

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairperson Davis was present and presided. Upon a roll call by Deputy City Clerk Anthony, the following were present: Mayor Thomas A. Masters, Chairperson Judy L. Davis, Chair Pro-Tem Billie E. Brooks, Councilperson Cedrick A. Thomas, Councilperson Dawn S. Pardo and Councilperson Shelby L. Lowe. Also present were City Manager Ruth Jones, Deputy City Clerk Claudene Anthony, and City Attorney Pamala H. Ryan.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood for a Moment of Silence with the pledge led by Mayor Thomas Masters

III. PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

City Manager Ruth Jones stated that the purpose of the workshop was to conclude the budget workshops. She stated that there were three major areas that needed to be covered which included the Weed and Seed program, the budget for the Fire Department and Police Department. She stated that each councilmember received a copy of the response from Atty. Jack McLean.

IV. WEED & SEED 2011/2012 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS.

City Manager Jones reviewed the budget recommendations for the Weed & Seed Program.

Inda Spencer, Weed & Seed Coordinator, gave a review of the revised budget which provided for the coordinator to remain full time.

Councilperson Thomas stated that since the grants were not approved at this time, he could only support a budget with the part time positions. He inquired about the number of grants received by the Weed & Seed program within the last two or three years.

Ms. Spencer stated that three grants totaling \$150,000 and several scholarships were received within the past three years.

Councilperson Brooks stated that an alternative would be to budget \$50,000 for six months while working on submitting and receiving grants.

Councilperson Thomas suggested keeping the coordinator full time, but at a lower hourly rate.

Councilperson Pardo stated that if the budget was approved for \$50,000, after three months a report should be given to the city manager to make sure that parents were not stranded at the last minute finding a placement for their kids.

Councilperson Lowe requested the status of Weed & Seed Program nationally or regionally and what was planned for next year.

Ms. Spencer stated her intent to obtain grant funding for the upcoming budget.

Mayor Masters stated that he would be willing to help raise the additional \$38,000 to be able to keep the program.

Councilperson Davis suggested utilizing a portion of the e \$50,000 to pay enrollment fees for the Boys and Girls Club to house to kids from the Weed & Seed Program and for the city manager to adjust the budget accordingly.

V. FIRE DEPARTMENT 2011/2012 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

City Manager Jones gave a review of three proposed budgets for the Fire Department: the first recommendation provided a permanent budget reduction with the negotiation of Kelly days; the second recommendation was a non-permanent reduction with a temporary savings of \$210,358; and the final option was to take \$207,942 from the contingency fund.

Mayor Masters stated current staffing must be maintained and any reduction of staff would have a negative affect on the level of service and agreed with option two.

Councilperson Thomas inquired that if the Kelly day was a paid day; would eliminating this day be considered as a reduction in pay.

Pete LeDuc, Interim Fire Chief, advised that the hourly rate would be reduced; however their actual pay remain the same.

Councilperson Brooks inquired whether or not approving a fire assessment fee would help with future budgets and the purchasing of capital items.

City Manager Jones advised that it would off-set the collections of tax.

Councilperson Pardo wanted to commend the city manager in her efforts in completing the budget.

Councilperson Lowe commended the police chief and fire chief but wanted to have current proposals presented earlier in order to cut down unnecessary complaints.

Councilperson Davis inquired about the replacement of the fire vacancies.

City Manager Jones advised that the captain position was filled in-house and the vacant fire would not be filled.

Councilperson Davis advised that there was a board consensus to go with option #2 that was presented by the city manager.

VI. POLICE DEPARTMENT 2011/2012 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

City Manager Jones gave a brief synopsis of the proposed budget for the Police Department and that it pertained to the elimination of several police lieutenants. She stated that each councilperson should have received a copy of the correspondence from the attorney for the International Union of Police Association (IUPA) and the response from the Attorney McLean.

Councilperson Thomas inquired on the actual savings if the budget was approved.

Police Chief Williams advised that on the personnel side the savings would be \$423,488 which was the bulk of the reduction required by the city manager.

Councilperson Thomas inquired if these eliminations were through impact bargaining.

Chief Williams stated they were currently in the impact bargaining phase and that information was included in Attorney McLean's letter.

Councilperson Thomas inquired on the number of police vacancies.

Chief Williams stated there are 12 vacancies during a 6-7 month period.

Councilperson Thomas inquired if there any offers extended to the lieutenants.

Chief Williams stated that the city was currently bargaining and it would be up to IUPA to suggest any additional offers.

Councilperson Thomas stated he didn't feel that the city council could make a decision in good conscious if the union and the city was still at the bargaining table. He further stated that it was unfair to work things out with the Fire Department and similar staffing issues were not resolved with the Police Department.

Chief Williams suggested continuing with the budget process and addressing union negotiations once completed.

Councilperson Pardo stated she did not support wiping out an entire unit.

Councilperson Brooks inquired as to whether or not any of the lieutenants were eligible for the captain position.

Chief Williams stated in earlier stages it was understood that the current pool of lieutenants were eligible to compete for the captain positions if it occurred before the start of the new budget. He stated that the issue was when a participant has a break in service then they were not be eligible and could not pay into from the same pension to receive benefits.

Councilperson Davis stated she had concerns after reading Attorney McLean's response.

City Attorney Ryan suggested that the City Council hold a Closed Executive Session to discuss the issue.

Councilperson Davis inquired about the options for retirees during the process of requesting retirement benefits.

Doretha Perry, Human Resources Director, stated the options of benefits given to the retirees took about 2-3 months. She further stated that once an employee has reached their five years in the DROP their pension benefits were automatic.

Councilperson Thomas inquired the status of an employee if the current budget eliminated the lieutenant positions and they had not applied for their pension benefit.

Doretha Perry, Human Resources Director stated that they could apply for a captain's position as long as they don't apply for their pension within six months.

Mayor Masters inquired whether or not there were any other positions within the city that were being eliminated where the union was involved.

Doretha Perry, Human Resources Director, stated that there were some positions in several other departments that were being eliminated.

Councilperson Brooks suggested that all attorney's be informed of made a suggestion to inform all the attorneys to be available for a phone conference during the closed executive meeting to be able to get their answer.

Mayor Masters inquired if the level of service will be impacted by the elimination of the lieutenants' positions.

Chief Williams stated that the level of service will not be impacted.

Councilperson Lowe inquired if there were any other options for the police budget.

City Manager Jones advised that there were no other options available and that she had not received any indications from the City Council for additional options.

Councilperson Pardo advised that the City Council did not know of any of the current matters until three weeks ago and suggested that a closed executive session be scheduled for Friday or Monday.

City Manager Jones suggested that the meeting be held on Tuesday and that all attorneys would be notified.

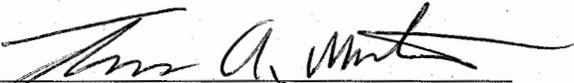
Councilperson Davis received a consensus from the board to schedule a Closed Executive Session on Tuesday at 2:30p.m.

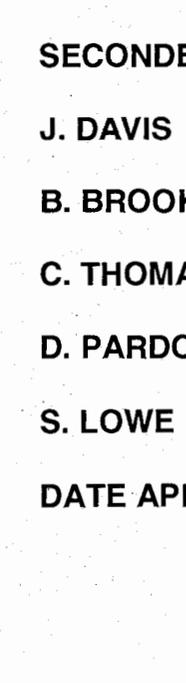
VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned.

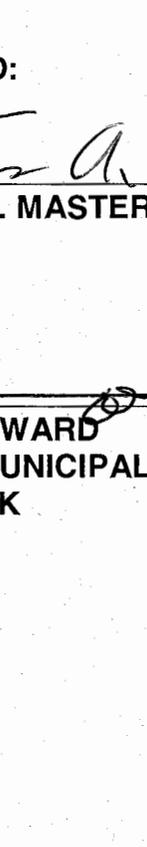
PLEASE NOTE: A COMPLETE AGENDA PACKAGE AND RECORDING IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.

APPROVED:

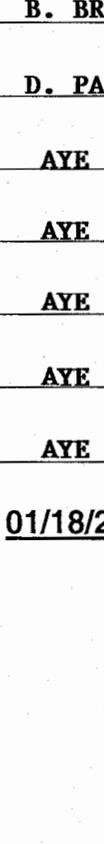

THOMAS A. MASTERS
MAYOR

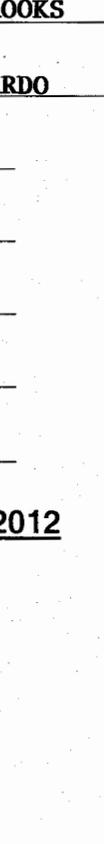

JUDY L. DAVIS
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:


CARRIE E. WARD
MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK
CITY CLERK


BILLIE E. BROOKS
CHAIR PRO TEM


CEDRICK A. THOMAS
COUNCILPERSON


DAWN S. PARDO
COUNCILPERSON


SHELBY L. LOWE
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY: B. BROOKS

SECONDED BY: D. PARDO

J. DAVIS AYE

B. BROOKS AYE

C. THOMAS AYE

D. PARDO AYE

S. LOWE AYE

DATE APPROVED: 01/18/2012