

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 5:05 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hudson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Michael Broderick; Commissioner Arnold Gaines;
Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr.; Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson;
Mayor Linda Hudson

Staff Present: City Clerk Linda Cox
City Manager Nicholas Mimms
Interim City Attorney Sara Hedges

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to fifteen minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

There were no comments from the public.

5. CITY COMMISSION

- a. Resolution 23-R50 authorizing the Director of Finance to serve as the Chief Elected Official's Designee for reporting purposes to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the resolution, read by title only, into the record.

RESOLUTION 23-R50 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO SERVE AS THE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL'S DESIGNEE FOR REPORTING PURPOSES TO THE FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. to approve Resolution 23-R50.

AYE: Commissioner Michael Broderick, Commissioner Arnold Gaines,
Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Mayor
Linda Hudson

Passed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Ordinance 23-049 levying and collecting taxes for Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024, adopting final millage rate. FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read in its entirety, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-049 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTING OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SAID CITY DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR AND TO PAY FUNDS SO COLLECTED INTO THE ACCOUNTS PROVIDED THEREFOR; ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR FINAL MILLAGE RATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The final millage rate of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024 is hereby levied at the rate of 6.9000 per thousand-dollar valuation for general City purposes; said rate being in excess of the roll-back rate by 10.85%.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida hereby levies a tax of 6.9000 per thousand-dollar valuation on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of said City, subject to tax on the first day of January 2023, provided however that such 6.9000 shall not be levied upon property in the City of Fort Pierce exempt under state statute or federal constitution.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager is hereby instructed and directed to certify to the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser the above and forgoing enumerated Millage to be levied for all purposes, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024 in the said City of Fort Pierce, Florida, pursuant to the provision of the laws of the State of Florida and the Charter of the City of Fort Pierce.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be and become effective October 1, 2023.

Mayor Hudson opened the public hearing; seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Michael Broderick, seconded by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. to approve Ordinance 23-049.

AYE: Commissioner Michael Broderick, Commissioner Arnold Gaines, Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Mayor Linda Hudson

Passed

- b. Ordinance 23-050 Adopting a Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024. FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced the ordinance, read in its entirety, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-049 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTING OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SAID CITY DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR AND TO PAY FUNDS SO COLLECTED INTO THE ACCOUNTS PROVIDED THEREFOR; ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE 2023-24 FISCAL YEAR FINAL MILLAGE RATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The final millage rate of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024 is hereby levied at the rate of 6.9000 per thousand-dollar valuation for general City purposes; said rate being in excess of the roll-back rate by 10.85%.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida hereby levies a tax of 6.9000 per thousand-dollar valuation on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of said City, subject to tax on the first day of January 2023, provided however that such 6.9000 shall not be levied upon property in the City of Fort Pierce exempt under state statute or federal constitution.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager is hereby instructed and directed to certify to the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser the above and forgoing enumerated Millage to be levied for all purposes, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024 in the said City of Fort Pierce, Florida, pursuant to the provision of the laws of the State of Florida and the Charter of the City of Fort Pierce.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be and become effective October 1, 2023.

Mayor Hudson opened the public hearing; seeing no one, she closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Michael Broderick, seconded by Commissioner Arnold Gaines to approve Ordinance 23-050.

AYE: Commissioner Michael Broderick, Commissioner Arnold Gaines,
Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Mayor
Linda Hudson

Passed

7. CITY ATTORNEY INTERVIEWS

The Mayor and City Commission asked questions of each of the candidates. Ms. Rhonda Hasan participated remotely.

- a. John J. Anastasio
- b. Rhonda Montoya Hasan
- c. Sara K. Hedges
- d. Lola Thomas Mosley

8. DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF CITY ATTORNEY

At the conclusion of the public interviews, the Mayor and Commission discussed each of the candidates and their qualifications, strengths and weaknesses. After discussion, two candidates rose to the top for consideration, Ms. Lola Mosley and Ms. Sara Hedges.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. to select Sara Hedges as the City Attorney and direct staff to negotiate a contract with Ms. Hedges.

AYE: Commissioner Michael Broderick, Commissioner Arnold Gaines,
Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., Commissioner Jeremiah Johnson, Mayor
Linda Hudson

Passed

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER