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HIGH SPRINGS
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Meeting called to order by Mayor James 6:30 p.m.

Invocation: Pastor Ingraham, Allen Chapel

Pledge of Allegiance:

ROLL CALL CITY COMMISSION:

Mayor Gloria James- Present
Vice Mayor Linda Jones – Present
Commissioner Ross Ambrose- Present
Commissioner Scott Jamison -Present
Commissioner Byran Williams- Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Ashley Stathatos, City Manager
Bruce Gillingham, Assistant City Manager
Jenny Parham, City Clerk
Angela Stone, Deputy City Clerk
Scott Walker, City Attorney
Antoine Sheppard, Chief of Police
Kevin Mangan, Public Information Officer
Damon Messina, Parks and Recreation Director
Alan Alligood, Building Official
CRA Coordinator, David Sutton

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor James states that we have an addition to the agenda, a Presentation by Candidate for Senate District 8, Rodney Long. She states this will go before Item #1.

Motion Vice Mayor Jones to approve the agenda as amended.
Second Commissioner Ambrose.
Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Commissioner Ambrose to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2021, Budget Workshop and the August 26, 2021, Commission Meeting.
Second Commissioner Jamison.
Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION BY CANIDATE RODNEY LONG FOR SENATE DISTRICT 8, RODNEY LONG.

Rodney Long introduced himself, and explained he is running for Senate District 8. He gives his background.

BUDGET

1. CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-H, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF AND FIXING THE TENTATIVE RATE OF AD VALOREM TAXATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Walker read Resolution 2021-H by title only.

City Manager Stathatos explained that the budget was presented with last year's millage rate of 5.88%. She adds that at this time the Commission may consider the tentative millage at 5.88% or can go up to the 6.25% to allow for additional needed items in the budget.

Commissioner Jamison states that he is open to going up a little but staying below 6%. He states that he appreciates staff keeping the budget with the 5.88%.

Commissioner Ambrose speaks of things increasing in price. He states that our City is growing. He states at some point the rate will have to go up in order to keep up. He speaks of being over 6% years ago. He states he is in favor of going above the 5.88%. He states he would be more inclined to go with 6.15% or 6.25% to get some things we need.

Vice Mayor Jones states she would be willing to go to 6.0%.

Commissioner Williams speaks of always telling citizens we don't have the money for needed repairs.

Vice Chair Jones asked how the rate will affect the individual homeowner. Commissioner Ambrose gives an overview of his tax roll with the change from 5.88% to 6.25%.

Mayor James states that she recognizes we need the extra money but does not want to stress the citizens.

Mayor James opened for Public Comment.

Katherine Weitz states the 6.0% is pushing it. She states that the 6.25% is a large jump.

Kevin Mangan, PIO, advised anyone wanting to speak to the Commission can raise their hand in Zoom and we can let you in to speak.

Commissioner Jamison states that the budget is completely different. He states he has confidence in the new budget. He spoke of the CPI and the slight bump to the citizens.

Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve Resolution 2021-H, setting the tentative rate of Ad Valorem at 5.95%.

Motion died for lack of second.

Motion Commissioner Ambrose to approve Resolution 2021-H, setting the tentative rate of Ad Valorem at 6.00%.
Second Vice Mayor Jones.

Commissioner Jamison spoke of the impact fees and that they will be a funding avenue.

Commissioner Ambrose agrees with Commissioner Jamison. He spoke of the Strategic Planning workshop and growth coming that will require the funds to be spent for the growth.

Commissioner Jamison spoke of this money going into the general fund. He spoke of Impact Fees being specifically designated for certain things. He states he thinks people are okay with increases if they know where the money is designated to be spent. He states he just does not think this is the time with the other increases.

Commissioner Williams asked about putting the rate at 5.99%, it will be under the 6.0%.

Commissioner Ambrose amended the Motion to approve Resolution 2021-H, setting the tentative rate of Ad Valorem at 5.99%.
Seconded by Vice Mayor Jones.

Roll Call:
Mayor James-yes
Vice Mayor Jones-yes
Commissioner Ambrose- yes
Commissioner Jamison-no
Commissioner Williams-yes

Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Jamison objecting.

Commissioner Jamison states that he appreciates the compromise from everyone.

2. CONSIDER ORDINANCE 2021-08, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OF THE CITY OF HIGH SPRINGS, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Walker read Ordinance 2021-08 by title only.

City Manager Stathatos gives a presentation of the proposed 2021/2022 budget. She gives an overview of the different departments' budgets with changes and projects.

Vice Chair Jones stated that it was a good budget presentation.

Commissioner Ambrose states that he appreciates staff for answering questions and having a multiyear vision.

Mayor James opened for Public Comment.

Kevin Mangan, PIO, advised anyone wanting to speak to the Commission can raise their hand in Zoom and we can let you in to speak.

Motion Vice Mayor Jones to approve Ordinance 2021-08 as read by title only. Second Commissioner Ambrose.

Commissioner Jamison states that the budget is much more detailed. He states with this budget and in the future, we will see a positive move, having the money where it should be and used appropriately.

Mayor James states that the budget is clearer and easier to read.

Roll Call:
Vice Mayor Jones-yes
Commissioner Ambrose- yes
Commissioner Jamison-yes
Commissioner Williams-yes
Mayor James-yes

Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS-DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.

Attorney Walker Read the Proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001, attacks.

Motion Commissioner Jamison to approve the Proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001.

Second Commissioner Ambrose.
Motion carried 5-0.

<u>CITIZEN REQUESTS AND COMMENTS</u> – FOR ISSUES NOT ON AGENDA (PLEASE STATE NAME FOR THE RECORD – LIMIT COMMENTS TO 5 MINUTES).

Adam Joy of Deeper Purpose stated that his daughter sat through the meeting and wanted to say hello. Avery Joy said hello to the Commission. Adam Joy spoke of the City owned building that was used for the High Springs Daycare. He runs a daycare and would like to partner with the City. He speaks of his daycare being at capacity. He speaks of funding that he received for head start. He states that they need a larger space. He does not want to lose the grant. He states the old Day Care is not occupiable at this time, that the community would like to see a day care come back to that area of the community. He thanked staff for meeting with him regarding the issue.

Mayor James opened for Public Comment. No-one came forward.

Kevin Mangan, PIO, advised anyone wanting to speak to the Commission can raise their hand in Zoom and we can let you in to speak. No one came forward.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Walker-nothing at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORT/UPDATE.

City Manager Stathatos thanked all the Department Heads, the City Clerk's Office, and the Asst. City Manager. She states that there was no push back with the changes to the budget. She stated the budget was a collaborative effort. She appreciated everyone that step forward to help.

She advised that the High Springs Highlights is out for September. She went over the headlines: the Firefighters rescue of the Goat, the Police National Night Out, Welcoming our new employee Michael Tannahill, and the new banners in the CRA.

She stated the Comp Plan will be coming to the Plan Board and the Commission in October.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ambrose stated there will be a 9/11 ceremony at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Fire Department. He asked the Attorney about the information from GRU about their customer base in High Springs. Attorney Walker stated he will follow up.

Commissioner Jamison-nothing at this time.

Commissioner Williams -nothing at this time

Vice Mayor Jones-nothing at this time.

MAYOR

Mayor James spoke of the issue at the Farmer's Market Pavilion with the concrete being destroyed. Asst. City Manager Gillingham stated that vehicles have been parking there; we are addressing the issue.

Motion Commissioner Williams to adjourn.
Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.