

A budget workshop meeting of the City Commission was held on August 22, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at the Municipal Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael S. Carter.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jonathan Thornhill; Terrye Y. Howell; John Paul Rogers; Betty Wojcik; Mayor Michael S. Carter

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Judith H. Delmar, City Manager; Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk; Jacquie Hawkins, Deputy City Clerk

[The minutes are recorded, but are not transcribed verbatim.]

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call

Agenda Item 2. Budget Discussion

The full staff memo is incorporated into the minutes.

A budget workshop meeting was held in preparation of the FY-11'12 budget.

Ms. Delmar distributed a revised list of changes to the proposed budget from documents presented to the City Commission on August 2, 2011, balanced at the millage rate of 7.3277. She said a couple of administrative changes had to be made and that just before the meeting, Mayor Carter requested that she run numbers to show what the affect would be if the millage rate was increased to the rollback rate of 7.9998.

Ms. Delmar said the increase would enable the restoration of all furlough hours, which would cost the General Fund \$264,024 and returns \$119,117 to Fund Balance at the end of the year. That \$119,117 represents the surplus revenues over expenditures realized by increasing to the rollback rate of 7.9998, which would be available to roll back into Fund Balance or to restore to the budget items that had been deleted with the 7.3277 rate, if the City Commission wishes.

Mayor Carter explained that increasing the rollback rate to 7.9998 would not mean a tax increase to residents because their tax bill would essentially be the same as it was last year. The decrease in revenues is a problem that all citizens in Lake Wales share and need to solve together. He said that he was in favor of asking staff to readjust their budgets based now on the rollback rate of 7.9998 and to reconsider some of those projects that could not be funded with the rollback rate of 7.3277.

Ms. Delmar read into the record the following portion of the Executive Summary Memorandum in the proposed budget to which Mayor Carter was referring:

Page 10, Budget Highlights, Paragraph 9.

As stated previously in this memorandum, significant cut-backs have been necessary to balance the budget at the 7.3277 millage rate.

To overcome revenue reductions on the one hand and cost increases for fuel, utilities, insurance, pension benefits and numerous non-discretionary items on the other hand plus the shift of \$400,000 in net expense out of the CRA to the General Fund, initial budget requests submitted by the departments had to be cut by more than \$930,000:

Cuts in operating expense & capital \$688,220
Cuts in payroll expense \$247,442
Total Cuts in Budget Requests \$935,662

Page 10 & 11, Budget Highlights, Paragraph 10.

Contracts, grants and other items of interest:

- The contracts with the Lake Wales Little League for field maintenance (\$60,000) and the Boys & Girls Club for operation of the Kirkland Gym (\$55,698) are budgeted at the same level of funding in FY11'12 as in FY10'11.
- The contract with Kimbrough & Associates for services relating to CRA Area 3 redevelopment is funded at the same level as in FY10'11 (\$38,250).
- There is no funding included in the proposed budget for Main Street (previously \$30,000). No request for funding in FY11'12 was submitted by this organization.
- With the exception of a contribution in the amount of \$50,000 to operate the 'B' Street Center that was approved by the City Commission on December 21, 2010 with the conveyance of the Proposed FY11'12 Budget building to the Green & Gold Foundation, no grants to outside agencies are included in the proposed budget.
- There is no grant funding budgeted for the Historic Lake Wales Society to operate the Depot Museum (previously \$30,000).
- There is no grant funding budgeted for the Lake Wales Senior Center (previously \$6,000).
- There was previous discussion with the Lake Wales PAL to develop a youth recreation program that would initially focus on football and basketball in return for a \$45,000 per year grant from the City. There is no funding in the proposed budget for such a grant.
- There was previous discussion with the Recreation Commission to provide some funding to assist in performing its duties as a steering committee to coordinate community-run recreation programs and serve as a liaison between those organizations and the City. There is no provision in the proposed budget for such funding.

Ms. Delmar explained that funding for outside agencies was not included in the proposed budget because of the 3% salary cut all employees were required to take in the form of 80 furlough hours over the course of the year.

Mayor Carter said that by increasing to the 7.9998 rollback rate, there would be enough money left to restore the furlough days with \$119,000 left over to cover all the grants, ether the full amount or to some other extent.

Commissioner Howell asked, even though the increased rollback rate of 7.9998 would not increase citizen's tax bill, if the increase would discourage businesses from coming to Lake Wales. Ms. Delmar said it could have an effect if the roll back rate of other cities is lower than ours. However, there are other cities with a rollback rate higher than ours.

COMMENTS BY THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Rogers

Commissioner Rogers said he studied the proposed budget in hopes of trying to find ways to generate money for the City and brought up the following questions, concerns and suggestions he received from the public that might be worth looking into if it can save money.

\$4.00 Athletic League Fees

- According to the ordinance, athletic leagues are supposed to pay \$4.00 per head for use of City fields, yet the ladies baseball league is the only league that is paying the fee. If one league has to pay the fee then all of them should have to pay or it's discrimination and unfair. Commissioner Rogers said staff needed to notify all the athletic leagues to let them know they must start paying the fees.
- If all athletic leagues pay the required fees, the money saved could go toward the purchase of fertilizer etc.
- In accordance with the ordinance, the leagues are supposed to also furnish the City with a list of people that are paying.

Ms. Delmar said that the Finance Director is working on that. The money generated would be about \$5,000 a year if enforcement is successful.

Fuel Cost Savings

Commissioner Rogers made the following comments:

- He said that Commissioner Howell has been telling them for months that something needed to be done about gas guzzling vehicles.
 - Based on the City's average vehicle fuel usage of 10 mpg, a person driving a car 40 miles a day, 20 miles to work and 20 miles home, the fuel usage would be about 4 gallons per day
 - 4 gallons per day times \$3.50 = \$14.00 per day
 - \$14.00 x 5 days = \$70.00 a week
 - \$70.00 x 4 weeks = \$280.00 a month
 - \$280 x 12 months = \$3,360 a year
- The City needs to cut back on take home vehicle usage, though cutting back would be hard on those who are used to having their gas paid for by the City; but it must be done because the money saved could go toward the 3% cut for employees and our employees cannot serve the public if we don't serve them. Commissioner Rogers said he would hate to increase the millage rate when there are other things can be cut to save money.
- Commissioner Rogers said he was told that some employees have driven around 18,000 miles in one year and this could have been prevented if City vehicles used a log book documenting who drives the vehicle, the destinations driven, and how many miles driven each trip. Not only would it avoid this type of issues, it would cut down on the cost of fuel.

Ms. Delmar explained that the information is already being documented by the use of a fuel master key assigned to each vehicle. Fuel reports including information on who drove the vehicle, their destinations, how many miles they drove, and how often the vehicle was refueled are generated by the system, though problems have been encountered by employees not entering the correct odometer reading into the fuel pump system, which is skewing the fuel reports. Staff is aware of the issue and has been taking measures to resolve it. There is also a problem with employees letting their vehicle idle unnecessarily and action is being taken to resolve that. It is not as much a "take home vehicle" issue right now because the take home vehicle program has been scaled back. Police Officers that live more than 15 miles outside the City, per union contract, are no longer allowed to drive a patrol vehicle home.

Commissioner Howell asked if all cars driven by employees living more than 15 miles out stay at the City. Ms. Delmar said only patrol cars. Chief Velasquez added, unless the individual is on call.

Commissioner Howell asked how would staff know who is driving a pool car and how many miles they drove if there is only one fuel master key assigned to it. Ms. Delmar said it is hard to monitor that so vehicle usage is charged to Support Services.

\$50,000 Contribution to Operate the "B" Street Center

- Commissioner Rogers said that on January 1, 2011 [the actual date should be December 21, 2010] he made a motion to give \$50,000 to the Green & Gold Foundation for operation of the "B" Street Center and to convey the "B" Street Center property to them. Due to the City's current financial situation, he does not see how we can give \$50,000 to an organization when we need money to fund employee salaries. He asked that the City Commission consider withdrawing the \$50,000 donation to the Green & Gold Foundation. He said that the Green & Gold Foundation does some fine work serving the community at the "B" Street Center, just as other organizations do, but we do not have the money to fund them. He asked the City Commission to withdraw the funds and put it toward the employees.
- If we fund the Green and Gold Foundation we have to fund the Lake Wales Depot Museum and Cultural Center as well because they are also requesting money. It would not be fair to give to one and not the other.
- He said he does not like to deny anyone money, but there comes a time when we have to decide whether or not our employees and tax payers are more important to us than donating to organizations.

Engineering Services

- Commissioner Rogers brought up the recent approval of the construction services contract to Kimley-Horn and Associates in the amount of \$448,188. He said that we probably could have hired a licensed and bonded project manager to oversee that project for about \$100,000. He said he did not really know what a person overseeing the project would do.
- Commissioner Wojcik explained that it involved more than just a project manager to oversee the project. Only a part of the money covers the engineer and other people involved in the project and the rest covers things like software and upgrading equipment.
- Project Administrator Sarah Kirkland gave a breakdown of the cost.
- Commissioner Rogers said we have an engineer and a qualified building inspector on staff so it looked to him that there are ways to cut and save money. Engineering fees are high based on what the job requires. He said his customers bring these issues up to him and asked that he look into it.

5% Contribution to Grants

Commissioner Rogers proposed that those requesting grants contribute 5% of the amount. He suggested sending Jennifer Nanek to school for grant training, which he said would save the City money because presently we pay a grants administrator a certain percentage of whatever we get in a grant.

Purchasing Department to be Transferred to the Finance Department

- Commissioner Rogers recommended transferring the Purchasing Department to the Finance Department immediately to give Ms. Hodge some help on bidding because he felt the City is piggybacking too much.

Mayor Carter asked Commissioner Rogers what his feelings were on increasing the millage rate to 7.9998 and he commented as follows:

- He was not in favor of the increase if employees still had to take furlough days but if the increase was necessary to keep that from happening then he was in favor of it and would

vote for it. He said he would scrape the bottom of the barrel before making employees take furlough days.

- He said when tax payers send their money into the City they expect it to support the City and not outside organizations, though over the years we have had enough to fund them, which he said was a wonderful thing that he has no quarrel with that. But, we are unable to do that now.

Commissioner Thornhill

Commissioner Thornhill made the following comments:

- Commissioner Thornhill questioned the \$920.00 fuel master system maintenance contract for the Fire Department. Ms. Delmar explained that it was a separate contract that was added because it had been omitted from the original budget. Fire Chief Brown explained the purpose of the contract.
- Commissioner Thornhill asked if, when the City Commission voted to convey the "B" Street property to the Green & Gold Foundation, the \$50,000 donation was to be funded in the FY2010/2011 budget or the FY2011/2012 budget. Ms. Delmar said it would be funded by the FY2011/2012 budget to cover the operating expenses in relation to that building.
- Commissioner Thornhill suggested taking out all the extras similar to what the county was doing, starting with a zero budget and then possibly adding things back. He said he too was embarrassed that the employees were asked to vote on taking furlough days. He thought it was commendable that they voted to do so, but it was only because they did not want any layoffs.
- Commissioner Thornhill said the City was not a bank and every county across the nation is facing the same problems. The City needs to learn to reign-in and stop giving in to all the outside activities, something he said he had to do on a personal level as well.
- Commissioner Thornhill said he was not opposed to increasing the millage rate if it would restore the 3% furloughs.
- He commented that, if a commitment for the \$50,000 donation to the Green and Gold Foundation had been made, then they must honor that.

Commissioner Rogers gave Commissioner Thornhill a copy of the part of the December 21, 2010 regular meeting minutes covering statements made by Commissioners, the city attorney, and the City Manager when voting on the \$50,000 donation to the Green and Gold Foundation.

Ms. Delmar advised Commissioner Thornhill to read the motion. She said that although an existing Commission cannot bind a future Commission, it does bind and obligate staff to fulfill the policy set by the Commission until they are given other direction from them. In this case, the Commissioners set the policy when conveying the property to the Green and Gold Foundation and agreed to include \$50,000 in the following year's budget. Until the Commission takes another vote and reverses that decision, staff is bound to include that in the budget.

- Commissioner Thornhill suggested removing training and education from the budget. Ms. Delmar said a number of departments require employees to be trained to obtain their certification, an expense the employees cannot afford. Commissioner Thornhill said that was fine if the money goes toward certifications.

Mayor Carter asked Commissioner Thornhill if he was referring to conventions when requesting training and education to be removed from the budget. Commissioner Thornhill said yes and that last year he filed his conference expenditures on his federal income tax return as a work related expense.

Commissioner Wojcik

Commissioner Wojcik made the following comments:

- Commissioner Wojcik said she was amazed at how many CIP projects needed to be done, totaling about \$40 million dollars, and asked that they discuss the capital improvement budget because obviously it affects the overall budget.
- Commissioner Wojcik said some of the projects listed in the FY2012-13 budget really need to be done in the next budget, but because of the budget situation, they were pushed back another year. She suggested that they look for ways to fund them just in case something should happen.
- There are some things that we have no choice to do like relocation of utilities on Hwy. 27 and on Mt. Lake Cut-off Road, which adds about \$500,000 to the budget. This doesn't leave much for next year's projects other than Phase I of the C Street project, and the wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation project. It therefore does not take care of the things that would ultimately save the City money such as purchasing certain needed equipment so we don't have to rent them. A certain amount of the projects are directly related to utility capital improvements, but there are also things like maintenance that can only be done out of the operating budget that we keep putting off.
- The City Manager's memo in the proposed capital improvement budget stated that if utility rates were increased by \$5.00 per month it would be possible to fund all of the items in the Utilities CIP over the next five years. The utility system needs to pay for itself because if not, the General Fund has to pick up the cost. We need to look at making sure that all the things needed for water and sewer are being taken care of and paid for by the users because the alternative is that we are not going to have things like clean water and toilets that flush.

Commissioner Howell asked Commissioner Wojcik if she wanted the Commission to talk about the 5-year CIP and not the operating budget. Commissioner Wojcik said the CIP affects next year's operating budget.

Mayor Carter said the Commission needed to focus on this year's operating budget to get it out of the way.

Commissioner Rogers said we could put money aside to do the things that we have no money for, but we don't have the money to do that.

Mayor Carter suggested creating something like a Christmas Club account where everybody pays a dollar into it each month through their water bill to build up reserves.

Ms. Delmar said that it was possible to fund all the items in the utilities CIP, \$24 million worth of improvements and equipment, by increasing utility rates high enough to put aside money to pay for it. She explained how adding \$5 a month to every water and sewer account would generate the \$24 million needed to fund that.

Ms. Delmar said that we also have \$15,687,000 worth of improvements that have to be paid for by the General Fund and not the Utility Fund. The only revenue source that the General Fund has where that kind of revenue can be generated is in raising taxes, borrowing or, in limited instances, using grant funds. We have a \$40 million problem that has been pushed back for the last 10 to 30 years for lack of funding that need to be done over the next five years.

Commissioner Howell asked what needed to be done to keep projects from being pushed back this year and next year. Ms. Delmar said one suggestion would be to increase utility rates to generate enough money to fund the entire utilities five-year plan or at least most of the priority items. Commissioner Rogers said the utility rates are automatically increased every year by 2-1/2 percent. Ms. Delmar said that the automatic increase is 2.5% or the cost of living rate, which this year was 3.6%. Ms. Pendergrass said the \$5.00 would be an addition to that automatic increase, but only for five years, which had been discussed with the Commission over a year ago. She said staff would like to come forward with a proposed utility

rate increase showing what capital projects it would fund and over what time period. The rate increase is needed if we want to fund any significant capital projects over the next five years.

Mayor Carter said the CIP discussion was a different topic that needed to be discussed at a different workshop because there was no legal time limit requiring the CIP to be in place by October 1st. Ms. Delmar said the C Street project is a related item to the budget because it was budgeted with the money that we've managed to set aside, which is in the area of \$1 million. If the Commission is talking about going out for SRF funding then it would free up that \$1 million for utility capital improvements or other projects that need to be done. We have zero capital projects budgeted in the General Fund this year even though the City has equipment needs, playground needs, and infrastructure needs that could not be address in this budget because of the lack of funding. So, they've been pushed back. If we submit an SRF loan application for the C Street project we won't know until February whether or not we are successful in obtaining approval for one of those loans. So, we have to keep the money in the budget for that project. Mayor Carter said he thought the SRF loan had already been discussed. Ms. Delmar said it had but it is relevant to the CIP issue and to this budget. It was also discussed by the CRA Citizens Advisory Committee that we have \$375,000 available for improvements to the Lincoln Avenue business district and another \$375,000 for improvements to the grand hotel area that have been carried forward year after year. One of the emphases of the Chamber City Economic Development Partnership has been the improvement of our gateways; the way our City entrances look. We will be able to scrape together \$50,000 from the CRA to put into entryway improvements, but that will not go very far. Potentially we can purchase the triangle known as Clark's Corner, located at the intersection of SR60 and W. Central Avenue by the railroad track, for entryway improvement.

Commissioner Wojcik said there is \$25,000 in the CIP budget for refurbishing the fountain located at Hwy. 27 to make that entranceway more attractive. There are only a few things we can afford to do with the dollars leftover from this \$119,000, other than what was discussed.

Ms. Delmar said she and the Finance Director strongly recommend seriously discussing the restoration of the drawdown to fund balance for emergency sinking funds, even though we are still above the recommended percentages, because if we pull down all our reserves this year, then where do we turn next year?

Mayor Carter said he had that concern as well though he thought things would start stabilizing before too long or at least not get any worse, though he realized that he could certainly be 100% off.

Commissioner Wojcik asked Economic Developer Director Harold Gallup for an estimated cost for improvements at Clark's Corner. Mr. Gallup said it would cost about \$65,000, which includes the acquisition of the property and paying off the existing \$3,000 or \$4,000 debt. Mayor Carter asked if the money was budgeted and Ms. Delmar said it was not at this point, though there was \$50,000 in the CRA budget for entryway improvements and \$750,000 that has been carried forward year after year for economic redevelopment on Lincoln Avenue and in the area of the grand hotel that could be re-appropriated for another purpose. Commissioner Howell said we need to improve all the outskirts of Lake Wales first.

Mayor Carter asked Commissioner Wojcik if she was in favor of increasing the millage rate to 7.9998 and she said she was.

Mayor Carter said the consensus of the Commission was for staff to redo the numbers based on the 7.9998 millage rate.

Ms. Delmar reminded the Commission that if the millage rate is set at 7.9998 at the first reading of the ordinance, it can only be lowered, and not increased, between the first and second reading.

Commissioner Rogers said he was in favor of the rate increase if we take away the giveaway programs and have athletic leagues start paying their league fees. Ms. Delmar said that is already in the budget, though we just have not been successful in collecting it.

Commissioner Rogers said to be equal and fair we needed to give money to the Lake Wales Depot Museum if we were going to give money to the Green & Gold Foundation. He said he was not trying to be hard and he had nothing against anybody, but we must start looking out for the taxpayers and take care of City business first and then put anything left toward the City's debt or to pay for capital improvements as Commissioner Wojcik suggested. We need to use every avenue available to save money.

Mayor Carter

- Mayor Carter said he was inclined to honor the \$50,000 donation to the Green & Gold Foundation for the operation of the "B" Street Center because the Commission voted to make that commitment earlier this year.
- There are areas that staff needs to focus on such as the utility bad debt expense, which is about \$100,000, though he wasn't sure that turning it over to a collection agency would be the right answer. Ms. Pendergrass said the City has been turning the bad debt for utilities over to a collection agency for at least two years, though a very small percentage is collected. Staff is also trying to be a little tougher on enforcement and at the same time trying to work with customers. She said she discussed increasing the deposits with the City Commission before. Mayor Carter said the Commission approved a new deposit policy. Ms. Pendergrass explained that the ordinance would have to come back to the Commission because of a problem with tracking delinquencies.
- Mayor Carter said he understood that the overall mileage for fleet cars was 10 mpg. He said if we can improve that by one mpg it would be an improvement.

Ms. Delmar said staff is considering clearing out all the data in the Fuel Master system that may have been corrupted by user error, starting over at zero, and then tracking it for the next three months to see if it gives the same type history as it did over the last 18 months.

CONCLUSION

Ms. Delmar explained that there will be two budget hearings before adoption of the budget, one on September 7th and one on September 20th.

Mayor Carter said it sounded like the consensus of the City Commission was to increase the millage rate to 7.9998. He asked staff to add back the projects that were taken out in order to balance the budget at the current rate and the Commission will discuss what to keep or eliminate at the first budget hearing on September 7th.

Ms. Delmar said, for the record and for common courtesy, that the City has not done any contract piggy-backing in over a year and that there is no legal limit to the number of times that can be done. She said Ms. Hodge would be retiring in October 2012, at which time purchasing and inventory will be transferred to the Finance Department, and Facilities will be transferred to Public Services. Before that time, the next City Manager will be recommending the hiring of a purchasing agent.

Commissioner Wojcik said she would like to know from the department heads what things are absolutely crucial in their minds that should be in this year's budget, especially in regards to things other than utilities. Ms. Delmar said she could compile a list from the department heads for distribution as a handout at the first budget hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Art Falconer, Historic Lake Wales Society vice-president, asked for confirmation that the Green and Gold Foundation would be getting \$50,000 from the City and Mayor Carter said yes at this point. Mr. Falconer said for the record, that if the Green and Gold Foundation received the grant, then he would like the Lake Wales Depot Museum to receive \$50,000 as well because the Foundation had only one building and the Historic Society had four.

Mayor Carter said, though the things that had originally been cut will be added back to the budget by increasing the millage rate to 7.9998, it did not mean everything would stay in the budget because on September 7th the Commission will make those determinations. He said that the Historic Lake Wales Society, PAL and the Senior Center were items up for consideration. He asked Mr. Falconer if the Historic Lake Wales Society got the \$30,000 due them from the Grand Hotel contract and he said no.

For clarification Commissioner Howell asked if the building would be given back to the City and the residents if the City reneges. Ms. Delmar said that was correct.

Commissioner Rogers read the following statements made in the December 21, 2010 City Commission meeting minutes by the City Commission, the City Manager, and the City Attorney when conveying the "B" Street building and related property to the Green and Gold Foundation and giving them the \$50,000:

"Mayor Van Sickle asked if it was somewhat nebulous to ask the present Commission to support the B Street Community Center for FY2011/2012 when it may not be the same Commission that approves that budget. Ms. Delmar said there will be only one possible Commission seat change in April. The Mayor said that one Commissioner could change the outcome of the vote. He said he agreed that the City should support the B Street Community Center but the Commission couldn't say for how long. Mr. Galloway said it was appropriate for the Commission to suggest for future Commissions what it would like to see happen, but it would not be binding unless it was something done contractually, which was not the case in this instance. So the Commission would simply be expressing a desire to future members of its body of what it thought should happen. The Mayor said he wanted that stated in the record so there would be no misunderstanding. Ms. Delmar gave a similar example that happened about this time last year when the Housing Authority came to the City Commission requesting a grant of maybe \$15,000 for landscaping. The Commission approved that and this year it was added to the budget and was approved. The Commission would be committing only to the intent."

Commissioner Thornhill read the motion made in that meeting as follows:

"Commissioner Rogers made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the lease agreement with the Roosevelt Recreation & Social Club, Inc. for a term from January 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011; to authorize the conveyance of the "B" Street Community Service Center property to the Green & Gold Foundation effective October 1, 2011 upon payment of \$1 in accordance with the intent of 1996 interlocal agreement between the City and Polk County; and approve a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be included in the FY11'12 budget request for the purpose of operating the "B" Street Community Service Center."

Commissioner Thornhill said he could not read the remainder of the motion because he was missing a page.

Mimi Hardman, 300 S. Lake Shore Blvd., said she did not see how an organization that has been in business for over 30 years and has contributed more than \$81 million to the City in properties and businesses could be treated that way.

Mayor Carter said the money for the Depot Museum would be added back into the budget along with everything else that was removed and the Commission will discuss and make its decision on September 7th.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Mayor Carter read an email sent to staff on August 21, 2011 from one of the two candidates for the City Manager position, Mr. R. Dale Brown, in which he withdrew his application:

"The last week has been a revelation to me about Lake Wales. I have been contacted by a member of the commission and by a citizen to "tell" me about the politics of the city, labored through the Skype interview (which was the city's idea, not mine) and have now read an article in the local newspaper about the interviews with comments by commission members which were quite unprofessional. As a result I have decided that I am no longer interested in the city manager position. Therefore, with this e-mail I am withdrawing my application for the position of city manager."

Mayor Carter said he does not know who the Commissioner or the citizen were, but he thought it was uncalled for, unprofessional and quite possibly unethical, putting the City in a very, very awkward position, and making the City look bad. The other candidate could look at this information and wonder what she is getting into. No Commissioner can speak for the rest and to do so is incredibly out of form, unprofessional, and should not have been done. He said what happened and the withdrawal saddened him.

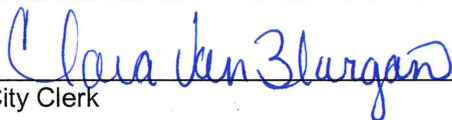
Mayor Carter said the consensus of the City Commission was to cancel the 5:15 p.m. City Commission workshop meeting that was scheduled to interview both candidates. They would still have the City Commission special meeting at 5:30 p.m. that was originally scheduled to take place immediately following the workshop to discuss how to proceed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.



Mayor/Commissioner

ATTEST:



City Clerk