

**MINUTES
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009**

The Special Meeting of the Seminole City Council was held on Thursday, September 3, 2009, in the City Hall, City Council Chambers, 9199 113th Street North, Seminole, Florida.

James Johnson, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Invocation was given by Councilor Waters followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present were: Councilors Leslie Waters, Dan Hester, Thomas Barnhorn, John Counts, and Patricia Plantamura, Vice Mayor Bob Matthews; Mayor James Johnson; City Attorney John Elias; City Manager Frank Edmunds and City Clerk Ginger Stilton.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Shelly Reale, 8409 121st Street N. Spoke on an event that she had been working on that promotes awareness and raises funds for the care and research of the ALS Florida Chapter (Lou Gahrig's Disease) called the Tour de Vie Cycling Event to begin and at Walsingham Park scheduled for November 7, 2009. Ms. Reale said she had picked the date because it was her mother's birthday and wanted to honor her as she was afflicted with this most devastating disease. Council was invited to participate.

2. **CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING. CONSIDER A FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 27-2009 ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATE OF 2.4793 MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.**

City Clerk Stilton read Ordinance No. 27-2009 in its entirety.

Before opening the Public Hearing, Mayor Johnson asked City Manager Edmunds to present any staff reports related to the Hearing. City Manager Edmunds pointed out to Council that a revised Agenda Memo was distributed to Council with a revised motion for Council to consider. City Manager Edmunds asked Director Kyne to come forward and make a presentation regarding the proposed millage rate. Director Kyne presented a chart that showed the distribution of property taxes which indicated that for every tax dollar sent to the Property Appraiser, that Seminole receives 13 cents, explaining the majority goes to the Pinellas County School tax. He went on to explain the 2.4793 mills for the current year is the same as last year, but is actually a 12.53% reduction from the rolled back rate, and for a home with a \$100,000 taxable value, they pay to the City approximately \$248 a year in taxes. Director Kyne then reviewed other charts tracking the millage rate in previous years, and millage rates compared to other cities in Pinellas County, as well as the Fire Districts.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing. Receiving no public comment, Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilor Hester, second by Councilor Barnhorn to adopt Ordinance No. 27-2009, on First Reading establishing the Fiscal Year 2010 Millage Rate of 2.4793 mills for the City of Seminole which is a 12.53% decrease from the rolled back rate of 2.8345.

Councilor Planatamura pointed out that Councilor Hester read from the original memo and should have read from the updated version, Councilor Hester agreed that it be move to “adopt on First Reading...”

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILOR PLANTAMURA	AYE
VICE MAYOR MATTHEWS	AYE
COUNCILOR WATERS	AYE
COUNCILOR HESTER	AYE
COUNCILOR BARNHORN	AYE
COUNCILOR COUNTS	AYE
MAYOR JOHNSON	AYE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Johnson stated that there will be a Second and Final Reading to adopt Ordinance No. 27-2009 establishing the Millage Rate of 2.4793 Mills for Fiscal Year 2010, on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. here in City Council Chambers and the public is invited to attend.

3. CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING. CONSIDER A FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 28-2009 APPROVING THE GENERAL OPERATING AND SPECIAL EVENTS FUND BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.

City Clerk Stilton read Ordinance No. 28-2009 by title only.

Mayor Johnson asked City Manager Edmunds to present any staff reports related to this Hearing. City Manager Edmunds asked Director Kyne to come forward and present the Budget In Brief which outlines the Budget Proposal. Director Kyne reviewed the Budget In Brief and stated the Operating Budget this year is \$15,545,919, and of that amount 67% goes to public safety-the rest is divided up between the Charter positions, Administration, Recreation, Library, Public Works, and Community Development. Director Kyne explained that one of the things the City has done was to diversify its revenue streams, and went on to discuss the breakdown of taxes, and related charts.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing. At this time Mr. James Quinn; 8350 112st Street came forward to comment on the Budget. Mr. Quinn asked that the Council reconsider eliminating funds for the Conference of Mayors and consider reallocating those funds to keep Relay for Life, fund the Halloween Fright Night, and increase funds for the SPCA.

Mr. Tom Christy; 11224 82nd Avenue N. said he had many questions to ask before he got here but was able to get many of them answered before the meeting starting by asking the appropriate people, such as Director Kyne. He received his assessment in the mail and property values are dropping, and are we prepared for that and asked does this Budget address that. He was grateful to also receive the Budget In Brief-which he did not have before coming this evening. He mentioned what another resident of Seminole Gardens had previously asked of Council, if they could lead by example, and was there

anything they could give up in the Budget. One thing he thought of was reducing the Council's travel expenses perhaps in this Budget or in a future budget may be something they would want to look at.

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

Motion by Vice Mayor Matthews, second by Councilor Waters to approve Ordinance No. 28-2009 on First Reading approving the Fiscal Year 2010 General Fund Budget of \$15,545,919 and Special Events Fund Budget of \$79,850 and the Debt Service Fund of \$716,000 for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2009 and ending September 30, 2010.

Councilor Barnhorn stated listening to the Hearing he would like to propose a change to the Budget to remove the funding for the Mayor's Conference, take \$750 to put back in for Relay for Life, and also after listening the young lady tonight (Ms. Reale) take \$250 to donate to the campaign (ALS), take \$300 to use for Fright Night, and put the balance towards the SPCA.

Councilor Hester said it is interesting that Mr. Christy brought that up because approximately a week ago he had sent an email to the City Manager and asked what we paid to be a member of the Conference of Mayors and suggested that they look at that and Council decide whether or not they feel it was of value to them, which he feels it is not and that those funds be made available for other things. The only caveat that he might add to Councilor Barnhorn's suggestion would be that if Council was agreeable to dropping that membership then perhaps at some other meeting they could discuss how to use that money, rather than try and make that decision tonight.

City Manager Edmunds said that a number of Councilors have contacted him regarding that expenditure; slightly less than \$2000 and for those that might check the Conference of Mayors-their mission is to represent communities of 30,000 or greater, while our population is 18,700. He suggested since they were not looking for a reduction in appropriations-just a reassignment of appropriations, that at the conclusion of the Council action on the 23rd, that the Council would consider the reallocation of those funds and that would be the more appropriate time. Mayor Johnson said he had no problem with that, and it appeared Council concurred.

Councilor Plantamura said she was wondering that logistically if they were to take the Public Comments into account, that we could tonight make any Budget changes, and they were voting on the Budget, specific dollar amounts on a same night-how do they take the suggestions into account if they were voting on that already tonight. City Manger Edmunds explained that if the Council has an interest to reduce or increase the appropriations they would do that this evening by amending the Ordinance. In this particular case as he understood it, it wasn't a proposal to reduce the appropriation-but a reallocation of the appropriation that is contained in the proposal. If it appears that the Council has an interest to reduce or increase the appropriation then you would want to amend the Ordinance before you.

Councilor Plantamura said she thought her question was more that because this is a Public Hearing and we are having another Public Hearing in two weeks, if someone brought a really good idea to them like we want to cut something big, but we have already approved the dollar amount in the Budget, how do they actually take into account voting on a monetary amount tonight? City Manager Edmunds said the adoption of a Budget is a two step process. This evening they consider a First Reading that is the initial

step in the process, the Budget can still be amended between now and the time the Council considers a Second and Final Reading, so you still have time if that is the direction of Council to do so.

Councilor Plantamura asked if they would be voting on that again-the Second Reading of approving the Budget right after the next Public Hearing and if they were to make some kind of budgetary change it would be within an hour's period of time, so they legally have a Public Hearing and then approve the Budget. City Manager Edmunds said that is correct. Councilor Plantamura said if someone came up with something great we would have to sit down and do the numbers but we would have to approve it in the same meeting-it was just an observation.

Vice Mayor Matthews said the Budget is actually alive all the time, we are approving the maximum of what we are going to spend, and we do not want to change that value so that's what we are working on tonight, but we can change the Budget anytime. It doesn't have to happen at the next Public Hearing, we can change it two meetings down the road or whatever we determine as Council. We are not in a position that we have to do something at the next meeting.

Councilor Barnhorn said he had listened to what Mr. Christy had said about the travel budget, and he looks at it as an educational budget. They attend conferences, educational classes that's what the basic money is for, rather than just travel. He would ask someone new who just went, did you find there was a value in going to these educational formats and talking with the members and gaining from them. Councilor Plantamura said she certainly did, but she wondered if she had gone to it for ten years in a row would it have still been productive and that is why she asked at the last meeting, what new things they brought back, so she could learn from them. Councilor Barnhorn said that is what he did.

Mayor Johnson asked Councilors Plantamura and Barnhorn to please address the Mayor before speaking.

Councilor Plantamura asked for clarification when Mr. Kyne was going through the papers was there six employees of the Fire Department cut from this year's Budget. Director Kyne said the reductions were made in the 09 Budget in the 2010 Budget there will be no reductions except for the full time to part time and the elimination of the intern position.

Councilor Hester said the City Manager, under Council's direction and staff support (given these very difficult economic times that they were seeing and in their own personal lives, let alone what government faced to do), has done well and I am pretty proud of the job that has been done here. Councilor Hester said the Fiscal Year 2010 is a solid Budget and he thought Mr. Edmunds' job/work offered here could be worse. Since a number of us have been on Council and taken a conservative fiscal approach to government, the impact is seen in the results contained in this Budget. One of the things I have said now for 4 ½ years, there is no efficiency rating for government-there is in every other kind of business but government doesn't have one. If they did have one he would venture to say that the City of Seminole would be in the top 2% from an efficiency stand point, and applauds the Council, City Manager Edmunds and staff for their wonderful job they did.

Councilor Waters said she had read on the internet today that the State of Florida will be down a billion dollars next year, and the following two years will be even more, so the slide is still continuing. It is an excellent Budget, well done.

Vice Mayor Matthews said he would like to thank Mr. Hester for his comments, and he concurs with him.

Mayor Johnson said we have a wonderful Budget and you folks need to know that it is balanced and there was a lot of hard work that went into it from the Department Heads to City Manager, Mr. Kyne and his office and he personally would like to convey his thanks for a job well done. These are tough times we are living in.

ROLL CALL:

COUNCILOR PLANTAMURA	AYE
VICE MAYOR MATTHEWS	AYE
COUNCILOR WATERS	AYE
COUNCILOR HESTER	AYE
COUNCILOR BARNHORN	AYE
COUNCILOR COUNTS	AYE
MAYOR JOHNSON	AYE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Johnson stated that there will be a Second and Final Reading to adopt Ordinance No. 28-2009 approving the General Operating, Special Events and Debt Service Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2010, on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. here in City Council Chambers and the public is invited to attend.

4. CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 08-2009 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LOAN AGREEMENT FOR A BANK-QUALIFIED TERM NOTE WITH WACOVIA BANK N.A. AND FLORIDA MUNICIPAL LOAN COUNCIL

City Clerk Stilton read the title only.

Motion by Councilor Hester, second by Vice Mayor Matthews to approve Resolution No. 08-2009 authorizing the City Manager to execute a Loan Agreement with Wachovia Bank N.A. and the Florida Municipal Loan Council.

Councilor Plantamura said as you have heard this is for a 5.5 million dollar loan for the new City Emergency Operations Center and Public Works facility, but I am wondering since we are taking this loan out and we are hoping to pay this back with Penny for Pinellas revenue, aren't Penny for Pinellas revenues down County wide and if so, are we assured that the City will be able to pay what amounts to 1/3 of our annual budget. City Manager Edmunds said that was a good question, the sales tax revenues are tracking down from original estimates. Over the course of the next ten years we are estimated to receive 20 million dollars so this is 25% of that allocation and we feel very comfortable that we can be able to satisfy the loan requirements for this particular issue.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

5. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT PUBLIC WORKS' VEHICLE.

Motion by Vice Mayor Matthews, second by Councilor Waters to authorize the expenditure of \$15,760 from Capital Improvement Project funds associated with the purchase of a replacement vehicle in the Public Works Department.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

6. CITY COUNCIL REPORTS.

Councilor Plantamura reported she attended the groundbreaking for the Emergency Operations Center and Public works facility last Friday, and what she didn't say then but what she wished she had said then was that I hoped our architects and City Manager are asking the City workers who are going to be working in that building for their input because sometimes we overlook what they might need and they are the people that are going to be working there. I imagine you have already asked them, and if you haven't I do hope you will because I really respect the workers of our City.

Vice Mayor Matthews said he did intend to bring some literature from our FLC meeting last month and said it was still on his desk at home-and will have it next meeting. He reported he also attended the groundbreaking and enjoyed it, it is an item they talked about for a long time to do-to provide the protection we need for the equipment that we use on an emergency basis and also for the people that are going to do the emergency work for us also. I think it is a good start.

Councilor Waters reported she also attended the groundbreaking of the EOC/Public Works building, a wonderful event well attended. We did a ceremonial dig and finished the ceremony within seconds of a major thunder storm, and congratulations Jeremy, you organized that well. Attended the grand opening of a new exhibit titled "Flora and Fauna" at the Panama Canal Museum this past Saturday, August 29, 2009 which showcased Mr. McGoo, a 60 year old scarlet macaw and other beautiful parrots from the Pinellas Suncoast Parrot Sanctuary. The Panama Canal Museum is a gem in our community, with great educational outreach programs to our local schools as well as materials sent to school districts throughout the country. They have recently partnered with the University of Florida for part of their Caribbean Studies curriculum. I am now a card carrying member of the Museum and would like to encourage Council and citizens of the community to stop by the museum, bring your kids, become a member, and/or sponsor a Panama Canal Museum in a Trunk. The Museum number is 727-394-9338. I also attended the National Federation of the Blind meeting, at the Largo Library on August 29, 2009 with elected officials to discuss the importance of the issues that impact the blind and the sight-impaired. Some issues related to pedestrian safety, to access government websites, to guide dogs. I sat next to Katherine Cartier, the mother of Kyle, a sight-impaired 12 year old in Largo that has invented a safety device that will be of interest to all blind citizens – a URSeen cane which is a cane that lights up and can be seen by others. A reminder: The Memory Walk, by the Alzheimer's Association will be held at the St. Petersburg Pier on September 26th; anyone interested in joining her team or starting one, please call her at City Hall. Thank you to the Seminole Beacon for the recent Memory Walk article.

Councilor Barnhorn reported he attended the ground breaking of the EOC, and joined in the ceremony of literally the newest and greenest building here in Seminole. He also reported that for the last two weeks he has attended as part of a twelve week course presented by the Sheriff's Office, called the Citizen's Academy. He learned a lot about the Sheriff's Office and the first thing that Sheriff Coats emphasized was that it was an office and not a department. They have about 2,852 current employees 1,600 of them are Deputies, and in fact Seminole has the largest assigned Deputy ratio on all shifts of any of the communities that the Sheriff serves. We have three guaranteed designated Officers on every single shift, the only city that has that. Two designated Community Policing Officers which we all know and love and we also have two designated traffic officers which I wouldn't say we all know and love. Last year they had 33,300 incident reports, 3,500 additional offensive reports and they backed up other cities about 4,000 times and they had just about 79,500 calls that they actually went on, so that is a lot for 16 officers. They are keeping busy. There was a lot of talk about how human trafficking has reared its ugly head within our County; down on the beach and in Clearwater. We have joined in partnership with St. Petersburg College in efforts to try to stop that both locally and globally. St. Petersburg College backs this program. One of the things I took away from the Citizen's Academy training was that you really do not want to make any sudden movements around the police officer's K-9 units. They use shepherds because the shepherd is more of a universal work dog, even though it tracks, it tracks in the city and they actually train them by putting scent on concrete so the dog knows to look and find the scent. They go by the last human being that entered that area, and that is who they are going to look for. They also toured the Mobil Aquatic Team Unit; basically three boats which sit in an enclosed van truck and they go out and do retrieval of items from the water. One of the take a-ways that I would like to mention is that the Sheriff's Office has a program and for lack of better wording a low jack program designed for people with Alzheimer's, and it is a wrist band with a chip on it that emits a sound, and allows them to locate a person within 18 minutes within a one mile radius. It costs, \$300 for initial outlay, \$75 a year which includes battery replacement once a month, and they do have scholarship funds for people that can not afford the initial outlay, so if any of our residents have a desire for that please contact the Sheriff's Office. Councilor Waters said she thought it was called the Silver Alert.

Mayor Johnson attended the Public works/EOC groundbreaking ceremony. He also attended the Mayor's Council-not the one in Washington State but the one in Largo. It was quite interesting, there were fourteen Mayors there who discussed changes in the cities, and as quickly as he receives a copy of the minutes, he will make sure Council receives a copy. They talked a lot about Home Rule again, and it just keeps coming up, and consolidation was another interesting subject. The minutes will be provided to Council so they know how the Mayors in Pinellas County feel about Home Rule and consolidation.

7. CITY MANAGER REPORTS

- Deputy DiSano provided Council with the Community Policing Report.
- City Manager Edmunds explained that on the Public Works/EOC project he required the architect meet with the employees first to understand their needs, then go back to the employee with project reports.
- Attended Greenpower Partners Forum with Jeremy Hockenbury, sponsored by Progress Energy which was well attended by most cities.
- Announced that Councilor Waters had completed her NIMS 700 Course.
- Summarized Resolution No. 09-2009 which will be discussed under New Business.

Councilor Plantamura said she noticed that a number of the speakers (on the Progress Energy Greenpower Agenda) spoke about stimulus funds, and I am assuming that is the ARR-the recovery money. City Manager Edmunds indicated he concurred. Councilor Plantamura said she knew she had asked several times, and each time she has been told they were not getting any and according to the number of speakers asked if we were going to be getting any Stimulus Money in the City of Seminole. City Manager Edmunds said there is a possibility, but not associated with energy reductions, we have submitted a grant application for replacement of a Fire Station. The Stimulus is so broad and varied that there does appear to be a component of the Stimulus that we may be able to qualify for and that would be the funding of the replacement of our Fire Station. That grant has gone in, and we are awaiting scoring and a response. We don't anticipate that to be until the end of this year. With regards to the conservation/green effort it really does not appear that we qualify for those funds. In this particular case, Progress Energy may actually qualify for some of that funding, the major distributors/producers of energy. Part of this presentation was to inform the communities of where Progress Energy may be heading in the next several years in hopes that the communities will be prepared as well, and we can chat about that at a future workshop.

8. **OLD BUSINESS.** None

9. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- **Resolution No. 09-2009**

City Clerk Stilton read the Resolution by title only.

Motion by Councilor Waters second by Councilor Hester to approve Resolution No. 09-2009.

Councilor Waters said she was proud to approve this Resolution because this is going to impact her neighborhood and they have been trying to get a light for over thirty years, way back when she was President of the homeowners association. Thank you to the City, thank you to the County, we look forward to that.

City Manager Edmunds explained there appears to be a real partnership on this project, and he described previous contacts he had made with the County and the benefit to residents of the City and County as well, in light of their financial difficulties.

Vice Mayor Matthews asked with the installation of this light has the County concurred with the use of solid state lighting or incandescent lighting for efficiency purposes. City Manager Edmunds stated the permanent installation will be the more energy efficient. Right now they are trying to do is whatever they can to actually construct this traffic signal and they are going to use parts from surplus in order to get the light there. After that, Councilor they may start to introduce the more energy efficient forms of that signalization. Vice Mayor Matthews asked if it would be synchronized to the light down the street (84th Lane), and suggests it should be synchronized. The light at Home Depot has never been synchronized. The third item he would like to discuss is the intersections that have left turn arrows there is no consistency as to whether you get a green light after the left turn arrow and he would submit they need to require that the lights be sensitive to traffic so they come on within some kind of reasonable time. The neighborhood is going to need a light that cycle equitably for them to get in and out.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.

10. CONSIDER A MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

City Manager Edmunds asked the Mayor if he could mention an item that he neglected to report under his Reports; the Music in the Park series begins September 18, 2009 and the Recreation staff would like Council to be there no later than 6:45 p.m. so they can do an introduction and welcome of the Mayor and Council.

Vice Mayor Matthews mentioned again that the Seminole High School Band has been selected to perform in the Macy's Day Parade, and they need to raise a lot of money to help get that going. If anyone had any suggestions they could call the shop.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting.

Date Approved: _____

Ginger Stilton, City Clerk

James Johnson, Mayor