



**Town of Surfside**  
**Special Town Commission Meeting - Budget Hearing**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 13, 2022**  
**5:01 PM**  
Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Avenue  
Surfside, FL 33154

**1. Opening**

**1.A Call to Order**

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**1.B Roll Call of Members**

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

Present: Mayor Shlomo Danzinger, Vice Mayor Jeff Rose, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Marianne Meisheid and Commissioner Fred Landsman.

Also Present: Town Manager Andrew Hyatt, Town Attorney Lillian Arango, Town Attorney Tony Recio, and Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene.

**1.C Pledge of Allegiance**

Acting Chief Healy provided the pledge of allegiance.

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

Town Manager Hyatt introduced Assistant Town Manager Greene.

Assistant Town Manager Greene provided an overview and explanation of the milage rate and budget. He went over the budget principles, budget elements, budget components, as well as the economic outlook provided in the PowerPoint presentation. He explained the budget calendar upcoming dates. He went through the FY 2023 General Fund Revenues and Expenditures. He stated that they are recommending the milage rate to be 4.2.

Vice Mayor Rose thanked the Town Manager and all the staff in attendance. He asked how long he has been here and stated that this will be the first Commission to accept his recommendation and not lower the milage rate.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the last few years it has been lowered every year and they do recommend keeping the milage rate the way it currently was. He spoke regarding keeping the milage as high as they can to have the funding necessary for the several projects that are coming on board including the undergrounding project. He continued with the presentation of the FY 2023 Budget Property Value. He went over the slides showing the value and taxable value.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they lower the milage rate to 4.1 what would be the difference.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated it would be \$350,000 less in collection and explained the impact to the reserves and the upcoming projects.

Mayor Danzinger asked if they lower the milage rate how it would impact the reserves.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated the impact is based on a percentage. He continued with his presentation. He stated that the tentative milage rate is 4.2000, the roll back rate is 3.7102. He provided the changes from the July Budget Workshop. He spoke regarding the Tourist Board Fund and explained how that fund works which is for marketing and special events.

Commissioner Landsman asked if they do not approve the additional \$500,000 for the Tourist Board Fund could they come back with a budget amendment in the event they need more money.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated they could come back to the Commission and the Commission could approve the amendment and explained the process.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding the needs of the Tourist Board.

Assistant Town Manager Greene continued with the recommended proposed changes to the budget.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the media budget portion for the Tourist Board and why is it being increased when they have a Tourism Director. She stated that she is concerned with that and with the additional \$500,000 for additional events. She suggested them having a presentation showing what they want the money for.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the \$500,000 is a decision up to the Commission and explained how they could go about it. He stated that they will be going through a procurement process.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comment.

The following individual from the public spoke:

George Kousoulas stated that the Building Department is not humming on all cylinders and stated that they need to keep up with what they have and what is coming and they are not doing so. He stated that either they do not have enough people or they do not have the right people.

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comment.

Mayor Danzinger addressed the comments made by Mr. Kousoulas.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that they are looking for additional full time employees and it is difficult finding individuals to fill these positions.

### **3. Millage Rate Adoption Resolution for FY 2023 - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

#### **3.A FY 2023 Millage Rate Adoption Resolution - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

The Town's Administration recommends approval of the resolution that would tentatively adopt the FY 2023 proposed millage rate of 4.2000.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to keep the tentative milage rate at 4.2000, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Commissioner Landsman asked if they pass the resolution today, they still have to come back and vote on the 28th for the final millage and final budget is adopted. He stated that they are asking the Town for a lot of improvements and projects and the funding is needed to do these projects. He stated that by keeping the milage rate at 4.2000 does not meet it keeps the taxes flat because the property value increases.

Commissioner Meischeid agrees with the 4.2000 milage rate.

Vice Mayor Rose agrees with Commissioner Landsman that there are a lot of projects coming online and the money is needed to complete these projects.

Commissioner Velasquez agrees that the 4.2000 is a good milage rate and gives us the money for the projects and there will be increases in property values.

Mayor Danzinger would love to lower the milage rate but there are a lot of projects coming online.

Mayor Danzinger opened public comment.

There were no public speakers.

Mayor Danzinger closed public comment.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Reso Approving Proposed Millage Rate FY 2023.docx](#)

#### **4. Public Comments**

There were no public speakers.

#### **5. FY 2023 Budget Adoption Resolution - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

##### **5.A FY 2023 Tentative Budget Adoption Resolution - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

The Town's Administration recommends approval of the resolution that would tentatively adopt the FY 2023 budget.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose for purposes of discussion.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that he is fine with the way the budget is presented and knows that the Tourist Board has many great events coming forward. He asked how they would be doing the July 4th event in order to have fireworks and for that to come back to the Commission.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that Parks and Recreation Committee does not have the authority to approve any contract and it would have to come back to the Town Commission for approval.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she agrees with the 4th of July fireworks and drone shows. She is not in agreement with giving the Tourist Board a \$500,000 blank check. She would like for them to come before the Commission with a presentation of what they want to do with that funding. She still does not understand why they need a media company when they have a Communications Director. She would like to reconsider the \$500,000 and the media company contract.

Commissioner Landsman asked for a point of clarification. He asked if the Tourist Board needs to come back to the Commission to spend over the \$20,000 cap.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that the Tourist Board is an independent Board and they come to the Commission for funding and are not able to enter into multi year contracts and explained the process. He stated that they would be coming back to the Commission for any multi-year contracts which also applies to the media company contract.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that she served on the Tourist Board and has some experience and asked if this is coming from reserves.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that they have sufficient reserves to sustain the budget.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that in the past she had asked the Commission regarding the reserves and asked if this is the same thing they are trying to currently do.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the comment made by Commissioner Meischeid. He also suggested for the Tourist Board to come with a procurement process to bring back to the Commission for approval.

Mayor Danzinger asked regarding the 91st Street improvement.

Assistant Town Manager Greene provided an update to the Mayor regarding his comment.

Mayor Danzinger stated that he spoke to developers in Town to find out about the upcoming projects. He stated that he would like to have the same individuals at the table when they are discussing the improvements. He asked what is the current budget for the Tourist Board this year and how much are going into reserves.

Assistant Town Manager Greene gave Mayor Danzinger the numbers.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they appoint the Board Members and that is money that is coming in from businesses and hotels and it is ear marked towards tourists. He stated that he trusts his appointees and believes it is a waste of time to go over each programs coming forward. He recommends leaving it at the balance and not dip into the reserves and leave the programming. He stated that the reserves have been building up for many years and if they have a crazy amount then they can come to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the 91st Street improvement and suggested improving rainwater and sewer since they are ripping out the streets. She stated that a lot of the flooding in Town occurs there. She stated her biggest concern with the Tourist Board is that something like the website does not happen and supports events for the residents.

Mayor Danzinger stated that there is a flooding study project taking place and asked for an update.

Assistant Town Manager Greene addressed the comment made by Mayor Danzinger and provided an update.

Mayor Danzinger addressed comments made by Commissioner Velasquez and stated they should not be micromanaging the Board and should trust the Board. He stated that there are legal requirements of what they can use their money for.

Commissioner Landsman addressed the comments made by Commissioner Velasquez and stated that the Tourist Board money can only be used for that purpose and cannot be moved to the general fund.

Mayor Danzinger asked what amount the Tourist Board spent last year.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated it was \$870,000 for FY 2022.

Mayor Danzinger asked if they remove the \$250,000 from this year's budget what their budget would be.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated it would be \$1.938 million as presented right now.

Mayor Danzinger commented that the Tourist Board then doubled the budget from the preliminary budget.

Commissioner Meisheid stated that 1/3 of the budget is designated to marketing and it has to go to marketing for the hotels and spreading the word for Surfside.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that they are talking about the 1/3 of that budget and explained what it would be used for.

Further discussion took place among the Commission and Assistant Town Manager Greene regarding the marketing portion of the Tourist Board.

Commissioner Velasquez asked for Mayor Danzinger's recommendation.

Mayor Danzinger recommends passing the budget for the Tourist Board by removing the \$253,000 but not remove that from the \$500,000 special events.

Vice Mayor Rose is fine with that and to move the \$100,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department budget for them to use for the 4th of July event.

Commissioner Landsman reiterated that this budget is for the entire Town and entire fiscal year to have the Town operating efficiently and big projects are coming on board.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the tentative budget as presented transferring the \$100,000 from the Tourist Board Special Events Budget to the Parks and Recreation Department Special Events Budget for the 4th of July event, and that the Tourist Board Budget not utilize any reserves from the Tourist Board Fund, seconded by Commissioner Meisheid. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Approving Tentative Budget FY 2023.docx](#)

[Tentative Budget Summary FY 2023.pdf](#)

## **6. Public Comments**

Mayor Danzinger opened public comment.

There were no public speakers.

Mayor Danzinger closed public comment.

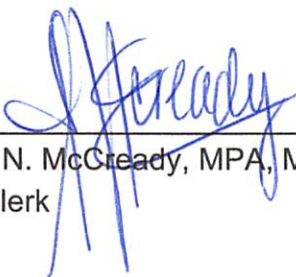
**7. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 6:12 p.m.

Accepted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.

  
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Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Sandra N. McCready, MPA, MMC  
Town Clerk