

# **Town of Melbourne Beach**

## **TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP AUGUST 2, 2023 MEETING @ 6:00 pm MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Commission Members:**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce Barton  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### **Staff Members:**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### **1. Call to Order**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

#### **Commission Members Present**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce Barton  
Commissioner Sherri Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

#### **Staff Members Present**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Town Attorney Clifford Repperger  
Finance Manager Jennifer Kerr  
Building Official Robert Bitgood  
Public Works Director Tom Davis  
Town Clerk Amber Brown

#### **3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

After being acknowledged by the Mayor, members of the public should state their name and address for the record. The Commission encourages citizens to prepare their comments in advance. Each individual will have three (3) minutes to address the Commission on any topic(s) related to Town business, not on the Agenda.

#### **5. New Business**

**Commissioner Sherri Quarrie made a motion to accept the amended agenda and put New Business Item B ahead of New Business Item A; Vice Mayor Joyce Barton seconded; motion carried 5-0**

B. Request for Shade Meeting pursuant to Fla. Stat. Sec. 286.011(8) – This item was moved to be first on the agenda.

Town Attorney Clifford Repperger spoke about the Town and other various parties including town officials have been named in an election contest lawsuit filed by Ali Dennington case number 05-2022-CA-053294-XXXX-XX. His office received two communications from the petitioner plaintiff that were essentially settlement proposals. Pursuant to Florida State Statute 286.011(8) which permits the Town Commission to meet in private with its legal counsel to discuss settlement negotiations or strategy sessions related to litigation expenditures. His office interpreted the communications as settlement offers, so he is requesting a shade meeting to discuss the potential for a settlement of the lawsuit. A shade meeting is noticed and begins as a public session then is closed and only the Board, Town Manager, Town Attorney, and a court reported are allowed to attend to discuss settlement proposals or litigation expenditures and that is it. The transcript is taken by the court reporter and is not public record until the case is closed. Then the meeting goes back to a public session. It is an opportunity to allow the Commission to have a discussion outside of the Sunshine and public view. Can also be called an executive session.

**Vice Mayor Joyce Barton moved to schedule an executive session on August 16, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

A. Discussion regarding the FY 2023-2024 budget

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about anything in yellow are the changes since the last meeting. Page 4 is nothing but revenue and all of the different categories of revenue. Spoke about the differences between the general fund and the stand-alone funds. Page 5 is to balance the budget. The top has the revenues and the bottom has the expenditures. Reviewed remaining funds page by page.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the increased cost to hold an election on odd years since the County and State do not have elections on odd years the cost to hold an election is only covered by the municipalities.

Town Clerk Amber Brown spoke about how this process would require a referendum, so an ordinance would have to be written, hold two public hearings, and place the referendum language on the ballot for it to be voted on at a November election.

Discussed two options to transition to four-year terms. One would be for the new term length to take effect for new Commissioners which would then take several years to transition like Indian Harbour is currently doing. Another option is for the change to take effect immediately, so any Commissioner that has a term that expires on an odd year would be extended one year which is what Cocoa Beach did when they transitioned.

Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about an accounting issue with the total amount of Capital expenditures for Parks and Rec at the bottom of page 33.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about it costing roughly \$366,000.00 for the salary of four firefighters who would also serve as lifeguards. Fire Chief Gavin Brown will bring options and proposals to a future meeting. There is also a grant to assist in salaries for firefighters.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about getting actual costs to bring just a lifeguard program in-house without any additional expenses. For fiscal year 2024, we budgeted for the seasonal lifeguards from the County. After that, we would need to figure something out.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about how this budget would not fund any additional lifeguard coverage or any equipment needed for the program.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about looking into the Ocean Park parking data because he doesn't think there is downtime during the winter months anymore. Another option would be to have the beach covered year-round on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We need to work on a plan for coverage for this winter.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about an option is to not transfer the \$34,324.00 from Ocean Park Parking to fund a lifeguard program.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the idea of spending around \$50,000 to fix the road issues on Riverside Dr instead of repaving the entire road. Adding a sidewalk and bike path along Riverside Dr would significantly increase the cost of repaving in order to move everything back and go into the right of way. We do not have enough money for all of it, so in the meantime, we could pay around \$50,000 to fix the major road issues while we go out for RFP and grants to fund the entire project.

Further discussion ensued about options for Riverside Dr improvements.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about working on the American Rescue Plan numbers for First through Third to free some money up to use towards the Riverside Dr project.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about reducing First through Third between Oak and Pine from \$400,000 to \$100,000 because that will be just a swale project and reducing the Poinsettia, Flamingo, and Harland project from \$400,000 to \$200,000, so that would leave a total of \$300,000 for those two projects and the rest of the funds can be allocated for Riverside Dr.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the Chairwoman of the Old Town Hall History Board wanting a lot of stuff done. They have a lot of money from a grant they got years ago. With all of the repairs the Board wants the cost was split between the Town and the Old Town Hall fund. Budgeted \$12,500 from each if it costs that much.

Commissioner Corey Runte spoke about being okay with splitting the cost.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover spoke about using the grant money then whatever costs remain the Town will pay.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie spoke about not splitting the cost evenly.

Commissioner Marivi Walker spoke about using the grant money first.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro asked if the Commission wants to leave any money in the fund. She would like to leave at least \$2,000.00

The Commission agreed to leave \$2,000.00 in the fund.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover asked if that Board needs money for things they can ask for it, and if there is a specific purpose that money has been saved.

Mayor Hoover spoke about adding air conditioning to the Ryckman Park bathrooms.

Vice Mayor Joyce Barton asked about funds for painting the Town Hall building.

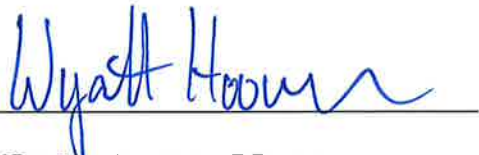
~~B. Request for Shade Meeting pursuant to Fla. Stat. Sec. 286.011(8)~~ Moved to the first agenda item.

## 6. Adjournment

**Commissioner Sherri Quarrie moved to adjourn; Commissioner Marivi Walker seconded; Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**ATTEST:**



**Wyatt Hoover, Mayor**



**Amber Brown, Town Clerk**

