

BUDGET WORK SESSION  
JULY 20, 2004

A Special Budget Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on July 20, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Fazzone, Whitlock, Heine, Johnson, and Goodman. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, City Marshal Lee, Assistant City Marshal Anderson, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Fazzone called the Budget Work Session to order.

Administrator Strube stated that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-2005 budget has been tentatively balanced using the same millage rate as last year of 8.9963. This represents a 4.06% increase over the rollback rate of 8.6454. The proposed millage rate is expected to increase Ad Valorem tax revenue by \$58,120.00 over last year's levy. Administrator Strube noted that the maximum millage rate allowed is 10 mills and we are still trying to stay under that.

Administrator Strube reported that there have been several unanticipated increases of major expenditures this year relating to the City's share of retirement contributions to the General Employees Retirement Plan and the Police and Firefighter's Pension Fund. Both plans require the City to make up shortfalls due to projected earnings and both plans received less than favorable earnings on investments due to poor returns in the market. This year the City will contribute an additional \$17,000.00 to the General Employees Retirement Plan and an additional \$30,000.00 to the Police and Firefighters' Pension Plan. Next year the City's contribution will increase by another \$12,000.00 for General Employees Retirement Plan and by \$55,000.00 for the Police and Firefighters' Pension Plan. Administrator Strube anticipates that the restructuring of the telecommunications tax will bring in about \$125,000.00 of additional revenue. Most of the additional revenue from the Ad Valorem taxes and the telecommunications tax will go to offset the increases in retirement contributions and insurance increases.

It was noted that health, liability, and workers' compensation insurance rates increase every year making it harder to balance the budget. At this time the City has not yet received updated rates for these insurances.

Administrator Strube stated that an employee increase of 3% has been factored into the tentative budget. The cost to implement this increase is estimated at \$113,076.00.

Administrator Strube recommends that a hiring freeze be put into effect along with the suspension of capital expenditures.

Marshal Lee addressed Council to discuss the proposed FY 2004/2005 budget for the Police Department noting that his request for two (2) new police cars were cut. He stated

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that he does not have a problem with that as he knows that Administrator Strube must balance the budget; however he requests that his department not be effected by the hiring freeze. Marshal Lee reported that he has just received the resignation of an officer and he would like to fill this position with an entry level position. He currently has five (5) applications for the position.

Council Member Johnson asked if it makes any difference that this position was already budgeted in the current fiscal year to which Administrator Strube replied that we will still be short by \$50,000.00 in this fiscal year due to the increase in retirement contributions.

Council Member Heine stated that he anticipates an increase in revenue from code enforcement fines. Administrator Strube stated that any code enforcement fines received would be offset by the hiring of a Special Master who he estimates will be paid \$100.00 per hour. At this time it is not know how the County is doing with their Special Master Program so a comparison is not available.

Council Member Goodman believes that we need to do all we can to fill vacant positions in the Police Department.

Council Member Johnson stated that the Police and Fire are the major departments for the City and feels that if a position becomes open in either of the departments it should be filled as all of the citizens in the community rely on these departments.

Goodman moved to authorize Marshal Lee to fill his vacant position; seconded by Johnson and carried.

Marshal Lee reported that the Police Department did not receive Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) funding for FY 2004/05. In the past this grant was used to purchase equipment and pay for special duty overtime.

Administrator Strube noted that the employees in the Sanitation Department will work a different schedule next FY as they will work eight (8) hour days and pick up both garbage and trash. Their pay will be increased to equal what they were previously making; however it is anticipated that there will be more productivity. In the past the garbage workers worked about 20-25 hours per week and were able to leave after their route was done.

Council Member Heine reported that Administrator Strube has worked out an arrangement with Mr. Suggs to take all old appliances which will greatly reduce landfill costs.

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There was some discussion regarding selling the mulch created by the City's chipper, however it was noted that the quality of the chips are not good enough to sell.

Administrator Strube then reported that Tim Boone at Oak Ridge Cemetery feels that he can do the job without filling a vacant position if he receives occasional help from the Parks and Recreation Department. Council Member Johnson reported that erosion around several plots occur during heavy rains. Administrator Strube will see if Don Waters can contour the ground to help reduce the erosion.

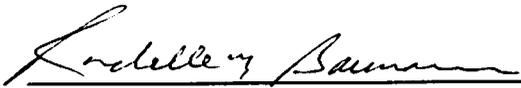
Administrator Strube noted that payment to summer camp counselors is about \$30,000.00 and suggested that this may need to be cut back next year. He stated it is great to have the programs when you have the money in the budget, however if we do not have the funds we may need to review the expenses. Council Member Johnson suggested that the City look for grant funds for "at risk children" in order to help defray costs. Mayor Fazzone does not want to see any of the summer programs cut. There was some discussion regarding how the children may be able to be fed for free at the schools through a program sponsored by the federal government.

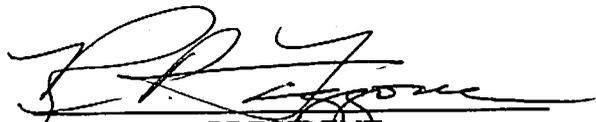
Administrator Strube estimates an additional \$82,000.00 could be available if capital purchases are suspended.

Heine moved to adopt the proposed millage rate of 8.9963; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

Mayor Fazzone asked that all Council have their evaluation of Administrator Strube completed by the next Council meeting.

There being no further business the work session was adjourned.

  
CITY RECORDER

  
PRESIDENT

## REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2004

A Regular Meeting of the Arcadia City Council was held on August 3, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in Room D of the Way Building at 23 N. Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Fazzone, Whitlock, Heine, Johnson and Goodman. Also in attendance were: Administrator Strube, City Attorney Holloman, City Fire Chief Rutherford, City Marshal Lee, Special Projects Coordinator Hewett, Ms. Way and Recorder Baumann.

Mayor Fazzone called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of the Regular meeting of July 6, 2004, and Budget Work Session of July 20, 2004, were adopted on motion of Whitlock; seconded by Johnson and carried.

*Mayor Fazzone called the Public Hearing to order* and stated that the purpose of the public hearing as advertised is to consider the request of Harold L. and Sheila J. Jackson to close the alley between Lots B, C, D and E, Brown and Way Resub of Lots 13 to 16 inclusive, Block 4, Original Survey. Recorder Baumann presented proof of publication of the public hearing. Recorder Baumann then reported that letters of no objection have been received from the City Administrator, City Attorney, City Fire Chief, City Public Works Supervisor, Sprint, Comcast Cable and FPL. Recorder Baumann noted that no property owners other than the petitioner are affected. Heine moved to grant the request to close the alley between Lots B, C, D and E, Brown and Way Resub of Lots 13 to 16 inclusive, Block 4, Original Survey by Resolution No. 2004-15; seconded by Whitlock and carried.

**RESOLUTION 2004-15**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Provisions of Chapter 73-403 of the Laws of the State of Florida and City of Arcadia Ordinance No. 770, Petitioners Harold L. and Sheila J. Jackson have requested the City Council of the City of Arcadia to close and abandon that portion of the alleyway between Lots B,C,D and E, Brown and Way Resub of Lots 13 to 16 inclusive, Block 4, Original Survey, City of Arcadia, Florida, as recorded in the Public Records of DeSoto County, Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Board has recommended that the request to close and abandon that portion of the alleyway between Lots B,C,D and E, Brown and Way Resub of Lots 13 to 16 inclusive, Block 4, Original Survey, City of Arcadia, Florida, as recorded in the Public Records of DeSoto County, Florida, be granted, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Arcadia, Florida has determined that the closing and abandoning of that portion of the alleyway between Lots B,C,D and E, Brown and Way Resub of Lots 13 to 16 inclusive, Block 4, Original Survey, City of Arcadia, Florida, as recorded in the Public Records of DeSoto County, Florida, will not affect the ownership or right of convenient access of any person.