

**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
1ST PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
6:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR SCOT SASSER

Mayor Sasser called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Mark Brown, Commissioner Alfred "Buz" Oldaker, Commissioner Elliot Sokolow, Commissioner Chris Vincent, Town Manager Bud Bentley, Deputy Town Manager Tony Bryan, Assistant Town Manager Sharon Ragoonan, Development Services Director Linda Connors, Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Municipal Services Director Don Prince, Special Projects Coordinator Debbie Hime, and Town Clerk Tedra Allen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Status of the Emergency Reserve Fund (Tony Bryan, Deputy Town Manager)

Deputy Town Manager Tony Bryan stated that the Town's Code of Ordinances requires the Commission to evaluate the sufficiency of the Emergency Reserve Fund during its annual budget process. The current reserve fund amount is slightly over \$2.3 million. This amount has remained the same over the past several years. Staff proposes that this amount be left unchanged. Should any dollars from this fund be used toward cleanup efforts following Hurricane Irma, the Emergency Reserve Fund would be replenished to its current level. Any use of reserve funds will require authorization by the Town Commission.

Vice Mayor Brown asked if a definition exists for how emergency reserve dollars may be used. Deputy Town Manager Bryan explained that Emergency Reserve Funds are assigned by the Town Commission; while they were originally designated in 2014 for recovery from natural disasters, he did not recall further specification of how they must be used.

Commissioner Vincent asked if the Town is mandated by the State to retain a specific minimum amount in the Emergency Reserve Fund. Deputy Town Manager Bryan replied that there is no such mandate. He further clarified that the Town has insurance for the replacement value of all its assets, which comes to approximately \$13 million. In the event of a named storm, the Town's deductible equals 5% of its covered losses, which comes to roughly \$650,000. The \$2.3 million in the Emergency Reserve Fund would be sufficient to cover this deductible and to perform other cleanup duties.

Vice Mayor Brown noted that some of these trees in public rights-of-way on the north end of the Town may have been paid for with grant funds, and may therefore have an effect on the use of emergency dollars. Town Manager Bud Bentley confirmed that while trees within rights-of-way are the Town's responsibility, the Town may not be responsible for their replacement in the event of a storm.

Commissioner Vincent made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, to continue the existing balance for the Emergency Reserve Fund. Motion carried 5-0.

5. RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. Resolution 2017-34 – 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 3.6873 MILS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE, WHICH IS 6.23% ABOVE THE ROLLED BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW FOR THE 2017 TAX YEAR, ANNOUNCING THE SECOND AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Tony Bryan, Deputy Town Manager)**

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

Commissioner Sokolow asked what effect a reduction in the millage rate would have. Deputy Town Manager Bryan replied that a return to the rolled back rate would save \$488,940 if budgeted at 95%. He did not have a figure for the effects of rolling back the rate to 3.68 mills per thousand dollars. Commissioner Sokolow requested information on the impact of minor reductions in the millage rate in terms of dollars be provided at the next budget hearing.

Vice Mayor Brown stated that while he had originally intended to support a modest reduction in the millage rate, the uncertainty created by effects of the recent hurricane has led him to reconsider. He felt the current millage rate should be maintained.

Commissioner Sokolow asked if any funds are budgeted for post-hurricane cleanup efforts. Deputy Town Manager Bryan replied that these would be contingency funds, as there are no dollars earmarked specifically for this purpose. He added that because health insurance renewal expenses came in significantly lower than expected, Staff will propose the addition of roughly \$44,000 in savings to the contingency fund.

Commissioner Oldaker asked if expenses for debris removal have been estimated thus far. Municipal Services Director Don Prince stated that this is not known. He confirmed that Hurricane Irma appeared to have generated a great deal of vegetative debris, which can be separated from other debris to expedite the cleanup process.

Commissioner Vincent asked if it might be possible to insert storm waste removal into the existing yard waste removal contract. Town Manager Bentley replied that this could be discussed with the Town's contractor, although he noted that it is typically preferential to use the service provided by the Town's "piggyback" contract with the city of Plantation, as that provider is Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) –certified.

Commissioner Sokolow made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, to adopt the Resolution as written at the rate of 3.6873 mils. Motion carried 5-0.

- b. Resolution 2017-35 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ATTACHED TENTATIVE TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2017/2018 FISCAL YEAR; ANNOUNCING THE SECOND AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT THE FINAL TOWN BUDGET FOR THE 2017/2018 FISCAL YEAR; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (Tony Bryan, Deputy Town Manager)**

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

Commissioner Vincent made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sokolow, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen clarified that Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6 p.m. will be the date and time of the next public budget hearing.

- c. Resolution 2017-36 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE FINAL FIRE ASSESSMENT RATE ON PROPERTY THAT IS SPECIALLY BENEFITED BY FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; CONFIRMING THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLLS AND LEVYING SUCH SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS (Tony Bryan, Deputy Town Manager)**

Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
First Public Budget Hearing
September 13, 2017

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

Commissioner Vincent made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sokolow, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



Mayor Scot Sasser

ATTEST:



Town Clerk Tedra Allen

10-11-17

Date