

**MINUTES — SEPTEMBER 21, 2022  
CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH  
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING**

---

The City of Indian Rocks Beach Special City Commission Meeting was held on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022.**

Mayor-Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**PRESENT:** Mayor-Commissioner Joanne Moston Kennedy, Vice Mayor-Commissioner Denise Houseberg, Commissioner Jude Bond, Commissioner Philip J. Hanna, and City Manager Brently Gregg Mims.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Joseph D. McCall.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Assistant City Attorney Nancy Meyer, City Clerk Deanne B. O'Reilly, MMC, and Finance Director Daniel A. Carpenter, CGFO.

*(To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.)*

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**1A. ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04 — PUBLIC HEARING /SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

**Adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes for the City of Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County, Florida, Fiscal Year 2022/2023; providing for notification of requisite government authorities; and providing for an effective date.**

*[Beginning of Staff Report]*

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Commission previously established the proposed millage rate for the Fiscal Year 2022/23 at 1.8326 mills, with no change to the previous fiscal year's millage rate. The current mill rate has been in place since 2019. The mill rate was reduced at that time from 1.93 to 1.8326.

**ANALYSIS:**

With a millage rate of 1.8326, the total estimated tax collection is \$2,963,060 based on a 97% collection rate. For Fiscal Year 2022/23, a mill rate of 1.8326 is 14.27% higher than the roll back rate of 1.6038. The proposed mill rate of 1.8326 remains one of the lowest in Pinellas County. Currently, mill rates in Pinellas County range from 0.5450 to 6.7550.

*[End of Staff Report]*

Assistant City Attorney Meyer read Ordinance No. 2022-04 in its entirety.

City Manager Mims presented the Agenda Item.

City Manager Mims recapped the budget process thus far.

City Manager Mims stated that the Finance and Budget Review Committee reviewed the budget on July 13, 2022, and unanimously recommended approval to the City Commission.

City Manager Mims stated the City's property tax assessed value increased by approximately 16.14%, or 8.73% higher than last year. Of the the16.14% increase in taxable values, over 11.7% is attributed to new construction during the previous year. In total, the value of new construction exceeds \$26 million.

The adjusted budget maintains the mill levy at 1.8326, which ensures the City's ranking among the lowest mill rates in Pinellas County and one of the lowest in Florida.

The General Fund expenses total \$4,266,110. The adjusted budget provides for the transfer of \$154,190 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund for stormwater Improvements.

*Highlights of the Adjusted General Fund Budget:*

- Continued reduction of the cost allocation from the Solid Waste Budget to the General Fund Budget.
- \$100 per month raise for City Commissioners (effective after the March 2023 election).
- 5% cost of living adjustment for all employees, including the City Manager and City Clerk.
- 4.77% increase in the Pinellas County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Service Contract.
- Office Administrator's salary and benefits moved from Permitting & Inspections to the City Manager's Budget.
- Allocation of \$29,000 to develop a new City website.
- Conversion of a part-time Code Enforcement position to a full-time position.

*Highlights of the Solid Waste Budget:*

- 5% cost of living adjustment for all employees.

- 6% rate increase for both residential and commercial customers
- 6.8% increase in Pinellas County Tipping Fee.
- Replacement of and purchase of one packer truck.

*Highlights of the FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan:*

- Annual funding for road milling, resurfacing, curbing, and drainage.
- Allocation of \$4,035,033 from Pinellas County Penny to Gulf Boulevard Underground Phase II.
- Allocation of the American Rescue Plan funds (\$2,019,688) to future drainage enhancement projects. The City Commission has designated Project Nos. 1, 2, and 3 after reviewing the updated City of Indian Rocks Beach Stormwater Master Plan during the July 12, 2022 City Commission Meeting. The projects are subject to the City obtaining the easements and quotes received through the bidding process.
- \$600,000 for stormwater reconstruction projects (half of the total is funded by SWFWMD Grants. Grant allocations and requests may be updated based on the City Commission's updated Stormwater Master Plan review.
- Annual funding for park maintenance upgrades.

*City Park Updates:*

- Rehab of the IRB Nature Park Boardwalk (a multi-year effort). The City will replace the wood, decking, and railing on the boardwalk with recycled composite material. In addition, support repair will be completed.
- Electrical improvements, including decorative lighting at Chic-A-Si Park and 12th Avenue Park, to accommodate gatherings and events.
- Fencing replacements.

Vice Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg asked if the website design project went over budget, could additional funds be added to that project.

City Manager Mims responded in the affirmative.

Mayor-Commissioner Kennedy asked the City Manager if he had heard any more about the funding from State as far as the undergrounding of utilities for Gulf Boulevard.

City Manager Mims stated the City has put in a request but has not received a response from the State.

Mayor-Commissioner Kennedy opened the public hearing.

**John Pfanstiehl, 448 Harbor Drive South**, stated when the City increases property taxes, is it not just honest to tell property owners how much taxes have increased? He said would it not be more honest if it stated on the City's website this fiscal year: IRB is increasing property taxes by 10% on non-homesteaded properties because property values have

increased. The millage rate was not rolled back. Property taxes on homesteaded properties have increased to the 3% limit mandated by State law.

Mr. Pfanstiehl stated this tells property owners what happens. Most property owners do not understand the millage rate.

Mr. Pfanstiehl stated that bragging about the City's millage rate as one of the lowest in Pinellas County is not a 100% accurate comparison. First, cities with higher property values, like IRB, should have lower millage rates. That is an apple-to-orange comparison. Secondly, some cities' millage rate pays for expensive services, like fire services. He thinks it would be good to avoid saying that the City has one of the lowest millage rates in Pinellas County. The City could say that IRB property taxes are a small part of the total property tax bill.

Mr. Pfanstiehl stated he would hope that a member of the City Commission would propose that in the future that the City tell property owners very clearly what percentage the City is increasing the taxes on non-homesteaded and homesteaded properties.

Mayor-Commissioner Kennedy closed the public hearing.

Finance Director Carpenter stated after the City's tentative millage rate is set, the City files paperwork with the Florida Department of Revenue. All concerns proposed by Mr. Pfanstiehl are addressed in the TRIM Notice that was mailed to each property owner before any public hearings. The TRIM Notice, by taxing agency, tells the property owner explicitly what percent and dollar amount their property has gone up.

Finance Director Carpenter stated it would be challenging to address the over 3,500 parcels individually in a public meeting. He further noted the City's name and address are at the bottom of the TRIM Notice for questions and concerns.

***MOTION MADE BY VICE MAYOR-COMMISSIONER HOUSEBERG, SECONDED BY COMMISSION HANNA, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04, ON SECOND AND READING, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES AT 1.8326 FOR THE CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023.***

***ROLL CALL VOTE:***

***AYES: BOND, HANNA, HOUSEBERG, KENNEDY***

***NAYS: NONE***

***ABSENT: McCALL***

***MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-04, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.***

**1B. ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05 — PUBLIC HEARING / SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

**Adopting a budget for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023; making appropriations and operating expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2022/2023; providing for notification of requisite government authorities; and providing an effective date.**

*[Beginning of Staff Report]*

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Commission reviewed the City Manager's Fiscal Year 2022/23 Proposed Budget during the July 26, 2022 Budget Work Session. Prior to that Budget Work Session, the City Manager and Finance Director met with each member of the City Commission to brief them on the proposed budget. In addition, the City of Indian Rocks Beach Finance and Budget Review Committee met on July 13, 2022, and unanimously endorsed the proposed budget. The City Manager and Finance Director made presentations, which provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022/23 Program-Budget. The City Commission and staff reviewed the proposed budget in detail. The Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/23 results from a consensus by the City Commission from the July Budget Work Session.

**ANALYSIS:**

The final budget is balanced in all funds and presents a comprehensive plan for providing services during the coming fiscal year. With the approval of the Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2022/23, the City will establish a spending plan for the Fiscal Year 2022/23 and provide approval for the City Manager to implement the plan.

*[End of Staff Report]*

Assistant City Attorney Meyer read Ordinance No. 2022-05 in its entirety.

Mayor-Commissioner Kennedy opened the public hearing. Seeing/hearing no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

There were no staff, City Commission, or public comments.

***MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HANNA, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR-COMMISSIONER HOUSEBERG, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS AND OPERATING EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023.***

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES: BOND, HOUSEBERG, HANNA, KENNEDY**

**NAYS: NONE**

**ABSENT: McCALL**

**MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-05, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2A. ORDINANCE NO. 2022-06 — SECOND AND FINAL READING.**

**An ordinance of the City of Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, amending Chapter 50, "Solid Waste", Article II, "Collection and Disposal", Division 1, "Generally", Section 50-36, "Industrial waste; oil and grease; construction debris; bulky waste", to increase the minimum amount of corresponding fee; amending Section 50-37, "Garden trash", to increase the minimum charge of a special pickup; delineating the size of free garden trash; amending Division 3. "Fees and Charges", Section 50-91 "Fee schedule", to alter specified collection fees; providing for severability; providing for the repeal of ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith to the extent of such conflict, and providing for an effective date.**

*[Beginning of Staff Report]*

**BACKGROUND:**

The City continues to maintain a high service level residential and commercial solid waste program that benefits all citizens. Services include a recycling program, curbside pick up, and yard waste disposal. The fee schedule for the collection and disposal of the City's solid waste is addressed in the City Code, Section 50-91. The goal or emphasis of any solid waste rate increase is to adjust rates to allow for the solid waste fund to generate adequate income to satisfy annual cost requirements and provide for minimal operating reserves of 3 months within the fund.

**ANALYSIS:**

A solid waste fund revenue and expenditures were reviewed during the July 26, 2022 City Commission Budget Work Session. The most up-to-date data and economic factors available recommended adjustments to the current solid waste fees. Key areas include the generation of adequate annual operating income, significant increases in costs associated with curbside recycling, future capital equipment replacement costs, and the accumulation of operating reserves within the fund.

The Tentative Budget for FY 2023 reflects increases in monthly residential and commercial solid waste rates of 6.00%. The current \$29.48 per month charge for residential solid waste is recommended to increase to \$31.25. For commercial solid waste customers, rates are recommended to increase by 6% in the tentative FY 2023 Budget.

*[End of Staff Report]*

Assistant City Attorney Meyer read Ordinance No. 2022-06 by title only.

City Manager Mims presented Ordinance No. 2022-06 and reviewed the amendments to Chapter 50, Solid Waste.

- Reflects a 6% increase in monthly residential and commercial solid waste rates. 6.00%. [Sec.50-91]
- Normal yard waste and trimmings of shrubs or trees are picked up free, when cut in four three-foot lengths and when limbs are not more than four inches in diameter and when stacked neatly at the curb. [Sec. 50-37]
- ~~The stack shall not exceed four feet in height and the pile shall not be longer than eight feet.~~ The stack shall not exceed a total size of 3 feet wide by 3 feet height by 3 feet long or 1 cubic yard. [Sec. 50-37]
- Piles of yard waste and trimmings that are larger than this description, that are randomly piled or that contain remains of full tree removal (i.e., stumps or larger than four-inch-diameter limbs) shall require a call for a special pickup and shall require a charge based on the size of the pickup with a minimum charge of ~~\$25.00~~ 50.00. [Sec. 50-37]
- Fees will be based on rental charges, pull charges and dumping fees. In addition, there shall be an administrative charge of ~~\$244.08~~ 258.72 per month for each compactor dumpster in excess of ten cubic yards. For compactor dumpsters and front-end loader dumpsters less than ten cubic yards, the administrative fee shall be ~~\$122.05~~ 129.37 per month per dumpster. [Sec. 50-91) (f)]
- Additional per-unit fee. In addition to the fees set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the amount of ~~\$7.99~~ 8.47 per unit per month shall be added to each of the basic fees for subsections (1) and (2), and the amount of ~~\$9.07~~ 9.61 per unit per month shall be added to the basic fees for subsections (3), (4), (5), and (6). [Sec. 50-91)(b)]

Mayor-Commissioner Kennedy opened the public comment session. Seeing/hearing no one wishing to speak, the public comment session was closed.

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER BOND, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR-COMMISSIONER HOUSEBERG, TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-06, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, AMENDING CHAPTER 50, "SOLID WASTE", ARTICLE II, "COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL", DIVISION 1, "GENERALLY", SECTION 50-36, "INDUSTRIAL WASTE; OIL AND GREASE; CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS; BULKY WASTE", TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF CORRESPONDING FEE; AMENDING SECTION 50-37, "GARDEN TRASH", TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM CHARGE OF A SPECIAL PICKUP; DELINEATING THE SIZE OF FREE GARDEN TRASH; AMENDING DIVISION 3. "FEES AND CHARGES", SECTION 50-91 "FEE SCHEDULE", TO ALTER SPECIFIED COLLECTION FEES.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**AYES: HANNA, HOUSEBERG, BOND, KENNEDY**  
**NAYS: NONE**  
**ABSENT: BOND**

**MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-06, ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. ADJOURNMENT.**

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER HANNA, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR-COMMISSIONER HOUSEBERG, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:22 P.M. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION.**

November 9, 2022

Date Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Moston Kennedy, Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deanne B. O'Reilly, MMC, City Clerk

/DOR