

**MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
PLANTATION, FLORIDA**

**September 9, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Bendekovic, President of the City Council.

1. Roll call by the City Clerk:

Councilmember:	Diane Veltri Bendekovic Jerry Fadgen Robert A. Levy Peter S. Tingom Sharon Moody Uria
Mayor:	Rae Carole Armstrong
City Attorney:	Donald J. Lunny, Jr.

\* \* \* \* \*

2. The invocation was offered by Councilwoman Uria.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Armstrong advised the second budget hearing will be on September 23, 2009.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Romano announced the Annual Art Search Program will be available from September 8 through October 23, 2009. This is art work submitted by grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Forms are available at several park facilities or the Plantation schools. Awards will be given for each grade level and all winning art work will be displayed at Art in the Park and Plantation Central Park.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Hot Shots Youth basketball tournament will be held on September 11, 2009.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CONSENT AGENDA

Item #13 was removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately.

As a Commissioner of the CRA, Mayor Armstrong has a voting privilege on Items #16 and #20.

Mr. Lunny read the Consent Agenda by title.

3. Approve flood insurance renewals for 2009-2010 with Travelers Insurance Company in the amount of \$56,578.
4. Approve work authorization to Winningham & Fradley, Inc, for the design, permitting and construction services for the water main bridge crossing in the area of SW 16 Street and SW 54 Avenue for a price not to exceed \$25,000 (Budgeted – Utilities)
5. Award contract to Roth Southeast, LLC for the design, material and installation of a perimeter security and intruder alarm system at the Central Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$265,873.75. (Budgeted – Utilities)

### **Resolution No. 10666**

6. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Special Assessment lien for the City's cost to repair or replace sidewalks at 1361 NW 96 Ave. (Herbert)

### **Resolution No. 10667**

7. **RESOLUTION** assessing a lien on certain property for the cost to the City of Plantation of its mowing and clearing at 5900 Banyan Terrace. (Jones)

### **Resolution No. 10668**

8. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 7021 NW 8 Ct. (Seecharan)

### **Resolution No. 10669**

9. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 833 NW 82 Ave. (Chevalier)

### **Resolution No. 10670**

10. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 261 SW 58 Ave. (Chevallier)

### **Resolution No. 10671**

11. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 553 N. University Dr. (Rincon)

### **Resolution No. 10672**

12. **RESOLUTION** for the appointment of a Chief Electrical Inspector for the City of Plantation's Building Department fixing the initial annual compensation to be paid for said administrative/professional position; and the appointment of an individual to said administrative/professional position. (Green)

**Resolution No. 10673**

14. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 20 – August 26, 2009 for the Plantation Gateway Development District.

**Resolution No. 10674**

15. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 20 – August 26, 2009.

**Resolution No. 10675**

16. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 20 – August 26, 2009 for the City of Plantation's Community Redevelopment Agency.

**Resolution No. 10676**

17. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 27 – September 2, 2009 for the Plantation Gateway Development District.

**Resolution No. 10677**

18. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 27 – September 2, 2009 for the Plantation Midtown Development District.

**Resolution No. 10678**

19. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 27 – September 2, 2009.

**Resolution No. 10679**

20. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 27 – September 2, 2009 for the City of Plantation's Community Redevelopment Agency.

**NON-AGENDA ITEM**

- 20a. Approve demolition of amenities at Kennedy Community Center by Pete's Trucking & Demolition for \$23,372.

**NOTE:** Mayor Armstrong voted affirmatively on Items #16 and #20.

***Motion by Councilman Fadgen, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to approve tonight's Consent Agenda as read. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic

Nays: None

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Lunny read Item #13.

**Resolution No. 10680**

13. **RESOLUTION** for the appointment of a Landscape Director for the City of Plantation's Landscape Department fixing the initial annual compensation to be paid for said executive position; and the appointment of an individual to said executive position. (Berchielli)

Councilwoman Bendekovic expressed her appreciation for the promotion of existing personnel and complimented Ms. Berchielli.

Mayor Armstrong recognized Ms. Berchielli and other companies that have offered assistance to the Department.

***Motion by Councilwoman Uria, seconded by Councilman Tingom, to approve Item #13. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic  
Nays: None

\* \* \* \* \*

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – None**

\* \* \* \* \*

**LEGISLATIVE ITEMS**

Mr. Lunny read Item Nos. #21 - #27 in tandem. All of these matters will have a final public hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. at the City Council Chambers at 400 NW 73 Avenue, Plantation, Florida.

**Resolution No. 10681**

21. **RESOLUTION** adopting the tentative millage rate for the City of Plantation of 4.5142 mills for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, identifying the City only rolled-back millage rate, the aggregate millage and aggregate rolled-back rate; and; otherwise, directing the City Clerk to advertise the tentative aggregate millage rate, the aggregate rolled back millage rate and the date of the public hearing for finalizing of such millages and budgets; providing findings; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefore.

**NOTE: Items 21 through 27 were heard in tandem and voted on separately.**

A memorandum from Herbert V. Herriman, Finance Director, to Mayor Armstrong and City Council dated September 3, 2009 follows:

Pursuant to Florida Statutes and the City of Plantation Council, the First Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Enclosed are tentative millage and budget resolutions for the first public hearing as follows:

1. Tentative Millage Resolution – City of Plantation
2. Tentative Millage Resolution – Plantation Gateway Development District
3. Tentative Millage Resolution – Plantation Midtown Development District
4. Tentative Budget Resolution – City of Plantation
5. Tentative Budget Resolution – Plantation Gateway Development District
6. Tentative Budget Resolution – Plantation Midtown Development District
7. Tentative Budget Resolution – Plantation Community Redevelopment Agency

The City of Plantation Budget is based on the General Fund operating millage of 4.5142 mills, which is the rolled-back millage rate of 4.5142 mills.

The Plantation Gateway Development District budget is based on the operating fund millage of 1.2461 mills, a reduction of 1.76% from the rolled-back millage rate of 1.2684.

The Plantation Midtown Development District Budget is based on the operating fund millage of 0.4072 mills, a reduction of 2.49% from the rolled-back millage rate of 0.4176 mills.

The City of Plantation Aggregate Budgets is based on the operating millage of 4.6179 mills, which is the rolled-back millage rate of 4.6181 mills.

The second public hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, 2009.

---

Mayor Armstrong acknowledged staff that composed the budget and their efforts. Staff began working on the budget in April 2009. She highlighted several suggestions including an amnesty program for code enforcement liens, fees for EMS, privatization and review of properties on tax rolls. The budget recommendation is a balanced budget. She recognized the value of the City employees. The budget proposal has general, enterprise and special funds. Budgets have been reduced for the past three years. A Power-point presentation was made discussing the 2010 fiscal year budget. She noted the bridges represent not only infrastructure improvements but the City reaching out to its residents. The assessments for the City are down between 5-8% while other municipalities were down over 10% and our salaries are competitive which will allow for a reasonably-stable work wage for employees. Staff is working on cost containment for benefits and retirement. There has been a significant amount of work in the neighborhoods which will continue in this budget. Some of the work staff has completed included generator installation, new roofs, new air conditioners, Volunteer Park, the Equestrian Center, Jim Ward Community Center, the expansion of Central Park, Happy Tails Park, the Public Works Fleet maintenance building and more. Because of these improvements, the City is better able to sustain and work in a better way. Several vehicle replacements have been implemented. Technology improvements include the computer-aided dispatch for the Police Department, GIS system and several other purchases that have resulted in stream-lining work. Staff is continuing to look to the future to understand resident's expectations. It is important to note the quality of services that residents are provided. Budget goals were established including customer service, employee wages frozen, technology, quality of life, economic and green development, project development, financial and asset management and no capital improvement with the exception of basic maintenance items. The taxable property values in the City decreased by 8.4% which resulted in a revenue loss of \$7.7 million. Pension costs have increased approximately \$1.5 million. a number of cuts were discussed including implementation of new programs including red light program, storm water assessment, and minor adjustments. The expenses in the budget were reduced by \$2,238,000 or approximately 3% of the budget. In order to absorb the increase in costs, vacant positions were eliminated, programs were reduced, and capital was

eliminated. Non-reoccurring revenue of \$2.2 million is being used to help offset the deficit gap. The millage rate was kept at the roll back rate which generated \$2.8 million. The roll back rate is significantly less than what was allowed by the State. She noted the millage rate in 1999 was 3.558 and inflation was running between 2.14 to 5.6. The millage rate increase averages less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mill. In this context, it shows how well the City has operated and the achievements that have been made. She highlighted examples of the affect the total millage will have on several properties. Because there are several multiples, there will be a slight increase in taxes for the individuals who have been residents for some length of time. There are circumstances in which taxes have decreased. The median home value is between \$243,000-253,000. The tax increase should be no more than \$100 if at all. A large portion of property values have been positioned with commercial properties and those are devaluing. There should be an increase in value with the new commercial properties that are planned. The internal revenues include Ad valorem taxes provide 44.7% of the budget which has been consistent, Revenue sharing is 16% which is a decrease. The total revenue is \$72,000,042. The salary, wages and benefits are \$59,595,400 which is over a \$1 million decrease from last year. A total of 45 positions were eliminated in 2009 and an additional 10 full time positions and 119 part time positions were eliminated in 2010. She felt it was important to provide jobs and services for residents. She noted employee benefits are \$22,348,859 which represents an increase in the pension benefits and insurance premiums offsets. Operating cost and expenses are down \$2,956,000. Additionally, grants have decreased significantly. Capital expenses are at the bare minimum of \$565,000. Three years ago the capital expenses were over \$2 million dollars. Salary and benefits represent 82% of the budget which reflect the resources provided and allows the City to provide services to residents. The total number of full time employees is 627 which is a reduction from last year. Despite the growth in the City, the decrease in the number of employees is less than in 2001. Our personnel costs have been reduced by \$1,854,000. Vacant positions have not been filled which allowed for no layoffs. The Police Department represents the greatest amount of general expenditures. Some improvements will be made; however, they will not be paid for by the general fund. A road project will be done in the Midtown District. The CRA District will be reviewed so that property values and business values can be stabilized including the under-ground utility project in the northeast quadrant. There are several multi-use trail projects which are funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. Staff will continue to work with residents with regard to the Neighborhood Stabilization program. The Emergency Response fund is funded through the general fund and ad valorem taxes. The transfer to the fund for this year is \$4,600,000. The golf course is self-funded and provides a resource to the City. The Utility Department has expressed their needs to plan for the future, take advantage of water conservation initiatives and to address the City's aging infrastructure.

Mr. Herriman explained the tentative resolutions are presented for your consideration pursuant to State Statute and City Code. The proposed millage rate is 4.5142 for the general fund and is the same as the roll-back millage rate. The proposed millage rate is 1.2461 for the Plantation Gateway Development District. The roll-back millage rate is 1.2684 for a decrease of 1.76%. The proposed millage rate is 0.4072 for the Plantation Midtown Development District. The roll-back millage rate is 0.4176 for a decrease of 2.49%. The proposed aggregate millage rate is 4.6179. The roll-back millage rate is 4.6181. The ad-valorem taxes will provide for personnel services and capital items. The Plantation Gateway Development District and Plantation Midtown Development District operating ad-valorem revenues will provide for capital improvements.

Councilman Fadgen requested a consolidated budget and questioned whether there would be a savings to consolidate the purchasing activities throughout the City. He acknowledges the sacrifices staff has made to develop the budget. However, he felt there has not been a significant effort to direct City purchases towards local businesses.

Mayor Armstrong explained office supplies are centralized through the Purchasing Department. The Departments that are individual are Departments that order specialized equipment such as Utilities and Public Works Departments.

The following residents commented regarding the proposed budget:

Resident Luze DeLeon, 1880 SW 67 Terrace, expressed her displeasure with her tax increase. She was forwarded to the Property Appraiser's Office.

Resident Sandra Singh, 610 NW 67 Avenue, noted her taxes are significantly higher than those in her neighborhood and that she will face a tax increase. She questioned the calculations of her tax assessment. She was forwarded to the Property Appraiser's office.

Resident Mercedes DeLucien, 340 NW 97 Avenue, expressed her frustration that her property value decreased and her taxes increased.

Resident Dennis S. Conklin, 4581 NW 6 Court, requested the millage be maintained as last year's rate and continue to cut the budget.

The public comments section was closed.

Councilman Levy noted there is less money in the budget than previously, yet inflation costs and the cost to run the City has significantly increased.

Councilwoman Uria expressed her belief that the millage rate over the last 10 years has slightly increased. She noted other assessments are not included. This is the largest millage increase in one of the worst economic times.

Councilman Fadgen questioned the dollar amount associated with the reduction and whether Department Heads could further cut the budget. He noted money was saved with salary freezes, salary cuts, and vendors cut their prices.

Mayor Armstrong noted this would be approximately a \$1 or 1.5 million decrease. She requested Council identify what to eliminate or other resources to account for this reduction. She reiterated the budget figures are based on a maintenance budget. She emphasized contracts that are bid out are given to the lowest bid and are awarded based on a lean budget that is established by staff. Bids are carefully reviewed.

Councilwoman Bendekovic explained she did not want to vote on a reduction without seeing the cuts proposed and their impact in writing for her review. She noted recommendations were made at the budget meeting; however, none were made to lower the millage rate.

Councilman Tingom felt in today's market, the economy will be turning positive. This is a lean budget and is reasonable. Without the benefit of specific recommendations, it was his belief the only cuts that could be made are to personnel. He felt it was unrealistic to ask employees to roll back their salaries 5% and cut personnel.

***Motion by Councilwoman Uria, seconded by Councilman Fadgen, to set the millage rate at 4.250. Motion FAILED on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Uria, Fadgen

Nays: Levy, Tingom, Bendekovic

Councilman Levy noted this is a tentative vote. Discussions will continue for the next two weeks to receive input on the budget.

Mayor Armstrong commented if there was an identifiable, responsible suggestion to cut the budget, she would entertain that idea. She felt staff has continued to look at employee wages and benefits.

Councilman Fadgen believes that specific recommendations can be made. He noted cutting employee salaries are an option.

***Motion by Councilman Tingom, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to set the millage rate of 4.5142. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Bendekovic

Nays: Uria, Fadgen

**Resolution No. 10682**

22. **RESOLUTION** adopting the tentative millage rate for Plantation Gateway Development District of 1.2461 mills for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; identifying the computed rolled-back millage rate; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize the millage rate; providing a savings clause, and providing an effective date therefore.

***Motion by Councilman Fadgen, seconded by Councilwoman Uria, to set the millage rate of 1.2461 millage rate for the Plantation Gateway Development District. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic

Nays: None

**Resolution No. 10683**

23. **RESOLUTION** adopting the tentative millage rate for Plantation Midtown Development District of 0.4072 mills for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; identifying the computer rolled-back millage rate; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize the millage rate; providing a savings clause, and providing an effective date therefore.

***Motion by Councilwoman Uria, seconded by Councilman Fadgen, to set the millage rate of 0.4072 millage rate for the Plantation Midtown Development District. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic

Nays: None

**Resolution No. 10684**

24. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative consolidated estimated revenue and appropriation budget of the City of Plantation, for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget, providing a savings clause and providing an effective date therefore.

*Motion by Councilman Tingom, seconded by Councilwoman Uria, to approve the tentative consolidated estimated revenue and appropriation budget for the City of Plantation. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:*

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Bendekovic  
Nays: Uria, Fadgen

**Resolution No. 10685**

25. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budgets of the dependent taxing district of Plantation Gateway Development District for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget, providing a savings clause, and providing an effective date therefore.

*Motion by Councilwoman Uria, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to approve the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budget for the Plantation Gateway Development District. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:*

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic  
Nays: None

**Resolution No. 10686**

26. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budgets for the dependent taxing district of Plantation Midtown Development District for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget, providing a savings clause, and providing an effective date therefore.

*Motion by Councilwoman Uria, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to approve the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budget for the Plantation Midtown Development District. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:*

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic  
Nays: None

**Resolution No. 10687**

27. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budget of the Plantation Community Redevelopment Agency for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 23, 2009 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget, providing a savings clause, and providing an effective date therefore.

*Motion by Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilwoman Uria, to approve the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budget for the Plantation Community Redevelopment Agency. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:*

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Uria, Fadgen, Bendekovic  
Nays: None

\* \* \* \* \*

**QUASI-JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA – None**

\* \* \* \* \*

**QUASI-JUSDICIAL ITEMS – None**

\* \* \* \* \*

**COUNCILMEMBERS’ COMMENTS**

Mayor Armstrong commented the proposed budget is fair and considers all of the factors that are being dealt with by the community. The FOP negotiations have had positive dialogue and she feels a recommendation would be made in the near future.

Councilman Levy requested a report regarding economic stimulus funding. He noted there are several factors with regard to the budget that have not been finalized such as union negotiations.

Councilman Tingom announced the PAL Task Force met last week and he anticipates a report will be made at the September 30, 2009 meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PUBLIC REQUESTS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

Dennis Conklin questioned the total budget and general fund. He also requested the City obtain a sacred relic from the debris of the World Trade Center.

Mayor Armstrong advised the total budget is \$161 million and the General Fund is \$72 million dollars not including fire rescue transfers.

Councilman Levy noted there have been several requests from municipalities for artifacts.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WORKSHOPS** - None

\* \* \* \* \*

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Veltri Bendekovic, President  
City Council

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Slattery  
City Clerk

RECORD ENTRY:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the Original of the foregoing signed document was received by the Office of the City Clerk and entered into the Public Record this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Slattery, City Clerk