crawford advises that there is no conflict with scheduling city meetings in the cafeteria.

Deputy City Clerk Feltner reads amended Announcement of Public Hearing into record:

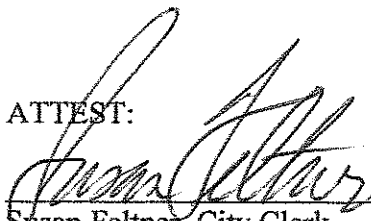
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE CITY OF PAHOKEE RECREATIONAL FACILITY CAFETERIA, RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND ADOPTION OF FINAL MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009.


**Approve Amended Announcement of Public Hearing.
Motion by Commissioner Walker. Second by Commissioner Biggs.
Motion Carried.**

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

ATTEST:



Susan Feltner, City Clerk



Wayne Whitaker, Mayor