

## **City of Dunnellon City Council Budget Workshop**

Date: July 22, 2020  
Time: 3:00 p.m.  
Place: City Hall  
20750 River Dr., Dunnellon, FL34431

Dunnellon City Council workshops will be held on July 22, 2020, at 3:00 p.m. at Dunnellon City Hall with Social Distancing Modifications.

Anyone attending the workshops will be required to wear a mask/face covering. All attendees will be subject to screening to include a temperature check.

### **Public Comment**

Anyone who wishes to provide public comment will be able to do so by participating in the City Council meeting in person, or via the Zoom "AUDIO ONLY" platform and/or telephone, by speaking during public comment portions of the meeting when recognized per the instructions below or by submitting written comments, evidence and/or written testimony in advance of the meeting via email to the City Clerk at [mroberts@dunnellon.org](mailto:mroberts@dunnellon.org)

Members of the public who would like to participate are encouraged to register in advance by Noon on Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please see instructions below on how to register.

Public input on non-agenda items will be heard at the beginning of the meeting. A three (3) minute time limit will be strictly administered.

Instructions on How to Listen and/or Participate in the Meeting Attachment: Meeting Instructions (PDF)

### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mayor Burns called the meeting to order at approximately 3:15 p.m. and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief McQuaig stated two residents passed away this week. He requested keeping their families in our thoughts and prayers. Mayor Burns asked if any invitee or volunteer was present to open with prayer. There was none. He then called for a moment of silence.

### **Roll Call**

The following members answered present at roll call:

Dale Burns, Mayor, Seat 1  
Bill White, Councilman, Seat 2  
Anita Williams, Councilwoman, Seat 3  
Valerie Hanchar, Vice-Mayor, Seat 4  
Jay Dugan, Councilman, Seat 5 (attended by Zoom)

**Staff Present**

Dawn Bowne, City Administrator  
Mandy Roberts, City Clerk  
Jan Smith, Finance Officer  
Chief Mike McQuaig, Police Chief  
Lonnie Smith, Community Development  
Troy Slattery, Public Works Manager

**Proof of Publication**

Ms. Roberts announced for the record the agenda for this meeting was posted on the City's website and City Hall bulletin board on Wednesday, July 15, 2020.

Mrs. Bowne announced she and Chief McQuaig were just been notified of some information from Marion County and how it affects the City.

Chief McQuaig said the Marion County Sheriff's Department and the Ocala Fire Department are pulling out of the communications center. The Sheriff's Department will be dispatching its own personnel which affects us and Belleview. The County will now start charging us for "call taking." The approximate cost of the call taking for us will now cost us \$33,523, and the Sheriff has added they will charge us \$35,168. Chief McQuaig said he has already talked to all regarding his displeasure of just receiving this information. He said they have agreed to waive this fee for one year. He said a lot of things can happen between now and October, 2021 and we have a year to think about it.

Chief McQuaig spoke of the communications antenna on the water tower that is to be sort of an interlocal agreement to offset the City paying for dispatch. He said he spoke to Mounir Bouyounes, County Administrator, who said he is aware of the agreement which provides for free maintenance on the radios. Chief McQuaig said he will research and review the agreement.

Mrs. Bowne said unfortunately this resembles a number of things that keep creating hardships for Dunnellon that began with Marion County and losing an incredible amount of funds in the gas tax. The City lost approximately \$350,000 to \$400,000 in just gas tax revenue that supports our road system. She said she wanted Council to be aware of this latest development with the County and we will have to start planning our approach for next year.

Council engaged in brief discussion with Chief McQuaig regarding this latest issue. Chief McQuaig provided a handout of the "Summary of Impact of Public Safety Communications cost Allocation Plan" *which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.*

**Agenda Item Number 1 – FY 2020 - 2021 Proposed Budgets (Backup As Presented At the July 8th Budget Workshop)**

Mrs. Smith began her presentation by reviewing the five year Capital Plan, General Fund spreadsheets of the Budget Summary beginning on Page 38. She explained each spreadsheet by it's department.

Mayor Burns asked if the City has a professional grant writer. Mrs. Bowne stated by job description, Mrs. Smith is our grant coordinator. She explained, technically she is the one that it begins and ends with, but with anything else we do in the City it is usually a partnership and the departments all work together. Council and staff engaged in lengthy discussion regarding the grant process and procedures.

Mrs. Smith provided a Grant List to Council *which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes*. The list identifies the project, any grant revenue in the current budget and if there was any match required of the City.

There was a brief discussion regarding the implementation of the Zoom Meeting Platform. Mrs. Bowne explained the reimbursement by the Cares Act funds and the City may possibly be eligible for reimbursement through FEMA.

Mayor Burns stated staff has done a great job in presenting a budget and still keeping the reserves intact. He said it's imperative that we keep those reserves and continue to explore ways to add to them every year.

Councilman White agreed. He said we don't really know yet what the economic fallout of all this will be with the Covid-19. Having our reserves is very important this year.

Mrs. Bowne provided an overview of the breakdown of revenues by each department spreadsheet.

Mrs. Bowne discussed the city beach and the desire to have the fees cover the expenses. She said the fees charged are helping but the city beach operation is being subsidized by approximately \$3,400 from the general fund. Next year \$17,000 will be pulled from capital reserves to fund the capital improvements that were identified in the capital improvement plan.

Mrs. Bowne reviewed the revenue and expenses for the cemetery. She recommended revisiting the fees being charged for the lots. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the maintenance and improvements. She discussed a resolution adopted in 2005 requiring 40% of the revenue be put in reserves. She said the city cannot afford to put 40% into reserves next year and the general fund will need to make up the difference. Mrs. Bowne recommended comparing the City's rates to the rates of surrounding communities. Once reviewed we will then have to determine if we can set it at a rate that will cover all the operational expenses and create an amount that can be moved to capital reserve. She recommended Council consider adjusting the fees because we cannot afford to put \$8,000 into the capital reserve when you can't afford the operational cost.

Council and staff engaged in brief discussion regarding the cemetery. It was Council's desire to have staff research and bring recommendations back to Council.

Mrs. Smith provided an overview of the CRA revenues and expenditures on Page 45 of the summary. She reviewed the spreadsheet listing the capital expenses on Page 52.

Mr. Smith discussed the possibility of the City obtaining a grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to enhance the historic district.

Mrs. Smith stated the budget is not final at this point due to her waiting on the State revenues. She said she will keep Council updated.

It was Council's consensus to cancel the August 5<sup>th</sup> budget workshop. Mrs. Bowne explained that Troy Slattery has been preparing a PowerPoint presentation regarding an approach in improving our roads. She suggested to tentatively schedule the presentation for the August 19<sup>th</sup> date originally scheduled for a budget workshop.

Chief McQuaig said he received a call from the County regarding the bridge over the Rainbow River on Highway 484. The County has agreed to construct a fence on the bridge to prevent people from jumping off the bridge.

Chief McQuaig provided an update press release regarding "Dunnellon Christian Academy and Dunnellon First Baptist Church Burglary."

**Agenda Item Number 2 – Council Comments**

No further comments.

**Agenda Item Number 3 – City Administrator Comments**

No further comments.

**Agenda Item Number 4 – Public Comments**

Brenda D'Arville, 11661 Camp Drive, asked questions regarding the Zoom Platform captioning. Mrs. Bowne provided answers. Ms. D'Arville asked questions regarding a piece of property near the Cabbage farm and CRA funds. Mrs. Bowne explained and provided answers.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Attest:

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Amanda Roberts, CMC  
City Clerk

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C. Dale Burns, Jr., Mayor

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Minutes approved at the October 12, 2020 Council meeting.