



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Pursuant to due notice, a regular meeting of the Commission of the City of Altamonte Springs, Seminole County, was held at 225 Newburyport Avenue, in said City on September 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT WERE:** Commissioners Batman, Reece, Wolfram, Hussey and Mayor Bates

**ALSO PRESENT WERE:** Frank Martz - City Manager  
Mary Sneed - Assistant City Attorney  
Linda Sundvall - City Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bates.

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Bates called for a moment of silent prayer.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Batman, to approve the minutes of the regular commission meeting of September 6, 2011, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR:** None

### **1. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Resolution No. 1234** - Setting the Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2011/2012

**PUBLIC HEARING:** **Resolution No. 1235** - Establishing an Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012

Mayor Bates announced that this was a public hearing to hear and consider comments and questions regarding the City's proposed annual budget for the coming fiscal year.

Mark DeBord, Director of Finance, announced the tentative tax rate that was adopted at the last meeting is 2.89 mills, which is 5.4% less than the rolled-back rate of 3.0549 mills. He stated that this represents no tax increase, and the tax rate for FY2011-2012 will be the same as it was in FY2010-2011. He stated that property values are falling, which means less revenues from property taxes going into the new year. He added that since about 2009 we're down about \$2.5 million dollars in property tax revenues and that we've adjusted our budgets accordingly. He further stated that the budget for the coming year is about \$67 million and the 2011 budget was \$82 million. He noted that most of that reduction came in the form of less capital outlay, about \$14 million.

Mr. DeBord explained that operating expenses have been lowered by \$1 million overall. He stated that the 2012 operating expenses are around \$27 million, in comparison to around \$31 million in 2007, noting there has been a decrease of about \$4 million in those years to match the decreases in revenues. He added that we have eliminated approximately fifty positions over the last four years and have cut back on as many things we feel we can and still provide the excellent services that we have all along. He stated that we're doing the best we can with what we have, we have a budget that we think supports that, and we have no new taxes, no increases in franchise fees, utility taxes, any of those other things. He stated he supports the recommendation and has prepared the resolutions for the Commission's consideration.

The Mayor stated the floor was open to hear public comments and to take any questions from the public. Hearing none, she closed the floor for public participation and opened the hearing to consider City Commission comments and questions.

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Batman to adopt Resolution No. 1234 levying a rate of 2.89 mills as the final millage rate for fiscal year 2011/2012. Commissioner Batman – yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Wolfram – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Mayor Bates – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Hussey to adopt Resolution No. 1235 establishing the annual budget for fiscal year 2011/2012. Commissioner Batman – yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Wolfram – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Mayor Bates – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor made the following announcement: "The City has adopted a property tax rate of 2.89 mills as the final millage rate for fiscal year 2011/2012. This rate is 5.4% less than the rolled-back rate of 3.0549 mills." She then closed the public hearing.

Mayor Bates thanked the staff for an outstanding job in preparing the budget.

Commissioner Hussey reiterated the fact that there will be no tax increase from last year, and added his commendation to the city staff for a phenomenal job on the budget.

Commissioner Batman requested that the City Manager provide the Commission with an updated chart listing all the Seminole County cities' tax rates.

Mr. Martz stated he would provide that, and also information on what the other governmental debts are throughout the County.

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**2. PUBLIC HEARING: Resolution No. 1233 – Enactment of the Joe Carlucci Uniform Firearms Act**

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Hussey, seconded by Commissioner Wolfram to adopt Resolution No. 1233 relating to the enactment of the Joe Carlucci Uniform Firearms Act. Commissioner Batman – yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Wolfram – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Mayor Bates – yes. Motion carried 5-0.

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**3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: Renewal of Employee Health Insurance for FY 2011/2012**

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Hussey, to award Aetna the employee health insurance contract for 2011/2012. Motion carried unanimously.

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**4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL: Renewal of Legislative Consulting Services Contract**

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Reece, to accept the proposed contract renewal and award a new one year contract for legislative consultant services to Louis J. Rotundo. Motion carried unanimously.

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**5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL:** Renewal of Commercial Solid Waste Franchises for FY 2011/2012

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Reece, to approve renewal of Commercial Solid Waste Franchises for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 with Waste Services of Florida, Inc.; DisposAll, Inc., Waste Management, Inc. of Florida; Container Rental Company, Inc; Sunshine Recycling, Inc.; Veolia ES Solid Waste, Inc.; Republic Services of Florida, LP and Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

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**6. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL:** Designation of Undeclared Holidays

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Wolfram, seconded by Commissioner Hussey, to approve December 23, 2011 as the floating holiday. Motion carried unanimously.

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**7. DISCUSSION:** Citizen Board Appointments

No appointments were made.

**8. ADD ON:**  
**PROCLAMATION:** Hispanic Heritage Month

Mayor Bates read into the record a Proclamation proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2011 as Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Altamonte Springs, and urged all City residents to join together to recognize the proud history and rich culture of Hispanic Americans in our community.

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**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR:** None

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**REPORTS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY** - None

**CITY CLERK** - None

**CITY MANAGER**

Reminded the Commission of the retirement luncheon for Chief Bob Merchant on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and of the reception for him on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00.

Advised that Larry Dolamore is in the DROP program and his last day is also September 30<sup>th</sup>, and extended best wishes to him.

Mr. Martz gave an update on the Flex Bus project. He stated that the Flex Bus Project was started in 1999 with the help of Congressman Mica, and since then there has been very much bipartisan support for it in Congress. He explained that when the project was started, it was envisioned as connecting Casselberry, Longwood, Maitland and Altamonte together in a regional project. He stated that construction has been started, and that lane improvements on Boston will be starting soon, among others, and that the West Town extension is part of that project. He advised that last night Longwood voted 5-0 to join this project and last week Maitland voted 5-0 to join the project. He stated that now it has become a truly regional project, operating with four cities along the 17-92 CRA corridor. He added that those cities now form a true regional partnership.

Mr. Martz continued by reminding the Commission that in the late 80's the City of Altamonte Springs founded the Central Florida Commuter Rail Authority and its first office was here in our conference room. He stated that the City had taken a leadership role in getting to this point and had addressed problems back in the 80's that some of the other cities are struggling with now. He added that it is very much worth noting that the Flex Bus project that started with a crazy idea is now one where we've crossed county lines. He commended Ed Torres and Kristi Aday for leading this process, stating that Ed has been doing most of the negotiating.

Mr. Martz concluded by stating that there will be a presentation on the progress of the Flex Bus Project and an update on Sun Rail at the second meeting in October.

**COMMISSIONER BATMAN** - None

**COMMISSIONER REECE**

Commended Shelly and her staff for putting on such a lovely volunteer banquet. She stated that it was evident that a lot of thought was put into the planning of the event.

**COMMISSIONER HUSSEY**

Advised that the Buddy Ball fall season has started and they have more teams than last season. He stated it is very exciting and invited everyone to come out to the games.

**COMMISSIONER WOLFRAM**

Stated that Community Based Care of Seminole County is having its annual meeting on Thursday. He stated that this is an organization that cares for abused and neglected children who have been picked up by the Sheriff's Department. He added that the organization now extends to Orange and Osceola Counties, as well.

**MAYOR BATES**

Extended thanks to the staff for the great job done with the volunteer event. She stated that the volunteers appreciate that the City does this for them, but it is the City's way of expressing how much our great volunteers are appreciated.

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The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

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MAYOR

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CITY CLERK