

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

TOWN COMMISSION SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING

MINUTES

Jarvis Hall

4505 Ocean Drive

Monday, September 28, 2009

5:01 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Roseann Minnet called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee, Commissioner Jim Silverstone, Commissioner Stuart Dodd, and Commissioner Birute Ann Clotey were present. Also present were Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Town Manager Esther Colon, and Town Clerk June White.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ben Freeny said he would like to see the budget updates on the internet. He felt that he should be able to voice his opinion without retribution.

Barbara Cole asked the Commission to be transparent and to recognize the Jewish holidays when planning the meetings for next year. She also wanted the Commission to look into having a Budget Review Committee.

4. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Clotey agreed with Mr. Freeny that the updated budgets should have been online. She said that she understood that not everyone was happy with the budget however the Commission tried to be fair.

Commissioner Silverstone also agreed with Mr. Freeny about putting updated budgets on the internet. Manager Colon explained that at the last budget hearing each change was reviewed line by line. Commissioner Silverstone said that was fine however putting the document in draft form on the internet would be more helpful. He asked for clarification regarding the meeting being held on a Jewish Holiday. Manager Colon explained that the dates were received from the Jewish Federation and the calendar was put before the Commission to approve the meetings dates. She said that Clerk White would create a clarification memo if necessary. Commissioner Silverstone asked for residents to call their Commissioners if they have questions and if they do not receive the response they want then to fill out a public records request. He said it was important to follow the process.

Commissioner Dodd commended the Town Manger for the work done on this year's budget. He referenced the \$31,000 budgeted for the replacement of the Chamber of Commerce roof and asked that since it was decided to repair instead of replace the roof, where the remainder of the money would go and how he would find out about it. Commissioner Dodd thought it was a good idea to hold the meeting later in the evening next year to allow more people to attend, and he expressed that a budget review committee would be helpful to staff and the residents. Commissioner Dodd said he was curious on how to learn about the Town's bank statements, investments and financial stability. He referenced Resolution 2001-15 which described a monthly report completed by the Finance Department. Commissioner Dodd raised concern regarding the Beach Patrol and the Fire Inspector position for the. Commissioner Dodd wanted to know why the loan information was not presented earlier to allow the Commission to review the penalty information and possibly pay off the loans earlier. He felt that the Town was not spending enough money on maintenance of the Town's infrastructure and said that any money left over from this coming year's budget be put aside for those purposes. Commissioner Dodd felt that the milage rate could have been lowered and said that was something to look at next year.

Vice Mayor McIntee said that Manager Colon went over line by line all the changes made to the budget, at the last meeting and that it was put on the internet. He pointed out that the milage rate was low and the fire assessment rate was cut in half from what it previously was. Vice Mayor McIntee said the Town accomplished many things including the Seagrape Drive Project and the Reef Project.

Mayor Minnet felt that more people could have attended if the meeting was on a different date and at a different time. She said that was something to be looked at next year. Mayor Minnet asked if the changes discussed at the last budget meeting could have been accessed on the internet. Manager Colon said that all of the meeting are on web cast and can be accessed on the internet. Mayor Minnet asked if the budget document could be updated on the internet. Manager Colon said that it updated every time changes are made. Mayor Minnet thought it was a good idea to have a budget review committee. She briefly explained how the budget process works for her and felt that Capital Improvements and Public Safety were two of the most important things to look at. Mayor Minnet was happy the milage was able to stay the same and thanked the residents for their input.

5. RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. RESOLUTION 2009-24 - Adopting Final Millage:** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Manager Colon)

Attorney Trevarthen read Resolution 2009-24 by title. She reminded the Commission that the milage rate must be adopted prior to the budget and that the Town was proposing and adopting a millage rate of 3.9990. Attorney

Trevarthen said that the proposed millage rate was a decrease of 10.80% compared to the rollback rate of 4.4829 mils.

Mayor Minnet opened the Resolution for public comments. With no one wishing to speak Mayor Minnet closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-24. Commissioner Dodd seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

b. RESOLUTION 2009-25 - Adopting the Final Budget: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Manager Colon)

Attorney Trevarthen read Resolution 2009-25 by title.

Mayor Minnet opened the Resolution for public comments.

Barbara Cole said she would have appreciated the information in written form along with the PowerPoint presentation.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Minnet closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Vice Mayor McIntee made a motion to accept Resolution 2009-25. Commissioner Silverstone seconded the motion. Vice Mayor McIntee withdrew his motion and Commissioner Silverstone withdrew his second to allow Manager Colon to give her presentation.

Manager Colon stated that the total budget for the year was \$15, 502,557. She said the Town and Commission had done an outstanding job on lowering the millage rate over the past four years and that the current millage rate was able to stay at 3.9990 because of the decrease of services. Manager Colon explained some residents had a tax increase due to an increase in their assessment values, while others had a tax decrease. She said the drainage and capital asset issues needed to be addressed, along with updating the Master Plan.

Manager Colon gave an overview of the three types of funds; the Governmental Fund budgeted at \$13,556,772, the Proprietary fund budgeted at \$1,793,964, and the Special Revenue Fund budgeted at \$ 151,821. She pointed out that the budget was reduced by about \$2,200,000 or about 12.68%. When the budget process started the proposed budget was set at \$ 17,220,499 and later the tentative budget was set at \$16,472,488. Manager Colon showed a list of the changes made from the proposed to the tentative budget, and the biggest change was going from the roll back rate to the current milage rate. She explained that the biggest change made from the tentative budget to the adopted budget was the elimination of the Governmental Fund Debt Service. Manager

Colon explained the elimination occurred by the payment of the Capital Fund debt of \$1,228,901, the General Fund Debt of \$357,898, and the Carry Forward Fund Balance of \$1,017,194. She pointed out that some of the extra funds were put in to a General Contingency Fund to cover the need of a Storm Water Master Plan, a Rate Study, funds needed for future Referendums, and a possible grant opportunity regarding the Coastal Communities. Manager Colon explained that the rest of the funds went to the Capital Improvement Contingency Fund with the bulk of it going towards updating the Master Plan and the El Mar conceptual designs. She recommended the excess funds go towards salary adjustments for the Town Clerk's office and the Finance Department.

Manager Colon gave a breakdown of the Revenue sources for the Town and pointed out that about 63% of the revenues came from property taxes, and of that about 43% was allocated to public safety. She clarified that the General fund was projected at \$11,869,910, and the Capital Fund was projected at \$1,686,862 which was a decrease due to the payoff of debt and the elimination of the Carry Forward Funds. Manager Colon listed the Capital Improvement projects; the Habitat Reef Project, The Bel-Air Project, the A1A Streetscape project, and the Pine Avenue to Terra Mar Drive Streetscape project, and the Terra Mar Bridge project. For the Proprietary Fund, Manager Colon clarified that both the Sewer and Parking Funds stayed the same, with the Sewer Fund projected at \$1,224,399 and Parking fund projected at \$596,565. She pointed out that the Town did not have sufficient funds at the time to payoff the Parking Loan but suggested that at the end of the year if there were and funds left over in the Parking fund, to put that towards paying back some of the \$500,000 still owed to the General Fund.

Vice Mayor McIntee asked for clarification from the Town Attorney if he could make a motion to have any excess parking funds at the end of the year be transferred to the General Fund to pay down the debt. Attorney Trevarthen said that could be done. Vice Mayor McIntee said he would wait until after the Town Manager's presentation.

Manager Colon stated that the Special Revenue Fund also stayed the same with the Police Law Enforcement Funds projected at \$151,821, and also read aloud the Capital Improvement statement. She showed a staff organizational chart and pointed out that the Town did not have a full time Human Resources, Risk Management, Procurement/Purchasing, Debt Manager, Grants Department, Records Manager, Payroll, Accounting, or Finance Department. Manager Colon said that staff was doing more with less and was working together to get things done. She concluded her presentation by thanking staff and the Commission for their input and for their help.

Mayor Minnet agreed that when comparing the Town to other municipalities it was important to find the most similar to the Town and thanked Manager Colon for her presentation.

Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-25. Vice Mayor McIntee seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0.

Vice Mayor McIntee made a motion to have any excess parking funds left over from the coming year to be put towards the General Fund to pay down the debt. Commissioner Silverstone seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dodd made a motion to defer the item until the October 13, 2009 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Clotey seconded the motion. Vice Mayor McIntee withdrew his motion, Commissioner Silverstone withdrew his second. Commissioner Dodd withdrew his motion to table and Commissioner Clotey withdrew her second. Vice Mayor McIntee agreed to put the item on the next agenda.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to adjourn. With no further business before the Commission, Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.



Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:


Town Clerk, June White

10/29/09
Date

