

**City of DeBary**  
**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**  
**Monday**  
**August 17, 2009**  
**6:00 PM**  
City Council Chambers  
16 Colomba Road  
DeBary, Florida 32713

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Garcia called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

**Members Present:** Mayor Bob Garcia, Vice Mayor Norman Erickson, Council Member Van Conoley, Council Member Jack Lenzen, and Council Member Leonard Marks

**Others Present:** Acting City Manager Anthony Gonzalez, City Clerk Stacy Tebo, Finance Administrator Jimmie Seelbinder, and Parks and Recreation Director John Fletcher

**III. Business – Discussion of Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget**

Council Member Lenzen stated that the Council previously approved the millage rate, and they would need to take \$600,000 from the reserves.

Finance Administrator Jimmie Seelbinder said that he already cut the budget to account for the \$600,000 shortfall.

Council Member Marks said that in the previous year, he had asked for a breakdown showing a five and ten percent reduction of expenditures, but never received the detail. He added that he would like to know what was cut.

Council Member Conoley gave his prepared summary of the budget to each of the Council members and went through the document in detail.

Mr. Seelbinder discussed some items that could not be cut due to contracts that the City has with various entities.

Council Member Lenzen discussed cutting legal fees and said that the Council can control the amount of legal items. He added that he feels overall the City is in a good position in comparison to many of the cities in the state.

Mayor Garcia suggested hiring an in-house attorney in future years to lower legal fees.

Mr. Seelbinder stated that the cost of fire hydrants inspections is a new item in the budget for approximately \$50,000 per year, which was previously covered by the fire services contract with the County.

Mr. Seelbinder stated that the building department has an 80/20 split with PDCS, per the contract; that building is down in the City due to the economy; and that most of the recent permits have been for remodeling, which brings in less money to the City.

He suggested eliminating sign removal to reduce costs, as the City is paying a contract employee \$10.00 per hour plus mileage for weekend sign removal.

Mr. Seelbinder stated that developmental services is contracted to GAI and is normally eight hours per week at an hourly rate of \$135.00 per hour; that the Council authorized an additional eight hours per week for the Comp Plan work; and that a lot of the department's costs are passed on to the developers per the pass through ordinance.

There was a discussion about bringing contracted jobs in-house, such as legal, building permitting, development services, and engineering services.

There was a discussion concerning the building that is leased for the Sheriff's office. Mr. Seelbinder said that the City has a three-year contract for the lease plus the City pays for the upkeep and property taxes on the building.

Mr. Seelbinder noted that the Pet Vet Cruiser has been cut in the budget from four times a year to two times a year, which is a savings of \$2,400.

He noted that the City currently has a contract with the County's Road and Bridge department for public works services, which will be put out for bid for in the next year.

There was discussion regarding water bills, the cost of the lights on Manson Boulevard, and the contract with Servello and Sons for the irrigation maintenance on 17-92.

Parks and Recreation Director John Fletcher presented his department's current budget, a budget with a five percent decrease, and a budget with a ten percent decrease.

Mr. Fletcher stated that he has received a grant in the amount of \$112,500 that must be spent by April 2011 for upgrades to Rob Sullivan Park; that the project is to upgrade the parking area and the multipurpose fields; that the Briar Corporation has a contract in the amount \$337,500, which would mostly come from grants; that the City's share would be \$9,600; that in order to be eligible for the ECHO Grant, the money must be in the City's budget; and that the City should budget for the \$9,600 to complete the project.

Council Member Conoley said he would like to see a twenty percent reduction in the Parks budget from \$702,000 to \$561,600.

Council Member Lenzen said he has had complaints from citizens that they are not able to use the parks because of organized sports.

Mr. Fletcher explained that the parks are first come first serve except where teams have already reserved the area. He noted that DeBary Little League is only open to DeBary children.

Mr. Fletcher discussed the summer day camp and said that it helps parents with day care in the summer, and it is a service that is needed in the community. He added that next year the summer day camp would be cut from eleven weeks to eight weeks.

Mr. Fletcher said that a new mower is needed at a cost of \$8,000.

He pointed out that the parks salaries have gone down by about five percent due to the reduction of one seasonal employee and the elimination of the part-time employee that was opening and closing the parks.

Acting City Manager Anthony Gonzalez stated that the parks employees are doing more for the City than just their normal parks duties, and that they are helping with the pumps and the storm water issues.

Mayor Garcia stated that he does not want to cut the parks and recreation budget, and he praised the parks employees for their work.

Council Member Lenzen said that in general, the parks department should have a five percent cut in budget, but no cuts to staff. He said he would like to see the cuts in per diem.

Mr. Fletcher explained that the training and per diem expenses are necessary to keep the employees up to date on new programs. He added that the parks department is a service provider, and not a revenue-producing department.

Council Member Lenzen asked how much revenue the parks department brings in each year. Mr. Fletcher responded that it was \$41,442, which just about covered the expense of the summer day camp. Council Member Lenzen stated that the City has four trucks, and that mileage should not be paid to employees.

Vice Mayor Erickson discussed grant writer Debra Gestner's work on the ECHO Grant and that she resigned her position the night before the grant was due. Mr. Fletcher stated that the City missed the deadline.

Vice Mayor Erickson stated that he does not wish to take much out of the City reserves.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that Ms. Tebo had done some research and found that the franchise fees could be used for street lighting, instead of being taken from the general fund. There was discussion regarding road resurfacing.

Council Member Marks said he is agreeable to taking \$200,000 from the reserve and \$400,000 in cuts from the budget to cover the shortfall.

Council Member Conoley discussed health, life, and dental insurance for the eighteen full-time employees. He suggested that the employees pay a portion of the health care cost. He gave specific details on how he would reduce the budget. He stated that they could reduce the taxpayer's portion of employee's health insurance to seventy percent for the City and thirty percent for the employee to pay. It was noted that the City does not pay for the employees' dependents.

Council Member Conoley suggested that they not fund the position of Assistant City Manager; that they reduce the parks budget to \$561,600; that they do not pay for cell phones for City employees, except for the Mayor and City Manager; that they stop travel expenses for all City employees and they only fund what is necessary if the funds are requested four weeks in advance; that they stop funding educational expenses for City employees; that he does not want to budget for education, but said the request should come before Council to approve on an individual basis; and that he does not feel limiting spending is micromanaging.

Vice Mayor Erickson said he does not have a problem with employees getting their certifications.

Mr. Seelbinder stated that if they do not budget for education and conferences, it would force him to come to Council with budget amendments each time an expense is approved. Mayor Garcia stated that the Council should not micromanage the finances but give the City Manager more leeway for approval.

Council Member Conoley stated they should prohibit all non-competitive bidding for any purchases over \$5,000; that they should reduce employee salaries by 7.5%; and that the city attorney should write all contracts for the City Manager and eliminate severance pay for the City Manager after two years on the job.

Mayor Garcia stated that he does not want to have the employees pay any of their insurance; that he feels that the City's benefit package helps retain good employees; that he does not want to eliminate the Assistant City Manager position; that reducing the parks budget by twenty percent is excessive; that he does not agree with the elimination of cell phones for employees; that he does not want to eliminate training for employees; and that he believes the Council should review the City Manager contract.

Mayor Garcia stated that they should cut expenses, but not employees' wages and benefits.

Vice Mayor Erickson stated that he does not feel the City should cut employee wages or benefits; that he suggests the employees receive a one percent raise to maintain employee morale; and that he is unsure if the Assistant City Manager position should be eliminated.

Council Member Marks praised the staff and said that not giving a raise could lower morale.

Mr. Seelbinder stated that since the move into the new City Hall, there are two City trucks available, and the use of personal vehicles has been reduced. He clarified that the non-competitive bid process has been utilized because the City has piggybacked on other cities' contracts, which did have a competitive bid process. He asked the Council for more direction on the parks budget.

Council Member Lenzen said that they need to find \$400,000 in budget cuts, and he is asking for a five percent reduction, but no employee cuts.

Council Member Marks questioned the water level of the lakes. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the lake levels are above the pre-Tropical Storm Fay levels.

Stormwater Engineer David Hamstra said he is also concerned about the lake levels, especially the Lakeside system, and that if a small storm hit, it would not take much for the homes to flood again.

There was discussion regarding Tropical Storm Anna. Mr. Gonzalez said that pumps are being moved; that additional hoses would be added as needed; and that an additional pump may be required for the Lakeside system.

**IV. Adjournment:**

The workshop adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

**APPROVED February 17, 2010  
CITY OF DeBARY  
CITY COUNCIL**

**Bob Garcia, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

**Stacy Tebo, City Clerk**