



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Bob Grenier, Mayor
Sandy Gamble, Vice Mayor
Lori Pfister, Council Member
Walter Price, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

**John Drury, City Administrator
Lindsay Holt, City Attorney
Susie Novack, City Clerk
Scott Aldrich, Community Services Director
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director
Lori Houghton, Finance Director
Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Crissy Bublitz, Human Resources Director
James Dillon, Public Works Director
Mark O'Keefe, Public Communications Director
Sarah Coursey, Police Chief**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Grenier called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He asked those who wished to speak on an agenda item to complete and submit a Request to Speak form.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Pastor Dewey Smith, First Baptist Church of Mount Dora

Pastor Dewey Smith, First Baptist Church of Mount Dora, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Grenier asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Mr. Drury said the staff had no changes.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked Mayor Grenier if he wished to move the Audience To Be Heard section up on the agenda and before the Budget Hearing. Mayor Grenier confirmed.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

V. SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Holt stated there were no quasi-judicial matters before the Council for consideration.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack noted two resolutions that would be read in their entirety during the Budget Hearing: Resolutions 2024-19 and 2024-20.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Grenier asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There were no requests.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Tab 2. Caroline Street Property, Release of Mineral Rights], seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 2. Caroline Street Property, Release of Mineral Rights

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 3. Tavares Christmas Celebration & Parade Discussion

Mr. Aldrich made the following presentation:

The Tavares Christmas Celebration Parade, held each year on the first Saturday in December, has grown tremendously over the past few years, post the COVID pandemic. Since our event in late 2020, we have seen a 60% increase in the number of parade units/vehicles registered in the parade, causing the length of the parade to go from 1 hour or 1 ½ hour, to upwards of a 2 ½ hour parade as we had this past December.

- *2020 parade had 157 vehicles – little over an hour long*
- *2021 parade had 213 vehicles – just under 2 hours long*
- *2022 parade had 234 vehicles – little over 2 hours long*
- *2023 parade had 251 vehicles – about 2 ½ hours long*

** NOTE: a vehicle includes any motorized unit such as a car, truck, golf cart, ATV, UTV/ATV Side-by-Side, etc.*

Such a long parade causes several challenges for everyone involved. The police and fire departments charged with keeping the parade route safe and secure are stretched thin for an extended period. Spectators watching the parade, especially with little children, grow very impatient and attempt to leave or walk through the moving parade traffic to exit or participate in the other activities. Outside entertainment that was brought in for the evening activities are shortened, and businesses in the downtown are left with empty establishments while the public watches an extended parade.

A meeting was held on August 14, 2024, with several downtown businesses and representatives from the City to discuss ideas and plans to enhance the quality and manageability of the Tavares Christmas Parade. Several adjustments are recommended as follows:

- *Limit the number of overall total motorized vehicles to 175*
- *Limit non-profit groups, clubs and citizen organizations to a maximum of 15 motorized vehicles per entry*
- *Limit commercial organizations and business entries to a maximum of 2 motorized vehicles per entry*
- *Start the parade at 5:00pm as opposed to 5:30pm to allow for more evening activities and business patronage after the parade*

Additionally, to help curb delays and confusion along the parade route, all parade donations of canned goods and toys will be collected at the parade staging area instead of in the middle of the route at the judges' stand.

These adjustments will ensure a more streamlined event, reducing congestion and improving the experience for both participants and spectators. By capping entries, we can enhance safety, minimize delays, and provide better visibility for all floats and performances. This also allows for more efficient logistical planning and resource allocation. Furthermore, a shorter parade will foster a more intimate and engaging atmosphere, aligning with the festive spirit of the season. Overall, this change will contribute to a more enjoyable and memorable event for the entire community.

Staff recommends OPTION 1: Council discuss and adjust the Christmas parade with the following recommendations:

- Limit the number of overall total motorized vehicles to 175*
- Limit non-profit groups, clubs and citizen organizations to a maximum of 15 motorized vehicles per entry*
- Limit commercial organizations and business entries to a maximum of 2 motorized vehicles per entry*
- Start the parade at 5:00pm*

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Price asked if the parade route would go down Ruby Street and back up Main Street. Mr. Aldrich confirmed.

Council Member Price asked how staff determined the number of motorized vehicles for civic organizations and businesses. Mr. Aldrich said it was mainly a community parade rather than business-oriented, and staff determined to allow more space for civic organizations. Council Member Price noted his support for Option 1.

Council Member Singer said it was great working with and taking the business community's direction. He recognized the business owners in the audience.

A discussion was held regarding the time of the parade and lighted floats. Council Member Singer asked staff to advise participants that they may wish to be placed at the back of the parade if they include lighting on their floats. Debby Blais, Community Services Coordinator, said she would strategically place participants with lighting, such as the Tri-City Twirlers, toward the back of the parade.

Council Member Pfister noted her support for shortening the parade as it works best for the staff and the business community. She said she was glad to see a reduction in cars and noted her preference for floats.

Mr. Aldrich said the start time of the 5:00 p.m. parade would be the same as the July 4th parade, providing consistency and less confusion for the planning and the public.

Mayor Grenier asked for the Light Up Tavares event and parade date. Mr. Aldrich said the event was held on the first Saturday in December. Vice Mayor Gamble said the first Saturday was December 7, 2024.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked if golf carts would be limited for a community. A discussion was held, and there was a consensus from the Council to allow 25 golf carts or 10 vehicles.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve [Option 1] with a change to 25 golf carts or 10 vehicles for civic organizations and confirmed a 5:00 p.m. parade start time, seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Accept and Award Recommended Property and Casualty Insurance Firm

Ms. Bublitz made the following presentation:

At the April 17, 2024 City Council meeting, Council approved the agreement with Siver Insurance Consultants to develop an RFP to solicit insurance coverage, evaluate submitted proposals, and prepare a written summary of their recommendation to the ranking committee. Three firms responded with proposals. A ranking committee made up of the Economic Development Director, Finance Director, Human Resources Director, and Support Services Director reviewed the recommendation from Siver Insurance Consultants at a committee meeting on August 23, 2024. The committee agreed with the recommendation from Siver Insurance Consultants and unanimously ranked the three firms as follows:

- 1. Public Risk Management (PRM)*
- 2. Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust (PGIT)*
- 3. Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT)*

Staff recommends Option 1: Approve the recommended #1 ranked property and casualty firm Public Risk Management (PRM) and authorize staff to negotiate a contract.

Ms. Bublitz noted there would be \$365,740 in savings to the general fund budget.

Vice Mayor Gamble thanked Ms. Bublitz and the consultant.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1, seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Lori Pfister commended Ms. Bublitz and the consultant on their efforts.

Tab 5. Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Tavares Firefighter Professional Firefighters Local 3245 and the City of Tavares

Chief Keith made the following presentation:

Representatives of management and the union met on several occasions for collective bargaining sessions. City Council member Walter Price, City Administrator John Drury, Fire Chief Richard Keith, Finance Director Lori Houghton, and H.R. Director Crissy Bublitz served as the negotiating team representing the City of Tavares.

Local 3245 President Carsten Kieffer served as Chief Negotiator for the union, and other Union members attended various negotiation meetings.

Local 3245 President Kieffer has obtained authorization from the members of the Union Local to sign the proposed contract on behalf of the Union.

The salient points of this proposed contract are:

- Under Article 27-A, Good Friday is added to the list of recognized holidays for bargaining unit members, consistent with other city employees.*
- Under Article 33, bargaining unit members agree to the same cost of living adjustment proposed for other city employees.*
- Under Article 33, bargaining unit members agree to health insurance plan price adjustments consistent with the plan adjustments proposed for other city employees.*

The agreement would become effective October 1, 2024.

Staff recommends Option 1: Move to approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented between the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 and the City of Tavares, authorizing City Administrator John Drury to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Pfister thanked and commended Council Member Price, the Management Team, and the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 for their hard

work. She said she appreciated the firefighters staying in line with the other City employees.

Council Member Price said working with the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 members and the Management Team was a pleasure. He said he did not believe anything the Union asked for was unreasonable in the contract.

MOTION

Walter Price moved to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement, seconded by Sandy Gamble.

Mayor Grenier noted he had previously served on the management team and that negotiations had always gone well. He commended all who participated in the negotiations.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 6. School Resource Officer Agreement with Lake County School Board

Chief Coursey made the following presentation:

The Lake County School Board (LCSB) provides funding for a police officer to be at Tavares Elementary for security and safety during the school year. This will be the seventh year in which the LCSB and City have entered into this agreement. During the times when there is no school, SRO will be available for duties within the department.

Staff recommends Option 1, for the Council to approve the agreement between the City of Tavares and LCSB to provide a Police Officer at Tavares Elementary School.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the Council.

Vice Mayor Gamble said the City paid for a large portion of the program when it was initiated several years ago. Because of the additional funding the School Board has received through the years, they incur most of the cost, not including the months the Officer was off duty at the school. He noted the School Board funding is dispersed between participating cities throughout Lake County.

Council Member Pfister said the City was willing to participate in the program before the Lake County School Board began the program to ensure Tavares schools were safe.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Council Member Singer said Tavares was one of the first cities to implement the program.

Council Member Price said it was an important program.

Vice Mayor Gamble said Tavares was the first City to have a Police Officer in a High School in Lake County. The Officer was hired in a similar program as the fire department grants for staffing. He said he appreciated everything the City had done for the safety of the students.

Tab 7. Leadership Lake Donation of ADA Lift for Tavares Marina

Mr. Tweedie made the following presentation:

Each year the graduating class of Leadership Lake selects and raises funds for a community project which provides for a needed improvement or beneficial public service enhancement for the benefit of all in Lake County in furtherance of the organizations mission and purpose. This year's graduating class has identified a need to provide enhanced, safe access to boating on our lakes for persons with a mobility disability. They have offered the City of Tavares a donation of \$7,000 for the acquisition and installation of an ADA access lift at the City's Waterfront Marina (see attached letter of support from Leadership Lake).

The project will require acquisition of the equipment and accessories, engineering, dock modification/prep and professional installation by a qualified marine contractor. Staff met with representatives of the class and identified a suitable lift and location at the marina dock and have received the following cost estimates:

• ADA lift chair acquisition	\$4,400
• Engineering	\$1,400
• Dock Prep & Installation	\$2,000
Total	\$7,800

Sufficient funds are available in the Seaplane Base & Marina operating budget to cover the potential shortfall of \$800 between the \$7,000 donation and estimated total cost, should they be required.

Staff recommends the Council approve Option 1, to accept the donation from Leadership Lake Class of 2024 and authorize staff to move forward with the project.

Lieutenant Jon Hall, Leadership Lake Class of 2024, said funds were raised at Leesburg Bikefest. He noted one attendee of the Class had a father who was mobility impaired, was an avid fisherman, and had difficulty getting in and out of boats. He noted the unanimous decision of the Class to donate the funds for an ADA lift at the Tavares Marina.

Mr. Tweedie noted it would be the first ADA Lift at a marina in Lake County.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer said Leadership Lake County was a wonderful organization and noted he had been an alumnus since the early 90s. He applauded the graduating Class for thinking outside of the box. He said this partnership would impact the community and allow more people to enjoy the lakes.

Mr. Tweedie presented a PowerPoint slide of the proposed ADA lift location.

Mayor Grenier asked if a company would install the lift. Mr. Tweedie confirmed and said it was a great addition to the marina, as the lakes were a natural and economic resource for Tavares and Lake County.

Council Member Pfister thanked the Leadership Lake Class of 2024. She said Tavares likes to be the City of Firsts.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Grenier moved up the Audience to be Heard section to be heard next on the Agenda.

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

There were no comments from the audience.

Mayor Grenier recessed the Regular Meeting at 4:41.

Mayor Grenier called the Public Hearing to order at 5:05 p.m.

XI BUDGET HEARING – FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 TENTATIVE MILLAGE & BUDGET – READING OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE AND BUDGET RESOLUTIONS 5:05 P.M.

Tab 8. Approve Resolution 2024-19 for Tentative Millage Rate for FY 2025 – First Reading

Ms. Novack read Resolution 2024-19 in its entirety as follows:

RESOLUTION 2024 - 19

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 7.0500 FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; SETTING FORTH THE PERCENT BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE IS GREATER THAN THE "ROLLED-BACK" RATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida on September 4, 2024, adopted the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065.

WHEREAS, the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida, following due public notice as required by law, held a second public hearing on September 18, 2024, as required by Florida Statute 200.065 on the 2024-2025 Millage Rate; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Lake County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the City of Tavares as \$1,731,865,984.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida, that:

- 1. The City of Tavares Fiscal Year 2024-2025 operating millage rate to be levied is hereby set at 7.0500 mills, which millage rate is greater than the rolled back rate of 6.0359 mills by 16.80%.**
- 2. The voted debt service millage rate is set at .1601 mills for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.**
- 3. This Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.**

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The City Administrator and staff have developed a budget for Fiscal Year 2025 for Council's consideration totaling \$67,170,996 that is fully balanced. The proposed budget for FY 2025 includes, among many other items, the following:

- 1. Similar Level of Service.*
- 2. General Fund millage rate increase (from 6.5950 mills to 7.0500 mills), which is 16.80% above the rollbacked rate.*

3. *Debt Service millage rate decrease (from .1817 to .1601).*
4. *Estimated reserve balances that meet GFOA recommendations.*
5. *Fire Assessment level funded (no rate increase).*
6. *Employee raises of 8.0%.*
7. *Two new Police Officers, a new Police Records Assistant, three new Firefighters, a new Fire Inspector, an Engineering Inspector, a Streets Maintenance Worker, a Staff Assistant (for Economic Development), a Library Assistant, a Parks Specialist, and a Facility Specialist.*
8. *Street paving - \$400,000.*
9. *West End Parking Phase 1, 2, and 3 - \$990,040.*
10. *Expanded programs are cut.*

Previously, the City Council discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget at the following public meetings:

- *7/17/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (General Fund Budget)*
- *7/17/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (Set Maximum Tentative Millage rate)*
- *8/07/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (General, Utility, and Special Revenue Fund Budgets)*
- *8/21/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (Capital Improvement Plan Presentation)*
- *8/21/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (Discussion on FY 2025 Proposed Budget)*

A Tentative Budget (all funds) has been prepared for the City Council. During the last Budget Workshop City Council added the following items to the proposed budget:

1. *West End Parking Phase 1, 2, and 3 - \$990,040.*
2. *Two Picnic Tables at Aesop's Park - \$7,933.*
3. *Four benches at the Cemetery - \$8,700.*
4. *Police Officer - \$108,133.*

Exhibit A lists all the changes made to the Proposed Budget since it was presented at the July 17th City Council meeting. The changes made have resulted in \$109,485 in additional revenue in the General Fund that remains available for appropriation, and \$18,776 remaining in the TIF Fund for appropriation. If the additional revenues are not appropriated, they will go back into reserves.

The Final Public Hearing to adopt the FY 2025 Millage Rate and the FY 2025 Budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 18, 2024, at which time the final millage rates will be adopted.

Mr. Drury said the presented budget had no additional loans or debt. He recommended the Council take public input and then either adopt the proposed millage rate or make changes to the budget and millage rate.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Price said he previously asked staff to bring back a scenario incorporating the additional items the Council requested for the budget from the cut list while lowering the millage rate. He said the staff returned with the option to take the \$109,485 surplus and \$365,740 insurance savings and apply to reducing the millage rate to 6.77 mills. He said it was more than the previous year and better than 7.0500. He recommended that the Council use \$475,225 to lower the millage rate for the citizens.

Vice Mayor Gamble said \$75,000 for the dock removal was removed from the budget. He recommended using a portion of the \$109,000 surplus and putting the dock removal back in the budget. Vice Mayor Gamble noted a safety concern.

Council Member Price said he would prefer to keep the millage rate and budget as he stated and said it was an opportunity to try to keep spending levels down for the Tavares citizens.

Council Member Pfister said the dock had been in place for years and said she concurred with Council Member Price.

Council Member Singer said he concurred with Council Member Price. He said the City was fortunate to have lowered the millage for the previous five years and wanted to keep the millage rate as low as possible. Council Member Singer said inflation was record-breaking, and the Council wished to take care of employees. He noted that the Council had discussed using the dock funds to lower the millage rate at the previous meeting.

Mayor Grenier noted a concern that a Council member might wish to make additional changes at the following meeting and did not want to lower the millage where needed changes could not be placed in the budget. He said the Council may find an item that was overlooked and recommended a millage rate of 6.95 mills, as initially recommended at the beginning of the budget process.

Council Member Price said the budget would take care of staff, include the additional requests of the Council, and take care of the citizens at a millage rate of 6.77 mills.

Council Member Pfister asked if the City would meet or exceed the GFOA recommended Reserve balance. Mr. Drury said it would exceed.

Mr. Drury said the proposal would accommodate what the Council was looking for, and at the September 18 meeting, the Council could handle any missed items at that time.

Ms. Houghton noted any calculation for the millage would require a vote with four decimal points to be recorded. Council Member Price said his suggested millage rate would be 6.7756 mills.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve a tentative millage rate of 6.95 mills as initially presented to the Council. The motion died for a lack of a second.

MOTION

Walter Price moved to approve a tentative millage rate of 6.7756 mills using \$109,485 surplus and \$365,740 insurance savings, seconded by Troy Singer.

The motion carried 4-1 as follows:

Bob Grenier:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	No
Lori Pfister:	Yes
Walter Price:	Yes
Troy Singer:	Yes

Tab 9. Approve Resolution 2024-20 for Tentative Budget for FY 2025 – First Reading

Ms. Novack read Resolution 2024-20 in its entirety as follows:

RESOLUTION 2024-20

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the tentative 2024-2025 budget was held at the Tavares City Hall Council Chambers in the City of Tavares, Florida, Lake County, Florida on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 5:05 p.m., as required by Florida Statutes 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the general public was given an opportunity to express its views pertaining to the tentative budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the tentative budget for 2024-2025, and

WHEREAS, a second public hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 budget was held in the Council Chambers at the Tavares City Hall, 201 East Main Street in the City of Tavares, Florida, on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 5:05 p.m.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Budget for 2024-2025 fiscal year for the City of Tavares, Florida is hereby adopted by the Tavares City Council in the amount of \$67,170,996 at public hearing this 18th day of September 2024.

This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The City Administrator and staff have developed a budget for Fiscal Year 2025 for Council's consideration totaling \$67,170,996 that is fully balanced. The proposed budget for FY 2025 includes, among many other items, the following:

- 1. Similar Level of Service.*
- 2. General Fund millage rate increase (from 6.5950 mills to 7.0500 mills), which is 16.80% above the rollback rate.*
- 3. Debt Service millage rate decrease (from .1817 to .1601).*
- 4. Estimated reserve balances that meet GFOA recommendations.*
- 5. Fire Assessment level funded (no rate increase).*
- 6. Employee raises of 8.0%.*
- 7. Two new Police Officers, a new Police Records Assistant, three new Firefighters, a new Fire Inspector, an Engineering Inspector, a Streets Maintenance Worker, a Staff Assistant (for Economic Development), a Library Assistant, a Parks Specialist, and a Facility Specialist.*
- 8. Street paving - \$400,000.*
- 9. West End Parking Phase 1, 2, and 3 - \$990,040.*
- 10. Expanded programs are cut.*

Previously, the City Council discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget at the following public meetings:

- 7/17/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (General Fund Budget)*
- 7/17/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (Set Maximum Tentative Millage rate)*
- 8/07/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (General, Utility, and Special Revenue Fund Budgets)*
- 8/21/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (Capital Improvement Plan Presentation)*
- 8/21/2024 – City Council Budget Workshop – (Discussion on FY 2025 Proposed Budget)*

A Tentative Budget (all funds) has been prepared for the City Council. During the

last Budget Workshop City Council added the following items to the proposed budget:

- 1. West End Parking Phase 1, 2, and 3 - \$990,040.*
- 2. Two Picnic Tables at Aesop's Park - \$7,933.*
- 3. Four benches at the Cemetery - \$8,700.*
- 4. Police Officer - \$108,133.*

Exhibit A lists all the changes made to the Proposed Budget since it was presented at the July 17th City Council meeting. The changes made have resulted in \$109,485 in additional revenue in the General Fund that remain available for appropriation, and \$18,776 remaining in the TIF Fund for appropriation. If the additional revenues are not appropriated, they will go back into reserves.

The Final Public Hearing to adopt the FY 2025 Millage Rate and the FY 2025 Budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 18, 2024, at which time the final millage rates will be adopted.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the audience.

Belynda Rinck, 216 Fern Avenue, Tavares, said she supported reducing the millage rate. She said the grass was beautiful at the west end of the proposed parking area, noting that the Lake County Parking Garage was within two blocks. Ms. Rinck asked the Council to consider keeping the grass for parking rather than paving.

Mayor Grenier asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer asked if the budget figures would remain the same with the lowered millage rate. Mr. Drury confirmed and said the Council was making a budget-neutral decision. Council Member Singer said the Council was committed to reducing the millage rate as much as possible.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 7. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury noted one more Public Hearing would be held on September 18, 2024, at 5:05 p.m.

Mayor Grenier asked for an update on the Seaplane Base Trail Reroute Project. Mr. Tweedie said the project was 85% complete and ahead of schedule.

Chief Keith said a Patriots Day 'Never Forget' event would be held on September 11, 2024. He said Captain Willis would emcee the event and invited those in attendance.

Chief Keith noted the Council received an invitation to a groundbreaking event at the Institute for Public Safety.

Chief Keith thanked the Council for approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Tab 8. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Price thanked Ms. Bublitz for her efforts in reducing the cost of insurance, which provided an opportunity to reduce the millage rate.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and Mayor Grenier adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk