PORT ORANGE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP of the City of Port Orange was called to order by Mayor Donald O. Burnette at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Silent Invocation

Roll Call: PRESENT: Councilman Chase Tramont
Councilman Drew Bastian
Councilman Scott Stiltner
Vice Mayor Bob Ford
Mayor Donald Burnette

ALSO PRESENT: Jake Johansson, City Manager
Matthew Jones, Deputy City Attorney
Robin Fenwick, City Clerk

ACTION ITEMS

4. Resolution No. 17-43 - Stormwater Fee Increase

Mayor Burnette read Resolution No. 17-43.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-43

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PORT ORANGE, VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A RATE INCREASE FOR THE ANNUAL STORMWATER UTILITY FEES IMPOSED BY THE CITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 74, SECTIONS 156-164 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES; DESCRIBING THE UNIT OF MEASUREMENT FOR THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEES; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION OF THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEES PURSUANT TO THE TAX BILL COLLECTION METHOD AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 197.3632, FLORIDA STATUTES; APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SUCH FEES; DIRECTING CERTIFICATION OF SUCH ROLL TO THE VOLUSIA COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 17-43 was made by Councilman Bastian, and Seconded by Councilman Stiltner.

Jake Johansson, City Manager, explained the request for an increase of the Stormwater Fee. Property owners currently pay $100 per year and the request is a $20.00 per ERU per year increase.

Ronnie Buttrum, Interim Assistant Public Works Director, provided an overview as to the storm system for the City.

Tracey Riehm, Finance Director, discussed the purpose of the meeting being an increase of the Stormwater Fee from $100 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to $120 per ERU. She also described the history of the rate and increases to the rate, the timeline for this public hearing, and the current year forecasts, along with budget details. Drainage issues and progress was also discussed. Mr. Johansson provided a map showing each of the drainage projects needing funding.

Councilman Stiltner spoke to several residents who thought it was an increase of $120 rather than a $20 increase based on the letter sent to residents. He supports a flat rate fee like the stormwater fee to fund projects of this nature. He asked for an explanation as to the restrictions on the funds that are collected. Ms. Riehm provided the explanation that the funds are used to storage, retention, treatment, and disposal of stormwater only. It is not eligible to be used on other items. The fee also covers the administrative costs of the fund but does not include other water systems such as the reclaimed, wastewater, or drinking water systems.

Councilman Bastian asked what the value of the infrastructure is that needs to be maintained by the City. Ms. Riehm will provide the value that is listed in the CAFR.

Vice Mayor Ford agreed the projects need to be done to help prevent flooding in the City and supported the increase. He would like to see gradual increases in the future rather than larger increases.

Councilman Tramont supported the fee because it maintains the City's assets. He supports the master plan but suggested delaying the final phase and only raising the fee 10% this year and another 10% next year. Mayor Burnette would entertain that idea if the drainage fund was already fully funded, but the general fund supplements it.

Mayor Burnette mentioned property values decreasing because of flooding issues and the decrease of flood insurance because of the projects that have been completed by the City.

Mr. Johansson discussed the need to have "shovel-ready" projects to submit to the State for funding.

Citizens spoke regarding their concerns and support of the increase and the level of service being received. Discussion was held to review the methodology of the assessment calculation.

Citizens expressed concerns regarding mosquito control ditches. Mr. Johansson will have Staff work with the County regarding maintenance of those ditches.

Motion failed 2-3 by roll call vote with Councilman Stiltner, and Vice Mayor Ford, and Mayor Burnette voting no.

Motion to approve a 15% Stormwater Fee increase was made by Councilman Tramont, and Seconded by Councilman Bastian. Motion carried 3-2 by roll call vote with Councilman Stiltner and Vice Mayor Ford voting no.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Debris Management Plan-Private Property Debris Removal

Jordan Guido, Emergency Management Coordinator, described FEMA's position on private property debris pick up after hurricanes and asked Council how they would like to handle the debris pick up. Debris removal from private property is not guaranteed to be reimbursed.

Matt Jones, Deputy City Attorney, discussed FEMA's position on and procedures relating to private road debris removal.

Council consensus is to remove the debris from private roads and prepare whatever documents are needed to allow that since those residents are paying taxes as well.

Doug Lynch, citizen, would like to discuss turning the private roads within Riverwood subdivision over to the City for maintenance.

6. State Funding Formula (DCD) - Florida Education Finance Program

Mayor Burnette asked Council if they'd like to consider a resolution to encourage the State Legislature to reconsider the formula for funding in the education system.

Council agreed to consider a resolution at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:18 P.M.

Mayor Donald O. Burnette

Attest:

Robin Fenwick, City Clerk