

Town of Melbourne Beach

TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP July 3, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER – 509 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Corey Runte

Commissioner Marivi Walker

Commissioner Adam Meyer

Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Attorney Ryan Knight

Town Clerk Amber Brown

1. Call to Order

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

Commission Members Present

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Corey Runte

Commissioner Marivi Walker

Commission Members Absent

Mayor Alison Dennington

Commissioner Adam Meyer

Staff Members Present

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Police Chief Tim Zander

Building Official Robert Bitgood

Fire Chief Gavin Brown

Finance Manager Jennifer Kerr

Town Clerk Amber Brown

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comments - 1:15

After being acknowledged by the Vice 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.

Kate Wilborn – 502 Second Ave – Spoke about stormwater issues on Second Ave.

5. New Business

A. Discussion regarding the FY 2024-2025 budget – 5:02

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said the millage is the same as last year, 4.570. The millage rate for stormwater is .2350, which will pay off in full in 2026. Revenue expenses for Fiscal Year 2025 are less than Fiscal Year 2024. Said they are finally at a point where they are not in need of any more large capital items. Spoke about certain events/activities that are now being paid for through fund 107 which is the Parks Board fund and parking. The Parks Board funds have received grant money, general funds will give them \$2,500. Said Police Chief Tim Zander has requested 2 more officers with starting pay at \$50,000 plus benefits. Also requested an adjustment for all officers of \$7,200 to stay competitive in the marketplace. The Police and Fire departments have a one-time payment of \$18,572 to pay to Brevard County. Said that they have known radios are going to be changing, and they set money aside every year for that.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown said the \$18,572 is to upgrade the towers that the radios communicate to.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said the expenditures in general government have decreased year over year by 13.57% (12:25). These departments include legislative which is the Town Clerk, Executive which is the Town Manager, Finance which is Jennifer Kerr, Comprehensive Planning which is the Town Planner, legal, general services where bills of the Town are paid and Public Works and grounds keeping. Expenditures in public safety, which are Law Enforcement, Fire, Building and Code Enforcement, had an increase of 13.76%. Primarily due to an increase in the Police budget. Remaining departments had 4.1% increase, that was for Fire for the towers. Capital spend has lowered by 70.23%. Able to put \$500,000 in storm water this year.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie asked about the miscellaneous income, the 20,000 that's in interest on investments and the Town Manager said the market has been up.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro discussed salaries, asking for a 3% cost of living increase and 2% merit increase.

Commissioner Corey Runte and Commissioner Marivi Walker said they both are in support of the additional police officers and the salary increases.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro discussed the budgets of each department (25:00), and the year-over-year budget for the most part seems to be trending down in each department. Added Code Enforcement Attorney and Code Enforcement Magistrate for \$10,000 each. The Commission touched on restructuring where these funds are coming from, but not making any monetary changes. Insurances varied, some went up, and some went down. Workers comp went up substantially.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie asked about the transfer of long-term capital (39:00) and Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said that is for the fire alarm, the old Town Hall roof, and computer replacement.

Police Chief Tim Zander spoke about the budget (41:35). Spoke about the pay increase of \$7,200 to get to starting pay of \$50,000. The Town has been in last place in the county for pay, so they want to increase it to be more competitive, get good people, and retain them. The police on average handle 50 things per day for the Town. Spoke about getting 2 extra officers, they would be primarily traffic officers and would take some load off the current officers.

Commissioner Marivi Walker touched on the fact that there is no back up if it is needed when someone is sick or can't make it to work and is in support of the additional officers.

Commissioner Corey Runte mentioned that the additional pay is not considering the increases the other towns will be making as well, so they would likely still be towards the bottom in the county. Also spoke about how the lack of lifeguards will fall on the Police and Fire departments.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie is also in support. Asked if the Police department needed any new equipment.

Police Chief Tim Zander said they had it within their own budget.

Fire Chief Gavin Brown spoke about the budget with not much changing (57:00). Said they got a grant funded extractor washing machine. The surrounding beach towns use it and split the costs. Also touched on the difference between the Fire department and the Fire corporation, a non-profit whose official name is the Melbourne Beach Volunteer Firefighter's Association.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said Code Enforcement had not changed (1:08:45). Public Works was able to reduce landscaping expenses, decreased budget 9.35%.

Commissioner Corey Runte said the town looked great except for Oak St from Surf to the end of town limits and the Commission was in agreement.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said the Parks and Rec fund is closing after FY24 (1:16:30). Spoke about estimates for costs/donations. The fire donation fund estimates

\$5,900 in donations, possibly spend \$3,050 in expenses. The Environmental Advisory Board, the general fund transferred \$6,500 into their department. New Parks and Rec fund, going to fund them \$2,500 for events in the parks. Police education fund, paid for by fines and forfeitures for tickets written. Building department education fund, state required fund, 10%, funded through permits through DBPR. Building fund was funded by the general fund and the Town Manager believes they need more time before paying the general fund back.

Building Official Robert Bitgood spoke about how things will pick up after the election year and when interest rates are better (1:25:45). Also spoke about inspection rates.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about the utility fee for stormwater which is \$36 per home (1:31:10). The Ocean Park revenue fund is down, hoping to redo the parking lot soon.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie asked about ADA ramp funding and for the sketch.

Commissioner Corey Runte said there should be money put in for playground equipment and Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said \$10,000 per year is being put in. Commissioner Corey Runte said he did not believe that would be enough, suggesting \$25,000 a year. Also mentioned putting in a barrier between the parking and the park on Ocean Ave.

Vice Mayor Sherri Quarrie requested that the power line come down over the jungle gym.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro transferred \$116,114 from the general fund, had \$2,300 leftover from last year (1:43:30). Spoke about various funds including the stormwater bond fund which would be paid off early. The Commission also discussed the Town logo.

6. Adjournment

Commissioner Marivi Walker moved to adjourn; Commissioner Corey Runte seconded; Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.



Alison Dennington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Pembroke, Transcriptionist

