

**BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEMINOLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL
9199 – 113TH STREET N
SEMINOLE, FL 33772
July 10, 2014**

Present were: Vice Mayor Thomas Barnhorn; Councilor Christopher Burke; Councilor James Quinn; Councilor Bob Matthews; Mayor Leslie Waters; City Attorney John Elias; City Manager Frank Edmunds, City Clerk Rose Benoit and Director of Administration Harry Kyne. Councilor John Counts and Councilor Patricia Plantamura were not present.

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE PROPOSED FY15 OPERATING BUDGET

City Manager Edmunds and Director Kyne reviewed the proposed FY15 Operating budget with the City Council. The review was by section with questions invited by the City Manager.

OVERVIEW OF THE FY 2015 GENERAL FUND REVENUES (OCTOBER 1ST – SEPTEMBER 30TH) BUDGET LISTED BELOW:

- FY 2015 proposed budget total is \$14,769,552.
- The FY 2015 proposed budget is a balanced budget.
- Property tax evaluations went up 5.56%. It is the highest rate in multiple years.
- FY 2015 proposed budget does maintain the current millage rate.
- FY 2015- Franchise Utility taxes indicate a slight increase. Anticipate a higher amount once the Bay Pines Project comes to completion.
- Revenue Sharing Sales tax increased to 16.2%.
- FY 2015 Fire Protection Service-County proposed budget is \$3,855,822. This figure represents the dollar amount the County pays the City of Seminole to deliver fire protection services to city and unincorporated residents.
- FY 2015 – EMS Service is \$1,907,921. This figure represents the dollar amount the County pays the City of Seminole to deliver EMS services to unincorporated residents.
- FY 2015 - Florida League of Cities' refund to the City of Seminole is \$18,500.

OVERVIEW OF THE FY2015 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES (OCTOBER 1ST – SEPTEMBER 30TH) BUDGET LISTED BELOW:

- The FY 2015 proposed budget does provide for a 2-3% merit raise for employees who perform in accordance to the city's requirements. It does not include COLA.
- The FY 2015 proposed budget provides for a 2.5% step increase for the unionized firefighters.
- The FY 2015 proposes a Pay Reclassification Study.
- The FY 2015 Aetna Health Insurance cost rate is 4.1/2%. When preparing the budget the estimated insurance cost was 9-10%.
- Pension expenses – All employees with the exception of the Fire Department are in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). Elected officials current rate is 33% of pay, it will increase to 43%. General employees current rate is 6.95%, it will increase to 7.37%. Fire Department has the 175 plan. There will be a reduction from the current rate of 14.3% to 11.21%.

CONSENSUS OF COUNCIL ON THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS:

- Councilor Burke requested consideration of a pay raise for elected officials. Pinellas County Municipal salary survey provided by Councilor Burke is attached. Council consensus is to increase the council members pay to \$8,500 per year and the Mayor's pay to \$10,500 per year.
- Councilor Burke requested consideration of a 10% lump sum pay for City Manager Edmunds. Council consensus is a 10% lump sum pay payment for City Manager Edmunds effective August 14th.
- Council consensus is to consider an increase for Attorney Elias until further details are provided.
- Mayor Waters requested consideration of continuing with the membership of the National League of Cities and made recommendations limiting attendance to the annual conference. Attached are Mayor Waters' recommendations. Council consensus is for administration to create a resolution establishing attendance guidelines for council members to the National League of Cities.

2. ADJOURNMENT TIME: 9:20 PM

Date Approved: **JULY 22, 2014**



Minutes prepared by City Clerk Rose Benoit


Leslie Waters, Mayor

I would like to suggest that we continue the City of Seminole's membership with the National League of Cities (NLC). However, in keeping with past City policy regarding fiscal impact, I suggest we limit attendance at National League of Cities annual conferences as follows:

1. Approval to attend a National League of Cities annual conference shall be given only to the Mayor and City Councilors who have first attended a Florida Suncoast League of Cities annual conference and a Florida League of Cities annual conference.
2. No more than two persons from City Council, including the Mayor, shall be approved to attend a National League of Cities annual conference. The Mayor shall be automatically approved, and one member of Council may be approved individually by a majority of Council. If the Mayor chooses to not attend, then another member of Council may attend, as approved individually by a majority of Council.
3. This shall apply to only National League of Cities conferences held outside of Florida, not National League of Cities conferences that may be held in Florida.
4. City financial support for such attendance shall also be limited to each Councilor's annual budget for such expenditures.
5. Nothing herein shall prohibit any Councilor from attending National League of Cities annual conferences at entirely their own expense.

For reference purposes, it was Seminole City Council's policy in past years that only the Mayor or the Mayor's alternate would attend NLC conferences.

This motion promotes the following:

- Focus on support of local and state professional organizations as primary resources and whose local and Florida ideas most closely represent our local and state concerns.
- Fiscal responsibility for meeting/conference expenditures.

7/10/2014

Submitted by Mayor Waters