



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING & FIRST BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, September 3, 2024 * 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Present was:

Mayor - Nicholas Fouraker
District 4 Vice Mayor – Jason Carson
District 1 Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
District 2 Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 3 Commissioner – Danny Otterbacher
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Fouraker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum.

City Manager Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Pownall, Deputy Chief Millis, Public Works Director Phil Price, Finance Director Tracey Richardson, and Clerk Heidi Peacock were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Comm Partin gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to excuse Comm Lowell from tonight's hearing.

Comm Smith moved to excuse Comm Beth Lowell.

Comm Otterbacher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

3. First Budget Hearing - FY 2024/2025 Budget

Mayor Fouraker opened the Budget Hearing.

a. Budget Presentation - City Manager Rick Rudometkin

City Manager Rudometkin presented the FY24/25 Budget with a rollback rate 4.1428. The millage rate remains at 4.4018 for the 15th year, with an increase of 6.25% over the rollback rate. He further presented the following,

- Maintains current level of service, inflation, and increased cost and offset the Orange County Fire Services
- No new positions
 - Deputy City Manager position was removed from the proposed budget
- Employer contribution increase for employee insurance
 - 50% to 100% for employee dental & vision
 - 50% to 60% for dependent health, dental, & vision
- Pay increases
 - Uniform employees per Police Pay Plan
 - 3% increase for Police Chief and Deputy Police Chief
 - 5% increase non-uniform employees
- Stormwater Fund continues to have a negative fund balance

b. Council Discussion

Mayor Fouraker opened for Council discussion. There being none, he closed Council discussion.

c. Citizen Comments

Mayor Fouraker opened for Citizen comments. There being none, he closed citizen comments.

d. Resolution 24-13 FY24-25 Adopting the tentative Millage Rate

Clerk read Resolution 24-13 by title.

Comm Smith moved to approve Resolution 24-13 as presented.

Comm Bobrowski seconded the motion, which passed upon roll call 6:0,

e. Resolution 24-14 FY24-25 Adopting Tentative Budget

Clerk read Resolution 24-14 by title.

Comm Smith moved to approve Resolution 24-18 as presented.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed 6:0,

There being no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to close the Budget Hearing.

Comm Smith moved to close the Second Budget Hearing.

Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed 7:0.

4. Call the Regular City Council Meeting to Order

Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to open the regular City Council meeting, which was unanimously approved.

5. Citizen Comments & Announcements

Mayor Fouraker called for citizen comments; without public comment, he closed the citizen comments section.

6. Consent Items

a. Approval of City Council meeting minutes - July 16, 2024

b. RESOLUTION 24-15 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THE MAYOR AS SIGNATORIES ON THE CITY CHECKING ACCOUNTS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

c. RESOLUTION 24-16 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE TO ELIMINATE ALL TRAFFIC-RELATED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES BY 2040.

d. Approval of surplus items: Ethernet Switch, Desktop, and Battery

Comm Bobrowski moved to approve the consent items as presented.

Comm Carson seconded the motion, which passed 6:0.

7. Unfinished Business - na

8. New Business - na

9. Attorney's Report - na

10. City Manager's Report

City Manager Rudometkin gave a brief overview and provided a copy of his task list for review.

He briefly spoke on

- Environmental study is moving forward and should be wrapped up by next week.
- Announced the Tree Dedication Event on September 7, 2024.
- Announced the Centennial Event on October 19, 2024. More information to follow.

a. Chief's Report

Deputy Chief Millis reported welcomed Comm Otterbacher.

DC Millis briefed on the last holiday events and happily reported that there were no issues on the Lake.

b. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported,

- The City Hall clock has been repaired.
- Both City Hall and PD Buildings have been painted.
- PW is maintaining the city landscaping with no new concerns.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fouraker discussed the concerns about the high lake levels and the release of the weir by Orange County or St. Johns Water Management. After a brief discussion, the Council consensus was to hold a workshop on October 1st at 5:30 pm to discuss.

Comm Smith moved to hold the workshop on October 1, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Comm Vertolli seconded the motion, which passed 6:0.

11. Commissioners Report

- Council shared their concern with the meeting PA system.
- Continue to look for P&Z member candidates.
- Welcomed and thanked the Metroplan staff for their attendance.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Fouraker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved at 7:43 pm.