

CITY OF MACCLENNY
PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE BUDGET
& PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE
September 9, 2014
5:45 P.M.

The City Commission met in special session, Tuesday, September 9, 2014 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Phil Rhoden, and Commissioners Floyd V. Bennett, Cecil Horne Jr., Sam Kitching and Mark Bryant. Stacy Mills, Council Secretary was absent. Minutes Prepared by Melissa Thompson.

Commissioner Kitching opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a pledge to the United States Flag.

Mayor Dopson stated the purpose of the meeting is to set the tentative millage rate and budget. He asked City Manager Rhoden if there were any emergencies or significant changes to the budget.

Manager Rhoden said there has been no change to the millage rate. However, there have been a couple of administrative things on the budget to mention. Since the last budget workshop one contract employee resigned so we moved his salary from the contract services line back into the salary line. We have not filled this position, we are going to attempt to run the department without it, but we wanted to leave the funding in the regular salary line in case we fill the position in the future. Manager Rhoden said the other item affecting the budget were changes made to the debt proceeds and expenditure lines for the fire station. He said the bids came in for the fire station so the lines where we projected the \$1,500,000 loan figure have been changed to the new numbers according to the low bidder's base bid including the three alternates. Manager Rhoden said this item is on the regular meeting agenda and asked if the Council wanted to discuss this now or during the regular meeting.

Mayor Dopson said he mainly wants to know if this increase will adversely affect our budget this year. Manager Rhoden explained the original loan figure was \$1,500,000 and the new loan cost will be \$1,777,000. This budget year we will get the interim financing to construct the building. The payment on the bond issued by Rural Development will require payment beginning with the 2015-16 budgets. Mayor Dopson asked if the additional money would be a separate loan to the 1.5 million dollar bond. Manager Rhoden said yes there will be two payments in the next budget year. Mayor Dopson said as far as a detailed discussion we will do that during the regular meeting. Manager Rhoden said we will be showing the debt proceeds of \$1,777,000 coming in and those funds being expended out for the fire station building. It was discussed and explained that while the overall budget increased, the net contingency remained the same.

Mayor Dopson asked if any of the Commissioners have any changes or concerns regarding the budget since the last workshop. There were none.

Mayor Dopson stated that the purpose of this meeting is for the taxing authority to amend and adopt the tentative budget, re-compute its proposed millage rate, and publicly announce the percent, if any, by which the re-computed proposed millage exceeds the rolled-back rate. The proposed millage rate of 3.6000 is more than the rolled-back rate of 3.5819 mills by .51 percent. Mayor Dopson said we will have to advertise this as a slight tax increase even though the millage is the same. Mayor Dopson said the rolled-back rate is the rate which will generate the same amount of revenue as the prior year. Theoretically if the value of your home stays the same your taxes will be the same. The excess revenue comes from new business, buildings, renovations of homes and new homes. He explained because of new construction the total amount of money has increased even though the millage rate stays the same.

Mayor Dopson read Resolution #14-09, a resolution of the City of Macclenny, of Baker County, Florida, adopting the tentative levy of ad valorem taxes for Baker County for fiscal year 2014-15 at a millage rate of 3.6000. The Council and audience had no questions.

Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve Resolution #14-09 and was seconded by Commissioner Bryant. There were no questions. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried at 5:58 p.m.

Mayor Dopson read Resolution #14-10, a resolution of the City of Macclenny, adopting the tentative budget of \$10,627,357 for the fiscal year of 2014-15. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approved Resolution #14-10 and was seconded by Commissioner Kitching. There were no questions. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Dopson stated this is not the final decision on the millage rate and budget that decision will be made on September 23, 2014 at 5:45 p.m.

With no further business to come before the board, the budget meeting was adjourned.


MAYOR GARY DOPSON

ATTEST: 
CITY MANAGER/ CLERK Phil Rhoden

