

CITY OF ARCADIA  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

A Budget Public Hearing was held on September 10, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Johnson, Goodman, Fazzone, Heine, and Whitlock. Also in attendance: Attorney Holloman, Administrator Strube, Recorder Baumann, and Council Member elect Lorenzo Dixon.

*Mayor Johnson called the Public Hearing to order* and stated the purpose of the public hearing, as advertised, is to consider the Proposed Millage Rate and the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. Each Council member was previously given a copy for study, of a handout containing information regarding the tentative millage rate and budget.

Administrator Strube addressed the Council and reported that Last Year's Millage Rate was 7.981 percent. Next year's proposed millage Rate is 7.5587. This is a 5.3 percent decrease in millage over last year's millage rate. The roll back rate is 7.5587. The percentage increase in millage over the roll back rate necessary to fund the FY 2007-2008 budget is 0 percent. Administrator Strube noted that the legislature considers the City a "municipality of special financial concern" and therefore we are exempt from any additional deductions from the rollback rate. It was noted that DeSoto County must reduce their millage and additional 3% from their roll back rate. The legislature based all property tax reductions on FY 2001 taxes.

Administrator Strube stated the budget is balanced and does include a 3% pay increase for all employees. He stated health insurance, liability insurance, and workers' compensation are still being looked at; however increases for those areas are reflected in the proposed budget. Administrator Strube stated the average yearly increase of the taxable value in the City for the last ten fiscal years is 7.78 percent. If implemented, a millage rate of 7.5587 would also result in a ten year rolling average yearly increase over the rollback rate of 4.40 percent. Because of new construction, this rollback rate will generate an additional \$14,075 in ad valorem tax revenue at 100 percent collection or \$13,371 at 95 percent collection.

Administrator Strube then discussed the possible effects resulting from the Special Election to be held concurrently with Florida's presidential preference primary on January 29, 2008 when voters will be able to vote for a "super homestead exemption". At this time, it is unknown how revenues will be affected. Administrator Strube explained that even if the super homestead exemption proposal passes, homeowners will still be able to stay with the exemptions for homesteads under the existing "Save Our Homes" Constitutional Amendment.

Mayor Johnson wondered what effect the addition of new homes and rebuilt homes to the City's tax base might have to help offset any reduction next year if the "super homestead

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exemption" gets passed. Administrator Strube stated that at this time he does not know what the effect would be.

Council Member Whitlock asked what percent of property in the City is taxable to which Administrator Strube replied that about 40 to 50 percent is taxable. It was noted that the reason for the large amount of exempt property is due to the number churches, schools, and public buildings being in the City. Administrator Strube stated finding money for next year's budget could be difficult.

Administrator Strube recommends that the tentative budget remain as presented with no changes.

Mayor Johnson called for comments from the public. There were none.

Heine moved to adopt a Tentative Millage Rate of 7.5587 by Resolution 2007-11; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-11

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE  
MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED BY THE CITY OF  
ARCADIA, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 200.065(2)(d) requires that the City of Arcadia, Florida adopt a Resolution stating the tentative millage rate to be levied for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, and

WHEREAS, the Resolution shall state the percent, if any, by which the millage rate to be levied exceeds the rolled-back rate.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Arcadia that:

- 1). The City of Arcadia does hereby adopt its Tentative Millage Rate of 7.5587 mills to be levied for the General Fund upon all real and tangible personal property

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(Resolution No. 2007-11 continued)

located within the boundaries of the City of Arcadia to fund the Fiscal Year 2007-2008  
Budget, and

2). The percentage by which this millage rate to be levied exceeds the rolled back rate  
of 7.5587 mills (computed pursuant to Florida Law) is zero (0) percent.

DULY PASSED AND RESOLVED by the City Council present and voting this 10th  
day of September, 2007.

s/s ROOSEVELT JOHNSON, ED.D.  
ROOSEVELT JOHNSON, ED.D.  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/s RACHELLE M. BAUMANN  
RACHELLE M. BAUMANN  
CITY RECORDER

Goodman then moved to adopt a Tentative Budget for FY 2007-2008 by Resolution 2007-12;  
seconded by Whitlock and carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-12

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET  
FOR  
THE CITY OF ARCADIA, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2007-2008.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Arcadia, Florida has followed the  
procedures for budget preparation, public notices, and public hearings as prescribed by  
Florida Statutes.

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(Resolution No. 2007-12 continued)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Arcadia that the following funds be adopted as the City of Arcadia's Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

GENERAL FUND	\$6,019,199
WATER AND SEWER FUND	2,876,268
WATER AND SEWER BOND SINKING FUND	1,096,113
WATER AND SEWER BOND RESERVE FUND	727,045
WATER AND SEWER RENEWAL & REPLACEMENT FUND	153,481
LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX FUND	685,000
LOCAL OPTION INFRASTRUCTURE SALES TAX FUND	837,869
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND	1,435,495
FIRE SERVICES PROTECTION FUND	193,640

DULY PASSED AND RESOLVED by the City Council present and voting this  
10th day of September, 2007.

s/s ROOSEVELT JOHNSON, ED.D.  
ROOSEVELT JOHNSON, ED.D.  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/s RACHELLE M. BAUMANN  
RACHELLE M. BAUMANN  
CITY RECORDER

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Whitlock moved to authorize the advertisement for the Public Hearing on September 18, 2007, to adopt a Final Millage Rate and the 2007-2008 Final Budget; seconded by Fazzone and carried.

Administrator Strube presented Council with a memo detailing his concerns regarding a letter presented to the Council at the last meeting by Mrs. Cathy Miller. Upon review of the letter Administrator Strube stated he and Attorney Holloman advise that if the City Council were to hold a work session it would be required to conduct such session as a public meeting. The constitutional rights of due process of individuals that may be called upon to respond to or address their individual or collective involvement in the concerns raised in Mrs. Miller's letter would be difficult to sufficiently safeguard in a public forum. There are more suitable remedies and forums available to her and the other concerned parties, such as the Judicial System and the Florida Commission on Ethics.

Whitlock moved to cancel the September 18, 2007 workshop; seconded by Heine and carried. Fazzone voted against the motion.

Council Member Goodman asked Attorney Holloman what kind of litigation or legal problems the Council might be subject to, to which Attorney Holloman stated the Council as a body represents the City and if an employee of the City brought a suit against them, the Council would be the defendant. Council Member Goodman then asked if there was any action that Council could take to which Attorney Holloman stated he does not believe that there is any action the Council can take at this time on this matter.

Mayor Johnson then asked if the issue was being dropped. Attorney Holloman responded the issue could be brought up again at a later time.

Administrator Strube stated that he would send a letter to Mrs. Miller to inform her of the Council's action.

Council Member Goodman asked if the golf course and pro shop were under surveillance and if the employees had been informed they were under surveillance to which Administrator Strube responded yes. Mayor Johnson stated that the employees think that they are being monitored. Administrator Strube noted that there are monitors at the golf course in order to deter illegal activities, not to monitor employees.

Council Member Fazzone then voiced his concern on how and where the viewing of the surveillance footage is being done by Mr. Hewett.

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Attorney Holloman advised Council Member Fazzone to cease discussing this issue and that Council move forward with other business.

Mayor Johnson asked Administrator Strube how the advertisement for a pro shop manager went to which Administrator Strube replied that no qualified applicants applied. Mayor Johnson then asked what the salary range was for the position to which Administrator Strube stated it was \$28,000 to \$35,000. Mayor Johnson feels that the salary is too low and needs to be revised. Administrator Strube stated that there are other perks involved in the position such as cart rentals, and golf lessons which would help increase the base salary and that anyone applying for the position should consider the complete operation. Council Member Fazzone stated that the current rate for a pro at most golf courses is \$55,000. Mayor Johnson believes that if the course is self supporting it should be able to support a good salary. Mayor Johnson feels that another advertisement should be done for a golf course manager and that the salary range be increased. Administrator Strube will re-advertise for a golf pro with a starting a salary of \$40,000.

***Mayor Johnson then closed the Public Hearing.***

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
CITY RECORDER

  
PRESIDENT