

**MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
2nd PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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, Town Manager Bill Vance, Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Assistant to the Town Manager Neysa Herrera, Municipal Services Director Ken Rubach, Development Services Director Linda Connors, Special Projects Coordinator Debbie Hime, Public Information Officer Steve d’Oliveira, and Town Clerk Tedra Allen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was noted that public comments would be read under the specific Resolutions they addressed.

4. RESOLUTIONS

4.a RESOLUTION 2020-36 - 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 3.5000 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE, WHICH IS 3.61% ABOVE THE ROLLED BACK MILLAGE RATE OF 3.3781 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW, FOR THE 2020 TAX YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Lucila Lang, Finance Director)

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment on Resolution 2020-36.

Town Clerk Tedra Allen read the following public comment:

- Barbara Cole, resident, stated that the millage rate should be the rolled back rate, as the Town is in good financial shape

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

Commissioner Malkoon felt the Commission should consider adopting the rolled back rate, as the fiscal year (FY) 2020/2021 budget can be accomplished with funds already available. The Town's Parking Fund and Emergency Fund have reserves that can provide additional funding if necessary, and some projects can be postponed until the next year. He did not believe in a tax increase during an ongoing pandemic.

Commissioner Sokolow commented that while the Town has a surplus, he expected any revenue sharing the Town receives from the State to decrease significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He felt the Town should err on the side of caution and avoid the possibility of a budget shortfall.

Vice Mayor Oldaker agreed with Commissioner Sokolow that the Town should ensure funds are available for the Town's needs. He pointed out that the difference in payments made by a homesteaded property under the proposed rate as compared with the rolled back rate is insignificant. Commissioner Strauss also spoke in favor of ensuring the Town maintains appropriate reserves in addition to meeting the needs of the Town's budget.

Finance Director Lucila Lang advised that under the proposed 3.5000 millage rate, the Town's revenue would be \$9,009,684. Under the rolled back rate of 3.3781, the Town could expect \$8.6 million.

Commissioner Malkoon asked if the difference in revenue has been included in the FY 2020/2021 budget. Town Manager Bill Vance confirmed that this is budgeted, noting that the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) contract has increased by approximately \$300,000 for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Malkoon noted that the saved dollars are not set aside for emergencies or future years.

Commissioner Malkoon made a motion that the Town adopt the rolled back rate. [The motion died for lack of second.]

Commissioner Strauss made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Oldaker, to adopt the rate of 3.5000. Motion carried 4-1 (Commissioner Malkoon dissenting).

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4.b RESOLUTION 2020-37 - A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ATTACHED FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2020/2021 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Lucila Lang, Finance Director)

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment on Resolution 2020-37.

Town Clerk Tedra Allen read the following public comments:

- Barbara Cole, resident, asserted that the Town's budget should not be increased this year, as the Town already has sufficient funds for projects in the FY 2020/2021 budget

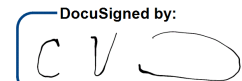
With no other individuals wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Vincent closed public comment.

Commissioner Sokolow noted that the slight increase in the FY 2020/2021 budget is due primarily to increases in the Town's BSO and Fire Services contracts.

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

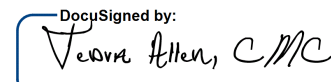
5. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

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Mayor Chris Vincent

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Tedra Allen

10/19/2020

Date

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Public Comment

Barbara Cole, resident

Mayor, Commissioners,

On this final vote for the millage I must put forth again that there is no reason not to roll it back.

The reasoning put forth by many on the dais last week that we are lowest millage when compared to other municipalities is not in my opinion a justification. We are in good financial shape and the added funds are just another spurce along with increasing the budget to expand purchases etc... not needed and not in line with those you represent impacted by Covid this year.

Barbara Cole, resident

Mayor, Commissioners

The budget should not be increased this year. After watching last week a few commissioners touted as fact that we already have the funds in hand for the projects the Town Manager put forth in his report so why increase our budget? We have no debt, we have reserves, we have a lucrative stream of income from parking which will continue.

On top of that we are covered in the case of any catastrophe with our bank if we should need a line of credit and could easily be the recipient of funds through a municipal bond issuance if need be. Increasing by almost 5 million dollars opens up those all too familiar government accounting practices in the latter months of the fiscal year to buy department wants put on consent agendas that pass in blanket votes not often pulled for discussion.

I, as a resident am not impressed by commissioners who give kudos for the budget without explaining to their constituents what time they spent, questions they asked of staff and the answers they received. The budget is an integral part of your representation. With sunshine laws commissioners cannot discuss anything prior to meetings with each other and the first budget meeting should offer a lot of input leading up to the second budget meeting rather than high fives and pats on the back for what they received from Town staff.

Thank you,