

Headlee Open House 8/29/18 – Meeting Notes

Overall request – 4.5 mills, five years. Generates: ~1.4mm
Follow up meetings on September 12, October 2, and October 24

Introduction: Why Now? Three main points: We need to spend the money now on roads or they will continue to deteriorate and crumble; The economy has recovered, so we aren't asking people to support this while they are still struggling at home; The City budget will never 'catch up' under the current state funding system;

QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC

What Roads? – The City has developed an 11-year infrastructure plan, based on road condition and underground utility condition; Showed and discussed map of these roads; Discussed groupings by year based on keeping costs down and getting good bids

What Road Designs? – The repairs are proposed to be consistent to keep projects more affordable and efficient. The plan includes pavement replacement and repairs, not fundamental design changes (except in limited circumstances)

Why Five Year Ask? – Five years of funding allows Council and the City to implement the infrastructure plan and then reevaluate needs with the electorate.

Where Will the Money Go? – 80%-85% of the funds will go to infrastructure, with the remaining going towards the City's structural deficit (200K-300K annually)

What Happens If It Doesn't Pass? – Council will discuss further in the future, no determinations have been made at this time; Not doing infrastructure is one option, services cuts are an option, a mix of items is an item; Thus far, feedback has been to maintain services as much as possible

Will Leaf Pickup Be Cut/What Alternatives Exist To the Current System? – The cost of leaf pickup is approximately 60K annually; In talking to Advanced Disposal, if people bagged their own and we shifted to a curb side pickup, the cost would be approximately 30K, but the homeowner would be responsible for cost of bags and time to bag; There are requirements/consequences to cutting this service

Are There State Funds Available to Help the City? – There is no indication that the State will increase funding to Cities to fix the problem, the funding system is broken statewide.

Who Is Paying For the State Street Design? – After winning the Great American Main Street Award, the state approached the City with a grant opportunity. With the opportunity the state is willing to fund up to 90% of the costs, with the City providing only a 10% match. 70K in design costs will come from the City to receive a \$1.7mm grant from the State. Even without the grant, State Street still requires significant improvements/repairs. If the City were to attempt the basic project, the cost to the City would be nearly \$1mm

without the improved design that the grant is paying for; leaving the City to bear the full burden of the cost.

Why Was There a Higher Loss of Value in the DDA Than the Rest of the City? – The overall City decline was approximately 27%, but the DDA district saw an approximately 50% reduction in value. (Note: After further analysis, the drop was approximately 35% in the DDA)

How is the City's Infrastructure Generally? – Our infrastructure is well maintained; Asset management is an important part of what we do and the City got a 90%/10% grant to expand those asset management efforts

Does the Override Fix the Problem? – It addresses the initial problem for five years (structural deficit/infrastructure) and maintains core services

How is this Information Being Communicated? – This was the initial kickoff meeting; the City has a great deal of information on the website at www.cityofhowell.org/headlee ; Information will be distributed at the other three meetings coming up; please email/call/stop by at any time if you have specific questions

When Does the Festival Cost Sharing Kick In? – Council made the change effective for the 2019 calendar year to require event organizers to pay 50% of their costs incurred by the City

Who Can Campaign for the Override? – The City cannot use public resources for the campaign; a campaign committee outside of any City involvement has been formed to support the effort

Is There a Mechanism for Tax Relief After It Increases? – The same tax relief processes exist for everyone in the City: Veterans and Poverty exemptions

What Is the Current Millage? – 15.4997

How Does the Police Millage Play Into the Headlee Request? – City Council voted not to pursue the public safety assessment in May based on public feedback. The public requested the opportunity to vote on a headlee override request instead of implementing a public safety special assessment.

****AFTER THE MEETING ITEMS

If Headlee passes, will the City be able to maintain our current level of police services? – There are no police staffing reductions proposed at this time, whether the matter passes or not.

Does a headlee override permanently get rid of the cap on taxes? – It does not. Headlee will continue to apply going forward.