

September 5, 2023

Opening

The public hearing of the Children's Services Council of Saint Lucie County was called to order at 5:08 p.m. on September 5, 2023 presided over by CSC Chair Bartz. CSC Chair lead with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with reading of the CSC Mission Statement.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: P. Alley; L. Bartz; R. Del Toro; E. Finkel; A. Gregory; D. Hawley; C. Izzo; and J. Prince. Final quorum established at eight members.

Members absent: M. Lawless; and M. Linn.

Public in attendance: *reference the 'Public in Attendance Sign-in sheet' for details.*

Announcement of Meeting Purpose

This meeting is the first (TENTATIVE) Public Hearing for the FY 2023/2024 budget year. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to adopt the TENTATIVE millage rate and the TENTATIVE budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. At this hearing, the Council must accomplish the following procedural items in the order given.

The proposed millage rate of .3790 is greater than the Rolled-back Rate of .3563. The current year proposed millage rate as a percent change of Rolled-back Rate is 6.37%. By definition, the Rolled-back Rate is the rate that would generate the same dollar amount of tax revenues as generated in the prior year.

Children's Services Council has projected its budget for the next three years and has determined that both current year revenues and reserves will be used to provide for program services needed for our community's children and families. For Fiscal Year 2023/2024, budgeted expenditures and reserves were increased 4.3% over the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget. The level of program and operations funding in future years will be dependent on updated revenue projections.

The millage rate of .4025 was reduced to .3790 for FY 2023/2024 and will provide \$1,351,704 more in revenues than was budgeted in FY 2022/2023.

Children's Services Council is committed to continue funding children's programs and to provide program services to children in St. Lucie County. Children's Services Council was able to positively impact 63,084 individual children in Fiscal Year 2021/22 compared to the 32,547 children impacted in Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Disclosure

The Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County maintains an audio record of all monthly Council meetings and public hearings. The written summarized minutes of the meetings are concise and become the official minutes after approval by the Council. Any person seeking to appeal any decision by the Children's Services Council, with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, is advised that a record of the proceeding is required in any such appeal and that such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

For the current Fiscal Year FY 2022/23, the Children’s Services Council is funding 54 annual programs that are meeting the needs of children and families. For the upcoming FY 2023/2024, the Children’s Services Council will fund 54 annual programs to meet the identified needs of the community.

Examples of taxpayer cost at the tentative millage rate of .3790 for homesteaded and non-homesteaded residential properties utilizing the current average appraised home value of \$213,080 are:

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$213,080 to which a \$50,000 homestead exemption is applied resulting in a tax value of \$163,080, a homeowner would pay \$61.81 for FY 2023/2024 to provide for children’s services. This total equates to \$5.15 per month.

NO HOMESTEAD EXAMPLE: For a home valued at \$213,080 to which no homestead exemption applies, a homeowner would pay \$80.76 for FY 2023/2024 to provide for children’s services. This total equates to \$6.73 per month.

The volunteer Council has worked diligently to address the needs of St. Lucie County’s children. The Council has the authorization of the electorate to raise the millage rate up to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (.50 mills). This year the rate will be 37.90 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Public Comments

Mr. Angle Blake, a Port Saint Lucie resident and local business owner, expressed that although he supports the Children’s Services Council, the services they provide and the need for them in our community. However, he has concerns with the tax levy and the millage rate which continues to cause a tax burden for him and many others in the community.

New Business

A. Amend or Adopt Tentative Millage Rate of 0.3790 mills for fiscal year 2023/2024 (via roll call vote).

Motion was approved to adopt the tentative millage rate of 0.3790 for fiscal year 2023/2024 via Resolution 23-01. Mr. Izzo motioned to approve; Ms. Alley seconded motion; motion carried unanimously 8/0 in favor via Roll Call vote.

B. Amend or Adopt Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 (via roll call vote).

Motion was approved to adopt the tentative budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 via Resolution 23-02. Mr. Finkel motioned to approve; Ms. Hawley seconded motion; motion carried unanimously 8/0 in favor via Roll Call vote.

Final Comments: CSC Council & CSC Team

- Final Budget Public Hearing scheduled Thursday, September 14th at 5:01 pm; the CSC monthly board meeting will follow the public hearing.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn meeting at 5:16 p.m. carries unanimously.

Minutes respectfully transcribed & submitted by: Paula Rivera, CSC Office Manager