

1 **MINUTES OF THE WORKSHHP MEETING** of the City Council of the City of Orange City, Florida,
2 held on Tuesday, August 29, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange
3 City.

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5 **CALL TO ORDER**

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7 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Strickland and roll call was taken.

8
9 **ROLL CALL**

10
11 **PRESENT:** Mayor Harley Strickland; Vice Mayor O. William (Bill) Crippen; Council Members Tom
12 Laputka, Tom Abraham, Anthony J. Pupello, Gary A. Blair; City Attorney Bill Reischmann; City
13 Manager Jamie Croteau; City Clerk Deborah Renner

14
15 **ABSENT:** Council Member Jeff Allebach

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17 **1. Continued Discussion of Fiscal Year 11/12 Budget**

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19 Ms. Croteau provided a recap of the last budget workshop meeting. She said that as directed, staff
20 removed specific items from the proposed budget and brought back a “wish list” including capital items
21 for Council to consider.

22
23 Christine Davis, Finance Director, came forward and announced the budget hearings are scheduled for
24 Wednesday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 27th. She provided a summary of the City revenue
25 sources and expenditures. Noting the largest recurring revenue source is ad valorem taxes, she said the
26 largest expenditures are in public safety, followed by general government and contractual services with
27 the City of DeBary. She displayed a chart of the proposed budget without DeBary noting the adopted
28 budget for FY 2011-12 would reduce from 8.3 million to 8.1 million. At the rollback rate, the average
29 tax assessment would be \$26 a month or \$309 annually for each household. At the tentative millage rate
30 the average tax assessment would be \$27 a month or \$329 annually.

31
32 Next, Ms. Davis discussed where tax dollars go. She said several governmental agencies are allotted a
33 portion of ad valorem taxes. The largest portion goes to the school board, followed by the City. Orange
34 City taxpayers pay \$.90 per day in ad valorem taxes to run the city. She noted that could decrease
35 depending on the millage rate levied.

36
37 Ms. Davis said the budget was presented at the roll back rate of 7.0777 mills. She discussed the items
38 the budget will fund. She recalled that at the previous budget workshop Council requested several items
39 be removed.

40
41 Ms. Croteau read the items to be considered and provided a brief commentary about what is being
42 considered. She stated those are the items that Council went through last time and no decision was
43 made. Staff suggests funding the African American Heritage Festival and the Shuffleboard Club
44 improvements from the Community Improvement Fund, if Council decides to fund these items. Staff
45 also suggests the fire suppression system at Albertus Cottage be paid out of the current budget. Ms.
46 Croteau noted that the items Council directed staff to remove totaled \$35,000. She said staff is seeking
47 Council’s permission to use that money to fund the purchase and installation of holiday decorations for
48 the City.

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1 In response to a question from Council Member Laputka, Ms. Croteau explained that a portion of the
2 funding would pay for the installation of light receptacles on the poles. Staff envisions holiday lights
3 similar to DeLand or DeBary.
4

5 Council Member Blair asked what the recurring electrical costs would be. Paul Johnson, Public Works
6 Director, came forward and advised it would cost about \$700 annually to fund the holiday lights. In
7 addition, there will be a one-time charge of \$7,500 for the installation of the light receptacles.
8

9 Council Member Laputka questioned what the work at the Shuffleboard Club entails. Mr. Johnson
10 detailed the repairs being contemplated. He said the building needs a new roof. In addition, there is
11 extensive wood rot on the porch and the roof structure over the playing lanes, as well as several other
12 repairs required to make the property safe. In response to a further question from Council Member
13 Laputka, Mr. Johnson said the \$20,000 allotted for the repairs should be adequate. Council Member
14 Pupello said he spoke with a citizen who is interested in using the shuffleboard facility. He asked if the
15 general public has access. Mr. Johnson responded in the affirmative, noting the public has the same
16 access as any other facility in the City.
17

18 Mayor Strickland noted that DeBary no longer uses all of their decorations for the holidays. Ms.
19 Croteau said staff is aware of that, but have not yet discussed it with DeBary. Mayor Strickland said it
20 could save the City some money.
21

22 Council Member Laputka asked for clarification as to how this plan would fund these items and still
23 lower the millage. Ms. Croteau explained staff is recommending that the African American Heritage
24 Festival and the shuffleboard improvements come out of the Community Improvement Fund. In
25 addition, there are budgeted savings that could fund the fire suppression system for Albertus Cottage.
26 The items that Council requested be deleted from the proposed budget totaled \$35,000 and staff is
27 suggesting that money be used for the holiday decorations.
28

29 Council Member Blair suggested that is an excessive amount of money for holiday decorations, when
30 there are still dirt roads and cracked sidewalks in the City. He said the people who live on those roads
31 pay the same amount of taxes and deserve the same amenities as everyone else. Council Member Blair
32 said he would like to see a plan to implement paving of those roads.
33

34 Council Member Abraham said he “completely agrees” with staff’s recommendations. He asked what is
35 a budgeted saving. Ms. Croteau explained she was referring to the money saved as a result of the equity
36 adjustments in the Police Department. The money will be returned to the budget. It will be enough to
37 cover the costs of the fire suppression system at Albertus Cottage.
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39 Vice Mayor Crippen said he too agrees with the recommendations. He said he appreciated the diligence
40 to “squeeze” and do as much as you can with what you have. However, he said he understands Council
41 Member Blair comments about paved roads.
42

43 Mayor Strickland suggested the people who live on the unpaved roads meet to discuss their priorities
44 and how important it is that the roads are paved. He said he has spoken with several people who do not
45 want the roads paved. It is a matter that could be examined over the next year. Council Member Blair
46 disagreed. He stated, “That is just kind of putting it off.” It is our duty to bring the city streets up to
47 standard. He said he has spoken with people who do want the streets paved. Mayor Strickland asked
48 Mr. Johnson what the costs are to maintain the roads. Mr. Johnson responded the cost is minimal,

1 roughly \$15,000 a year. Council Member Blair pointed out that paved roads are more easily accessible
2 for emergency vehicles. He said that is an important safety factor to consider.

3
4 Council Member Abraham said he does not agree with funding an ICMA survey. He said he spoke with
5 the City Manager and he strongly feels it not prudent to spend that amount of money at this time. Ms.
6 Croteau said originally staff included the ICMA survey but withdrew it from the final recommendations
7 because staff understands Council Member Abraham's concern.

8
9 Council Member Pupello said he would feel more comfortable moving forward with parks
10 enhancements if the City had a better vision and plan as to what the parks would look like in the future.
11 He cautioned against just putting things in the parks because they would be utilized stating that is not a
12 good approach. He cited the overuse of the splash pad in Veteran's Memorial park as an example. He
13 said he would not support moving forward on any of the parks items until there is a "real" specific plan
14 for such things. Council Member Pupello said he would like staff to develop a policy regarding the
15 City's sponsorship of special events. Council Member Pupello concluded by thanking staff for bringing
16 forth a budget that is professional, efficient that includes long term planning and vision. He stated,
17 "That is how we should move forward."

18
19 Council Member Blair said he feels strongly about the issue of unpaved roads. He said something needs
20 to be done. He asked if it was the Council's desire to stay at the roll back rate or to levy a slightly
21 higher rate to improve the community.

22
23 Council Member Abraham said he lives on a dirt road. He said received a comment from a citizen that
24 did not want the taxes increased. He said he would support the roll back rate. Mayor Strickland and
25 Vice Mayor Crippen said they too would support the roll back rate.

26
27 Council Member Pupello said he would support the roll back rate. Addressing Council Member Blair he
28 said he understands his concerns, but is not comfortable adding it tonight. Council Member Pupello said
29 he has two more years on the Council and that he will work to make sure that it is a priority for the next
30 budget. Council Member Laputka agreed. He said he is in favor of the roll back rate. Council Member
31 Laputka suggested staff consider seeking grant money for street resurfacing.

32
33 Pat Morin, Orange City Shuffleboard Club came forward and thanked Council for supporting repairs to
34 the Shuffleboard Club. She said if anyone is interested in learning shuffleboard, a club member could
35 be available to assist.

36
37 Ron Saylor, 361 Dixson Drive came forward. He said he provided Council with a list of several items
38 that he would like Council to consider for the budget. He noted there was a confusing title for an
39 account on page 59 and recommended that the title be "tweaked" as it is misleading. Mr. Saylor said
40 Council asked that the work in the Clerk's office be removed from the budget and he disagrees. He
41 stated that it is an "extreme injustice" because the Clerk deserves to have an office. Mr. Saylor said he
42 agrees with Council Member Blair's comments about unpaved streets and said the work could be done
43 over the next three years. Mr. Saylor spoke about the need for park benches and trash receptacles at the
44 parks. He agreed with the purchase and installation of holiday decorations as it will attract people to the
45 area during the holidays. Mr. Saylor said he agrees with funding repairs to the shuffleboard courts,
46 however he said the Shuffleboard Club should have an agreement for the use of a city facility as does
47 the VIA and the Council of Aging.

48

1 Evelyn Robinson, 311 Cherokee Avenue came forward and thanked Council for delaying the vote for
2 funding the African American Festival. She apologized for not being present at the last budget
3 workshop. Noting the festival brought about a sense of awareness and community spirit, she said the
4 group would like to have another program next year, but is concerned about funding. Anything that
5 Council could do would be beneficial. Ms. Robinson suggested Council consider convening a citizen
6 advisory committee to discuss these types of concerns and possible resolution before the matter is
7 addressed with the Council.

8
9 Ms. Croteau said after the last workshop staff looked at splitting the unpaved roads into a multi-year
10 plan. It would cost \$42,000 per year. If the Council agrees some of the funding could come from the
11 Community Improvement fund. Council Member Blair felt that was a good plan. It was the consensus
12 of the Council to proceed. Ms. Croteau summarized by stating staff has put forth recommendations for
13 funding. The proposed budget presented at the next meeting will include dedicated funding for the road
14 paving program and the holiday decorations.

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16 **2. Adjourn**

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18 There being no further business the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

19
20 Respectfully Submitted:

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22 _____
23 Gloria Thomas, CMC
24 Deputy City Clerk
25

Approved on:

September 27, 2011
Date