

**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES**

Town Commission Meeting Room

4501 Ocean Drive

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Minnet called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Minnet, Vice Mayor McIntee, Commissioner Silverstone, and Commissioner Dodd were present. Also present were Town Manager Esther Colon, and Town Clerk June White.

Commissioner Clotey was not present at the start of the meeting. She arrived at 5:07 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. BUDGET PRESENTATION

Manager Colon gave a presentation of the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 showing total funds at \$17,288,073. She added the amount reflected a decrease of approximately \$12 million or 41.09% due to decreased property values, decrease of state shared revenue, change in public safety providers, and the realignment of staff and services. Manager Colon stated that the budget was prepared at a 4.1012 millage rate.

Manager Colon reviewed the Governmental, Proprietary, and Special Revenue funds. She said the largest fund was the Governmental fund, and the largest revenue fund was the General fund with its revenue source from ad valorem. The largest use of General funds was Public Safety projected at \$5 million. Manager Colon reviewed the changes and funds allocated for public safety. She stated that the change in the Fire Prevention Provider from BSO to the Lauderdale-By-The-Sea Volunteer Fire Department which reduced the cost of services to approximately \$1.387 million. She also stated that the change in Emergency Medical Services from BSO to American Medical Response saved an additional \$351,000. Manager Colon said the Proprietary fund consisted of the parking and sewer funds and projected revenue of approximately \$1.7 million. Manager Colon finished with the Special Revenue Fund projected at \$17,327 with funds generated through police confiscations and traffic citations.

Manager Colon pointed out the \$2.3 million in emergency reserve. She also pointed out that while other cities were raising their millage rates, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea paid off 3 promissory notes that reduced long term debt by approximately \$3.1 million and changed public safety providers, saving \$1.7 million.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Minnet opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

John Thompson was impressed with the amount of reduction that took place. He thought it would be nice to reduce the millage a little more.

Edward White thanked the Town for funding \$35,000 to the Chamber of Commerce. He hoped the Town would continue to do so in the future.

With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Minnet closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

5. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner Silverstone asked that if the legal opinion regarding the beach boardwalk indicated that the Town would have to go forward, would the funds be made available. Manager Colon said the project would have to begin within 1 year of the Certificate of Occupancy date. Commissioner Silverstone stated that he would vote for nothing more than 4.1012 and was looking at a 3.9900 millage rate.

Commissioner Clotey believed that everyone in Town received a tax cut. She was proud that the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea did not have to raise their taxes, but believed the Commission should be careful when choosing a tax rate.

Commissioner Clotey was concerned as to whether there were sufficient hurricane funds should a storm occur. Manager Colon stated that the Town was fortunate to have a healthy reserve with funds in place prior to a storm.

Vice Mayor McIntee supported a 3.9900 millage rate. He asked whether it would have been possible to reduce the millage had the Town retained the Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue. Manager Colon said the millage would have gone up to 5.0. Vice Mayor McIntee believed the Town was going in the right direction.

Commissioner Dodd wanted to know if the millage stayed the same what would happen to his overall tax payment. Manager Colon explained that

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his taxes would be equivalent to the assessed value. She added that if the assessed value was reduced by 9.51% he would pay that much less in taxes, and therefore see a savings. He congratulated Manager Colon and the entire Dais.

Discussion continued regarding the reserve account, lowering the millage to 3.9900%, and the scheduling of budget hearings, which were always done in July.

Mayor Minnet thanked staff for keeping expenses down. She was disappointed that more people had not attended the public meeting as the Commission took direction from the people and encouraged everyone to voice their opinions. Mayor Minnet wanted the parking needs of the Town to be addressed. She addressed the Sewer Proprietary fund and recognized that there were infrastructure problems that were not going away. Mayor Minnet asked the people to come forward and address the capital improvement projects. She favored a reduction in the millage for the residents. She hoped this Commission would move forward, learn from the past, and do what is best for the community.

6. ADJOURNMENT

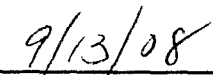
Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to adjourn. With no further business before the Commission, Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.



Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:



Town Clerk, June White

Date