



Town of Surfside

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

July 15, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Surfside Community Center
9301 Collins Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Town Clerk Herbello at 6:06 p.m.

The following were present: Committee Member Lauren Bardos
 Committee Member Andrew Craven
 Committee Member Robert (Bobby) Cummings
 Committee Member Sheryl Goldberg
 Committee Member Diana Gonzalez

Also, present: Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager
 Lillian Arango, Town Attorney
 Javier Collazo, Financial Accounting & Reporting Manager
 Evelyn Herbello, Deputy Town Clerk

2. Agenda and Order of Business

3. Committee Introductions

The Town Staff introduced themselves to the Committee members.

The Committee members introduced themselves to the rest of the Committee and staff.

4. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Town Clerk Sandra McCready advised the Committee the process of selecting a Chair and a Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Committee Member Diana Gonzalez to appoint Committee Member Sheryl Goldberg as Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, seconded by Committee Member Andrew Craven. All voted in favor.

A motion was made by Committee Member Andrew Craven to appoint Robert (Bobby) Cummings as Vice Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee, seconded by Chair Sheryl Goldberg. All voted in favor.

5. Committee Functions

Town Attorney Arango gave an overview to the Committee members of their functions as part of the Budget Advisory Committee and how business is to be conducted.

Town Attorney Arango advised the Committee that they will be having an Orientation on July 28, 2020 where they will discuss sunshine law, ethics law and financial rules and regulations in order to be in compliance with Florida Statutes.

Interim Town Manager Greene also provided insight and explanation of the Committee's function and their goal and vision. He stated that this Committee will be active monthly during the budget cycle. The meetings will be monthly through September and unless there is a specific action needed they will not meet again until February. The Committee Charter is to provide guidance in crafting and providing input into the preparation of the Town's Budget.

6. Town Finance Orientation

Vice Chair Cummings asked if the Committee would find any discrepancies or issues if there is time to change the budget.

Interim Town Manager Greene advised them that the presentation tonight will be very similar to what the Town Commission will see at next week's budget workshop. He stated that the Committee would then meet in August and he can prepare a more in-depth presentation for the August meeting.

Vice Chair Cummings asked if they have questions regarding certain factual information in the budget, who they can address their questions to.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that any questions regarding the budget should be directed to him.

Committee Member Gonzalez asked if this is a proposed budget.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that yes, this is a proposed budget.

Interim Town Manager Greene provided the Committee members with a presentation of the Town's Budget as well as the FY 20/21 Proposed Draft Budget.

Committee Member Gonzalez asked what the Tourist Fund is being used for.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the question asked by Committee Member Gonzalez and stated that he will be answering their questions as he continues his presentation.

Discussion among the Committee members took place regarding the presentation on the milage rate, increase in taxes and different budgetary funds.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the questions asked by the Committee members.

Vice Chair Cummings asked regarding the number of police vehicles and why there are so many vehicles having to be replaced. He also commented on the police take home vehicles. He believes it is absurd that there are so many vehicles for a police force that patrols an 8-block area and would like this to be addressed at a later meeting.

Interim Town Manager Greene continued presenting the Tourist Resort Fund Budget.

Further discussion took place among the Committee members regarding cost of personnel that comes out of the Water and Sewer Fund as well as the Stormwater Fund.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the questions from the Committee members.

Vice Chair Cummings asked if once a month was enough time to meet, make recommendations and asked what the plan would be.

Chair Goldberg commented on this Committee coming into the tail end of the budget cycle period.

Vice Chair Cummings suggested to meet once a week for the next month in order to table some topics and address them. He stated that the Commission should be aware that the Budget Committee needs to meet more than once a month in order to address the different topics if not it makes this Committee ineffective.

Further discussion took place among the Committee members regarding the amount of materials to review, be able to give a proper recommendation and have shorter tight agenda meetings in order to come prepared to address the concerns.

Interim Town Manager Greene addressed the questions posed by the Committee members and advised that Staff needs enough time to prepare the presentations and suggested possibly focusing on one fund or department to address per meeting.

Chair Goldberg stated that her concern is the personnel cost in the Parking Department.

Interim Town Manager Greene suggested if the Committee would like to address the Public Safety Department which includes the Parking Department, he would be able to invite Police Chief Yero in order for him to provide feedback.

Committee Member Gonzalez commented on needing to work on this budget now even if it means meeting every month.

The Committee members agreed by consensus to review the budget and send Interim Town Manager Greene and Deputy Town Clerk Herbello their questions on specific funds and/or departments they would like to prioritize to be placed on the agenda for their next meeting.

The Committee members agreed by consensus to provide their topics of interest to Interim Town Manager Greene and Deputy Town Clerk Herbello by July 21, 2020.

The Committee members agreed by consensus to have their next meeting on August 5, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss questions regarding the Budget pertaining to specific funds and departments.

7. Public Comments - (3-minute time limit per speaker)

There were no public speakers.

8. Adjournment


A motion was made by Chair Goldberg to adjourn the meeting without objection at 8:42 p.m. The motion received a second from Committee member Gonzalez. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Accepted this 6 day of August, 2020


Sheryl Goldberg, Chair

Attest:


Evelyn Herbello
Deputy Town Clerk