



**Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
Final Budget Hearing
AGENDA
September 22, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Final Millage Rate Adoption Resolution for FY 2021 - Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; ANNOUNCING THE ADOPTED FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 4.3499 MILLS WHICH IS EQUAL TO THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 4.3499 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item and gave a brief presentation.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Mayor Burkett voting in opposition.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they are including the Seaway in this budget.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that if there are any new developments it would assist us.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if the interest rates are lower if it makes the property value go up. She does not believe that is correct due to the interest rates. The value of the property in Surfside will go down when interest rates are lower.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Commissioner Velasquez regarding the interest rates.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that there is a general feeling that if the interest rates are lower then you have increasing property value and that is the general feeling in the short term.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the total taxable value of the property in town dropping and the roll back rate. He commented on the County's portion of taxes and although the Town will go to the roll back rate that does not mean that their taxes will go down due to the County's action.

Commissioner Salzhauer agrees with Commissioner Kesl and spoke regarding the roll back rate and would like to move forward and hopefully next year they could do better in order to keep the Town fiscally sound.

Vice Mayor Paul would like to adopt the millage rate as proposed.

Mayor Burkett commented on the statement made by Commissioner Salzhauer regarding giving away money. He commented on the reduction of taxes by 10% in order to give residents some relief. He stated that he is not happy that they are not giving back money to the residents and will be voting against this resolution.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that she does believe it is a fiscal responsibility and spoke regarding the healthy reserve. She stated that during these challenging times they need to keep a healthy reserve.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that the residents feel strongly that the Town be fiscally sound and deliver with the promises made.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that the residents would have liked a lower millage rate and they do not feel by lowering it they would be irresponsible.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the reserves the Town currently has and the amounts on each fund. She would like to know the services that will not be given to the residents.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the reserves and the reserve that is needed in case of emergencies.

Commissioner Kesi commented on the reserves and next year the Town being in a more fiscally sound place.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on this being tax payer dollars and the need of being fiscally responsible and being able to do the projects needed.

Mayor Burkett commented on information placed in the zoom chat.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on having three (3) communications individuals is not fiscally responsible as well as having an Assistant Town Manager is not being fiscally responsible.

3. Public Comment

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Donna Natales stated she was a part time employee in the Police Department and was laid off.

Jeff Rose spoke regarding budgeted items and not cutting the budget too much in order to have services like the kayak launch.

Deborah Cimadevilla stated that the elected officials to do what is correct like the water bill rebate.

Joshua Epstein stated that the way the millage rate is set currently is good and they should look at it next year after COVID.

4. FY 2021 Final Budget Adoption Resolution - Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2020 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR BUDGETARY CONTROLS; PROVIDING FOR GRANTS AND GIFTS; PROVIDING FOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item and gave a presentation regarding the final budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to approve the Resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with 3-2 vote with Commissioner Velasquez and Mayor Burkett voting in opposition.

Vice Mayor Paul clarified that there are no three (3) communication positions and currently there is no Assistant Town Manager. She also commented on the Town employee that was laid off that was a part time position and if there is a reconsideration for that position by adding additional responsibilities since Code and Police have been combined.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding Interim Town Manager Greene filling in as a Finance Director and Interim Town Manager and would like to consider a 15% retroactive pay adjustment as well as a proclamation from when he started in that position for the enormous amount of work he has taken on.

Mayor Burkett agrees with the retroactive pay for Interim Town Manager Greene.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked if it is a 15% for the time he served.

Vice Mayor Paul stated it was from when he started doing those duties.

Commissioner Salzhauer addressed the comments made by public speaker Donna Natales regarding her lay off and referred her to the Town Manager and they are currently in a tough position which means cutting positions.

Commissioner Kesl spoke regarding the challenges that the Town has been dealing with and there is improvement that will come. He also stated that this is a learning curve and feels at this time it is good to have a solid framework.

Mayor Burkett spoke regarding the tax base and the budget.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if this budget includes the three (3) communication positions and the Assistant Town Manager position.

Interim Town Manager Greene answered Commissioner Velasquez' question and clarified the positions.

Interim Town Manager Greene commented on having the next Commission Meeting October 13, 2020 in person but he can extend the zoom commission meetings beyond October 1 and would like feedback from the Commission.

Commissioner Kesl stated that the Town has guidelines for the meeting in person.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on a call she had with the League of Cities and are requesting the Governor to extend the virtual meetings until December and other municipalities agree to continue zoom meetings.

Commissioner Velasquez would like to continue the zoom meetings and not put our staff and families at risk.

Commissioner Salzhauer addressed comments made by Commissioner Velasquez by her wanting the playgrounds open and the issues with decorum and believes it is due to zoom and there can be more respect when the meetings are done in person. She agrees for the meetings to be done in person and eliminate the chats online. She is agreement meeting in zoom one more month and go live in November. She also stated that if the League will extend it then she believes we should follow suit.

Mayor Burkett believes we need to get back as soon as possible and outbursts will be dealt with. He stated his concern is if they are able to accommodate residents that would like to attend. He suggested for Interim Town Manager Greene to put a plan together and then the Commission can make an informed decision. He stated either you go full blast or continue zoom until there is a plan.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated he could extend it for 30 more days and stated they did layout a plan of hybrid but the Commission did not approve it and will speak with the Town Attorney. He stated that he would like to readdress the suggestion made by Vice Mayor Paul regarding the 15% pay adjustment.

Mayor Burkett asked Interim Town Manager Greene to put the numbers together and place it on the agenda for October 13, 2020.

Commissioner Velasquez agrees with disabling the chat.

Commissioner Kesl thanked the members of the Commission and having the live meetings and staying healthy.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that they do need to save the chat and keep it for public records. She stated maybe in a month to determine if to move forward with live meetings.

5. Public Comment

No public speakers.

6. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 8:07 p.m. The motion received a second from Commissioner Kesl. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this 13th day of October, 2020.



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk