

**AGENDA MINUTES  
ONE ITEM AGENDA MEETING  
CITY OF ARCADIA  
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2014  
5:00 P.M.**

*The following minutes reflect action items of the City Council of the City of Arcadia. For a verbatim copy of the minutes, you may contact City Administration to obtain a copy of the recorded meeting.*

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. with the following members and staff present:

**Arcadia City Council**

Mayor Alice Frierson  
Councilmember Keith Keene  
Councilmember Robert W. Heine

Deputy Mayor Joseph E. Fink  
Councilmember Robert R. Allen

**Arcadia City Staff**

City Administrator Tom Slaughter  
City Clerk Penny Delaney

Finance Director Beth Carsten  
City Attorney T.J. Wohl

**Agenda Item 1 – Vote on Tentative Millage Rate**

The Finance Director, Beth Carsten, addressed the millage rate, the options that were previously presented and what option was chosen which was the rollback rate. She advised that it would generate \$1,463,069.01. She pointed out that the bottom line is still below what the bottom line was in the 2014 adopted budget. After reviewing the other options, she stated that last week Council had chosen the rollback rate with the option of possibly coming in later and picking the lower, this year's, rate. Ms. Carsten advised that they needed to certify by August 4, 2014, with the property appraiser what the tentative millage rate will be and also the date, time and meeting place of the tentative budget hearing. Councilmember Keene stated that he was still of the mindset that they should go with the rollback rate which gives them the opportunity as they work through the budget whether they want to stay at that rate or not. He hated to set it low and not have the option of bringing it down. Councilmember Keene made a motion to adopt the rollback millage rate and Councilmember Heine seconded the motion. Deputy Mayor Fink stated that it was the third year in a row that they raised the millage and he further stated that he was not going to vote for it. He believed it was the principal of it and felt they needed to deal specifically with trying to do with what they have rather than putting any additional burden on the people. He said he understood that the collectable monies will remain basically the same, but that it was about fairness and equity and he didn't believe he could vote for an increase in any way.

Mayor Frierson shared that an argument she heard was that it does not encourage the City growth in any way. She stated it didn't encourage commercial growth of any type, but she didn't know if they had any choice unless they were going to take the budget down to bare bones. She then opened it up to the public for comment. William Bailey of 422 East Magnolia Street, Arcadia, Florida, stated that he would have to agree with Deputy Mayor Fink. He didn't think it would be right to raise the rates again. He said two years in a row is one thing; three years is setting a precedent. He felt there would have to be other ways to balance the budget other than putting the burden on the citizens again.

Councilmember Heine pointed out that the property values had gone down and he stated that he didn't think anyone on the Council wanted to, but felt they had to in order to exist. Councilmember Keene stated that there are alternatives and services should be paid for as an alternative to taxes. Council has been looking at ways to reduce those things through some of the programs that they have been considering to encourage development. He advised that studies have been done and the City is some of the lowest around regarding water and sewer rates. Mayor Frierson asked for a vote and it was 4/1 approved with Deputy Mayor Fink casting the dissenting vote.

Ms. Carsten advised that dates needed to be discussed because that was one of the issues that needed to be certified. She stated the tentative meeting did not have to be advertised because it was advertised on the trim notice that you receive in the mail from the Property Appraiser. She said since they were still working through the budget, she didn't feel comfortable with the meeting at the beginning of the month. She felt better setting the tentative budget for September 16, 2014 which would allow them to advertise and hold the final budget meeting on September 30, 2014. This would also allow them until October 3, 2014 to have the final budget meeting. Councilmember Heine made a motion to approve the aforementioned meetings and dates and Deputy Mayor Fink seconded the motion. Deputy Mayor Fink questioned the time and Ms. Carsten stated the tentative meeting will be part of Council's regularly scheduled meeting and she advised that was acceptable. Deputy Mayor Fink stated that he was talking about the September 30, 2014 meeting. Ms. Carsten advised it would be 6:00 p.m. The City Attorney asked if the paper runs on that Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Carsten stated as far as she knew and she advised she had checked and it falls within the required five (5) days. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved.

### ADJOURN

Deputy Mayor Fink made a motion to adjourn and Councilmember Allen seconded the motion. No discussion followed and it was unanimously, 5/0, approved. Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

ADOPTED THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF September, 2014.

By:

  
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 Alice Frierson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Penny Delaney, City Clerk