

**Town of Melbourne Beach**  
**TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP**  
**JUNE 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**  
**COMMUNITY CENTER - 509 OCEAN AVENUE**

**MINUTES**

**Commission Members:**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover  
Vice Mayor Joyce D. Barton  
Commissioner Sherrie Quarrie  
Commissioner Corey Runte  
Commissioner Marivi Walker

**Staff Members:**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Finance Manager Jennifer Kerr  
Fire Chief Gavin Brown  
Police Chief Melanie Griswold  
Interim Town Clerk Amber Brown

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Wyatt Hoover called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Interim 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 – excused - arrived 10 min late

**Commission Members Absent**

None

**Staff Members:**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro  
Finance Manager Jennifer  
Fire Chief Gavin Brown  
Police Chief Melanie Griswold  
Interim 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**

**A. Discussion regarding the FY 2022-2023 Budget**

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro stated there are two mileage rates presented 4.50 and 4.57. She is advocating for the 4.57 to have a little more money for infrastructure. Current residents get capped out at 3 percent year after year where new residents tend to do major upgrades which significantly increases their property taxes. Most departments have had an increase year after year which is usually caused by changes in employees and increases in health insurance and auto liability. She stated Police Chief Melanie Griswold is very concerned about the salaries of the officers and the ability to be competitive in the market. The police department had very qualified applicant come here, but they could not offer them a competitive salary so they declined. A salary study was done for the police department and their salaries were brought up very close to the same starting salary as Indialantic. In the Fire Department she put a place holder to allow for the purchase of a new fire truck. The Fire Department had four per diem employees that worked out for a while, however, their personal schedules have become too full to continue. One of the individuals would like to take over the position for all four and become an employee of the Town. The cost would be the same.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown stated the per diem positions were working out well for a while, however, now it is harder to have them come in as one just had twins and another is homeschooling. The benefit of having an employee is they would have a set schedule. Per diem positions you cannot require them to work a set schedule, you open shifts and if they want to pick up the shift they can otherwise it goes unfilled.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro stated the Environmental Advisory Board received a \$5,000.00 donation. The requirement was the money be held in a

separate fund with the anticipation of another \$5,000.00, so a separate fund was set up for the Environmental Advisory Board. There was another fund set up for the American Funds Plan. There was a suggestion to give the employees an increase of a one-time two percent bonus with the money from the ARPA Funds. The Town Manager received a letter from them stating they would like some of the funds used to help with payroll to help stimulate the economy.

Further discussion ensued

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie asked if the funds for the additional officer are included in the budget.

Town Manager Mascaro stated the funds for the additional officer are not included in the budget, so that would need to be added. She stated the funds received for the School Resource Officer have always been put into the general fund and were not applied against the police payroll which will be changed.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie stated with the increase in gas the line item for gas and oil for every department needs to go up.

Commissioner Marivi Walker stated it should be doubled if not tripled.

Further discussion ensued.

Town Manager Mascaro stated the next item is for the code enforcement special magistrate. It was suggested that it should be increased to \$10,000.00.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover stated Scott Parker suggested we could get on a schedule to get and spread the compost since the Town is no longer using fertilizer in the parks which would cost \$1,000.00 per month.

Commissioner Corey Runte asked if there is money in the budget to hire a company to do landscaping maintenance.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro stated yes and no. There is \$25,000.00 in professional services under the parks, and then another \$30,000.00 for beautification that would cover it.

Commissioner Runte and Vice Mayor Barton stated the funds should not come out of the beatification money.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover stated a good starting amount might be \$50,000.00.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro recommended it be \$52,000.00.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie stated it is hard to see what the total cost is for things like mowing which the cost is split between different locations. She requested something like an addendum that has the totals for items that are split between various locations such as mowing and utilities.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro stated the Building Official would like to work for the Town. The money to pay him would be about the same as what we pay Safebuilt.

The Commission was in favor of having a full-time in-house Building Official.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover brought up the idea of moving the bocce ball courts and putting in a splat pad.

Further discussion ensued

Commissioner Corey Runte asked about funds to upgrade the audio system in the community center.

Interim Town Clerk Amber Brown stated she reached out to RV Communications and is waiting to hear back, but she also contact the company that installed the current system. They provided quotes between \$16,000.00 and \$19,000.00 to upgrade the system to wireless and add enough inputs for each person to have their own microphone.

Commissioner Corey Runte stated that seemed like a waste of money for how expensive it is.

Mayor Wyatt Hoover asked about not going wireless, but just getting enough inputs so everyone has their own microphone. He also asked about the ability of the recorder to be integrated into the system.

Interim Town Clerk Amber Brown stated to integrate the recorder would require the system to be upgraded because when the Town purchased the system it was decided not to have that option. She also stated it might be cheaper to replace the entire system because the current system is not a generic system so it is difficult to upgrade or change.

Vice Mayor Joyce Barton asked about burying the wires.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro stated there are options, but it depends if the Commission wants to continue renting the building out because some options would have equipment that should not be moved.

Commissioner Corey Runte stated he was thinking of a cost more of around \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie stated she is motivated by the price and the lower the better.

Further discussion ensued

Commissioner Corey Runte stated the proposed mileage is 4.57 or 4.50.

Vice Mayor Joyce Barton stated both are under last year's increase.

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie stated she is very comfortable with the 4.57.

Commissioner Corey Runte stated he is comfortable with the 4.57 rate.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro stated the Town could also reach out to the church and see if they would be willing to allow people to pay to park in their parking lot during the week when they are not using it.

Commissioner Corey Runte stated a lot of other places have parking agreements.

The Commission agreed it would not hurt to have the Town Manager reach out to the church to see what they think.

## 6. Adjournment

**Vice Mayor Joyce Barton moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sherri Quarrie seconded; the Motion carried 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:



Wyatt Hoover, Mayor



Amber Brown, Interim Town Clerk

