

**MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
June 13, 2011 – 5:30 PM**

Budget Work Session #2

The City Council of the City of Brevard met in special session on Monday, June 13, 2011 starting at 5:00 PM with a light dinner and the budget work session starting at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Mayor Jimmy Harris presiding.

The following were present: Mayor Jimmy Harris, Council Members Larry Canady, Rodney Locks, Mack McKeller, Mayor Pro Tem Mac Morrow and Dee Dee Perkins; City Manager Joe Moore, and City Clerk Desiree Perry.

Staff: Fire Chief Craig Budzinski, Water Plant Operator Buck Egerton, Planning Dir. Josh Freeman, Bldg & Grounds Dir. Lynn Goldsmith, Police Chief Phil Harris, Public Service Dir. David Lutz, HR Dir. LeAnn McCraw, Waste Water Plant Operator Emory Owen, Executive Assistant Jeanette Owen, and Finance Dir. Terry Scruggs.

Press: Derek McKissock, Transylvania Times

Others: Heart of Brevard Executive Director Madrid Zimmerman

Welcome - Mayor Harris called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and explained the meeting is open to the public; however, it is a workshop session intended for Council and staff to discuss the proposed budget and is not the public hearing for the proposed budget.

Budget Overview – Manager Moore explained one of the purposes for this second budget work session is to provide answers to questions raised at the first work session held on May 25th (below), as well as, for Council to ask any additional questions of staff in order to be prepared to adopt the budget at the June 20th Council meeting. A copy of the power point slides provided and projected are on file.

Utility Fund Transfer – Transfer distribution was last updated in 2007. Recommended allocation to five departments. Will not change the bottom line, but percent distribution will be more accurate. Not recommending changes to the dollar amount. Manager wants the opportunity to have the actual time and expenses tracked.

Utility Rates – Proposed rate increases are not to support the general fund but are proposed for operational and capital improvements specific to utilities.

Impact Fees for Non-Profit Agencies – On average the City receives eight requests at \$750 each, in addition to one larger request ranging from five to seven thousand dollars. The option to cover non-profit impact fees would require an estimated 20% increase in fees.

Council members entered into considerable discussion with respect to need for a non-profit policy that would include consideration for waiving of fees for non-profits, event fees, etc., especially in light that the City has not been able to provide financial support (from City budget) for non-profits as was done occasionally in the past. In order to provide financial support of the requests received this year would require about a 1/3 of a cent tax increase. Questioned if there are funds in this budget to provide additional financial support for non-profits, and, once a policy is established – will that mean the City is also committing to provide funding for non-profits? Emphasized the importance to work on policies related to non-profits in the near future.

Consensus: Support of Manager's recommendations, and, do not increase impact fees to cover non-profits.

- (a) Mayor Harris suggested, for future discussion, to look into the possibility of establishing a reduced capacity impact fee schedule/rate for non-profits.
- (b) Consensus to have a separate workshop on non-profits to consider impact fees and reduced event fees. Considerations for economic development non-profits, as well as, those that are mission oriented and support public services.

- (c) Economic Development Policy (future workshop) to include what specifically would be required of any non-profit group receiving financial support as the support is generated from tax payers.

City Financial Support of County's 150th Celebration – Recommended redirect funds from Sports Complex as the funds are equal to the request and the project may be pushed out one year.

Special Events – Considerable discussion including whether or not to charge any fees for a Special Event that has been recognized by City Resolution; value of placing a cap on what the City will provide as it would provide an event organizer a budget line; special events have been very successful and in large part why being discussed as event sponsors are asking for more City services, assistance, and frequency of streets to be closed, etc.; and, from an operational standpoint need to show event applicants the schedule, even if not adopted as proposed for this year, in order to give them an idea of what is being considered.

Consensus: Fee to be raised to \$200 and \$100 as proposed, and, not to the "up to \$750 max" as was proposed.

Large Item Pickup – Briefly discussed options to address trash and debris upon private property requiring a special pickup, including the need to verify with the City Attorney whether or not a penalty via the water bill could be considered.

Mayor Harris recommended Council consider a policy to help remedy large items placed on property at a future workshop.

Conclusion – Council members thanked the Manager and staff for the work that went into this budget process which has in ways been detailed differently than past budget process; appreciates the focus has been upon the "big picture" rather than line item review; has provided where we are today and future projections; and, the receiving of regular reports from City departments have been helpful (project costs, breakdowns, status reports, etc.) and encouraged this practice to continue.

Adjourn - There being no further business before Council, Mr. McKeller moved, seconded by Mr. Canady, the special called budget work session be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. Budget work session adjourned at 5:58 PM.

Desiree D. Perry
City Clerk

Jimmy Harris
Mayor

Minutes Approved: July 18, 2011