

CNC August 2023 Minutes
Meeting Aug. 7 via Zoom, 27 participants

VP Bill Jonson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Participants introduced themselves.

Jennifer Poirrier, Clearwater City Manager, Kayleen Kastel, budget director and Jay Ravens, “Proposed Clearwater 2023-2024 City Budget”

Poirrier gave a brief overview of how the budget took shape. “It is critical that we take care of our infrastructure projects,” she said.

Kastel gave a presentation of the budget. Preliminary budget was released June 30. Council set preliminary millage in July. Council sets final millage rate and adopts final budget in September.

Total budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 is \$724.2 million. Kastel gave an overview of budget, including department budgets and various funds that comprise the total budget.

City council will finalize the budget at meetings Sept. 6 and Sept. 21. Kastel [shared the city website](#) to find more information on the budget.

Participants asked questions about the budget.

Kastel said there were no carryover/reserve funds for this year’s proposed budget. Kastel said there is a section “Budget Summaries” that will show changes in funding.

Beth Davis asked about where the list of 162 capital projects is. Kastel said there is a capital improvement section of the budget with the list of projects.

Poirrier said general employees' pay is to stay at 50% of market rate. But a few years ago the council looked at increasing wages to be competitive with 12 “competitors” in the area (Pinellas County, St. Petersburg, Tampa).

Poirrier said a wage study is going on. City does lag in wages. “We have not kept up with that,” she said. “We are behind.”

Participants asked other questions.

Samantha Moullet, Neighborhood Services Manager, “Neighborhood Update”

Moullet introduced Javante Scott as the newest neighborhood coordinator. Moullet said neighborhood coordinators will be assigned to neighborhood associations to attend meetings.

Moulet said Officer Alexander Kaye is the new neighborhood patrol officer. Moulet also listed various upcoming events/meetings.

Secretary's Report

Jonson said the minutes for the last two meetings were online.

Carl Schrader made a motion to accept the secretary report as submitted. Kristin Langley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Rudy Michalek said all the treasurer reports are posted to the CNC website. Michalek said there were two new members who were also at the meeting.

Karen Cunningham made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Bruce Rector seconded. Passed unanimously.

Old Business

Cunningham brought up the issue of members not getting emails. She asked participants to email her at clearwaterneighborhoods@gmail.com.

Jonson asked about member/neighborhood interest in the project list emails that he sends out for DRC and CDB projects.

New Business

Jonson asked if there were any issues neighbors had.

A brief discussion ensued on a possible "wet zone" in downtown.

Jonson brought up code enforcement to help fight blight in neighborhoods.

Samuel Hutkin brought up short term rentals on the beach. Said there is no monitoring of the issue. He also noted issues with traffic at 5 p.m. daily backed up leaving the beach.

Next Meeting: In person at 7 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Clearwater Fire Training Facility

Jonson adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.