



**Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
Final Budget Hearing
MINUTES
September 23, 2021
5:01 p.m.**

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Town Attorney advised the public at 5:10 p.m. that the meeting will start shortly because we are waiting for a quorum and they will take a short recess until 6:00 p.m. once the Commissioner arrives to make quorum and start the meeting.

Mayor Burkett recessed the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Mayor Burkett reconvened the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk McCready called the roll with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Charles Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, and Commissioner Nelly Velasquez (arrived at 6:06 p.m.)

Absent: Commissioner Charles Kesl and Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer

Also present were Town Manager Andrew Hyatt, Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

2. Discussion Regarding Millage Rate and Budget – Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

Town Manager Hyatt introduced the item and spoke regarding the budget cycle and turned it over to Assistant Town Manager Greene.

3. Final Millage Rate Adoption Resolution for FY 2022 - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; ANNOUNCING THE ADOPTED FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 4.2 MILLS WHICH IS GREATER THAN THE ROLLED BACK RATE OF 4.1046 MILLS COMPUTED PURSUANT TO STATE LAW BY 2.32%; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCreedy read the title of the resolution.

Assistant Town Manager Greene introduced the item and gave the process of tonight's meeting and provided a presentation of the milage rate and budget. He provided the budget calendar as well as the FY 2022 proposed budget property values and recommends keeping the milage rate at 4.3499. He provided a breakdown and read the required statement into the record.

Commissioner Velasquez confirmed this is taking out the lifeguard stations.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated yes, there are two caveats which includes the budget for the lifeguard stands will stay but they cannot purchase the equipment until they meet with the Surf Club and come back to the Commission for recommendations. The second one is the Town Hall structure resiliency project until they can obtain grants.

Mayor Burkett asked as a whole property owners will pay more for property taxes due to the increase in property values. He stated that the rollback rate gives the Town what they had last year and maintains the residents with what they pay. He gave a scenario on assessment and tax rate.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated not exactly. He explained what the rollback rate would represent.

Further discussion took place among Mayor Burkett and Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene regarding the rollback rate and adding to the tax bill.

Mayor Burkett stated he is not comfortable with increasing the tax bill for the residents.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she would agree with that if they would not be undergrounding the powerlines.

Vice Mayor Paul disagrees with Mayor Burkett's analogy as it pertains to the rollback rate and the rate proposed. She stated that the benefits the residents will have outweighs the savings. The rollback rate would give her \$50.00 more and with the recommended millage rate she would pay about \$100.00 more. She spoke regarding the loss of revenues and is comfortable with the recommended milage rate.

Mayor Burkett asked how much more they would collect over last year.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated approximately \$700,000 and if the Champlain South money does not come in it would be \$200,000 less.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comment.

The following individual from the public spoke:
Diana Gonzalez

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion failed with a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Kesl and Commissioner Salzhauer absent and Mayor Burkett and Commissioner Velasquez voting in opposition.

Mayor Burkett spoke regarding the taxes being out of control and getting the buy in for projects like undergrounding. He stated that it would be a good thing not to raise the taxes. He stated to go with the budget from last year and get the money and help from other areas.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the revenue difference from the rollback rate is \$780,000 less.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that 4.1 is too low and would agree to 4.2.

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding the proposed rate as well as tax rate increase and decrease.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the services provided. She also asked what the difference would be from the 4.2 rate and the rollback rate.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated 4.2 would be \$298,000, which is what the Champlain Tower would be. It would be approximately \$480,000 decrease.

Vice Mayor Paul asked how this would affect the services.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that it would reduce the amount going into the reserves.

Mayor Burkett reiterated that he will not be the one to raise the taxes.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the expenditures incurred and being spent regarding the Champlain Towers.

Mayor Burkett commented on the statement made by Commissioner Velasquez.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to have the milage rate set to 4.2, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 2-1 vote with Mayor Burkett in opposition, Commissioner Kesl and Commissioner Salzhauer absent.

4. Public Comment

5. FY 2022 Final Budget Adoption Resolution - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2021 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR BUDGETARY CONTROLS; PROVIDING FOR GRANTS AND GIFTS; PROVIDING FOR BUDGET AMENDMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution.

Assistant Town Manager Greene introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion passed with a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Kesl and Commissioner Salzhauer absent.


6. Public Comment

There were no public speakers.

7. Adjournment

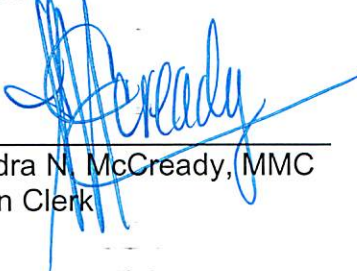
A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 6:36 p.m. The motion received a second from Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Kesl and Commissioner Salzhauer absent.

Accepted this 9th day of November, 2021.



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCreedy, MMC
Town Clerk