

BUDGET WORKSESSION

AUGUST 21, 2007

A Budget Worksession was held on August 21, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council Members attending were Johnson, Heine, Fazzino, and Whitlock. Council Member Goodman was absent due to illness. Also in attendance: Administrator Strube, Captain Anderson, Ms. Way, and Recorder Baumann.

Administrator Strube presented an overview of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2008 budget to the Council. Administrator Strube then invited representatives from several different agencies to address the Council regarding their FY 07/08 budget request.

Katy Grantham from United Way-211 of DeSoto County provided Council Members with a handout updating the work that has been done by 211. Ms. Grantham stated the greatest need for DeSoto County referrals is financial, informational, and the food pantry. She reported that DeSoto County and the DeSoto County School Board have each budgeted \$15,000 for United Way-211 in FY 2007/2008. Ms. Grantham requests \$6,000.00 from City. It was noted that \$6,000.00 has been earmarked in the proposed budget.

James Westberry, representing the Historical Society, presented Council Members with a copy of the budget for the Historical Society for 2007-2008. The budget includes restorations of the Ingram House, a payment on Mr. Melton's Historical Library, computer equipment, software upgrades, and insurance. The Historical Society is requesting \$2,500.00 from the City which has been earmarked in the proposed budget.

Pam Ames, President of the Main Street Association addressed the Council to request \$5,000.00. Mrs. Ames reported that Florida Main Street has recognized the Arcadia Main Street Association. Mrs. Ames stated that in order to remain a member of Florida Main Street Association all agencies must have an annual budget of \$60,000.00. She noted that most of the funds in their budget are received through memberships, dues, and special fund raisers such as the Watermelon Festival. Mrs. Ames also stated another requirement of Florida Main Street is that they have a full time Administrator in place. Currently the Main Street Association is preparing for the annual Fall Festival and December Tour of Homes. Main Street also tends to the signs at Highway 70 East and Oak Street in the Antique District. Mrs. Ames reported the sign made by Mr. Wickey was very nice; however it was not what Main Street had agreed to. It was noted that Mr. Wickey has been paid; however the "Woodshop" advertisement on the sign still needs to be removed. Mrs. Ames then stated Main Street helped with the upkeep of the Tree of Knowledge Park and provided flags for the Antique District in addition to planting palm trees. Administrator Strube reported the City had earmarked \$5,000. for Main Street.

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Kim Spencer from the Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council to request \$7,500.00. At this time the Chamber is trying to move forward with renovations in keeping with the Historical motif of the area. It was reported that they did not receive any bids for during the first bid process. They went out to bid again and an architect and builder have been found. A test for asbestos and lead was done on the building, with no asbestos being found and little lead. DeSoto County in the past has provided \$12,500, however, this year the Chamber has not heard from them. It was noted that \$7,500 has been earmarked in the budget for the Chamber.

Kevin Chanault representing the Selby House addressed the Council to request \$2,500.00 from the City. Letters and brochures were presented to the Council informing them of how the programs of the Selby House help the citizens of Arcadia and DeSoto County. Administrator Strube reported that the Selby Foundation had helped with the renovations to the Margaret Way building in the 1980's. It was noted that \$2,500.00 has been earmarked in the budget for Selby House.

Captain Anderson of the Arcadia Police Department addressed the Council to discuss the need for three (3) new police cars. Captain Anderson reported that of the twenty-four (24) cars in service many of them have 100,000, 90,000 and 70,000 miles. One (1) car was donated by the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department. The years ranged from 1999 to 2002. Council Member Heine advised Captain Anderson to talk with Zolfo Springs, Police Department to see where they purchased the new cars they have and at what price. Council Member Heine also inquired of Administrator Strube if the budget could support the purchase of at least two (2) cars. Administrator Strube stated one (1) car was in the budget and he would look into the possibility of another.

The Council all thanked Administrator Strube for his work on the budget noting the time and effort it takes to put together a balanced budget that they can work with.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.


CITY RECORDER


PRESIDENT