



Minutes
Town of Lake Park, Florida
Town Commission Budget Meeting
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:00 PM
Town Hall Commission Chamber,
535 Park Avenue, Lake Park, Florida 33403

The Town Commission met for the purpose of a Budget Meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor O'Rourke, Vice-Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro, Commissioners Erin Flaherty, John Linden, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director Bambi McKibbon-Turner, Attorney Thomas Baird, and Town Clerk Vivian Mendez. Commissioner Roger Michaud arrived at 6:21 p.m.

Town Clerk Mendez performed the roll call and Mayor O'Rourke led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. O'Brian made comments regarding the development of Town Homes within the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). Mayor O'Rourke thanked Mr. O'Brian for his comments and welcomed him to schedule a meeting with Community Development Director Nadia DiTommaso.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation of the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget.

1a. Commission Discussion of the Presented Preliminary Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget.

Assistant Town Manager McKibbon-Turner introduced the item and announced that beginning August 2, 2021 Town Manager John D'Agostino, Finance Director Lourdes Cariseo and herself would meet with each Commission Member one on one. She announced that each Commissioner would have the opportunity to ask questions regarding each line item. She announced the following remarks within Exhibit "A" on behalf of Town Manager D'Agostino (see Exhibit "A").

She announced that Town Manager D'Agostino and Staff worked very hard and were committed to presenting a balanced budget.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro questioned the change in ad-valorem. Finance Director Cariseo referred to the copy of the millage rate chart and announced the rollback rate was 4.5925, reducing the current proposed budget by \$508k. She announced the budget was currently balanced with the previous millage rate of 5.3474, the new ad-valorem \$3,221,749.00 for the general fund, and the transfer to the CRA is \$959,790.00 at the current millage rate.

Commissioner Linden announced that he had serious issues with the budget and Town Manager D'Agostino's communication and his absence. He announced there was an approximate difference of \$220k as compared to the budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. He disclosed that he spoke with Town Manager D'Agostino on Monday, July 12, 2021

for at least an hour regarding budget concerns. He announced that per his review of the budget he found approximately \$704k that if removed, would result in minimal impact to any resident, services, and employees. He announced that there were nine vacant positions with salaries totaling \$704k and the Town would save that amount if the nine positions remained vacant. He announced that the residents of the Town of Lake Park deserved a break and the Town should operate within a reduced budget.

Mayor O'Rourke announced concerns regarding the Sanitation Fund deficit and that some Commissioners believe it is appropriate to utilize the General Fund. He announced that he did not complete a detailed review of the Preliminary Budget. He announced that he would review Commissioner Linden's findings.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro questioned the reserves for the unfunded balances of the CRA. Finance Director Cariseo announced the carry forward fund balance was \$838k and that some was reserved to pay for debts. Finance Director Cariseo referred to the aforementioned comments regarding the nine vacancies; she announced that two of the vacancies were funded by the CRA for Code Officers and that the line item appears within the budget for the Community Development Department. She explained the CRA completed a cumbersome audit and that the auditor would present to the Commission in August 2021. Assistant Town Manager/ Human Resources Director McKibbon-Turner announced that Town Manager D'Agostino and Finance Director Cariseo were made aware of the auditor's concerns within the last week and completed an additional review of the CRA Budget.

Commissioner Flaherty questioned when the Commission would be made aware of the ongoing status of the Sanitation Fund deficit and prepare for budget transfers. Finance Director Cariseo announced that a final budget amendment would be completed in November 2021 to provide true numbers.

Mayor O'Rourke made comments regarding previous budgets, debt, and revenue enhancements techniques.

2. Setting the Current Year Proposed Operating Millage Rate, and Restating the Date, Time, and Location for the First Public Budget Hearing.

Assistant Town Manager/ Human Resources Director McKibbon-Turner explained the item.

Motion: Commissioner Linden recommended to set the millage rate at 5, reducing the General Fund by \$234,793.00, and the CRA by \$37,866.00 and the first meeting would be September 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.; No Second; The motion failed.

Motion: Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro moved to set the current year proposed millage rate not to exceed 5.3474 mills, and to restate that the date, time and place for the first public budget hearing is set for September 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., in the Town Commission Chambers; Commissioner Flaherty seconded the motion.

Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro commented that she would like to further discuss the implications of the previous motion made by Commissioner Linden at a future public budget meeting after the Commissioner one on one sessions.

Vote on Motion:

Commission Member	Aye	Nay	Other
Commissioner Flaherty	X		
Commissioner Linden		X	
Commissioner Michaud	X		
Vice-Mayor Glas-Castro	X		
Mayor O'Rourke	X		

Motion passed 4-1.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

James Sullivan expressed gratitude to Floyd Dennis, Independent Contractor, who provided exceptional services.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Mayor Michael O'Rourke

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Shaquita Edwards, MPA, MMC



Approved on this 4 of August, 2021

EXHIBIT "A"

The Town Manager is currently out of the office, as previously announced, and the following remarks are being provided this evening per his direction.

The first agenda item is for a presentation only of the preliminary FY 2022 budget. Staff consisting of the Town Manager, Finance Director and myself, will be meeting on a one-on-one basis with each member of the Commission commencing on 8/2/2021 and during such meetings each Commissioner will have an opportunity to ask questions of individual line items in the budget.

We are presenting a balanced budget with the general fund revenues equal to expenses, with the exception of the Sanitation Budget (an Enterprise fund) with a carry forward of \$273,937, for which the expenditures exceed the revenue. This fund will be shown as not balanced.

The Town Manager asked me to advise you that we going to take one-time revenue this year to balance the Sanitation budget for FY 2022. Next year, the one-time revenue will be less. The current year deficit is \$224,000 which is underfunded. Reserves equal \$ 474,733 minus \$224,000 = \$250,224.

We have also done this with other funds but they are not in the same situation as the Sanitation Fund. 5 percent next year will be higher because each percent increase represents \$18,000. If we want to continue the same level of service, we will have to increase the Sanitation rate.

Also, if this fund continues to be underfunded, we will be forced to reduce services at curbside and we will make sure that everyone knows that services will have to be reduced in this fund next year. For example, one time per week collection on residential pick-ups. Decrease in services means a decrease in staff.

As for Stormwater, this is to prepare the Commission that we will be seeking a rate increase for the adoption of the Stormwater Master Plan. We will be asking for a .50 cent increase. The unit rate for residential will remain at one unit meaning, the increase for residential will be six dollars per year. The increase will cover such capital items as a vac truck at \$500,000, bringing on additional personnel and equipment for bio-swale maintenance and upkeep etc. in FY 2022. It will be important to bring enough money into Stormwater to enable us to match grant funding when we leverage Stormwater with grant funding. This is just to give you a heads-up regarding this. More information regarding the Stormwater increase will be presented at the 7/21/2021 Regular Commission Meeting.

The Department Heads, Town Manager and Finance Director worked very hard to be able to present to you a balanced budget for FY 2022.