

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR
2023/2024 COUNTY-WIDE BUDGET**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Present: Commissioner Lumon J. May, Chairman, District 3
Commissioner Steven L. Barry, Vice Chairman, District 5
Commissioner Robert D. Bender, District 4
Commissioner Jeffrey W. Bergosh, District 1
Commissioner Michael S. Kohler, District 2
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, Program Manager, County Administrator's Office
Shawn Hunter, Administrative Specialist, Clerk and Comptroller'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 May called the First Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:03 p.m.

The Board held a brief Commissioners' Forum, Development Services Director Horace Jones led the invocation, and Commissioner Bender led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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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 5:01 p.m. First Budget Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 was advertised in the Board's Weekly Meeting Schedule in the *Escambia Sun Press* on September 7, 2023;
- B. As required by Florida Statute 197.363, the 5:02 p.m. Public Hearing for consideration of adopting the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 First Year Assessment Rolls for street lighting, pond maintenance, Perdido Key beach mouse, and nuisance abatement Municipal Services Benefit Units (MSBUs) was advertised in the *Escambia Sun Press* on August 10, 2023, 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 August 10, 2023.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: So moved

For Information: Chairman May advised that the Chair would entertain a motion for the adoption of the agenda.

Made by: Commissioner Barry

Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh

Disposition: Carried unanimously

4. Board Action Items

I. 5:01 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

- A. Presentation of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 - 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 2023/2024 Budget. The Board later in the meeting will set the second Public Hearing;
- (2) The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the 2023/2024 tentative millage rates for TRIM notification purposes at the BCC meeting held on July 18, 2023;

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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 2023/2024 is 11.50% above the “Rolled Back Rate” of 6.7023, 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 2023/2024 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

There were no questions or discussion for this Item.

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

4. Continued...

II. Community Partners Discussion

County Administrator Moreno advised that staff needs guidance from the Board regarding funding amounts to be allocated for Community Partners for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget and that all associated Purchase Orders would come before the Board for approval in October of 2023.

The Board:

- A. Discussed the importance of diverse job growth and capital investment in the community and the relation to workforce development and economic development; also requested that Brian Hilson, FloridaWest CEO, work with CareerSource Escarosa if any gaps are found that need to be filled and expressed concerns over duplication of services;
- B. Discussed the additional \$125,000 funding request from the Pensacola-Escambia Development Commission for the NWFL Defense Partners, which is an organization created to “Save the Base”; expressed general support for funding related to the military and economic development in general, but also expressed some reservations regarding the lack of information related to the request and asked for additional data to assist with making a decision on funding; and Commissioner Bergosh asked that Mr. Hilson work with the School District on potential Triumph funding;
- C. Discussed the funding request for trolley operation from the Santa Rosa Island Authority (SRIA), partnering on projects on the island with lease fees collected by SRIA, and Commissioner May requested information regarding the value and investment of lease fees on projects on the boardwalk, as well as the return on investment; and
- D. Chairman May clarified that the funding spreadsheet provided was not the final allocation.

Speaker(s):

Brian Hilson
Cheryl Howard
Leigh Davis

5. Public Forum

The Board heard comments from the following speakers:

Chris Curb
Brett Barnes

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6. Board Action Items Continued

I. Board Adoption of the Tentative Millage Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Chairman May advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Millage Resolution [R2023-109], 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 2023/2024.

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

II. Board Adoption of the Tentative Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Chairman May advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Tentative Budget Resolution [R2023-110] of \$701,963,319 for Fiscal Year 2023/2024, as presented in the Agenda backup.

Motion: I'll move that
Made by: Commissioner Barry
Seconded by: Commissioner Bergosh
Disposition: Carried unanimously

III. Announcement of the Date and Time of the Second Public Hearing for the Adoption of the Final Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget

Chairman May announced that the second Public Hearing for adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Budget will be held September 25, 2023, at 5:01 p.m., in the Board Chambers on the First Floor of the Ernie Lee Magaha Government Building located at 221 Palafox Place.

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

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AGENDA NUMBER – Continued

6. Continued...

IV. 5:02 p.m. - Public Hearing for Consideration of Adopting the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

A. Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 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 2023/2024 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll

Chairman May advised that the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Roll, as presented in the Agenda backup.

Motion: Move the roll in the affirmative
Made by: Commissioner Bergosh
Seconded by: Commissioner Barry
Disposition: Carried unanimously

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ADJOURNMENT

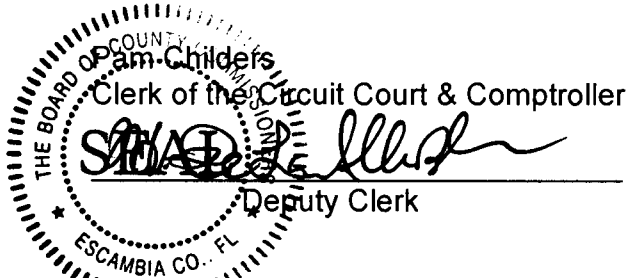
There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman May declared the First Budget Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 County-Wide Budget of the Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____

Lumon J. May, Chairman

ATTEST:



Approved: September 21, 2023