

MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
September 25, 2023

The City Commission met on this date for a special meeting in the Commission Chambers. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

Mayor	:	Hubert B. Smith
Commissioners	:	Christine Wasdin
	:	Edward Crosby
	:	Kay Hamilton
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Fire Chief	:	Tommy Mayville
Library Director	:	Hope Willis
VBCS Gen. Mngr.	:	James Butler (camera)
VBCS Technician	:	Josh Whitford (camera)
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in Attendance: (Not inclusive) Kelly Irwin

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone to the special meeting this evening which is the final budget meeting.

Mrs. Johnson said we had proof of publication by Kathleen Allen that our ad ran in the Northwest Florida Daily News September 20, 2023.

**1. Final Budget Hearing**

**a. Resolution No. 13-09-25-23 Adopt Final Mileage**

Mayor Smith read Resolution No. 13-09-25-23 a resolution of the city adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2024; providing for an effective date. The final adopted millage rate is greater than the rolled-back rate of \$4.6800 by 7.35%. **MAYOR SMITH**

**MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 13-09-25-23 AS READ. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0, AT 6:04 PM.**

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2       **b. Ordinance No. 721 Adopt FY 2024 Budget – Final Reading**

3       Mrs. Johnson said the final budget is the same as the first reading back  
4       on September 12, 2023. She said the budget includes an ad valorem tax rate  
5       of 5.024%, a reduction in health insurance, increase for property and liability  
6       insurance, 2% merit and 3% COLA. Mayor Smith read Ordinance No. 721  
7       an ordinance adopting the FY 2024 budget for the city for the fiscal year  
8       commencing 1 October 2023; repealing conflicting ordinances; and  
9       providing for an effective date. **COMM. BROWNING MADE A**  
10      **MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 721, AS READ. COMM.**  
11      **CROSBY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY**  
12      **UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0, AT 6:09 PM.**

13      **2. Schedule Executive Session**

14      Mr. Dykes sent an email requesting an executive session with the City  
15      Commission on the Grand American lawsuit to discuss strategy related to  
16      litigation expenditures. He said that he anticipates the session would last 30-  
17      45 minutes. Mr. Dykes said he believes that scheduling the executive session  
18      at 5:15 pm prior to the regularly scheduled meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>, the most  
19      logical time to schedule the executive session.

20      **COMM. BROWNING MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE THE**  
21      **EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:15 PM, BEFORE**  
22      **OUR REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING. COMM.**  
23      **HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY**  
24      **UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

25      **Adjourn**

1 With there being no further business before the Commission this  
2 evening, the meeting adjourned at 6:12PM.

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7 Hubert B. Smith  
8 Mayor

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11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 Catherine Hamilton  
13 Chair, VBCS

14 ATTEST:

15  
16  
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Tammy Johnson, CMC  
19 City Clerk

20 \*\*\*A recording of the September 25, 2023, Commission meeting  
21 will be kept on the City's secure file server as a permanent part of these  
22 minutes.\*\*\*