



Town of Surfside

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

August 20, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.
Surfside Community Center
9301 Collins Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Goldberg called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Present: Chair Sheryl Goldberg, Vice Chair Robert Cummings (arrived at 4:15 p.m.) Committee Member Andrew Craven, Committee Member Diana Gonzalez, and Committee Member Lauren Bardos.

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

2. Agenda and Order of Business

3. Approval of Minutes: August 5, 2020 Joint Town Commission and Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee member Bardos stated that she had difficulties connecting at the last meeting and was under the impression that they were making recommendations and she is not in agreement with cutting the Police Department Budget.

Chair Goldberg has corrections on page 6, remove "an", omit "of the line item"; Public Safety Department "are detailed on".

A motion was made by Committee Member Craven to approve the July 15, 2020 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as amended, seconded by Committee Member Bardos. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Vice Chair Cummings and Committee Member Gonzalez absent.

4. Reconsideration of Vote on Public Safety Item from the August 5, 2020 Joint Town Commission and Budget Advisory Committee Meeting – Committee Member Andrew Craven

Committee Member Craven stated that they are all trying to do what is in the best interest of the Town and seeing the comments by the public regarding Vice Chair Cummings was disheartening as well as the personal attacks on some of the Committee members.

Chair Goldberg discussed the importance of the item.

A motion was made by Committee Member Craven to remove the item from the agenda, seconded by Chair Goldberg. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Vice Chair Cummings absent.

Committee member Gonzalez stated that the Committee members are there to volunteer their time and to assist in the recommendations to the budget as well as how to save money for the Town. She spoke regarding the reductions that have already been made to the budget. She also commented on the public's comments regarding the Committee members.

Committee member Bardos agreed with the comments made by Committee member Gonzalez and stated that their job is to make recommendations to the budget. She spoke regarding the speeding and the Police being a partner of the community.

Chair Goldberg stated that they are going line by line to see where monies can be tightened up and spent in other areas. She stated that she would like to see more patrol officers and less command officers in order to address the speeding in Town.

Further discussion took place among the Committee regarding speeding on Collins Avenue.

The following individual from the public spoke on the item:
Jeff Rose

5. Consolidation of Communications for the Town – Chair Sheryl Goldberg

Chair Goldberg introduced the item and stated that her goal is to streamline the communications department in the Town and bringing it all inhouse. She stated that individual would work with the tourist bureau and the Town. She spoke regarding what should be spent on that position. She spoke regarding the two (2) positions that are handling those duties.

Interim Town Manager Greene explained the two (2) positions and what the duties entailed. He stated these two (2) employees are handling other duties besides the communications duties assigned to them.

Chair Goldberg commented on the funds being spent on communications that comes out of the general fund.

Interim Town Manager Greene explained what accounts these positions are being funded from. He stated that it was \$650,000 from the Tourist Bureau side and the same under the General Fund, which includes special events, salaries and benefits. He also advised the Committee the amount not spent from those accounts.

Further discussion took place regarding the communications of the Town, the Tourist Bureau communications expenditures and consolidating the duties as well as savings in this area and having it done all inhouse.

Interim Town Manager Greene spoke regarding the different grants and speeding as well as the hiring of officers. He stated it is a transportation and engineering solution.

Further discussion took place regarding reorganization of employees, their duties and assist them to meet their goals and not firing employees but just reorganizing their duties and making things more efficient.

Interim Town Manager Greene commented on the pay classification study that was being conducted to also revise the pay scale but this Commission removed that from the budget and believes it should still be looked at.

Chair Goldberg commented on the Pinzur contract to be on a month to month basis and continue looking at that department and bringing this inhouse.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that the Pinzur's cost is separate from the CGA IT contract and that is still on the Commission agenda to be discussed. He stated that the cost is \$18,000 a year to take care of the website and hiring someone would cost more.

Chair Goldberg stated that she would like to streamline the entire department and have them work fulltime and have that individual handle the entire communications portion for the Town.

Chair Goldberg made a recommendation that the Communications Department be put inhouse, streamlined, Pinzur communication be on a month to month and a total restructuring of the communications department be left to the new town manager in order to be fiscally responsible.

Town Attorney Arango advised the Committee regarding their duties and abilities of their recommendations and the recommendations of contracts for month to month are to be left to the administration and leave their recommendations to sound fiscal policies and to the budget.

A motion was made to accept the recommendations by Committee Member Gonzalez, seconded by Chair Goldberg. The motion failed with a 2-2 vote with Committee member Bardos absent.

Interim Town Manager Greene commented on the restructuring discussed.

Chair Goldberg explained to Vice Chair Cummings the motion and recommendation that is being voted on.

A motion was made by Committee member Craven to reconsider the previous motion due to Committee member Bardos losing connection, seconded by Vice Chair Cummings. The motion passed with a 5-0.

A motion was made by Committee member Craven, to accept the recommendations by Chair Goldberg, seconded by Chair Goldberg. The motion passed with a 4-1 vote with Committee member Craven voting in opposition.

6. New or Enhanced Program, Jason Greene, Interim. Town Manager

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item and stated the discussion that has taken place regarding cuts and adjustments. He commented on this being an educational level discussion and meetings taking place in September. He stated that when it starts up in March the Committee would then know what the new goals of the upcoming budget will be. He asked the Committee if there were any recommendations that they believe the Town could do with program modifications.

Chair Goldberg suggested budgeting a kayak launch with a floating dock.

Further discussion took place among the Committee regarding the location of the kayak launch.

7. New Capital Projects – Jason Greene, Interim Town Manager

Interim Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

Chair Goldberg would like to add to the budget a walking path.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that is on the agenda for the Commission to determine what the permitting requirements would be and believes they could have it done as a pedestrian/bike path. He explained what the requirements would be to have this accomplished.

Further discussion took place among the Committee regarding certain Capital projects, and reserves for hurricane reimbursements and painting of the sidewalks.

A recommendation was made to have the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee (DVAC) review the painting of the sidewalks project.

8. Tourist Resort Fund – Committee Member Diana Gonzalez

Committee member Gonzalez introduced the item and asked where the monies are coming from.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that all funds that come into the Tourist Resort Fund is the Bed Tax Fund and Food and Beverage Fund.

Committee member Gonzalez stated that those funds are coming from the residents.

Interim Town Manager Greene stated that these are restrictive revenue funds that have to be used for specific things and most go towards benefits for the tourist and the other funds for advertising the tourist bureau and special events.

Committee member Gonzalez stated that her concern is what the monies are being spent on and some salaries are being paid from this fund.

Further discussion took place regarding this item, the Community Center, services provided and the usage of the fund.

9. Parks and Recreation – Vice Chair Robert Cummings

Vice Chair Cummings requested to defer his item to the next meeting.

Consensus was reached by the Committee to hold their next meeting on September 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

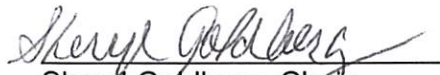
10. Public Comments - (3-minute time limit per speaker)

There were no public comments.

11. Adjournment


A motion was made by Committee member Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 5:24 p.m. The motion received a second from Committee Member Bardos. All voted in favor.

Accepted this 9 day of September, 2020.



Sheryl Goldberg, Chair
Budget Advisory Committee

Attest:



Evelyn Herbello
Deputy Town Clerk