

**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
2nd PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chris Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Alfred “Buz” Oldaker, Commissioner Edmund Malkoon, Commissioner Elliot Sokolow, Commissioner Randy Strauss, Interim Town Manager Linda Connors, Assistant to the Town Manager Neysa Herrera, Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Public Works Director Ken Rubach, Director of Finance and Budget Lucila Lang, Town Engineer Jay Flynn, Acting Development Services Director Jhanelle Campbell, Planner Sue Leven, Special Events and Marketing Manager Debbie Hime, Public Information Officer/IT Administrator Steve d’Oliveira, and Town Clerk Tedra Allen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment.

Ann Marchetti, resident, emphasized the value of the Farmers’ Market to the Town’s residents and visitors. She described the market as an economic development issue and strongly recommended that it remain in the Town’s budget.

Town Clerk Tedra Allen read the following written public comment:

- Barbara Cole, resident, advocated for Commission approval of the rolled back millage rate

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

Interim Town Manager Linda Connors clarified that the fiscal year (FY) 2021/2022 budget includes funding for the Farmers’ Market so the Town can consider different alternatives and improvements.

Vice Mayor Oldaker observed that the intent of Florida’s homestead law is to protect homesteaded individuals who live in Florida on a full-time basis, as reflected in the State Constitution. He added that it is necessary for the Town to sustain sufficient revenue to

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keep the Town moving forward as well as to address expected and unexpected budget expenditures in future years.

4. RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution 2021-53 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING THE FINAL TOWN AD VALOREM TAX MILLAGE RATE AT 3.3923 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE, WHICH IS 0.00% ABOVE THE ROLLED BACK MILLAGE RATE OF 3.3923 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW, FOR THE 2021 TAX YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

Mayor Vincent commented that he remained in favor of the rolled back rate of 3.3923 for the same reasons he had stated during previous budget discussions. He noted that the Town collects approximately 97.5% of its ad valorem taxes, which would likely allow for a surplus to carry over into the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Sokolow stated the collection rate by which ad valorem taxes are budgeted is determined by state law. He also clarified that he had not voted against the tentative millage rate at the first budget hearing, although he had voted against establishing that rate during the original discussion of this issue, as he opposed locking the Town into a rate that could not be raised during the budgeting process.

Commissioner Sokolow also addressed a comment referring to public notice of the budget and millage rate discussion in the *Sun-Sentinel*. Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen confirmed that this public notice was valid, as it was not required to state “notice of tax increase;” however, inclusion of this statement did not invalidate the advertisement.

Commissioner Sokolow made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Strauss, to adopt the millage rate of 3.3923 mills per thousand dollars of taxable assessed value, which is 0% above the rolled back millage rate. Motion carried 4-1 (Vice Mayor Oldaker dissenting).

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b. Resolution 2021-054 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ATTACHED FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2021/2022 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Director of Budget and Finance Lucila Lang noted that the budget was revised in response to direction provided by the Commission at the previous budget hearing. This includes retention of a lobbyist for FY 2021/2022, which will account for \$30,000 of the \$40,000 Professional Services line item in the General Fund. The remaining \$10,000 will provide the Commission with flexibility for any future projects.

Vice Mayor Oldaker advised that there are both firm and flexible budgeted numbers reflected in the budget, some of the budgeted funds may or may not be spent. If they are not spent, this could result in a surplus for the Town in the following year. Funds may be adjusted or moved during the year through the budget amendment process if necessary.

Commissioner Sokolow commended Staff on their work on the budget.

Commissioner Malkoon advised that when an Item is brought forward at the regular meeting regarding the fire audit report, the Commission may wish to instruct their lobbyist and/or grant writer to consider potential funding from the state for this item.

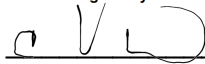
Mayor Vincent thanked Staff and the Commission for their discussion of and work on the final budget.

Vice Mayor Oldaker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Malkoon, to approve the budget. Motion carried 5-0.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

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Mayor Chris Vincent

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Tedra Allen

11/5/2021

Date