

CITY OF OPA-LOCKA
"The Great City"

CLERK'S ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES
CONTINUED SECOND BUDGET HEARING
September 29, 2021
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pigatt reconvened the Second Budget Hearing at 7:09 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at Sherbondy Village, 215 Perviz Avenue, Opa-locka, Florida.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following members of the City Commission were present: Commissioner Sherelean Bass, Commissioner Chris Davis, Commissioner John H. Taylor Jr., Vice Mayor Veronica J. Williams and Mayor Matthew A. Pigatt. Also, in attendance were: City Manager John E. Pate, Assistant City Attorney Candice Cobb and City Clerk Joanna Flores.

3. INVOCATION:

The Invocation was delivered by Vice Mayor Williams.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

5. FIRST READING ORDINANCES/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a) **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; SETTING FORTH PUBLIC HEARING DATES; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL PRIOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (first reading/public hearing held on September 15, 2021). *Sponsored by City Manager* Item passed on September 22, 2021**
- b) **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE CITY'S GENERAL, PROPRIETARY AND SPECIAL FUNDS BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BUDGET; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS; PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATION OF ALL BUDGET EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING FOR FEES CONSISTENT WITH APPROPRIATION AND AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (first reading/public hearing held on September 15, 2021). *Sponsored by City Manager*

The above ordinance was read by Assistant City Attorney Candice Cobb.

Mayor Pigatt asked if it was necessary for the Commission to make a motion to discuss Agenda Item 5-b or open public hearing.

Assistant City Attorney Cobb explained that because the Commission is essentially in the middle of the motion to discuss Agenda Item 5-b upon reconvening the Second Budget Hearing after the recess, it is not necessary for the Commission to make a motion to discuss the item, but they can take public comments.

Mayor Pigatt stated that the Second Budget Hearing was recessed to give City Manager Pate the opportunity to meet individually with each member of the Commission about the budget, and he asked the Manager to discuss the options that came out of those discussions and how they are reflected in the budget proposed in Agenda Item 5-b.

City Manager Pate asked Budget Administrator Anathan to speak on the deliberations that were had during the meetings with the Commission and the options for moving forward.

Budget Administrator Bob Anathan presented the changes that were made to the budget based on the feedback provided during the individual conversations that were had with the members of the Commission.

Commissioner Davis noted that he did not see any additional allocations in the proposed budget for the Public Works Department and asked if adding additional hands within that department to increase efficiency was still on the table.

Budget Administrator Bob Anathan reminded the Commission that in various briefings he has said that there were discussions about reducing certain City departments and adding certain positions in other departments, including the Public Works Department as well as hiring an internal auditor. Mr. Anathan said that the Commission is being asked to go through that deliberation process tonight.

Commissioner Davis stated that he would be in favor of cutting in half the four officer positions being proposed to be added to the Police Department and using those allocations to beef up the Public Works Department.

Budget Administrator Bob Anathan explained that the City will get to the point that Commissioner Davis would like to see the Public Works Department at, and he said that it may be premature to decide what the Commission wants to do on staffing. Mr. Anathan pointed out that the Public Works Department added 3 employees over the course of the past year and is currently at 8.5 people. He added that while the Commission has the liberty to do anything they want, he wanted to ensure they understood that the staffing in the department has gone up by 60% over the last year.

Police Chief Steven Barreira presented the needs for the Police Department budget.

Mayor Pigatt asked if Police Chief Barreira had a hard copy of his presentation to provide to the Commission.

Police Chief Barreira stated that he did not have hard copies of the presentation but assured the Commission he would get it to them.

Commissioner Davis lamented that the proposed Police Department Budget did not include allocations for programs like Police Explorers and the Citizens Academy. The Commissioner said that in his opinion, those programs are extremely important and that he would also like to see an emergency operator hired for the City, so that there is not a longer response time for 9-1-1 calls because they are routed to Miami-Dade County.

Police Chief Barreira stated that he has been an advocate for community policing since the 90s, and he said that many of the programs that Commissioner Davis said are extremely important, represent a minimal or no cost because of partnerships that are being built with local businesses. The Chief said that four 9-1-1 operators are currently slotted for within the Police Department budget, and he acknowledged that the system for routing of 9-1-1 to the County is broken. He informed the Commission that he is looking at two options, including eliminating the need for a local dispatch by tying Opa-locka's system into Miami-Dade County's radio system, to eliminate any redundancy with direct lines to the City's Police Officers with no intermediary, while also eliminating significant costs to the City. Chief Barreira explained that it is not an option at the current time because the County is in the process of changing their dispatch systems. He also stated that while he had not done specific research into the option of bringing a full time 9-1-1 response to the City, based on his experience he said that hiring the appropriate individuals would significantly increase costs and that the impact on the response time would be minimal.

Commissioner Davis said that he doesn't know exactly what Police Chief Barreira meant when he said that the costs were minimal for the programs that the Commissioner had said are extremely important, asserting that his opinion is that funds should be allocated for them because they are valued, and the youth is important. The Commissioner also stated that he would like to see an analysis on having an internal dispatch, noting that he has received several complaints on the Police Department's response time. He recalled that it was a function that existed within the City from 2016 to 2019, which he said worked well. Because the department's staff levels were increasing to the same levels of the prior years, Commissioner Davis said he thinks it is imperative that they look at the option of bringing back the service and he added that he looks forward to addressing it during the first budget amendment.

Vice Mayor Williams joined Commissioner Davis in expressing disappointment in the low funding for programs like Police Explorers, recalling having been a part of the program herself. The Vice Mayor asked why the Police Department budget included such a small amount for the Police Explorer Program compared to their community outreach material.

Police Chief Barreira explained that one of the things that was extremely successful in getting the community out to engage them were the trinkets like the squishy badge and car magnets, which were given along with referral materials. The Chief said that it gets the kids out and the parents out so they can have a conversation about what's going on within the neighborhood, and he asserted that he thinks it is an investment that is well worth it. He assured the Commission that while he hasn't had any commitments yet, he is already in discussion with entities that could help fully fund any marketing trinkets and free up the funding for other programs.

Vice Mayor Williams agreed with Police Chief Barreira that people do like free stuff, but she asked if research had been done into how much it would cost to reactivate the Police Explorer Program, including the cost of uniforms and materials for the kids. The Vice Mayor asserted that she would like to see more being funneled into the Police Explorer Program, stating that it builds a bench for future officers from here.

Police Chief Barreira assured the Commission that he is a firm believer in the principle that it is a lot cheaper to prevent something than it is to respond to it. The Chief assured the Commission that he is a big fan of programs like Police Explorers and Police Athletic Leagues and that he would investigate the numbers.

Mayor Pigatt asked about the review of the recommendations made by the Miami-Dade County Police Department, that were provided through the City's partnership with the County.

Police Chief Barreira acknowledged that during the budget discussions, Mayor Pigatt asked for an update on the recommendations made by the Miami-Dade County Police Department. The Chief said that he did not have the list in front of him but that he would provide it, offering assurances that most of the recommendations that the Chief felt were appropriate, have been met.

Mayor Pigatt called on his colleagues to be careful in terms of making increases to the Police Department Budget without the assessment of the recommendations made by Miami-Dade County Police. Noting that it had been talked about since before Mr. Pate began serving as City Manager, Mayor Pigatt asked what the plan was to address those findings, because he noted that they will have a fiscal impact on the nature of the Police Department.

Police Chief Barrera stated that some of the key points addressed in the Miami-Dade County Police Department's assessment of the Opa-locka Police Department, were the lack of policies and the lack of supervision. The Chief acknowledged the fiscal impact of acquiring a nationally recognized policy development in addition to the hiring and promoting of supervisors as part of the restructuring that he completed together with City Manager Pate.

Mayor Pigatt asked how many sworn officers the Police Department had, noting that the assessment from the Miami-Dade County Police Department recommended an allocation of 41 sworn positions, as being sufficient to handle the call volume and investigative workload. The Mayor noted that the report recommended 2 additional positions for the Police Department, including a communications coordinator and another investigative officer.

Police Chief Barrera explained that the 2 positions that were recommended in the report from the Miami-Dade County Police Department, were already under the existing organizational chart for the Opa-locka Police Department.

Budget Administrator Anathan concluded his presentation of the proposed budget.

Mayor Pigatt noted that the expenditures in the proposed budget are over the revenue by \$2.1 million and asked if the funds can be used to pay down the City's outstanding short-term debts.

Budget Administrator Anathan pointed out that the Commission could pay down the City's debts but would have to cut back on a lot of different programs that might otherwise move the community forward.

Mayor Pigatt recommended that the City should pay down some of its debts to reduce the burden on the water and sewer fund. The Mayor stated that he is very hesitant to tap into those funds without approved audits that clearly detail where the City is at with its debts and current fund balance.

Commissioner Davis agreed with Mayor Pigatt, stating that he wants to get rid of some of the City's bad debt, including the money that is owed to Miami-Dade County for the installation of water meters and what is due to the state for the red-light camera program. The Commissioner also stated that he understood the Mayor's reluctance to move forward because the City is not completely caught up with its audits. He said that while he is open to any cuts to the fund balance, he thinks the Commission should significantly increase the services that are provided to residents.

Vice Mayor Williams acknowledged that not having the numbers crunched has stifled the Commission and stated that she thinks the City is in a much better place where some services for residents can be increased. She also asked if salaries were still the same in the budget.

Budget Administrator Anathan explained that there is a reasonably healthy amount of money in contingency between the general fund and the water and sewer fund, for salary increases because of the 2 union negotiations. Mr. Anathan added that once the unions are satisfied, the rest of the population will be addressed.

Vice Mayor Williams said she was talking about executive salaries and said that she is not seeing what Budget Administrator Anathan stated in the budget.

Budget Administrator Anathan said he is not understanding Vice Mayor Williams' question.

Mayor Pigatt said that one of the things the Commission wanted to recommend was to put a hold on all staff increases that are not tied to contractual obligations and the restoration from previous cuts. The Mayor asked Vice Mayor Williams if that would address some of her concerns.

Vice Mayor Williams stated that a hold on salary increases that are not tied to contractual obligations and the restoration from the cuts, would address her concerns, since she believes she saw a little bit over \$200,000 in salary increases in the proposed budget.

Budget Administrator Anathan asked Vice Mayor Williams on which line of the proposed budget, she was seeing over \$200,000 in salary increases.

Vice Mayor Williams stated that on page 63 of the proposed budget, she sees an increase in executive salaries.

Budget Administrator Anathan said that the proposed budget forecasted \$86,927 for FY21 and stipulates \$86,927 for FY22, and that the right-hand column says no change.

Mayor Pigatt stated that he feels the same level of uncomfortability as Vice Mayor Williams with the item and asked if anyone else on the dais has issues with the staffing increases.

Commissioner Davis asked if the contingency fund that was described by Budget Director Anathan was based on projections from the initial union negotiations.

Budget Administrator Anathan explained that there was a discrete line item within the general fund of \$1.5 million which is now \$1.375 because of the removal of the CRA budget, and another within the water and sewer fund that are called contingency line items. Mr. Anathan suggested that if the Commission could arrive at a fund balance number that they are comfortable with, if they think it should be different than the proposed \$2.182 million, it would be a great starting point.

Mayor Pigatt proposed that while he was going to go for half, he would like to see that at least 30% of the City's surplus funds be used to pay down the City's debt.

Budget Administrator Anathan pointed out that Mayor Pigatt's proposal to use 30% of the surplus funds to pay down the City's debt, would require a \$1 million reduction in things that have been recommended in the proposed budget.

Commissioner Bass agreed with Mayor Pigatt about using 30% of the surplus to reduce the City's debt.

Budget Administrator Anathan stated that everybody thinks that the exact number owed to the State of Florida for the red-light camera program will be in the range of \$2.5 million and that it will be able to be paid over a series of years, without the need to pay \$1 million a year.

Mayor Pigatt said that one of the top complaints he hears from residents is about the red-light camera program, and he stated that the quicker the City can pay off that debt, the sooner they can decide on whether they want to continue the program. The Mayor also asked for clarification on any debt to vendors.

Budget Administrator Anathan assured the Commission that there are no problems with accounts payable at this point, and he stated that with some of the changes that have been made, most of the vendors who have been put on blanket purchase orders, get paid within 2-3 weeks. Mr. Anathan acknowledged that typically the City has 45 days to pay invoices, and that because of the State of Florida's involvement, some may take 60 or 70 days, but that it is being worked through.

Mayor Pigatt said that he would love to see in writing that the City of Opa-locka has no significant debt, as stated by Budget Administrator Anathan.

Vice Mayor Williams said that the Commission has liked what they have seen in the proposed budget for the most part, with it including the things they've said they wanted to see since she got onto the dais. Pointing out that a 30% reduction would require that everything would have to be cut across the board, she expressed that while she likes to pay her debts, she had to push back a little bit on the proposal to cut 30%.

Mayor Pigatt clarified that the 30% cut he was proposing was of the \$2.1 million surplus in the proposed budget.

Commissioner Taylor agreed with Vice Mayor Williams, stating that the City is doing a good job with beautification, illegal dumping and policing, and that he can't agree with slashing that because it will hurt residents.

Commissioner Davis asked if Mayor Pigatt had any specific debt in mind to pay down.

Mayor Pigatt stated that he didn't have a preference on the debt that would be paid with the surplus funds, and that it would be determined based on the recommendation of City staff.

Commissioner Davis acknowledged that the City's debt has lingered for some time, but he stated that he would defer to Budget Administrator Anathan's recommendation to work out a debt repayment schedule. The Commissioner said that he shared Vice Mayor Williams' point of view that the Commission advocated for the things that were included in the proposed budget and he recommended that they workshop the debt.

Budget Administrator Anathan informed the Commission that the City already has a debt repayment schedule with Miami-Dade County which is paid every month, but he said that it must be renegotiated because the water and sewer fund has real problems with liquidity. Mr. Anathan also reported that the representatives of the State of Florida don't seem to have a sense of urgency to have the debt the City owes paid off, and they asked that the City determine what is owed to establish a debt repayment schedule.

Mayor Pigatt asked if there is a debt repayment schedule for the water meter replacement.

Budget Administrator Anathan stated that the debt repayment schedule for the water meter replacement hasn't been formalized yet.

Mayor Pigatt stated that his point is that the water and sewer fund is suffering because of the level of debt, so what he is saying is to contribute to reduce that debt to give the water and sewer fund some support. The Mayor noted that he heard support from 2 members of

the Commission to not use the surplus to pay off debts, while two members of the Commission do want to use the surplus to pay off debts and asked if there were any changes.

Commissioner Davis asked where the projections were coming from, for how much was owed to the State of Florida for the City's red light camera program.

Budget Administrator Anathan explained that the representatives of the State of Florida didn't know they were owed money and asked the City to determine how much is owed.

Mayor Pigatt clarified that while the department of revenue over the red-light camera program didn't know that Opa-locka owed them money, the City's financial oversight board knew.

Commissioner Taylor stated he vaguely remembers that payments were scheduled for the red-light camera program debt, and he asked if the state could provide how much was paid.

Budget Administrator Anathan said that the representatives of the State of Florida have no idea and told the City to figure it out.

Mayor Pigatt clarified that based on the City's contractual agreement, a certain amount from each red-light camera citation goes to the service provider, a certain amount goes to the State, and the City keeps a certain amount. The Mayor explained that for several years, the City wasn't sending the amount required to the State and just started paying that percentage again in 2019. He said that while the outstanding amount that was not sent to the State is unclear, the audits should make it clear. Mayor Pigatt recalled that a few years ago, the Commission voted to remove the red-light cameras in the City, and then voted to bring them back because of the debts.

City Manager Pate suggested that a workshop needs to be held because the debt is a complex subject, but he clarified that it was not being suggested to stop the Commission from doing whatever they choose to do tonight. The Manager said that a workshop will make clear if the Commission's priority is to repay debt early or not, and whether it would be debt from the enterprise fund or general fund or various other debts.

Mayor Pigatt asked his colleagues on the Commission if they support using a percentage of the fund balance to pay down the City's debt.

Commissioner Davis suggested that the City's debt be workshopped. The Commissioner stated that he understands that the debt needs to be addressed and recalled that he didn't vote to remove the red-light cameras in the City because he wasn't in elected office at the time, but he voted to bring back the red-light camera program under the pretense of paying off the program's debt.

Mayor Pigatt pointed out that as the Commission approves the proposed budget, they are doing so without any consideration for the debt. The Mayor asked his colleagues on the Commission if they were okay with using \$2.2 million of the fund balance for all the proposed services.

Commissioner Davis, Vice Mayor Williams, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Bass all indicated they were in favor of using \$2.2 million of the fund balance for all the proposed services.

Mayor Pigatt recalled that the Commission received a document after Vice Mayor Williams requested information on the increases in City Staff salaries, and that there was uncomfortability about why the increases happened. The Mayor stated that the Commission was told that some of the salary increases were due to contractual obligations with the unions, that some were tied to the restoration of salaries, and that others were discretionary. He recommended that all salary increases in the proposed budget that were going to be discretionary, be put into some type of reserve until the Commission has a workshop.

Budget Administrator Anathan reminded the Commission that the funds in the proposed budget that are allocated for salary increases are in contingency and that there are no discretionary increases included at this time.

Mayor Pigatt said that he received a document that showed salary increases in the Parks & Recreation Department as well as in the Building & Licensing Department.

Budget Administrator Anathan explained that the salary increases on the document provided to the Commission had already been executed, and that they were for promotions for additional responsibilities as well as for salary restorations.

Mayor Pigatt asked how the salary increases Budget Administrator Anathan said had been executed, were enacted without coming before the Commission as an increase to the budget.

Budget Administrator Anathan explained that even though he knew that there was an overage caused by the salary increases that was going to have to be addressed by a budget amendment, he did not submit it because he did not have the financial statements until a month ago. Mr. Anathan added that what he and the Commission sees during the year is a year-to-date actual, so he said that it would not be apparent that there had been an increase, but he assured the Commission that a budget amendment is forthcoming.

Mayor Pigatt said he will wait to address the salary increases when the budget amendment comes before the Commission. The Mayor asked if the only salary increases in the proposed budget are due to union negotiations and salary restorations.

Budget Administrator Anathan stated that the only salary increases in the proposed budget are those which are already required by contract, and that there is no line for wages that are in negotiation because they are in contingency.

Vice Mayor Williams noted that the document she received with City Staff salary increases, reflected that the increases were mainly in the Police Department, but she said that she has never seen any document providing any proof that the increases were salary restorations. The Vice Mayor said she was confused about why one salary increase was \$15,000 while another was \$9,000 if they were both on the executive level.

Budget Administrator Anathan stated that he understood Vice Mayor Williams wanted a report on salary increases and didn't understand that she also wanted to see the reductions prior to 2019 but offered assurances that he will get that documentation for her.

Mayor Pigatt pointed out that one of the operational audit findings was to ensure that the system for salary increases is fair and equitable, which is what the Commission wants to make sure of through their influence during the budget conversations. The Mayor also stated that he supported the amendment to the proposed budget that was put forth by Commissioner Davis, to increase the number of sworn officers that would be added to the Police Department by 2 instead of 4 and allocate those funds to increase the number of Public Works Staff to pick up trash and do regular maintenance.

Commissioner Taylor asked Budget Administrator Anathan if the proposed budget already increased the City Staff in the Public Works Department.

Budget Administrator Anathan pointed out that the FY 21 budget indicated a 5.5 head count for roads and streets, while the proposed budget includes an 8.5 headcount, which is effectively about a 60% increase, in addition to the doubling of the FTEs that are assigned to picking up illegal dumping.

Mayor Pigatt pointed out that there are only 2 people and one truck that go around the City to pick up trash and that Public Works Director Airia Austin has said that the number could be higher to address the situation. The Mayor also noted that the amount of people that do trash pickup and maintenance in the Parks & Recreation Department have been significantly raised, and that the parks are just a small aspect of the City, asking why that is not being done for the people that pick-up trash throughout the City.

Commissioner Taylor asked if what was being proposed was to have additional bodies added to the 8.5 that were already included in the proposed budget for the Public Works Department, or if a task change was being proposed. The Commissioner also asked if the 8.5 positions that are in the proposed Public Works Department budget, are filled.

Budget Administrator Anathan confirmed that all 8.5 positions included in the proposed Public Works Department budget are filled.

Commissioner Taylor asked if there could be a compromise because he understands the City's beautification needs but he also likes safe streets, and he proposed that the Public Works Department workers could have their tasks changed or could be cross trained to both drive the trucks and pick up trash, so that there are not just 2 people doing it.

Public Works Director Airia Austin informed the Commission that the increased Staff in his department is addressing tree trimming and beautification, and that 2 individuals are picking up litter on all the City's roadways.

City Manager Pate stated that instead of adding 2 bodies to the Public Works Department Staff, he would rather the money get reallocated to other contractual services for the department, pointing out that pending requests for proposals will have some financial impact.

Vice Mayor Williams asked for an update on the signing of the contract with the State of Florida, to have inmates help with trash pickup in the City.

Public Works Director Airia Austin reported that his department is speaking to the Department of Corrections, and he informed the Commission that there is a shortage of inmates to make new crews for the City.

Vice Mayor Williams asked if Opa-locka can share the inmates that Miami Gardens has assisting their city with trash pickups, reporting that she just saw some.

Public Works Director Airia Austin said that he is not sure of the allocation of inmates for trash pickups.

Mayor Pigatt expressed that he and a lot of people in the community are tired of seeing litter on the streets of Opa-locka. The Mayor said all that is being asked is to figure out how to pick up the trash, and he lamented that Opa-locka is not funding trash pickups at the same level as other cities. He said that the Police Department is already over their recommended staffing levels which is 41 Officers, and that while they are already at 45 Officers, with the additional 4 Officers being proposed in the budget, they would be at 49 Officers. Mayor Pigatt said that it is being proposed to increase the sworn Officers in the Police Department by 2 instead, because it is important that the Commission do something

to get the trash picked up. He pointed out that the pending request for proposals is for maintaining alleyways and pressure cleaning but does not specifically address picking up all the litter around the City. The Mayor expressed his full support for Commissioner Davis' amendment to the proposed budget.

Vice Mayor Williams asked if the suggestion on the floor from Commissioner Davis was to reduce the proposed increase of 4 sworn Police Department Officers to 2 additional Officers.

Mayor Pigatt confirmed that the recommendation from Commissioner Davis was to use the savings in the proposed budget, to increase the Public Works Department Staff for trash pickup.

Commissioner Bass stated that what Mayor Pigatt said were her exact thoughts, and she added that she supported the proposal to increase the Police Department Staff by 2 and the Public Works Department Staff by 2, rather than having the increase of 4 positions go entirely to the Police Department.

Commissioner Davis moved to amend the proposed Police Department budget and reduce the proposed increase of 4 Officers to an increase of 2 sworn Officers, using the funding to allocate additional Public Works Department Staff for the picking up of trash, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bass.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a 3-2 vote.

Commissioner Taylor	No
Vice Mayor Williams	No
Commissioner Bass	Yes
Commissioner Davis	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

Commissioner Bass asked which of the City's parks are covered by the 15 part-time employees that were being proposed to be added to the Parks & Recreation Department and how many full-time employees the department has.

Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson stated that his department's 15 part-time employees will cover all 3 of the City's parks, including Segal, Ingram and Sherbondy. Mr. Patterson also said that his department has 3 full-time recreation leaders.

Mayor Pigatt asked what the role of the Parks & Recreation Department's 15 part-time employees will be and what their schedules will be.

Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson stated that the City's parks are open from sun up to sun down and that most of the part time employees help run the department's youth and athletic programs, in addition to special events and managing the parks especially over the weekends. Mr. Patterson also explained that his department's Staff greet residents at the parks, in addition to deterring bad activities and picking up litter for beautification.

Mayor Pigatt asked for clarification on whether there will be someone from the Parks & Recreation Department available at the City's parks from sunup to sundown or from 9 AM - 6 PM, and if it would be 7 days a week.

Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson informed the Commission that his department has Staff at the City's 3 parks, 6 days a week from Monday through Saturday, and that some staff comes in the morning and then some staff closes the parks at night. Additionally, Mr. Patterson stated that on the weekends, the staff is at the parks from 12 PM to 5 PM on Saturdays and that the parks are closed on Sundays.

Mayor Pigatt asked if there was a policy that determined the parks had to be closed on Sundays, or if it might be possible to have Staff allocated on a schedule like the one used for Saturdays, to open the parks on Sundays.

Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson stated that when he first began serving as director of the department, the parks were closed on Sundays, so he just kept the same schedule as a Monday through Saturday operation.

Mayor Pigatt said that if 15 additional aids were going to be added to the Parks & Recreation Department, he would love to be able to tell residents that the parks will be open 7 days a week from sunup to sundown, with representatives coordinating events during a set daily schedule throughout the entire week.

City Manager Pate assured the Commission that he will make sure that moving forward, the parks will be open from sunup to sundown 7 days a week.

Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson stated that his department will have a Staff person at all 3 of the City's parks from sunup to sundown 7 days a week.

Commissioner Bass asked for the starting and ending times that Parks & Recreation Staff will be at the City's parks.

Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson stated that the Parks & Recreation Staff will be at the City's parks from 7 AM to 8 PM, 7 days a week.

Commissioner Taylor said that he thinks what Parks & Recreation Director Delven Patterson was stating is that the gates to the City's parks are open from sunup to sundown, but there will be a Staff member on premises during the scheduled times. The Commissioner also reminded his colleagues on the Commission that because of the time changes due to daylight savings time, the operation must be from dusk to dawn.

City Manager Pate assured the Commission that the research will be done to develop a plan, with the understanding that they want to ensure the 15 part-time individuals being hired for the Parks & Recreation Department, are utilized properly.

Mayor Pigatt stated that he wanted to be clear that if people have events at the parks, that a Staff member should be there and that the park is clean before and after the event. The Mayor also stated that in consideration of HB 1, he wanted to know how much discretionary funding is being allocated to the Police Department with the proposed budget.

Budget Administrator Anathan stated that the discretionary funding being allocated to the Police Department is roughly \$260,000. He added that based on his reading of the law, HB 1 only comes into play if somebody on the dais or the State Attorney takes exception to budget reductions that impact the Police Department, at which point the City would respond to the State of Florida with the rationale for the budget decision. Mr. Anathan asserted that he truly doesn't believe that HB 1 will be triggered by buying cars in one year if they are not bought the next year.

Mayor Pigatt inquired about the replacing of 23 of the City's vehicles, which is included in the proposed budget, expressing concerns about spending so much at once as well as about locking the City into leases for the next 5 years.

Commissioner Taylor stated that he heard Mayor Pigatt's concerns with the vehicles but urged him to look at Opa-locka's fleet. The Commissioner shared that he has had the opportunity to ride on the Parks & Recreation Department van which he pointed out, children ride on without the air conditioning working. Additionally, he said that the air conditioning barely works on the Seniors On the Move van, the Public Works Department trucks are falling apart and half of them don't have air conditioning, in addition to Code Enforcement Staff sharing their vehicles because they barely work at times. Commissioner Taylor asserted that the City does not look good on the streets and said that the City must invest.

Budget Administrator Anathan informed the Commission that each of the vehicles in the City's fleet has been assessed in terms of mileage, age, and physical condition and it was determined that the vehicles included in the proposed budget should be replaced. Mr. Anathan also reminded the Commission that they had not replaced any vehicles for the past 5 years.

Public Works Director Airia Austin informed the Commission that the vehicles that are being recommended for replacement, have far outlived their useful life by more than 10 years and replacing them will reduce operational costs.

Vice Mayor Williams asked why it was being proposed to lease some vehicles while others are suggesting being purchased.

Budget Administrator Anathan stated that the choice to purchase some of the vehicles instead of lease them, was decided by Police Chief Barrera. Mr. Anathan also informed the Commission that the vehicles being proposed to be purchased, are being paid for out of the special Law Enforcement fund, which is totally different from the general fund.

City Manager Pate informed the Commission that at the end of a 5-year lease, through Enterprise's government program, they provide the City the opportunity to pay \$1 to purchase the vehicle.

Commissioner Davis recalled that the decision was made by the City Manager a while back to lease because investing in the repair and maintenance of the current fleet would have been costly. The Commissioner asked if there is a maintenance plan once the City purchases a leased vehicle.

City Manager Pate informed the Commission that vehicle maintenance is covered through the lease agreement and that individual maintenance plans can be purchased for the vehicles if the City decides to keep them.

Mayor Pigatt proposed that cuts be made to discretionary funding to hire an internal auditor that reports to the Commission as a consultant on the operational audit.

Budget Administrator Anathan pointed out that the proposed budget already includes \$25,000 for an internal auditor, and that by reducing the proposed increase in sworn Police Officers from 4 to 2, the Commission saved another \$34,000 because of the disparity in compensation between the Police Department and the Public Works Department. Mr. Anathan recommended that the Commission could use those funds to see how far they go towards funding the proposed internal auditor position, and then do a budget amendment if it is a productive relationship and the funds are insufficient.

Commissioner Davis said that based on the City's Charter, Opa-locka is required to have an independent audit that is not someone who works for the City.

Mayor Pigatt clarified that he was proposing to hire an internal operational auditor, and that the City's Charter requires an independent financial audit.

Mayor Pigatt moved to amend the proposed budget to increase the funding for external auditing services using the savings from the reduction in the proposed increase in staffing for the Police Department, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Bass	Yes
Commissioner Davis	Yes
Commissioner Taylor	Yes
Vice Mayor Williams	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

Commissioner Davis moved to authorize a reduction of \$60,000 in the Safe Neighborhood Fund, based on the Community Redevelopment Agency picking up the fencing project, upon its removal from the City's budget, and the motion was seconded Vice Mayor Williams.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Taylor	Yes
Vice Mayor Williams	Yes
Commissioner Bass	Yes
Commissioner Davis	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

Commissioner Taylor moved to approve a \$250,000 reduction in the transfer to the Safe Neighborhood Fund from the general fund based on the Community Redevelopment Agency's budget being removed from the City's budget, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bass.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Vice Mayor Williams	Yes
Commissioner Bass	Yes
Commissioner Davis	Yes
Commissioner Taylor	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

Mayor Pigatt clarified that the motions that were being made are taking what Budget Administrator Anathan was saying and moving it as motions, acknowledging that the Chair of the Commission usually must restate it.

Vice Mayor Williams moved to approve a \$5,735 increase in the transfers into the general fund and a reduction of \$13,638 in the transfers out of the general fund because the Community Redevelopment Agency is back in place, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bass.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Bass	Yes
Commissioner Davis	Yes
Commissioner Taylor	Yes
Vice Mayor Williams	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

Commissioner Taylor moved to add \$36,765 to the proposed budget, to increase the City's purchasing official from a part-time position to a full-time position, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis.

There being no discussion, the motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Davis	Yes
Commissioner Taylor	Yes
Vice Mayor Williams	Yes
Commissioner Bass	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

Budget Administrator Anathan thanked everybody for going through a very tough process and expressed his appreciation for the help.

There being no further discussion of Agenda Item 5-b, the ordinance including the proposed FY 22 budget passed by a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Davis	Yes
Commissioner Taylor	Yes
Vice Mayor Williams	Yes
Commissioner Bass	Yes
Mayor Pigatt	Yes

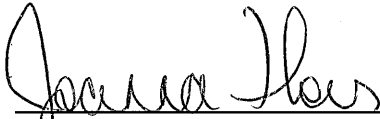
6. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, it was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Vice Mayor Williams to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 p.m.



Matthew A. Pigatt
Mayor

Attest:



Joanna Flores, CMC
City Clerk