
COMMISSIONERS:

Terry Knowles, Mayor
Eleanor Randall, Vice Mayor
John Martin
DeLoris Roberts
William Carlton

CITY MANAGER:

Chad M. Shryock, City Manager
Donna R. Mayes, City Clerk

CITY ATTORNEY:

Steve Lee

**MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP
COUNTY FIRE ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION
APRIL 5, 2007**

A. Call To Order

Mayor Knowles called the Meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM. Board present was: Mayor Knowles, Vice Mayor Randall, Commissioners Roberts, Carlton and Martin. Staff present was City Manager Shryock and City Clerk Mayes.

Guest Present: County Fire Chief Ed Bailey, Cheryl Anderson and GSG Representative Slade Dukes, Esq.

B. Approval of Agenda

Moved to approve the Agenda for the April 5th meeting

Motion – Commissioner Roberts

Second – Vice Mayor Randall

Vote – 5-0

C. Agenda

1. Fire Rescue Assessment Project
Alachua County

Presentation by GSG

Mr. Slade Dukes, Esq., Senior Project Manager of Government Services Group, Inc. gave the presentation on topics: 1) assumptions: Unincorporated, plus six municipalities – 5 year Proforma Budget, 2) Methodology, 3) Proforma Assessment Rates, 4) Examples, 5) Impact of Exemptions, 6) Remaining Issues. He disclosed that the other municipalities had already received this presentation. City Manager Shryock advised he was trying to get an amended contract worked out with the County Board. The call data for Fire Rescue Services for calendar year 2006 was reviewed as well as the proforma budget for the upcoming year of 2007-2008 and up to 2012 breaking down the cost to residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, hotel and land. There was discussion on the short time frame given to opt into this assessment and in getting an ordinance passed. In answer to questions from the Board, Chief Bailey informed the station would be upgraded to have advanced life support units. It is funded 26% by the City and 70% by the County. Commissioner Martin questioned if the City would be precluded from coming in if they missed the window of time. Mr. Dukes expressed that it was a two year time frame and the alternative would be to go to the County and ask for an update, hire the consultant to come in and do the work, which the City would have to pay for. Discussion turned to the possibility of the County pulling out if the City does not agree, which Commissioner Martin found very disturbing. Another area the Board was uneasy about was the possible impact of exemptions the County might allow which could bring an estimated shortfall of \$2,636,182. City Manager Shryock interjected he had been trying to set up a meeting with Chairperson DeLaney

since August and had spoken with County Manager Randy Reid assuming the contract was being changed to what the City was collecting on the fire assessment that they imposed. Ms. Anderson informed that the MSTU Fire would be replaced with this fire assessment so property owners would see a reduction on their tax bill. This did not resolve the concerns for the City since the property owners do not pay a MSTU tax. Theirs would only go higher because of the proposed increase from the county of \$424,000 to the City's current County cost of \$54,000 or approximately \$70,000 under the existing fair share agreement. City Manager Shryock advised it would hard to adopt an ordinance between now and the 24th of April with the publication requirements, there would be no way to pass on second reading. Mayor Knowles stated he did not feel the Board had enough information to make a decision and was very uneasy about trusting the County Commission on this issue.

Based on the time limits, City Manager Shryock voiced they could adopt on first reading April 16th, and get the process started, publish for advertising while setting up for a joint meeting with the County on the 23rd and either adopt or reject on special meeting on the 30th. Mr. Dukes had conveyed they could hold up until May 6th.

E. Adjourn

Moved to adjourn the April 5, 2007 Workshop presentation of the County Fire Rescue Assessment by GSG at 5:30 PM.

Motion – Commissioner Carlton

Second – Commissioner Roberts

Vote – 5-0

These Minutes of the April 5, 2007 Meeting are submitted for Commission approval.

Chad Shryock, City Manager

Terry Knowles, Mayor

Donna R. Mayes, CMC/City Clerk