



**CITY OF COOPER CITY
CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
FINAL BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 at 6:30 PM**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Pulcini, Meltzer, Green, Curran and Mayor Ross.

3. CHANGES TO AGENDA/EMERGENCY MATTERS

None.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING

a. Open Public Meeting

Neil Dejesus, former Cooper City resident, Commissioner and former Fire Chief for BSO spoke on fire and police services and advanced life support needs on the apparatus. He believes that changes to personnel on Fire Rescues should not be an option.

Mike Bufalo, 11648 SW 55 St, spoke on possible cuts to the Public Safety budget. He said that substandard levels of service is not wanted by residents. He also said he encourages the Commission to find other places in the budget to cut beside the Public Safety Budget.

Jorge Nunez, resident and Fire Captain of neighboring municipality spoke on concerns with potential cuts to personnel for BSO Fire.

Charles Bickman, Vice President of spoke on levels of staffing on fire apparatuses and concerns of personnel decreases.

Jason Smith, resident spoke on keeping the vital services we currently have with Fire and Police.

b. Agenda Concerns

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS – PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget and Taxes

a. Final Public Hearing on Adoption of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Millage Rate – Ord. No. 19-9-2

(NOTE: Pursuant to the Florida TRIM Bill, the Millage Rate must be discussed and adopted prior to the adoption of the annual budget).

City Attorney Horowitz read "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE OPERATING MILLAGE RATE OF 6.8102 OR \$6.8102 PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAXABLE ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE, WHICH IS EQUAL TO THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 6.8102, FOR THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO THE 2019-2020 CITY BUDGET, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 200, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE" by title.

Commissioner Green asked about dollars earmarked for public safety.

Finance Director Sherry Walker answered they the budgeted based on the consideration letter minus the rent payment and radios. The remainder of the items are on the Police side, nothing on the Fire side.

Commissioner Green thanked everyone for attending. He said he supports all Fire and Police personnel. He said staff for the City have made reductions for the budget. He advised that what he has not heard is what can Police and Fire do on behalf of the residents. He wants to do what is best for the residents, police and fire, and the City.

Commissioner Curran said we started this process about 11 months ago. There has been six positions cut in the City and over 1 million dollars cut. He said he is not privy to the four cuts. He said that this is the group he wanted to sit with months ago. He said he has been asking for ways to save money in areas. He said he will not support cuts that are to the feet of the trucks but he will be looking for cuts.

Mayor Ross thanked all boots on the ground. He said working with administration is a difficult task due to changes. He said he has asked several individuals for ideas and recommendations. He stated when they added the second truck they were given erroneous information. He wants to hear recommendations.

Mayor Ross opened the public hearing.

Mike, Bufalo, asked where the 6.8 number is from.

Mrs. Walker said its same revenue collected as FY19.

Mr. Bufalo said that while he appreciates the rollback perhaps it is too much. He said we need to make sound financial decisions based on information.

Commissioner Curran asked Mrs. Walker if she knows the difference between the 6.8 and the 6.9.

Mrs. Walker answered \$343,000.

Mayor Ross said he understands Mr. Bufalo's concerns.

Brenda Kezar, 4979 asked the Commissioners if part of their platform was to roll back the millage rate that Mr. Bufalo supported.

Commissioner Meltzer answered that is correct that was his platform.

Jason Smith said while he appreciates promises on the campaign trail sometimes things need to change. He asked as a resident what does the rollback rate provide back to the residents.

Mrs. Walker said residents be paying the same amount as last year.

Mr. Smith would like to see how much that will be in a dollar amount.

Commissioner Curran said it would be fair to say the savings would be around \$20.00.

Mrs. Walker said yes.

Joe Fernandez, Fire Chief BSO, spoke on standards and his concerns with potential cuts to Fire rescue in the proposal. He said he wants to continue be our provider but wants to retain standards.

Commissioner Pulcini said he nor the Commission has seen that proposal.

Mayor Ross closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Pulcini thanked all who attended and advised the same level of service that has been provided is included in this budget.

Mr. Fernandez said he understands that and is available.

Commissioner Pulcini hopes he will come back to the meeting where that issue is being voted on.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked everyone for attending the meeting and he appreciates all Police and Fire do. He said that his hope is in moving forward we can get this done. He advised the City is not filling vacancies COLAS and increases are gone. The City is tightening their belts and he is asking BSO to do the same.

Commissioner Green said he would continue to support three on a rescue. He said he is 1/5th of the vote and sees what the Commission is doing in not having a high millage rate for the residents. The residents love the services the difficulty comes with paying for the services. We have 109 employees and those employees are performing multiple tasks and are concerned about whether or not they will have a job next year. As an elected official, he needs to make sure he is looking at what's best for the residents, public safety and for our employees that are delivering services to our residents. City staff are not receiving any merits or COLA's and they are concerned for their job safety. He is hoping that is considered in negotiations. He is asking the negotiation team if there is a way to save please advise.

Mr. Fernandez said his biggest concern is that the commission understand how cuts will affect service.

Commissioner Curran said he would love to have a workshop or a round table meeting to discuss issues. He said he has concerns over the equipment and the rent. He appreciates everyone and all his or her work. He asked if the second ambulance got called out no one from the ladder truck with jump on the rescue and go.

Mr. Fernandez said an adaptive response creates a cascading affect were the units capabilities are not there. He does not support the adaptive response as it's ineffective and dangerous.

Commissioner Curran said there is a City with a safer grant and wants to know why Cooper City is not eligible.

Mr. Fernandez answered the City might be eligible and those are conversations you could have with BSO. He said there is also a match component.

Mayor Ross thanked Chief for meeting with him. He said maybe what is needed is a change to their negotiation unit. He said when he makes offers his offers are met with no prevail. He said he does not look at it as a reduction in services but as we overbought in the first place. He said Fire is important to him and he thinks the equipment we have is not according to guidelines and has spoken up about the issue for years.

Mr. Fernandez said he has kept us in equipment that is serviceable. He said we can discuss things that are more effective and economic. He said it's proven that numbers of personnel matter on the apparatuses.

Mayor Ross said when talking to BSO compared to different cities. Other cities can do the same job for less but BSO cannot.

Mr. Fernandez said that is a good point but its quality of employees. There are agencies around us that have instability and that reflects in delivery of service. Public safety is not a cheap service and it can be more expensive to not pay for it.

MOTION: To approve Ordinance 19-9-2 at the rate of 6.8102. **Moved by Commissioner Pulcini. Seconded by Commissioner Meltzer. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed. Commissioners Pulcini, Meltzer, Green and Mayor Ross, Yes. Commissioner Curran, No. Motion passed.**

b. Final Public Hearing on Adoption of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget – Ord. No. 19-9-3

City Attorney Horowitz read "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020, AND APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE" by title.

Mayor Ross opened the public hearing with no one wishing to speak. Mayor Ross closed the public hearing.

MOTION: To approve Ordinance 19-9-3. **Moved by Commissioner Pulcini. Seconded by Commissioner Meltzer. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed. Commissioners Pulcini, Meltzer, Green and Mayor Ross, Yes. Commissioner Curran, No. Motion passed.**

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS/REPORTS

Commissioner Pulcini thanked everyone including Mr. Lynn and said hopefully all meetings will be this quick.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked everyone for attending and hopes that everyone can work together for accommodation.

Commissioner Curran said he voted no because if we do not come up with a plan the tax cuts will be on city services. He hopes the fire study is coming quick to stay ahead of the curb.

Mayor Ross thanked everyone for attending, for the brotherhood. He appreciates all the Chiefs for coming as well. He said he wants to work this

out together. He looks forward to the fire study and hopes that will assist some. He said his line of communications are always open.

8. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (2 MINUTES)

Andrew Gross, 5010 Regency Isles Way, spoke on his time with SW Ranches and how service was affected due to budget cuts. In addition, he spoke on the need for the 3-man rescue and he does not want to see any cuts.

Commissioner Meltzer thanked Mr. Gross for always speaking from the heart and teaching him about fire.

Mayor Ross said they are not looking to cut but to work with BSO to avoid that and gain ideas. He said maybe we need to look at how calls are ran.

Brenda Kezar, said Mr. Gross is amazing when it comes to fire. She also thanked all who serve BSO police and fire and said the residents do appreciate them.

Neil Dejesus, said he would like to offer his time to talk about standards.

Jenn Goldfarb, spoke on the Finance Advisory Board and the sunset until the Resolution was brought back.

City Attorney Horowitz advised due to an advertisement error by the Sun Sentinel we will be meeting again Friday September 27, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

NOTICE: This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 954-434-4300 ext. 220, not later than two days prior to such proceeding. One or more members of the City of Cooper City Advisory Boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting. Anyone wishing to appeal any decision made by the Cooper City Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Agenda items may be viewed online at www.coopercityfl.org or at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Cooper City, 9090 SW 50 Place, Cooper City, Florida, 33328, 954-434-4300