

City of Pembroke Pines, FL

*City of Pembroke Pines
Charles F. Dodge City Center
601 City Center Way
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

6:00 PM

Special Commission Meeting

Commission Chambers

City Commission

*Angelo Castillo, Mayor
Thomas Good, Jr., Vice Mayor
Michael A. Hernandez, Commissioner
Maria Rodriguez, Commissioner
Jay D. Schwartz, Commissioner*

6:00 PM SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Mayor Angelo Castillo, Vice Mayor Thomas Good Jr., Commissioner Maria Rodriguez, Commissioner Jay D. Schwartz, and Commissioner Michael A. Hernandez

Also present: City Manager Charles F. Dodge, City Attorney Samuel Goren, and City Clerk Debra E. Rogers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Manager Dodge.

RESOLUTIONS:

SM-2 MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE ADVERTISED IN THE TRIM NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Good Jr., seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve and establish the millage rate of 5.6690 which represents a decrease from the previous year and includes the debt service rate for advertising purposes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Hernandez

Nay 1 - Commissioner Schwartz

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Manager Dodge presented the City of Pembroke Pines Proposed 2024-25 Operating Millage Rate for Advertisement. The advertising requirements for the TRIM notice included both the Fire Assessment fees and the Millage/G.O. Bond rates for the general budget. He said the due date to submit the TRIM notice to the Broward County Property Appraisers was Friday, August, 2, 2024 to meet the advertising requirements outlined in the presentation.

City Manager Dodge continued the presentation concerning the city's deficit and said there would be a Budget Workshop on August 21, 2024, prior to the Regular Commission Meeting where the budget line items would be reviewed. The following 2024-25 proposed Fiscal Year Budget items included: Additional Staffing, Major Capital Items, and the Millage Rates.

The City Manager concluded with breaking down the Millage overview and said the proposed debt service Millage decreased by 0.0202 mills, from 0.3410 to 0.3208 due to an increase of taxable values by 8.39%. The aggregate proposed Millage rate was 5.9898, which was 0.0202 mills or 0.3% lower than the previous year. The recommendation was made for the Commission to advertise the operating Millage of 5.6690 and required three affirmative votes from the City Commission.

City Attorney Goren explained the TRIM compliance statute referencing section 200.065 of the Florida Statutes which provides the necessary guidelines for the City Manager and Finance Director to pass the annual budget. He said the Millage rate drives the budget, was the premise to pass the budget, and that an ordinance would be created and must pass on First and Second Reading for adoption during the month of September. The City Attorney said the ordinance would have a public hearing, members of the public would be permitted to speak on the budget item, and that the hearing must be held after 5:00 PM in accordance with state law.

Commissioner Hernandez spoke on the item about the significant reduction of Millage rates over the past 10 years. He said the reduction would be a great talking point to explain to the Pembroke Pines' residents.

Lisa Chong, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, responded to the question of the Commissioner about the historical Millage rates over the

last 10 years decreasing by approximately 4%.

City Attorney Goren read Item SM-2 into the record by title.

Commissioner Schwartz spoke about why he could not support the item.

Mayor Castillo asked for the microphones to be adjusted because of an issue with echoing in the Commission Chambers.

City Manager Dodge responded to the Commission about labor negotiations. He said that it was a process being worked out with the Human Resources Director and that there should be an agreement prior to the second reading of the budget item.

Mayor Castillo inquired if the proposed Millage would have any bearing on the labor negotiations.

City Manager Dodge responded that the negotiation amounts discussed in the Executive Session were included in the budget and were also factored into the proposed Millage rate.

SM-1 MOTION TO ADOPT FIRE ASSESSMENT PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2024-R-24

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2024-R-24 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA; DESCRIBING THE METHOD OF ASSESSING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSED COSTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES; DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE THEREOF; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Good Jr., seconded by Commissioner Hernandez, to adopt Proposed Resolution No. 2024-R-24. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, Commissioner Schwartz, and Commissioner Hernandez

Nay 0

Enactment No: 3873

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Resolution 2024-R-24 into the record by title.

City Manager Dodge explained the Fire Assessment was discussed in the previous presentation for SM-2. He said the fee includes the 100% fire services offered within the city and referred to the backup that includes the proposed fees. The City Manager also spoke about the increase to the residential rates by \$40.00 and said the fees may be reduced to approximately \$33.00 if the budget was approved to reduce the fire inspection fees.

Mayor Castillo inquired that the covered services did not include fire rescue services within the city.

City Manager Dodge responded to confirm the fire rescue services were not included in the proposed fee assessed.

City Attorney Goren also confirmed the matter was pursuant to state law which does not permit those services to be included.

Commissioner Schwartz requested a 5-year capital project plan from the Fire Department to be provided for the first budget hearing meeting on September 4, 2024.

Fire Chief Rodriguez addressed the Commission to say the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) could be provided by the first budget hearing as requested.

Vice Mayor Good inquired about legislative attempts to include rescue services in the past.

City Attorney Goren called on Assistant City Attorney Cirullo to address the Commission.

Assistant City Attorney Cirullo addressed the Commission about the services being included in the city back in the 1990s that resulted in litigation with the city and other municipalities. The case went to the Supreme Court who did not rule in favor of the city including rescue/EMS services in their assessments.

Mayor Castillo weighed in on the discussion.

Assistant City Attorney Cirullo continued to discuss the lawsuits which ultimately lead up to the city's decision to not include rescue services.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ADJOURN - 6:38 P.M.

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

Debra E. Rogers, CMC
City Clerk