



**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
5:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chris Vincent called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Edmund Malkoon, Commissioner Alfred “Buz” Oldaker, Commissioner Theo Pouloupoulos, Commissioner Randy Strauss, Town Manager Linda Connors, Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director Ken Rubach, Assistant to the Town Manager Courtney Easley, Director of Budget and Finance Lucila Lang, Development Services Director Jhanelle Campbell, and Town Clerk Katrina Adler.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. DISCUSSION ITEM

- a. **Resolution 2023-52 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE PROPOSED TOWN AD VALOREM TAX MILLAGE RATE AT 3.9235 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE, WHICH IS 27.59% ABOVE THE ROLLED BACK MILLAGE RATE OF 3.0750 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW, FOR THE 2023 TAX YEAR; ANNOUNCING THE SECOND AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment.

Ron Piersante, resident, commented that while the proposed millage rate of 3.9235 represents an increase from the previous year’s rate, the previous 11 years show the adoption of the rolled back rate, maintenance of the same millage rate, or lowering the rate, with no millage rate increases. He felt the Town Manager, Town Staff, and the Commission have done a great job managing residents’ tax dollars, and did not object to a tax increase in order to keep the Town looking its best.

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With no other individuals wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Vincent closed public comment.

Vice Mayor Malkoon commented that, given the state of the economy over the last one to two years, with prices increasing and infrastructure improvements becoming necessary, it was fiscally responsible to ensure the Town will have enough money to meet its needs.

Commissioner Oldaker noted that Staff has followed Commission direction regarding the millage rate, and agreed with the Vice Mayor that funds must be available to meet the Town's needs and plan for the long term.

Mayor Vincent stated that during his tenure on the Town Commission, the Commission has lowered the millage rate, adopted the rolled back rate, or kept the rate the same from one year to the next. This is the first instance in which Town taxes are being raised, which is being done for the right reasons. He emphasized the importance of retaining Town Staff and making capital improvements, and pointed out that property values are continuing to increase.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poulopoulos, to accept the 3.9235 mills. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Resolution 2023-48 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ATTACHED TENTATIVE TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2023/2024 FISCAL YEAR; ANNOUNCING THE SECOND AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2023/2024 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment, which he closed upon receiving no input.

Mayor Vincent noted that the Commissioners have received copies of the draft budget earlier in the week.

Commissioner Oldaker advised that the budget represents significant work by Town Staff, and thanked them for their efforts.

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Commissioner Strauss made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Poulopoulos, to approve Resolution 2023-48. Motion carried 5-0.

4. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Mayor Chris Vincent

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

10/20/2023 | 6:43 AM PDT

Date