

Town of Melbourne Beach

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION MEETING September 17, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. COMMUNITY CENTER - 509 OCEAN AVENUE

MINUTES

Commission Members:

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow
Commissioner Robert Baldwin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed

Staff Members:

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Town Attorney Ryan Knight
Town Clerk Amber Brown

1. Call to Order

Mayor Alison Dennington called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Town Clerk Amber Brown conducted roll call

Commission Members Present

Mayor Alison Dennington
Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow
Commissioner Robert Baldwin
Commissioner Anna Butler
Commissioner Tim Reed

Staff Members Present

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Town Attorney Ryan Knight
Fire Chief Gavin Brown
Public Works Director Tom Davis
Town Clerk Amber Brown

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Mayor Alison Dennington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items) – 7:12

Jan Pence – 200 Riverside Dr – Provided a copy of what she put in the Mayor's mailbox a month ago which is an outstanding bill for \$3,155.05, a copy of the mail she refused to accept, and the email sent to her by the Town Clerk. What do you do when the Mayor refuses to pay a legal fine?

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how on the due date her son had a fever, she was never served or given to her before, she will write the check tonight for the full amount.

5. Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing on the Town's Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (FY26) Millage Rate and Annual Budget – Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how the Commission had a great meeting on Monday night on the budget. Would like to go through the items that were discussed at Monday's meeting. - 12:15

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro reviewed the updates listed on the summary pages. Page 2, changed the annual operating budget to reflect the new budget amount based on the changes. Page 4, reflects updated revenue and expenditures based on all of the transfers into the stormwater fund. Page 7, payroll, removed the position of the Finance Clerk from the Finance Department which totaled \$89,242 going to stormwater. Page 26, Code Enforcement, at the bottom of the page it says FTE, 2 part time positions 20 hours per week, which was about \$13,000 transferred to stormwater. Page 10, made corrections about the \$8,000 and \$10,000 amounts. Page 12, supporting page 11, the gas and oil stipend number had not been reflected but that has been fixed. Page 13, removed all payroll related expenses, moved \$89,242 to the stormwater fund. Page 17, reduced contingency from \$60,000 to \$30,000 and \$30,000 was transferred to the stormwater fund along with \$100,000 that had been established in long term capital. Page 21, removed the police car for \$50,000 and that was moved to the stormwater fund. Page 23, Fire, added the 3 Fire Officers, along with all of their associated payroll expenses. Took \$50,000 from Fund 341 into this fund. \$188,780 in reserves to be used should the Commission deem that necessary to support the Fire Department.

Commissioner Tim Reed asked about why the 500.12.00 code is used multiple times. - 23:25

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about how that is the code for salary, and those are all salary expenses, but instead of lumping them together, she split them up for transparency.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about \$10,000 the Fire Chief said they don't need due to changes of equipment and the Town Manager said that is reflected one line up from the bottom, transferred to the stormwater fund.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro continued talking about the changes to the budget. Page 25, the bottom reflects the difference between radio replacement and the \$10,000 the Fire Department donated back to stormwater. Page 26, Code Enforcement, shows the 2 20 hour employees and the health insurance benefits were removed, FRS could not be removed but is the same for 2 20 hour employees as 1 40 hour employee. Page 28, Public Works, \$20,000 that was removed for the running of electricity to the Public Works building and was moved to the stormwater fund. Page 40, stormwater fund 141, for capital outlay, it did not show the 2nd \$46,000 for the boat ramp for the seawall, which was updated. Page 45, Ryckman Park special fund, reduced the playground equipment from \$50,000 to \$25,000. A total of \$75,000 is being transferred to the stormwater fund (\$50,000 already being transferred, \$25,000 additional). Page 49, shows all of the transfers into stormwater. Spoke about taking the highest of the 3 stormwater bids as a placeholder.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked about FEMA updates.

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about additional funds being obligated for Milton. Confirmed there are no restrictions on how to use that money once it is received.

Commissioner Tim Reed asked about the difference between the stormwater bids. - 34:24

Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow spoke about how the higher bid included phase 1 and phase 2.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about 2 of the bids quoted for phase 1 only.

Commissioner Robert Baldwin suggested going into more detail about this topic at the Regular Town Commission Meeting directly following this meeting.

Mayor Alison Dennington confirmed that the Town Manager removed the amount for the League of Mayors and the salary of Commissioner Tim Reed and herself that are going to stormwater. Spoke about receiving the Building Official resignation. His last day is October 3rd. Asked if that department could be reduced because we will not have the cost of benefits?

Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro spoke about how the Commission will have to discuss the schedule because before they only worked 3 days a week.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how she previously said she would not vote for a budget that did not have a tax cut, however, she will be voting for this budget which is a tax increase because there were a lot of things that have come up.

Sherri Quarrie – 701 Pine St - Provided handouts and a spreadsheet based on the numbers from the budget and the fire expense. Impact to the entire Town would be almost \$250,000 if you go with the County versus having our own 6 paid firefighters. The current budget that has 3 is admirable, but not having the additional 3 could result in going with the County. - 47:36

Commissioner Anna Butler made a motion to give Mrs. Quarrie additional time, one minute; Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow seconded; Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tim Reed dissenting.

Mayor Alison Dennington asked if she is opposed because the Fire Dept. needs more officers.

Sherri Quarrie said she is opposed to taking away the Finance Clerk, opposed to only giving the Fire Chief 3 people, opposed to paying the Town Attorney so much money, under the Mayor's leadership there has been 2 years to find a grant and finding a stormwater grant has never been mentioned until last night. The Commission should find a way to bring in revenue.

6. New Business

- A. Resolution 2025-12, Adopting the Tentative Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 – Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro - 58:58

Mayor Alison Dennington read the resolution.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow moved to adopt Resolution 2025-12 setting the tentative operating millage rate for fiscal year 2025-2026 at 4.6000 mills, which is greater than the rollback rate of 4.2574 by 8.050%, and setting the tentative debt service millage rate for fiscal year 2025-2026 at .0910 mills; Commissioner Robert Baldwin seconded;

Roll Call Vote by Town Clerk

Mayor Alison Dennington – Yay
Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow – Yay
Commissioner Robert Baldwin – Yay
Commissioner Anna Butler – Yay
Commissioner Tim Reed – Nay

Resolution 2025-12 carried by a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Tim Reed dissenting.

- B. Resolution 2025-13, Adopting the Tentative Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 – Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro - 1:01:06

Mayor Alison Dennington read the resolution.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow moved to adopt Resolution 2025-13 setting forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the tentative budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$5,293,520; Commissioner Anna Butler seconded;

Roll Call Vote by Town Clerk

Mayor Alison Dennington – Yay
Vice Mayor Dawn Barlow – Yay
Commissioner Robert Baldwin – Yay
Commissioner Anna Butler – Yay
Commissioner Tim Reed – Nay

Resolution 2025-13 carried by a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Tim Reed dissenting.

Steve Walters – 416 Sixth Ave – Spoke about the people wanting 6 paid firefighters bring up the County. Why not Indialantic, because it's cheaper. The Fire Department should stop going to fender benders and false alarms. Wait for the police to respond, then if needed, request the Fire Department. Spoke about a Commissioner who had said the service is free, that could not be farther from the truth. It is the resident's money, let's let them vote. - 1:03:28

Sherri Quarrie – 701 Pine St – Spoke about how she has been told that the Town of Indialantic does not really want to do this for our Town, which is why she overlooks them. Has draft minutes from June 3rd 2020 where Steve Walters was against paid parking. If they weren't forward thinking, then you wouldn't have the funding from parking that you now have. If it went to a referendum you have to educate the residents. If you ask anyone if they want taxes raised, they will say no.

Bruce Pickett – 1501 Oak – Commended the Commission for coming to a compromise, but with only 3, how will anyone be able to take a vacation? Cares about the money, but more so cares about getting to residents in need quicker. Thinks this is a stop gap, but it will need to get to 6 firefighters. Looks forward to having that in the future.

Susan Stark – 307 Fifth Ave – Commended the Commission for Monday's meeting, the positive tone, and prioritizing infrastructure and public safety. Spent 2 hours with the Indialantic Fire Chief, and has spoken with several current and retired firefighters. Cheaper isn't always better. Looking at the details, everything so far has been a cost estimate. There is a lot more work to do but compliments to the Commission for what they did Monday night.

Jan Pickett – 1501 Pine – Spoke about how the Indialantic plan is cheaper, but it is only to add 1 person on their engine, and their Fire Chief is not fond of volunteers. It is short-sighted to only consider the money, they are farther away, and they also don't have the staff.

Dan Brunger – 400 Sixth Ave – Spoke about how he donates to a local nonprofit, the Friends of Melbourne Beach. Now, that money will have to go towards taxes for the Fire Department. Would like to have a comprehensive financial report.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about how it is driven by a Florida Statute, but it is triggered by specific items. We only get a financial audit. There is a request to get a JLAC audit. We would then have a free comprehensive audit.

Jan Pence – 200 Riverside Dr – Spoke about how the Mayor would like to take credit for the JLAC audit, but Representative Monique Miller contacted them and they were in favor of it, and she is the only one that can request it.

Mayor Alison Dennington spoke about voting for the budget. Said she is committed to the 3 positions, and has always thought the Fire Chief needed more help. Even if we get the SAFER grant, we will have to find a way to fund it after which would be through a tax which would require a referendum. We cannot always dip into reserves to fund things. After a year we can track the data, and if the Fire Chief thinks we need to go for more, he will have had the tracking data and support to make the case to the voters.


7. Adjournment

Commissioner Robert Baldwin made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Anna Butler seconded; Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.


Alison Dennington
Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Pembroke (Oct 9, 2025 14:33:48 EDT)
Rachel Pembroke
Transcriptionist

