

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR
2022/2023 COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET**

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

Present: Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, Chairman, District 1
Commissioner Douglas B. Underhill, Vice Chairman, District 2
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, District 5
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, District 4
Commissioner Lumon J. May, District 3
Honorable Pam Childers, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Wesley J. Moreno, County Administrator
Alison Rogers, County Attorney
DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office
Jose Gochez, Agenda Program Coordinator, County Administrator's Office

Location: Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building, Board Chambers, First Floor
221 Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida

Minutes prepared by: DeLana Allen-Busbee

AGENDA NUMBER

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bergosh called the First Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:39 p.m.

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

2. Was the Meeting Properly Advertised?

The Board was advised by DeLana Allen-Busbee, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller's Office, that:

- A. The 5:31 p.m. First Budget Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 was advertised in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule in the *Escambia Sun Press* on September 1, 2022;
- B. As required by Florida Statute 197.363, the 5:32 p.m. Public Hearing for consideration of adopting the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 First Year Assessment Rolls for street lighting, holding pond, Perdido Key beach mouse, and nuisance abatement Municipal Services Benefit Units (MSBUs) was advertised in the *Escambia Sun Press* on August 4, 2022, and First Class Notices were mailed to all property owners in the affected MSBU Districts; and
- C. A Notice of Street Lighting MSBU Adjustment was also published in the *Escambia Sun Press* on September 1, 2022.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Underhill
Disposition: Carried unanimously

4. Board Action Items

I. 5:31 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

- A. Presentation of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 - County Administrator Wes Moreno

The Board was advised by County Administrator Moreno that:

- (1) This is the first of two required Public Hearings for the Board to adopt the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget. The Board later in the meeting will set the second Public Hearing;
- (2) The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the 2022/2023 tentative millage rates for TRIM notification purposes at the BCC meeting held on July 19, 2022;

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

4. Continued...

I. Continued...

A. Continued...

- (3) The law requires that prior to consideration of the tentative budget, an explanation of the “Rolled Back Rate” be provided and entered into the records. The “Rolled Back Rate” is a computed millage rate that would generate the same amount of Ad Valorem tax dollars as the prior Fiscal Year, based on the proposed year’s tax roll, excluding new construction;
- (4) The millage rates tentatively approved by the Board for TRIM notification are 6.6165 for the County-wide millage rate, .359 for the Library Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) and .685 for the Sheriff’s Law Enforcement Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU). The aggregate of these millage rates proposed for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 is 13.20% above the “Rolled Back Rate” of 6.5969, certified by the Property Appraiser. This represents the percentage increase in property taxes tentatively adopted by the Board; and
- (5) For information and to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the process of this meeting, this Public Hearing is convened tonight to discuss the County’s Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget. Because of time constraints, we will need to confine our discussion to this subject. Increases in property assessments, remarks or questions concerning individual property appraisals should be addressed to the County Property Appraiser at his office during normal business hours.

B. Questions/Discussion from the Board

The Board briefly discussed that the millage rate has not been raised during Commissioner May’s and Commissioner Barry’s service and thanked County Administrator Moreno and Finance Director Stephan Hall for their hard work and stability.

Motion: I move it
For Information: Chairman Bergosh clarified that the motion was for Wes’s presentation, Item A.
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner May
Disposition: Carried unanimously

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

II. Community Partners Discussion

Director Hall advised that third quarter partner metrics were recently brought to the Board and that staff needs additional guidance from the Board regarding funding for agencies for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

The Board:

- A. Discussed Community Partners and agreed to allocate the requested amount of \$78,791 for Keep Pensacola Beautiful, Inc. from the Solid Waste Fund; also discussed litter pickup, additional litter crews, and the potential for additional funding;
- B. Agreed to allocate the requested amount of \$96,000 for the Pensacola Area Chamber Foundation;
- C. Discussed and clarified that the \$100,000 set aside for the General Chappie James Museum Foundation is the same funding from before and is a placeholder that, if not spent, will continue to roll over; and
- D. Discussed moving forward to the Second Budget Public Hearing with the slate of funding, as written, and clarified that the partners highlighted in blue on the spreadsheet in the backup were those identified as having the potential to receive funding through the Children's Trust, but agreed that they would remain as placeholders on the Board's funding spreadsheet if unable to receive funding by applying through the Children's Trust.

Speaker(s):

Dr. Marion Williams
Rob Gregg

5. Public Forum

The Board heard comments from the following speakers:

Pastor Sylvia Tisdale
Andrea Roberts
Laura Gilliam
Joe Herring

Emily Kopas
Chris Curb
James Washington
Kristen Fairchild

FOR INFORMATION: The Board agreed to put a placeholder in the Community Partners Funding Spreadsheet of \$15,000 under Tourist Development Taxes to fund additional Christmas lights for the First City Lights Festival for the Belmont-Devilleers neighborhood.

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6. Board Action Items Continued

I. Board Adoption of the Tentative Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Chairman Bergosh advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Millage Resolution [R2022-100], as presented in the Agenda backup, of 6.6165 mills for the County-wide millage rate, .359 for the Library MSTU and .685 mills for the Sheriff's Law Enforcement MSTU for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Barry
Disposition: Carried unanimously

II. Adoption of the Tentative Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022/2023

Chairman Bergosh advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Budget Resolution [R2022-101] of \$622,979,451 for Fiscal Year 2022/2023, as presented in the Agenda backup.

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Barry
Disposition: Carried 4-1, with Commissioner Underhill voting "no"

III. Announcement of the Date and Time of the Second Public Hearing for the Adoption of the Final Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget

Chairman Bergosh announced that the second Public Hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget will be held September 20, 2022, at 5:31 p.m., in the Board Chambers on the First Floor of the Ernie Magaha Government Building located at 221 Palafox Place.

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner May
Seconded by: Commissioner Barry
Disposition: Carried unanimously

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6. Continued...

IV. 5:32 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of Adopting the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

County Administrator Moreno advised that a list of all Non-Ad Valorem rates is provided in the agenda backup.

B. Public Forum

There were no speakers for Public Forum.

C. Board Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

Chairman Bergosh advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll, as presented in the Agenda backup.

Motion: So moved
Made by: Commissioner Underhill
Seconded by: Commissioner Bender
Disposition: Carried unanimously

7. Extension of the 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Roll

- I. Recommendation: That the Board approve extending the 2022 Ad Valorem Property Tax Roll prior to the completion of the Value Adjustment Board hearings to afford the taxpayers of Escambia County the opportunity to pay their property taxes during each of the four (4) discount periods, as allowed by Florida Statute 197.323.

Motion: Move number 7 in the affirmative
Made by: Commissioner Underhill
Seconded by: Commissioner Bender
Disposition: Carried unanimously

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ADJOURNMENT

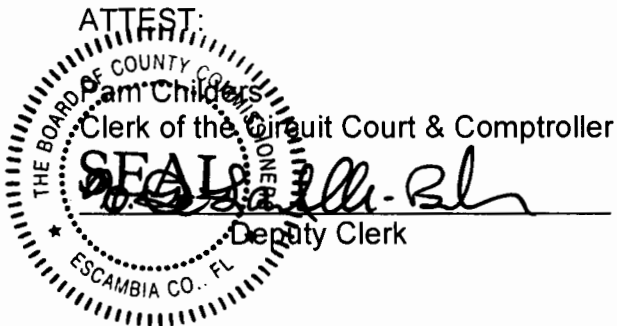
There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Bergosh declared the First Budget Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 County-wide Budget of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Jeff Bergosh, Chairman

ATTEST:



Approved: September 22, 2022