



**Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
First Budget Hearing
MINUTES**

September 13, 2021

5:01 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 5:03 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, and Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer (arrived at 5:04 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioner Charles Kesl.

Also present were Town Manager Andrew Hyatt, Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

2. Discussion Regarding Millage Rate and Budget – Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

Assistant 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 recommended proposed millage rate is 4.3499 mills for FY 2022, which is greater than the roll back rate of 4.1046 mills by 5.98%.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if the amount is after deducting the cost for the 96th Street Park project.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated this is the FY 2022 budget and the 96th Street Park project is from the FY 2021 budget.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked regarding the health insurance and if the coverage will stay the same and the out-of-pocket expense will not increase.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the health insurance coverage will remain the same as well as the deductibles and out of pocket expenses.

3. Millage Rate Adoption Resolution - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF 4.3499 MILLS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022, WHICH IS GREATER THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 4.1046 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW BY 5.98%; CONFIRMING THE DATE OF THE SECOND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution.

Assistant Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the 305 Strategic Climate Action Plan and she was under the impression it was not being done.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the question by Commissioner Velasquez and explained that line item.

Commissioner Velasquez asked who that plan would help.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that it helps the Town. He explained that this has to do with sustainability and resiliency.

Vice Mayor Paul addressed the questions regarding the strategic plan and stated that it is very good to have the money in order to be able to use it for the environment and sustainability.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that it was approved prior to the election and it was budgeted by the prior commission and then COVID hit.

Vice Mayor Paul stated it is to implement any resiliency plan that would benefit the Town.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if any money has been used.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the prior Town Manager hired a resiliency officer and only worked for a month or so before COVID hit.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that they spent money to have a plan and this is a list of different things that can be done and decide which ones the Commission

would like to do and spend the money. She stated that if there is any that is a large expense, they have to come before the Commission for approval.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that if there are any contracts that money has to be expended it does have to go before the Commission.

Further discussion took place among the Commission and Assistant Town Manager Greene regarding the strategic plan and placing restrictions on the use of the funds.

Mayor Burkett asked Assistant Town Manager Greene if the Commission at any time changes their mind with any item in the budget, if they can have a meeting and ask for the changes to be made.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that is exactly what this Commission did in 2020 with the prior budget.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that this is something that should be placed on the agenda and does not think it is something that should be placed in the budget.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Commissioner Velasquez and stated if there is something that she sees that she wants changed, she can bring it to the Commission.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that this is just placing it in the budget but not what is going to be expended now. She also discussed the lifeguard stands and does not understand the need to staff it 7 days a week. She would like to have it reconsidered.

Commissioner Velasquez also agrees with the Vice Mayor's suggestion regarding the lifeguard stands.

Commissioner Salzhauer also agrees with Vice Mayor Paul and has an issue with giving a private developer their own lifeguard stands.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the comments made regarding the lifeguard stands.

Mayor Burkett stated that Surfside is fine with the lifeguard stands they currently have.

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding the lifeguard stands.

Town Attorney Arango stated that it is part of the development approval of the Surf Club for them to build the lifeguard stand.

Assistant Town Manager Greene spoke regarding the cost for staffing the lifeguard stand.

Vice Mayor Paul questioned the need for staffing the lifeguard stand full-time during the week.

Further discussion took place among the Commission and staff regarding the cost of staffing the lifeguard stand and the cost to build the stand.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Adrian Hernandez addressed the questions from the Commission regarding staffing the lifeguard stands.

Commissioner Velasquez asked where the stand would be located.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Adrian Hernandez stated that it would be on 90 Street.

Vice Mayor Paul asked how many rescues they have had.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Adrian Hernandez stated that approximately one a month.

Town Attorney Arango stated that it is a mandatory requirement for them to build the lifeguard stand. The development order obligates them to build it.

Mayor Burkett stated that the Four Seasons has assisted the Town and they can reach out to the Four Seasons if they will help with an alternative project.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked what the approximate cost is to build a lifeguard stand.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated approximately \$60,000 to \$125,000.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that the milage rate should stay as Assistant Town Manager Greene has strongly recommended.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that due to the undergrounding, this year the milage rate should be as recommended to accomplish the projects the Commission has requested.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the difference in the trim notice.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul by putting the lifeguard stand on hold until they receive their options. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Kesl absent.

4. Public Comment

The following individuals from the public spoke on the item:

Jeff Rose asked if the Champlain Tower South property taxes are removed from this budget and the feasibility study.

Diana Gonzalez stated as part of the Budget Advisory Committee, the goal is to save money and they are passing items too quickly.

Joshua Epstein stated that he does agree with the recommendation of leaving the milage rate as it currently is.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that as the liaison of the Budget Advisory Committee, the Committee recommended to leave the milage rate as recommended.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they would entertain lowering it to 4.3 what would that difference be.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that right now is \$767,000 because the Champlain Tower South is not in the calculations, which was approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000. If you go to 4.3 it would be \$600,000 over the roll back rate.

Commissioner Velasquez asked what the difference would be.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated the difference would be approximately \$150,000.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked what can be done by the Town.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that as per the discussion he had with the Deputy Property Appraiser, the tax bills do not have to go out.

Mayor Burkett stated that the Property Appraiser will not be assessing taxes on the property.

Vice Mayor Paul asked if they are placing the lifeguard stations on hold.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that they could ask to remove it, table it or renegotiate that portion of the contract.

Mayor Burkett stated that possibly putting it on hold would be better for now.

Town Manager Hyatt stated that putting it on hold costs the Town nothing, what they are putting on hold is staffing.

5. Budget Adoption Resolution - Andrew Hyatt, 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, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; 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.

Assistant Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Kesl absent.

6. Public Comment

The following individual from the public spoke on the item:
Joshua Epstein spoke regarding increasing the minimum wage.

7. Adjournment

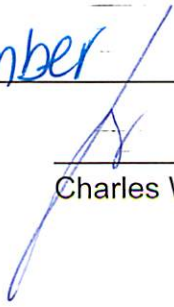
A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 5:53 p.m. The motion received a second from Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Kesl absent.

Accepted this 9th day of November, 2021.

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor