

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL
1000 CITY CENTER CIRCLE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
APRIL 25, 2023

THE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP of the City of Port Orange was called to order by Mayor Donald O. Burnette at 5:30 p.m.

Silent Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present:

Councilman Tracy Grubbs
Councilman Drew Bastian
Councilman Scott Stiltner
Vice Mayor Reed Foley
Mayor Don Burnette

Also Present:

City Manager Wayne Clark
City Attorney Matt Jones
Assistant City Clerk Tracee Cody

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. FY2022 Audit Discussion with James Moore & Co

Jonathan McKinney, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, introduced Zach Chalifour, with James Moore & Co., to provide the FY 2022 Audit Presentation. Mr. Chalifour noted that the pension plan percentages and numbers are consistent in pension plan evaluations with other municipalities due to the investment market and returns being horrible in general for the 2022 fiscal year. Mayor Don Burnette thanked the Finance staff for the progress made in a year's time. Councilman Scott Stiltner inquired how the City of Port Orange compares to other cities in Volusia County, even including Brevard and Flagler County. Based on a study, Mr. Chalifour indicated Port Orange is middle to above average compared to about nine other Volusia County municipalities. Vice Mayor Reed Foley asked for clarification on how the pension audits work and Mr. Chalifour explained how the numbers are calculated.

5. Stormwater Drainage Utility Fees - Raffetis Financial Consultants, Inc.

Wayne Clark, City Manager, provided a brief update on the final step in the fees presentation. Mr. McKinney explained that the stormwater fees are being proposed as part of a required revenue stream for the next five years to help offset the costs of projects due to the most recent hurricanes, and introduced Henry Thomas of Raffetis, who spoke regarding a proposed stormwater rate adjustment plan.

Mayor Burnette noted that the last master plan was done in 2004 and believes a new master plan needs to be implemented. The stormwater fees are interrelated to a larger

objective. The city hasn't raised stormwater rates since 2018. In order to help fund the operating budgets and capital project needs in the future, the proposal would be an annual rate increase in 2024 of \$35.00, from \$115 to \$150, and then another annual rate increase of \$10.00 in 2026, from \$150 to \$160. There is also a proposed mitigation credit program that, if Council wanted to proceed with, staff would need to review the stormwater ordinance language to bring back to Council for adoption.

Mayor Burnette stressed that he would like all fees reviewed at a maximum of once every five years by approval of a resolution. Mr. Clark discussed future plans to bring back items for Council approval, which would include a master resolution to address fees. The Capital Improvement Programs, highlighting the six main infrastructure components to the stormwater master plan, will be discussed at the Workshop in May.

Mr. Thomas pointed out some of the legalities, in relation to increasing stormwater fees, with public hearings, trim notices, etc. Matt Jones, City Attorney, concurred and will advise Council on different options for their consideration.

Councilman Stiltner expressed the fees are necessary to improve the city's infrastructure, especially coming off of two recent bad storms. He also pointed out that some of the ditches that collect water and contribute to the flooding are in defunct Home Owners Associations, but the city does not have legal rights to access them. He would like further advice about how the city can remedy this situation. Vice Mayor Foley commented on possibly increasing smaller fee increments throughout the years rather than an increase in 2024 and 2026, which Council will have to discuss further and Mr. Thomas will have to re-evaluate.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:17 p.m.


Mayor Donald O. Burnette

Attest



Robin Fenwick, MMC
City Clerk

