
COUNCIL FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 ♦ 5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Council Finance & Budget Committee met on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Rockledge City Hall, 1600 Huntington Lane, Rockledge, Florida.

PRESENT:	Mayor Thomas J. Price	Chairman
	Councilman Duane Daski	Committee Member
	Councilman Shaun Ferguson	Committee Member
	Councilman Frank Forester	Committee Member
	Dr. Brenda Fettrow	City Manager
	Lisa C. Nicholas	Public Relations Officer & City Clerk

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT:	Matthew Trine	Interim Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
	Joseph P. LaSata	Public Safety Director/Chief of Police
	Alexandra Bernard	Planning Director
	James Elmore	Wastewater Treatment Director
	Brian Smith	Wastewater Treatment Assistant Director
	Michael Jarusiewicz	Public Works Assistant Director
	Britta Moore	Redevelopment Coordinator

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Price.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentations

1. Accomplishments – Fiscal Year 2018

City Manager Fettrow outlined the accomplishments that have transpired, to date, during Fiscal Year 2018.

2. Priorities for Fiscal Year 2019

City Manager Fettrow provided a high-level report on the budget-related priorities for Fiscal Year 2019. The proposed FY 2019 budget is formulated utilizing the following parameters:

- A millage rate of 6.15.

- A 3 percent increase for non-union employees, with the understanding that negotiation with the unions will be required.
- A 5 percent increase in health insurance, which may decrease slightly.
- Two new FTEs, one for the Wastewater Treatment Department and one for the Public Works Department.

Discussion ensued among Committee members with regard to the proposed budget and these stipulations, and there was consensus that they are acceptable. It was expressed that vehicles should be purchased during this fiscal year if they can be obtained at a discounted price.

A more in-depth review of the needs per fund ensued.

3. Finance & Budget Committee Priorities for Fiscal Year 2019

Committee members expressed interest in perhaps budgeting for a drone that could be utilized for a variety of purposes. If possible, it could be purchased with FY 2018 funds. Certification for flying a drone must be obtained, which could potentially be a lengthy process.

B. Discussion

1. Fees & Charges

a) Tentative Millage Rate

It was determined, and there was consensus, that a tentative millage rate of 6.15 is acceptable.

b) Wastewater

City Manager Fettrow discussed the components of the Wastewater Treatment Department budget. The total projected cost of needs over the next ten years is \$14,691,000.00, presuming there are no significant failures in the plant, which is 25 years old. The City of Rockledge is the second to the lowest in the County in terms of the base rate, with the lowest being the City of Melbourne. Rockledge is the lowest in the County in terms of charge per 1,000 gallons of usage. The City Manager offered information on current rates and then outlined a variety of scenarios for potential increases and the total amount of additional funding that would be generated by such increases. Should an increase in the base rate be approved, the Renewal and Replacement (R&R) and the Capital Improvement funds will continue to be funded equally. There was consensus on the following:

- Increasing the base rate by 5 percent, from \$14.00 to \$14.70, with equal distribution of the additional \$4.70 going into R&R and Capital Improvement.
- A 5-percent increase per year for each of three years on the usage charge per 1,000 gallons.
- Elimination of the 15,000-gallon cap on residential users – the rate will apply per 1,000 gallons, regardless of the number of gallons utilized. (Currently, there is no cap on commercial users.)

c) Sanitation

City Manager Fettrow outlined the current refuse collection schedule and the fees associated with pickups for four- and five-week months, as well as the amount in the Reserve Fund. Two scenarios were presented to the Committee, and there was consensus among members to increase the rate to \$14.90 for Fiscal Year 2019.

NOT AN AGENDA ITEM

Discussion ensued with regard to reserve funds, which are currently approximately \$14 million. For the multi-purpose recreation center, there is \$50,000.00 budgeted this fiscal year for engineering and design. An estimate of probable cost and location options will be presented at a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lisa C. Nicholas
Public Relations Officer & City Clerk