

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

A Budget Public Hearing of the Arcadia City Council was held on September 13, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Councilmembers attending were: Whitlock, Heine, Johnson, Goodman and Fazzone. Also in attendance: Administrator Strube, Public Works Director Reed, Assistant Fire Chief Wells, Fireman Sweeting and Joens, Wastewater Plant Operator Jones, Systems Scarborough, Ms. Way. City Attorney Hollomon and Recorder Baumann were absent.

The Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Whitlock.

The invocation was given by Goodman.

The Public Hearing is to consider the proposed Millage Rate and the Tentative Budget for the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 as advertised.

Administrator Strube stated that the Public Hearing was noticed on the trim notices sent to each property owner by the Property Appraiser, showing the value, proposed Millage, proposed tax and date of the Public Hearing. The proposed Millage Rate 8.9963 is the same as last year's millage rate. The Roll Back Rate is 8.9383 which is 0% increase over last years rate. The percentage increase in Millage over the Roll Back Rate necessary to fund the Budget is .65% (less than 1%). The specific purpose for which Ad Valorem Tax Revenues are being increased is to provide funding for allocation towards increased operational expenditures, equipment purchases and reserve needs in all departments, and additional operational cash flow.

The administrator stated that in the proposed budget there were increases in Golf Course and Mobile Home Park rates. Also last year Council considered using a collection agency on large past due water accounts. Due to the hurricane this was not done however we do need to look at this again. The overall budget is basically the same as last year.

The administrator also reviewed the other required budgets that support Water and Sewer Bond Funds – Sinking Funds – and other required Reserve and Renewal and Replacement Funds – Gas Tax and Infrastructure Funds.

Any comments from Council may be made at this time or anyone from the Public may speak. Council deferred to the Public.

Linda Williams spoke for the Chamber of Commerce stating they had long range plans which included a building and they were requesting the lease of a portion of McSwain Park for this purpose. Fazzone, Heine and Whitlock all stated they were opposed to leasing a part of the park. Several issues were discussed including other properties. Mrs. Williams stated they had looked at several pieces however the present market prices make it prohibitive. Fazzone repeated his concern about no contract. Arcadia not in name and use of building plus \$7,500.00 budgeted in cash. He is a supporter of the Chamber of Commerce and feels the City does its share.

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Pam Ames spoke for Main Street asking for \$10,000 to help meet the \$60,000.00 budget required for a Main Street Program. The proposed budget has \$5,000.00 for Main Street. No other action was taken.

The Mayor then called for anyone else from the Public – no one spoke.

The administrator, after no changes were made, announced there were no amendments to the proposed budget.

Administrator Strube requested Council consideration on instituting a longevity bonus for City departments other than the police department who already have a provision for a longevity plan. The administrator proposed a longevity bonus plan as follows: years of service to be calculated based on employee's dates of hire. Longevity bonus years will be calculated to the employees last date of hire anniversary date and paid after October 1<sup>st</sup> of the next fiscal year. Strube proposed that Sec. 23.10 Service Recognition of the Personnel Manual be rewritten to show the Police Department's current longevity plan as service recognition for that department and the above proposed longevity plan as service recognition for all other departments.

Goodman moved to approve the implementation of a longevity bonus plan, as presented, seconded by Heine and carried.

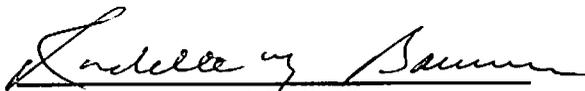
Since there were no amendments to the Tentative Budget there is no need to re-compute the proposed Millage Rate.

Fazzone moved to adopt the tentative millage rate at 8.9963 mills, seconded by Heine and carried.

Johnson moved to adopt the Tentative Budgets of \$13,096,174.00, seconded by Goodman and carried.

Goodman moved to authorize the advertisement for the Public Hearing on September 20, 2005 to adopt the Final Millage Rate and the 2005-2006 Final Budgets, seconded by Johnson and carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

  
CITY RECORDER

  
PRESIDENT