



**Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
First Budget Hearing
MINUTES
September 15, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk McCready called the roll with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Charles Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer and Commissioner Kesl.

Also present were Interim Town Manager Jason Greene and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

2. Discussion Regarding Millage Rate and Budget – Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item and gave the process of tonight's meeting and provided a presentation of the millage rate and budget. He stated that the tentative millage rate is for 4.4, roll back rate is 4.3499. He discussed the elimination of positions. He has requested to add a part time code compliance position that will be funded out of the Tourist Resort Fund to work with the beach issues.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on the FY 2021 proposed budget property values and asked why is the assessment being done based on the property values going down when in fact they are going up. She asked what those numbers are based on.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments made by Commissioner Velasquez.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if a landlord gets a tax break if their tenants do not pay since the hotels get a break.

Interim Town Manager Greene answered Commissioner Velasquez' question.

Commissioner Salzhauer commended Interim Town Manager Greene on his presentation. She commented on Pinzur's contract and the budget cuts. She asked if they will be as cautious for next fiscal year in order to go into reserves.

Commissioner Kesl commended Interim Town Manager Greene and asked what matrix are being used.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comment made by Commissioner Kesl. He discussed removing some responsibilities from Pinzur.

Commissioner Kesl commented on reserves and asked Interim Town Manager Greene how they should balance the reserves with whoever comes on as Town Manager.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments by Commissioner Kesl regarding reserves.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the healthy reserves the Town has and the good position they have.

Mayor Burkett thanked Interim Town Manager Greene for the presentation.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on when they hired the resiliency officer and why are they trying to incorporate that position into another position within the Town. She commented on eliminating that position as a whole.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments made by Commissioner Velasquez.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on restructuring the communications position and assigning the duties to Frank Trigueros.

A motion was made to hire a multi-task employee to do grants, procurement and communication, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion failed with a 2-3 vote with Vice Mayor Paul, Commissioner Salzhauer and Commissioner Kesl voting in opposition.

Commissioner Kesl stated that the organization is in place with the right expectation. He spoke regarding streamlining with the right duties and individuals.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on bringing everything inhouse and if this is still the goal to place the right person to do the communications.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments made by Commissioner Salzhauer regarding the contract employees and with this budget it will fund a full-time employee to do the communications.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on the loss of the sustainability officer who also did our grant writing. She commented on Pinzur assisting the Tourism Director. She commented on the Miami Shine initiative and we need to consider the Tourism revenue to bring visitors to Surfside.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on having an individual to do the grant writing and procurement duties.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments made by Commissioner Velasquez regarding the position of a procurement specialist and grant writing.

Commissioner Kesl commented on having individuals that are multi-skilled and multi-talented.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that their goal is to bring everything inhouse.

Mayor Burkett asked if these positions are able to be done by part time personnel.

3. Millage Rate Adoption Resolution - Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 4.4000 MILLS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021, WHICH IS GREATER THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 4.3499 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW BY 1.15%; CONFIRMING THE DATE OF THE SECOND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution.

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion failed with a 2-3 vote.

Commissioner Kesl Commissioner Velasquez Mayor Burkett no

Commissioner Velasquez stated she was under the impression to lower the milage rate.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated she supports keeping the millage rate the same and the Town needs to stay in a good financial shape.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the difficult times individuals are facing during this COVID time.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that Interim Town Manager Greene is the financial expert and would like to maintain the level of service the Town currently has. She stated that the residents would benefit more by keeping the services.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on the different funds and giving back to the residents of the Town even if it is \$20.00 or the water bill rebate.

Mayor Burkett stated he agrees with Commissioner Velasquez and that everyone needs to tighten their belts. He would like to reduce the milage rate to 4 which would be a 10% reduction and tighten the budget and revisit it next year.

A motion was made by Mayor Burkett to reduce the milage rate to 4, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion failed with a 2-3 vote with Commissioner Salzhauer, Commissioner Kesl and Vice Mayor Paul in opposition.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated to open it up to public comment. She commented on how much money that would cost the Town.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that it would cost the Town \$1.187 million reduction. He stated it would be 8%.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated it is not acceptable when they want to purchase property for the parks and underground powerlines.

Further discussion took place regarding the reduction of the millage rate and keeping the milage rate as it is.

Commissioner Kesl will support going to the roll back rate.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on the water bill rebate and the undergrounding of powerlines.

Vice Mayor Paul pointed out the recommendation by Interim Town Manager Greene.

Mayor Burkett commented on the amount the increase of the millage rate would represent.

Commissioner Kesl commented on having a healthy reserve.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on Mayor Burkett's and Commissioner Velasquez' comments regarding the expertise of Interim Town Manager Greene as a Finance Director. She spoke regarding giving it to everyone in the water bill.

Commissioner Velasquez agreed with Interim Town Manager Greene and stated that they should give the residents money back during this time of need.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on Mayor Burkett's and Commissioner Kesl's comments and stated that the millage rate was reduced in the past and she did not see any change in her tax bill. She also wanted clarification that once you reduce the milage rate you cannot change it next week.

Mayor Burkett asked what the reduction would entail in revenues.

Interim Town Manager Greene answered the Commission's questions regarding reduction and stated that it would reduce the amount going into the reserves.

Mayor Burkett stated that it would only reduce the amount being saved for this year.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on the savings of \$200 would represent a savings to the residents.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that it would be maybe a \$20 reduction and these reserves will not last forever and it may be needed to operate our budget.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on needing the reserves to operate the Town and emergencies.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Commissioner Salzhauer.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the reduction and needing to be financial stewards.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that being financially secure is important and commented on positions that the Town has that is not crafty.

Further discussion took place among the reduction and the value of services being provided.

Town Attorney Arango reread the revised resolution title into the record.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kesl to bring the millage rate to the roll back rate of 4.399, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Mayor Burkett voting in opposition.

4. Public Comment

The following individuals from the public spoke on the item:

Joshua Epstein
Jeff Rose
Clara Diaz-Leal
Robert Lisman

5. Budget Adoption Resolution - Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; CONFIRMING THE DATE OF THE SECOND PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution.

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Velasquez and Mayor Burkett voting in opposition.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on having more programs for the residents and not three communications individuals and not a \$372,000 landscaping contract.

Commissioner Salzhauer clarified that there are not three communications individuals. She stated that they need the 1.5 head count. She stated that she is concerned that they need to bring as much inhouse as possible. She asked what the new zoning rewrite would cost.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments made by Commissioner Salzhauer and the Town Planner would be negotiating a fee schedule.

6. Public Comment

No public comments.

7. Solid Waste Services Special Assessment Final Rate Resolution – Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INCLUDING COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING OF RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE IN THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA;

REIMPOSING SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020; APPROVING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution.

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the funding in reserves and why they could not reduce this item for the residents.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the exemplary employees the Town has.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the comments by the Commission.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on passing this resolution as is which is paying less than \$1 a day for the service they are receiving by the employees.

Mayor Burkett commented on the fact that there was no reduction on the taxes and the cost of landscaping in Town which is out of this world. He commented on evaluating if it is more feasible to bring the landscaping for the Town in house.

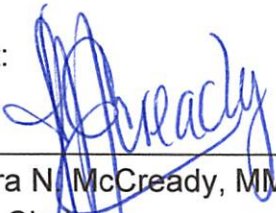
A motion was made by Vice Mayor to have meetings once a month, seconded by Commissioner Salzhauer. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 9:31 p.m. The motion received a second from Commissioner Salzhauer. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this 13th day of October, 2020.

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor