

Town of Melbourne Beach

PUBLIC NOTICE

MINUTES

**TOWN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
RESCHEDULED FROM SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 TO
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE**

Commission Members:

Mayor Jim Simmons
Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover
Commissioner Steve Walters
Commissioner Sherrie Quarrie
Commissioner Corey Runte

Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson
Town Attorney Clifford Repperger

I. Led by Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Town Clerk Wilson conducted the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons

Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover

Commissioner Steve Walters

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Corey Runte

Staff Present:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

Town Attorney Clifford Repperger

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Led by Mayor Simmons

IV. Public Comment

No public in attendance

V. Public Hearings

Public Hearing on the Town's Fiscal Year 2019/2020 (FY20) Millage Rates and Annual Budget –Town Manager Mascaro

Town Manager Mascaro said this was the first vote for the FY20 budget. She said the Town received a very large increase from our property insurer for liability, auto and Workers Compensation so a substantial adjustment was necessary. Also, the Town received unanticipated increases for health insurance which required an adjustment to the budget. There were some personnel changes, most notably a new Finance Manager, so that also required some adjustments. The budget is balanced at 9% over rollback and the millage rate is 4.5340.

Commissioner Walters asked who set the salaries for the Finance Manager. The Town Manager responded that she set the salary based on experience. The position was advertised but only one person was interviewed. He then asked who set the salary for the Lieutenant's position; the Town Manager said the Police Chief set it based on experience and budget. She added that the new Lieutenant is not just a police officer; he comes highly qualified. Commissioner Walters asked if the Lieutenant lives within a 15 mile radius which the Town Manager didn't feel was a

requirement; Commissioner Walters said it has been a requirement for 25 years. She said she'll make sure that he lives within that radius.

Commissioner Walters said the Commission decided on 10% for the maximum percent change over rollback and asked why it is now 9%. Town Manager Mascaro said 9% balanced the budget so it didn't need to be 10% but if the Commission would like to raise it, they can.

Commissioner Walters wanted to know why General Services is up 66%. The Town Manager explained that General Services is up because several items were taken out of the Public Works budget and moved into General Services because that was where they belong. Also, the increase of insurance costs increased the GS budget. When asked about why the increase in insurance was so high, Ms. Mascaro answered that we had Workers Comp claims, vehicle claims, a couple lawsuits and a claim from a previous hurricane.

Next, Commissioner Walters said the Town Manager told the Commission that when the 10th person was hired in the PD, the 11th employee wasn't going to be replaced but there is now an 11th person at a cost of \$9,000/ year. Ms. Mascaro said the matter was discussed at the Workshop that the person who was going to be our Reserve Officer has decided not to be. In order to attract and retain the best candidate, it was decided to offer a per diem for 3-12 hour shifts per month instead of hiring a Reserve Officer straight out of the academy who then leaves after a short period of time. Commissioner Walters recommended to the Commission that there not be raises in the Police Department until the union negotiations are concluded. Town Manager Mascaro said our labor attorney advised the Town to give increases to officers not involved in those negotiations because they are not involved in the process.

Commissioner Walters asked about the health insurance increases. Ms. Mascaro said she was also surprised by the rate increases and explained that rates are based on age, also, the increase in the legislative unit was offset by the decrease in the executive unit. Other plans were looked into but the costs were higher and benefits fewer.

Commissioner Walters asked about the repayment for the DEP grant. The Town Manager explained that the Town received a grant from DEP, the funds from which are being used to pay East Central Florida Planning Council to perform a study.

Commissioner Walters' final question was about the budget not being posted on the website. The Town Clerk responded that it can't be modified to conform to ADA requirements but it will be posted 48 hours prior to the next budget meeting nevertheless.

Mayor Simmons added that the budget has been based on 9% over rollback from the beginning but we wanted to give ourselves some wiggle room by setting it at 10% originally.

Mayor Simmons said he recalled that the Town Manager said that previous Lieutenant's salaries were looked at prior to establishing a salary for our new employee. Town Manager Mascaro said the last Lieutenant we had left in 2008 and his salary was \$56,000. Commissioner Walters said the Commission is responsible for setting salaries and approving job descriptions. He then questioned the payment to the Lieutenant for fuel. Ms. Mascaro said he uses his own vehicle so we reimburse him for fuel used while driving in Town. Mayor Simmons said he should be using a Town vehicle rather than being reimbursed for fuel..

Commissioner Walters said he's completely confused about the Fire Department issue. The Fire Chief said we can't keep personnel and the next thing we're told is that the MBVFD has 35 people of which 30 of them received stipends in August. If most of the volunteers are residents of Melbourne Beach, he can't see why we're having a problem finding volunteers. It was decided this issue would be discussed at another meeting.

Mayor Simmons requested feedback from the 75 people on his mailing list regarding the parking proposal and he compiled their responses into a document that he'll provide to the Commission members. Vice Mayor Hoover said he's heard from a person on 1st Avenue who has concerns.

VI. New Business

A. Resolution 2019-02, Adopting the Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 –Town Manager Mascaro

Mayor Simmons read Resolution 2019-02 by title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Hoover made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-02 setting the tentative operating millage rate for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 at 4.5340 mills which is greater than the rollback rate of 4.1596 by 9.00% and setting the tentative debt service millage rate for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 at .9999%; Commissioner Quarrie seconded.

The Town Clerk took a roll call vote:

Mayor Jim Simmons - aye

Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover - aye

Commissioner Steve Walters - nay

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie - aye

Commissioner Corey Runte – aye

Motion carried 4-1.

- B. Resolution 2019-03, Adopting the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 –
Town Manager Mascaro

Mayor Simmons read Resolution 2019-03 by title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH OF BREVARD COUNTY,
FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Vice Mayor Hoover made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-03
setting forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the
tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 in the amount of
\$3,351,258; Commissioner Quarrie seconded.**

The Town Clerk took a roll call vote:

Mayor Jim Simmons - aye

Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover - aye

Commissioner Steve Walters - aye

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie - aye

Commissioner Corey Runte – aye

Motion carried 5-0.

VII. Adjournment

**Commissioner Quarrie made a motion to adjourn; Vice Mayor Hoover
seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

ATTEST:



James D. Simmons, Mayor



Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk