

The City Council of the City of Monticello, Florida, met in special session by telephonic conferencing on July 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Mayor John Jones called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM City Clerk Anderson took roll of participating members. The following members were present on the call:

John Jones, Mayor
Troy Avera
Gloria Cox
Julie Conley
George Evans

Others participating were:

Raymond Clark, City Manager
Fred Mosley, Monticello Police Chief
Emily Anderson, City Clerk
Bruce Leinback, City Attorney

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS – CITY ATTORNEY BRUCE LEINBACK

Attorney Leinback discussed the allowances and procedures for conducting government meetings under the Governor’s Emergency Executive Orders 20-69 and 20-150 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Leinback gave instructions for participating in the telephonic meeting, and Council Members noted understanding and agreement of the instructions.

Mayor John Jones offered an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MILLAGE RATE FOR INCLUSION IN 2020 TRIM NOTICE AND SELECTION OF DATE OF TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING / BUDGET REVIEW

Clerk Anderson noted options for the millage rate to be included in the property owners’ ad valorem tax notices and suggested a date for the tentative budget hearing of September 3rd.

Council Member Avera discussed budget line items and recommended that the millage rate be established at 7.2 mills due to unknowns in future revenue streams. Council Member Evans noted the rollback rate is included in the budget and it is balanced as is. The Council discussed specific water/sewer expenses and general fund revenues for the current year, as well as projected cash flows for the remainder of the current budget year and next year.

Mayor Jones asked for public comment. Citizen Merry Ann Frisby asked that the Council adopt the rollback rate for ad valorem taxes since water and sewer rates will have automatic increases for the next several year and citizens are struggling economically.

Council Member Troy Avera made a motion to adopt 7.2 as the TRIM notice millage rate. The motion was seconded by Council Member Julie Conley. The motion was unanimously approved on roll call vote. Clerk Anderson noted that the millage rate will be advertised as a proposed 2.48% millage rate increase.

Council Member Julie Conley suggested that the Economic Development Grant Funding noted on Page 5 should be re-allocated and added to a garbage truck reserve. Council Member Evans noted that his desire is to see the rollback rate adopted.

Clerk Anderson noted that the date for the tentative budget hearing is conditional, since she has not confirmed with County Clerk Reams. She asked that the City select September 3rd or September 4th as the dates until confirmation is received. The final budget hearing date is scheduled at this time of September 15th. With Council Member Avera noting he will be out of town on September 4th, on motion of Council Member George Evans, seconded by Council Member Gloria Cox, the Council voted unanimously to establish the date for the tentative budget hearing as September 3rd or September 4th.

Clerk Anderson also discussed the uncertainty as to the location of the meeting or ability to conduct a virtual meeting at this time, but will keep the Council advised.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

With no other business, Mayor Jones announced the next meeting will be conducted on August 4th.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor

NOTE: These proceedings were digitally recorded.