

**MINUTES
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

The Regular Meeting of the Seminole City Council was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, 9199 113th Street North, Seminole, Florida.

James Johnson, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilor Bob Matthews followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Councilors John Counts, Patricia Hartstein, Dan Hester, Peter Hofstra and Bob Matthews; Mayor James Johnson; City Manager Frank Edmunds and City Clerk Lesley DeMuth. Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn and City Attorney John Elias asked to be excused.

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

None.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Michael McKean, 7571 Ridge Road, recommended a three-way stop on 75th Avenue to stop speeders, and he remembered friends who died on 9/11.

Brenda Barnes Lovy, 7547 Ridge Road, thanked Council for the City's help on addressing the issue with speeders in her neighborhood, and presented the City Clerk with a petition from neighbors on their concerns with the speed of traffic.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 28, 2007.

Motion by Councilor Hartstein, second by Councilor Hester to approve the minutes of August 28, 2007.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

3. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING. CONSIDER A FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 19-2007 APPROVING THE MILLAGE RATE OF 2.4793 MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 19-2007, and stated the Second Reading and Public Hearing on the Ordinance will be September 25, 2007. Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing. Receiving no public comment, the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilor Hester, second by Councilor Hartstein to approve Ordinance No. 19-2007, on First Reading establishing the millage rate of 2.4793 mills for the City of Seminole for Fiscal Year 2008 which is a 5% decrease from the roll-back rate of 2.6098.

In response to a request from Councilor Counts, City Manager Edmunds explained the roll-back rate is the rate that will generate that same amount of revenue the City generated in the prior fiscal year. As provided for in recently adopted legislation, most cities had to reduce from the roll-back rate a certain percentage based upon their taxing practices in prior years. The City was required to reduce five percent in addition to the roll-back rate.

ROLL CALL:	COUNCILOR COUNTS	AYE
	COUNCILOR HARTSTEIN	AYE
	COUNCILOR HESTER	AYE
	COUNCILOR HOFSTRA	AYE
	COUNCILOR MATTHEWS	AYE
	MAYOR JOHNSON	AYE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING. CONSIDER A FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 20-2007 APPROVING THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.

The City Clerk read Ordinance No. 20-2007 by title only.

Administrative Services Director Harry Kyne gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget. Copies of a Budget in Brief booklet were provided to Council and the public.

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing.

Linda Cole, Seminole Gardens, thanked Council for the reduction in the millage rate, and felt the City should get comps from other cities on travel and education budgets, and merit and cost of living increases. Ms. Cole expressed her appreciation to those who have sacrificed their lives before, on, and since 9/11.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Matthews, second by Councilor Hofstra to approve Ordinance No. 20-2007 on First Reading approving the Fiscal Year 2008 General Fund and Special Events Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2008.

Councilor Hester stated what this proves to him, with regard to what the City of Seminole has done from a millage standpoint and reducing it, is the City is probably ahead of the curve with regard to cities of similar size and more importantly it proves that we can do just as good of a job with less. Councilor Hester stated Council will be having a workshop hopefully before the end of the year to discuss the future with regard to the budget, to compensation levels in all areas, and to go through each department to see if we are being efficient as we possibly can. He thought Council has a fiduciary responsibility to look at how we spend the money and where the money comes from, and there may be some things the City is offering today that in the future it will not have the ability to offer.

ROLL CALL:	COUNCILOR COUNTS	AYE
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COUNCILOR HARTSTEIN	AYE
COUNCILOR HESTER	AYE
COUNCILOR HOFSTRA	AYE
COUNCILOR MATTHEWS	AYE
MAYOR JOHNSON	AYE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PINELLAS COUNTY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SALES SURTAX.

Mayor Johnson announced the agenda item has been postponed, and will be brought back at a later date.

6. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PINELLAS COUNTY FOR A “FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX”.

Motion by Councilor Hartstein, second by Councilor Hester to authorize the City Manager to execute the First Amendment to the Local Option Fuel Tax Interlocal Agreement.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

7. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) FIRST RESPONDER AGREEMENT WITH PINELLAS COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2007 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012.

Motion by Councilor Counts, second by Councilor Matthews to authorize the City Manager to execute the Emergency Medical Services ALS First Responder Agreement with Pinellas County.

Councilor Hofstra asked if the issue the City Attorney had with one of the paragraphs has been resolved. City Manager Edmunds stated it has administratively, and asked Council to approve the Agreement as submitted.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

8. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PINELLAS COUNTY FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TRAINING (HAZMAT).

Motion by Councilor Counts, second by Councilor Hartstein to authorize the City Manager to execute the Interlocal Agreement regarding the Pinellas County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

9. CONSIDER REAPPOINTING LES MILEWSKI TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL REVIEW BOARD FOR A TWO YEAR TERM THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Motion by Councilor Matthews, second by Councilor Hester to reappoint Les Milewski to the Developmental Review Board for a two year term expiring September 30, 2009.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

10. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

None

11. CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

- Deputy Dave DiSano gave an update on the activities of the Community Policing Officers.
- Library Director Michael Bryan briefed Council on the ICMA Local Government-Public Libraries Partnership Initiative. He and City Manager Edmunds were among 30 other City Managers and Library Directors from around the United States who were asked to participate in this Initiative which is funded by a grant through the Gates Foundation.
- Library Director Michael Bryan provided a summary of the summer programs at the library, and reported attendance in the programs this year was 4,200 children. In response to a question from Councilor Counts on the increase in participation for the elementary program, Library Director Bryan stated he is not sure what to completely contribute this to but, the speculation is that parents are on the lookout for good, free activities to bring their children to and the public library provides this.
- Reminded Council that the Music in the Park series begins Friday, September 14, and will continue every Friday night through October 19.
- Recreation Director Jim Sheets gave a report on the summer recreation activities, and provided a "Summer Recap" PowerPoint presentation. Director Sheets asked Council to meet him Friday, at 6:30 pm by the stage for the Music in Park welcome address.
- Advised Council that he has asked the Public Works Department to continue a practice along Bay Pines, particularly in the vicinity of the VA Hospital that most cities along Gulf Boulevard do by displaying the American Flag from Memorial Day to July 4, and again at Veterans Day. City Manager Edmunds stated he would like to initiate this, this year and hopefully have the flags in place for Veterans Day. Staff will be doing the installation, and the cost will be very modest. There was no objection from Council.

12. OLD BUSINESS:

Councilor Counts asked City Manager Edmunds if he had an opportunity to speak to Mary Russell regarding her interest in the Seminole School Business Partnership Program. City Manager Edmunds stated he has met with Ms. Russell regarding this possibility. The City is in the process of verifying the balance of the Committee, prior to Council consideration of appointments.

In response to a question from Councilor Hester on where the City is and what the process is with the speeding issue by the park, City Manager Edmunds stated when the City receives a complaint he makes the Community Policing Officers aware of the complaint and asks the Public Works Department to deploy the speed monitoring trailer. This will then give some hard evidence on the amount, the time of day, and the speed of traffic. From this we will collect the data and compare it to our Traffic Calming

Policy, and make recommendations to Council if additional activities are necessary. Right now we are awaiting the data on this particular complaint and should have something to Council by their next meeting.

13. NEW BUSINESS.

Councilor Counts advised Council he received a call from a concerned citizen regarding a young man injured by a vehicle on the corner of 125th Street and 102nd Avenue at 6:30 am this morning. He has passed this concern onto Susan Latvala who is the Chair of the Pinellas County School Transportation Safety Board and City Manager Edmunds. Typically, the County does not use School Crossing Guards for high school students but, he has asked this be reviewed for this area.

Councilor Hofstra asked how Council will respond to the letter received from Margaret McGarrity an Attorney for the owner of Page II, requesting permission to address Council at the workshop scheduled for next Wednesday.

Mayor Johnson stated traditional at workshops Council does not allow public presentations but, it is a decision that is strictly up to the City Council.

Councilor Hester suggested allowing the Attorney or her client three or five minutes to present, as she did send a letter in advance.

Councilor Counts felt this may set a precedent to allow speakers at future workshops.

Mayor Johnson felt if Council went with Councilor Hester's recommendation, other interested parties should also be allowed to speak.

City Manager Edmunds advised Council the primary purpose of a workshop is to provide Council with information associated with business items the Council may have to address in the future. In this case it is an ordinance that is scheduled for a public hearing during the next regular business meeting. This workshop was called primarily at the request of City Council to hear from the Sheriff's Office regarding the proposed ordinance. City Manager Edmunds felt if Council is inclined to allow a representative from Page II to speak, that a representative from Boomers also be permitted to speak.

Councilor Hartstein stated she felt Council needed to have the workshop and just collect the data. She preferred the public hearing be used for the Lawyer to make her presentation.

Councilor Hofstra stated he is inclined to respond to Ms. McGarrity and ask her to reduce her arguments to writing for submittal to Council at the workshop meeting.

Councilor Matthews suggested if anyone has anything they would like Council to review, to please get it to them before the workshop.

It was the consensus of Council to go with the recommendation asking the Lawyer to put her comments in writing for Council review.

Councilor Hester asked City Manager Edmunds if he could send a letter to Congressman Young to again explore what is involved in Seminole getting its own post office.

Councilor Matthews pointed out that this will not only be a name change but also a delivery change. He felt this is something worth looking into again.

Councilor Counts asked City Manager Edmunds if police patrols could be increased within the Seminole Middle School area during pick-up times until a more permanent traffic solution could be determined through the MPO. He felt although the School is not within our City limits, the City did have a vested interest in the safety of the greater Seminole area, and for our emergency units if they need to get out and go south on 131st Street.

Councilor Matthews stated the traffic lighting is poorly managed, a turning lane is needed, and there are serious safety issues for children, vehicles and the fire station in this area.

Mayor Johnson reminded those Councilors who attended the Florida League of Cities Conference that they will need to provide a report to Council. Mayor Johnson suggested this be done at one of the next two business meetings. The Councilors agreed to give their reports the first business meeting in October.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

In honor of all those who were effected by 9/11, Mayor Johnson asked City Council, staff and the audience to join with him in a moment of silence.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Date Approved: _____

Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk

James Johnson, Mayor