



Town of Surfside

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2021 – 4:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Goldberg called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Chair Sheryl Goldberg, Committee Member Andrew Craven, and Committee Member Diana Gonzalez.

Absent: Vice Chair Robert Cummings, Committee Member Lauren Bardos; and Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer

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

2. Agenda and Order of Business

Chair Goldberg asked Town Clerk McCready regarding the rules for absences and removal of a committee member from a committee due to excessive absences.

Town Clerk McCready advised the Committee what the code states which is if any Committee or Board member has 3 consecutive absences in one calendar year that Board or Committee member may be removed.

3. Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2021 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting

A motion was made by Committee Member Craven to approve the January 19, 2021 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes as amended, seconded by Committee Member Gonzalez. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Vice Chair Cummings and Committee Member Bardos absent.

4. Service Liens Town Expense – Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene

Assistant Town Manager Greene presented the item and what other municipalities run into and it is common. He commented on the service liens report and it does involve multiple components.

Code Enforcement Manager Santos-Alborna spoke regarding the contract they currently have with the service lien company and the cost they charge to the Town. She also advised them of the flood fee the company charges as an administrative fee and the lien recording fees.

Assistant Town Manager Greene explained the process of collection.

Chair Goldberg asked where they stand on delinquencies.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the comment made by Chair Goldberg and stated that for delinquencies a lien will be placed on the property and when the owner tries to sell the property the Town will get the monies owed due to the violation.

Code Enforcement Manager Santos-Alborna stated that she asked other municipalities as to their process, the charges they charge per incident and collection process.

Chair Goldberg stated her biggest concern is a specific property that owes (600 90th Street) a large amount of money and one does not know when they can get the monies back and is there any other way to collect the monies.

Code Enforcement Manager Santos-Alborna stated that possibly looking into adding it into the property taxes.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that they are looking into it with the legal department and the cost entailed involving staff, attorney's fees in comparison to the percentage we would be collecting.

Chair Goldberg stated she does like that idea and would like to see how to collect the large amount of monies owed.

Committee Member Gonzalez agrees looking into a way to possibly collect the monies owned and see if it is feasible.

Committee Member Craven stated that all they can do is make a recommendation to the Commission and possibly make a recommendation to the Commission to proceed with the legal dept for a cost benefit analysis specific for this address in the event it goes before the Commission as an agenda in the future due to the amount of money expended by the Town. He asked what is the most powerful recommendation they can make.

Town Clerk McCready stated that Assistant Town Manager Greene will provide the information to Commission Liaison Salzhauer so she will be able to provide her report to the Commission. She also stated that Commissioner Salzhauer apologized for not attending the meeting due to a family emergency.

Code Enforcement Manager Santos-Alborna stated they discussed adding code liens to property taxes not wait until the property was sold.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated if they confirmed that with the town attorney to see if this is a viable action. He stated that if the committee is inclined, they can recommend that staff explore the option if this is something is feasible and report back after this is discussed the town attorney and the mechanism of how it would go about.

Committee Member Gonzalez stated if that option does not work find some other legal options the Town is able to do to collect the fines.

Chair Goldberg asked Carmen if she encountered the owner.

Code Enforcement Manager Santos-Alborna stated that she met the person living there, which is either the wife or ex-wife.

A motion was made by Committee Member Craven to recommend to the Commission to 1) coordinate with the Town Attorney to see if there is an economical way to have outstanding lien amounts rolled into property taxes and/or 2) have the Code Department and Town Attorney to see if there is another cost-effective method to reimburse the Town to service the property. Committee Member Craven rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by Committee Member Craven to request Town staff to compile a report to explore options with respect to recovering fines on properties owed to the Town, seconded by Committee Member Gonzalez. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Committee Member Bardos and Vice Chair Cummings absent.

5. Financial Position/Budget Overview Presentation – Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene

Assistant Town Manager Greene presented the item and provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee.

Chair Goldberg asked how the CARES Fund Act monies has been expended.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that it the funds have gone to purchase masks, laptops needed for the Building Department, police expenses and other expenses that were reimbursed by the Federal Government as well as Miami Dade County. The only monies they have not gotten back is the monies afforded to businesses under the CARES Act and they are waiting for reimbursement of those funds, which they will be getting 100% reimbursement.

Chair Goldberg asked regarding the \$3.0 million dollars.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the question by Chair Goldberg. He continued presenting his item.

Committee Member Gonzalez asked how she can review the debt slide the Town has that he presented so they can consider it for the goals and objectives.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the question asked by Committee Member Gonzalez.

Chair Goldberg asked when Assistant Town Manager Greene met with Senator Jason Pizzo if he will get some grants for the Town.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the Senator does not do that, the Town has a lobbyist that will go and request the legislative appropriations the Town is requesting.

6. FY 2022 Budget Calendar

Assistant Town Manager Greene presented the FY2020 Budget calendar to the Committee and went through the detailed draft timeline.

7. FY 2022 Budget Cycle Visioning Workshop Part 1 - Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene

Assistant Town Manager Greene presented the item and gave examples. He stated that DVAC might recommend a walkability study.

Chair Goldberg thanked Assistant Town Manager Greene for the presentations.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that he wanted to give the Committee some examples and they all have the documents and they have homework to go through it and give staff their top 3 goals and objectives.

Committee Member Gonzalez stated that they do need time to review everything.

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

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Committee member Craven to adjourn the meeting without objection at 5:09 p.m. The motion received a second from Chair Goldberg. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Vice Chair Cummings and Committee Member Bardos absent.

Accepted this 17th day of March, 2021.


Sheryl Goldberg, Chair
Budget Advisory Committee

Attest:


Evelyn Herbello
Deputy Town Clerk