

**MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CAPE CORAL CITY COUNCIL**

September 12, 2024

Council Chambers

5:05 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Mayor Gunter at 5:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Roll Call:** Mayor Gunter, Councilmembers Carr, Cosden, Hayden, and Welsh were present. Councilmembers Long, Sheppard, and Steinke were excused.

**CITIZENS INPUT TIME**

Glen Snyder voiced concern about reoccurring flooding issues in his neighborhood. He questioned a study reportedly done by the City that addressed specific issues.

Jay Higgins expressed opposition about opening the Police Union contract. He supported keeping the Police Department agreement as is.

Chris Doyon voiced concerns about the drainage in his neighborhood. For past 19 years, there has been a need for a sheet flow to prevent flooding and underwater conditions.

Grace Giliberti expressed concerns about the removal of the Chiquita Lock and Jaycee Park changes. She encouraged Council not to change the zoning for Redfish Point. She requested assistance with the letter from FEMA that she received.

Mayor Gunter requested that Staff speak with the last speaker to assist with the FEMA inquiry. He requested feedback on the Public Works issue.

City Manager Ilczyszyn explained there would be a Public Works case analysis of the situation. There were projects done to alleviate flooding which did not address the entirety of the situation. South of Celebration was done as part of the Nicholas Parkway improvements. East and north sides still have additional work to be done. The Public Works Director and Stormwater Staff are putting together a permanent solution. Hopefully, it will be designed, permitted, and infrastructure to help the neighborhood before the next rainy season.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS - Legislative Hearings (Note: Input received as follows: 1. City Staff presentations are limited to five (5) minutes; 2. Applicant(s) presentations are limited to five (5) minutes; and 3. Resident input is limited to three (3) minutes per individual with a maximum of sixty (60) minutes total. All three are subject to the following statement: Unless otherwise extended by City Council.)**

Ordinance 59-24 First Public Hearing, Set Second and Final Public Hearing for September 26, 2024

**WHAT THE ORDINANCE ACCOMPLISHES:**

An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cape Coral, Florida, to establish and levy ad valorem taxes within the corporate limits of the City of Cape Coral, Florida, for the tax year 2024; providing for the levy of ad valorem taxes in the amount of 5.2188 mills (\$5.2188 per \$1,000) based on the assessed value on non-exempt real and personal property located within the city limits of the City of Cape Coral; providing for the levy of ad valorem taxes in the amount of 0.1791 mills (\$.1791 per \$1,000) based on the assessed value of the appropriate real and personal property located within the city limits of the City of Cape Coral, for funds for annual debt service for the City of Cape Coral, Florida, General Obligation Bond (Bank of America), Series 2019 and the City of Cape Coral, Florida, General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021; providing for the manner of assessment and collection. (Brought forward by City Management)

City Clerk Bruns read the title of the Ordinance.

The second and final public hearing was scheduled for September 26, 2024, in Council Chambers.

Interim Assistant City Manager Mason noted that his presentation will encompass both Ordinance 59-24 and Ordinance 60-24. He pointed out that the millage rate must be approved prior to the tentative budget. Slides consisted of the following:

- FY 2025 City of Cape Coral Budget First Public Hearing
- Ordinance 59-24 Proposed Millage Rate
- Ordinance 60-24 Tentative Budget
- Ad Valorem Taxes
- TRIM Notice Millage Rate
- 1. Not to exceed rate of 5.2188 mills established on July 24, 2024
- 2. to exceed rate of 2.55% above the rolled-back rate of 5.0888
- 3. 5.2188 rate included on TRIM notice mailed in August 2024
- 4. Three options for adoption:
  - A. Tentative rate for adoption is the not to exceed rate of 5.2188
  - B. Tentative rate for adoption is the rolled-back rate of 5.0888
  - C. Tentative rate at 5.2188 or less
- TRIM Notice Millage Rate
- 1. City Manager's Tentative Budget based on Millage Rate of:
  - A. Not to exceed rate at 5.2188 Mills
    - ❖ i. \$258,485,438 – General Fund
    - ❖ ii. \$1,058,403,269 – All Funds
  - B. Rolled-back rate at 5.0888 Mills
    - ❖ i. \$254,793,553 – General Fund
    - ❖ ii. \$1,054,711,384 – All Funds
- 2. Proposed Millage Rate for the Parks General Obligation Bonds is 0.1791 Mills
- Tentative Millage Rate
  - 1. By law, City Council must adopt a tentative millage rate before adopting a tentative budget.
  - 2. Any resulting budgetary adjustments will be made during the public hearing of Ordinance 60-24.
- Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Summary
- Fiscal Year 2025 Tentative Budget Adjustments (two slides)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Highlights (two slides)
- Fiscal Year 2025 Next Steps
- 1. Final Public Hearing
  - a. Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 5:05 p.m.
  - b. Adopt Millage Rates and Budget

Public Hearing opened.

Jay Higgins voiced support for the rolled-back rate.

Public Hearing closed.

***Councilmember Hayden moved, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, to set the Tentative Operating Millage Rate at 5.2188 mills which is 2.55% above the rolled-back rate of 5.0888 and the tentative millage rate for the Parks General Obligation Bond at .1791 mills.***

Councilmember Carr explained his reason for supporting his decision on Ordinance 59-24 as public safety is the number one concern. This has been discussed for months. The difference that came to light during the budget process was the significant disparity within a study that was received in that timeline. He agreed that contracts are meant to be upheld. There is still discussion on how that will transpire and may not require opening the contract.

***Council polled as follows: Carr, Cosden, Gunter, Hayden, and Welsh voted "aye." Five "ayes." Motion carried 5-0.***

Ordinance 60-24 First Public Hearing; Set Second and Final Public Hearing for September 26, 2024

**WHAT THE ORDINANCE ACCOMPLISHES:**

An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cape Coral, Florida, adopting the City of Cape Coral operating budget, revenues and expenditures, and capital budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 for the City of Cape Coral, Florida. (Brought forward by City Management)

City Clerk Bruns read the title of the Ordinance.

The second and final public hearing was scheduled for September 26, 2024, in Council Chambers

Interim Assistant City Manager Mason noted this had already been presented with the prior Ordinance.

Public Hearing opened.

No speakers

Public Hearing closed.

***Councilmember Hayden moved, seconded by Councilmember Welsh, to set the Tentative Operating and Capital Budget at \$1,058,403,269.***

***Council polled as follows: Carr, Cosden, Gunter, Hayden, and Welsh voted "aye." Five "ayes." Motion carried 5-0.***

**TIME AND PLACE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

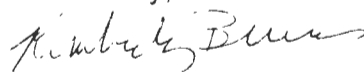
A Special Meeting of the Cape Coral City Council was scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024, beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Conference Room 220A.

A Regular Meeting of the Cape Coral City Council was scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Submitted by,



Kimberly Bruns, CMC  
City Clerk