

MAYOR
Hal J. Rose

DEPUTY MAYOR
Andrea Young

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Diana Adams
Pat Bentley
John Dittmore
Daniel McDow
Stephen Phrampus



West Melbourne

F L O R I D A

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BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA

June 27, 2022
Council Chambers
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order. Chair Rusty Melle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call. Chair Rusty Melle, Vice Chair Brian DeGonzague, and Board Members Cody Naber, Matthew Brothers, Rande Matteson and John Frazier.

Chair Melle introduced the newest member, John Frazier.

Also in attendance: Assistant City Manager Tim Rhode, Council Members Andrea Young and Diana Adams, City Clerk Cynthia Hanscom and other members of the public.

Adoption of Minutes. *Vice Chair DeGonzague moved to approve the minutes from February 28, 2022. Board Member Cody seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.*

2022-2023 Millage Rate Recommendation. Assistant City Manager Rhode presented information on the proposed millage rate. He explained how only a portion of the City's revenue is received from the ad valorem tax. He provided tax rates compared to other cities in the County as well as other cities of similar size in Florida.

Assistant City Manager Rhode presented several millage rates between the rolled-back rate of 2.1181 and the current rate of 2.4248 with the expected increase in revenue for each amount. He noted that the City Manager was recommending a rate of 2.1367, which was just above the rolled-back rate. When asked about the rolled-back rate, Assistant City Manager Rhode explained the rolled-back rate was the millage rate needed to provide the same level of revenue as that for the current year. He asked the Board to consider the rates and make a recommendation to City Council.

The Board discussed the rate and the amount needed to cover costs while providing a balanced budget. Issues that were considered were staffing levels, particularly in the Police Department and future large projects such as the water plant and the results of the fire study. The Board also discussed the proposed extension of Doherty

Drive/Heritage Oaks Boulevard and Fell Road as well as water main projects proposed in the next year.

Mr. Melle asked if there were any sidewalk projects proposed, particularly for Sheridan Road and John Rodes Boulevard. Assistant City Manager Rhode indicated there were no proposed sidewalk project and that both Sheridan Road and John Rodes Boulevard were County roads.

Board Members agreed that a reduced millage rate would be ideal and provide a much needed break for business owners, but the conservative choice would be better to insure that all of the proposed long-term projects could be completed.

Vice Chair DeGonzague moved to recommend a millage rate of 2.1367 be advertised by City Council. Board Member Frazier seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Development Update. Assistant City Manager Rhode reported on development in the City with projects under construction, under review, completed, and in the future.

Vice Chair DeGonzague stated he continued be amazed on how the City continued to grow, particularly in regards to the number of apartment units. Board Member Rodriguez asked about the apartments being built along U.S. 192. Assistant City Manager Rhode explained that they are within in the City limits.

Chair Melle asked about possible annexations and Assistant City Manager Rhode commented that small properties are being annexed as voluntary requests are received, but the much larger unincorporated areas are blocked by the utilities being provided through the City of Melbourne west of the St. Johns Heritage Parkway.

Sandra Michelson, 745 Greenwood Manor Circle, asked if the apartments provided a tax benefit for the City. Assistant City Manager Rhode explained the apartments generate property tax revenue; the higher the density the higher the appraised value. Chair Melle noted that the City had not seen apartment growth in the last 10 years and now it seemed to be happening all at once. Assistant City Manager Rhode stated that most of the multi-family zoned land had been developed and he did not see additional land being rezoned.

Ms. Michelson expressed concern on the current transportation system being able to handle the additional development. Chair Melle agreed, stating that the roadways already seem to be congested and any development may only increase the amount of traffic.

Public Comments. Ms. Michelson, representing the West Melbourne Business Association, said she was trying to create a connection between the Association and the City's advisory board. One of the projects she was working on was the internship being provided through the Career and Technology program at Brevard Public Schools.

She wanted to get the word out about the internship program to the business community. She hoped to have an article in the next City newsletter.

Chair Melle asked that a representative from the School Board be asked to attend the next meeting to talk about the program.

Chair Melle also asked to meet jointly with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to talk about amenities in the City and possibly developing walking paths. Assistant City Manager Rhode indicated the City was proposing to develop a master study of the parks system.

Council Member Diana Adams introduced herself as recently being selected to City Council serving in the seat recently vacated by Daniel Batcheldor.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

The next meeting of the Business Advisory Board is scheduled for Monday, August 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.