TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

TOWN COMMISSION

Special Public Hearing

MINUTES

Jarvis Hall

4505 Ocean Drive

Monday, September 27, 2010

6:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Roseann Minnet called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Vice Mayor Stuart Dodd, Commissioner Birute Ann Clottey, Commissioner Scot Sasser, and Commissioner Chris Vincent were present. Also present were Interim Town Manager Connie Hoffmann, Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Town Clerk June White, and Deputy Clerk Nekisha Smith.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Minnet explained that staff requested that the Commission add a $1,198.00 transfer to the budget. She requested that the Commission approve the transfer from the advertising account to the Commission account. Interim Town Manager explained that the last payroll for FY2009 was not accrued to the prior fiscal year which created an extra payroll for this year. She said that each department was able to cover the cost except for the Commission account that needed an additional $1,198.00.

Vice Mayor Dodd made a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0.

Mark Brown commended the Commission and staff for their work on the budget. He said that he understood that the Commission did not wish to raise the millage rate, however it could be raised slightly in order to balance the budget. Mr. Brown pointed out that other communities were raising their rates much higher than the Town. He was concerned that the Commission was placing themselves in a position that they may not get out of next year.

Edmund Malkoon commended the Commission for their work on the budget. He suggested including the A1A bus stops into the Town's future CIP (Capital Improvement Plan).

Diane Boutin commended the Commission on completing the budget. She encouraged the Commission to think outside of the box, to use fiscal responsibility, and to think of the Town's future.

Ron Piersante was concerned with the lighting on the Tennis Court. He suggested the money to fix the lighting not be spent at this time due to the lack of funds in the budget. Mr. Piersante did not agree with the proposed millage rate. He explained that most residents would not have a problem with a small rate increase to help balance the budget. He urged the Commission to give the millage rate some thought and asked what the Commission planned to do the following year if things did not get better.

4. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

5. RESOLUTIONS - PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. RESOLUTION 2010-29 - Adopting Final Millage: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL AD VALOREM TAX MILLAGE RATE AT 3.9990 MILS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE, WHICH IS 8.18% BELOW THE ROLLED BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW, FOR THE 2010 TAX YEAR; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Interim Town Manager Connie Hoffmann)

Attorney Trevarthen read Resolution 2010-29 by title.

Public Comments were taken earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Sasser questioned whether the Town faced any repercussions for not raising the millage rate this year. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann explained that the renewal of the BSO contract was important next year and that a significant increase in the contract amount was inevitable. She hoped that the revenues which were dependent on the economy, would begin to increase and she explained that revenues from property taxes would not increase even if the housing market got better, based on the way Florida property tax laws were structured. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann assured the residents and the Commission that the Town was not taking any unnecessary risks and she explained that there were enough reserves to fall back on if necessary.

Vice Mayor Dodd explained that he would not have a problem raising the millage rate next year if necessary.

Commissioner Clottey explained that the situation regarding an additional paycheck in one year happened from time to time. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann explained that was true for organizations accounting on a cash basis; however, like most large organizations, the Town accounted for their funds on an accrual basis and it was generally accepted accounting practice to accrue payroll in the proper fiscal year.

Commissioner Clottey explained that the residents needed to be made aware that the millage rate could increase next year based on the new BSO contract. She did not want to see the issue swept under the rug.

Mayor Minnet reminded everyone that the residents were facing a substantial increase on their sewer prices. She said she was in favor of keeping the millage rate the same this year, but understood that things may need to be looked at differently next year. Mayor Minnet was pleased to see the Town moving forward with the services and Capital Improvements needed for the Town.

Vice Mayor Dodd made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-29 with a millage rate of 3.9990. Commissioner Clottey seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0.

b. RESOLUTION 2010-30 - Adopting the Final Budget: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2010/2011 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Interim Town Manager Connie Hoffmann)

Attorney Trevarthen read Resolution 2010-30 by title. Mayor Minnet reminded the Commission that this resolution would include the budget transfer of $1,198.00 as requested by staff earlier in the evening.

Vice Mayor Dodd made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-30 and to include a budget transfer of $1,198.00 as requested by Town staff. Commissioner Vincent seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 - 0.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vincent thanked staff for their work on the budget. He said that he understood that it was not easy, but assured the residents that there would be a decrease in their Town taxes this year.

Vice Mayor Dodd made a motion to adjourn. With no further business before the Commission, Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:

Town Clerk, June White, CMC

9-30-10
Date