

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE
MINUTES TENTATIVE BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE HEARING
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 5:01 p.m.
Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room
700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, FL

1. Call to Order – President De Angeles called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Ostrand led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call – Mayor Karen M. Ostrand, President Kenneth De Angeles, Vice-President Richard Gerold, Council Members Bill Arnold, Kevin Docherty, Terry Locatis and David Wagner
- Staff Present – Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil; Town Financial Consultant, Holly Vath, Town Clerk, Pam Orr; and Bookkeeper/Clerical Assistant, Kim Stanton

2. Proposed Millage for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 – Holly Vath reviewed the changes from the budget workshop.

Ms. Vath took questions regarding the building permit fees, code and compliance line item and Building Official fees. She explained the state statute requirement regarding the building program revenue and expenses.

Council Member Locatis stated that the revenue was being reduced and the costs were increasing.

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming decision to accept ownership of Parcel “A” and the maintenance and expenses associated with ownership.

Ms. Vath continued to review the changes from the budget workshop.

Ms. Vath asked for comments from the Council and the public.

There were none.

Ms. Vath continued reviewing and explaining the Budget Summary, General Fund Detail report, certain revenues based on population, general government expenses, public safety expenses, street lights, street maintenance and restricted fuel tax revenue.

Mayor Ostrand explained to the Council the reduction to expenses for conferences and travel.

Ms. Vath continued reviewing and explaining the proposed millage rates options.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed millage rate options, fund balance, the historical millage rate data and an addition to the budget for contributions.

Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to accept the addendum to the budget to add \$500 for contributions to the Adopt-a-Class Program for Jensen Beach Elementary School for \$200 and Jensen Beach High School for \$200 program and a contribution to the History Museum of Jensen Beach \$100.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

Ann Kagdis. thanked the Council for considering these contributions.

President De Angeles asked for additional comments from the Public.

There were none.

Role Call Vote: Yes: De Angeles, Gerold, Arnold, Docherty, Locatis & Wagner; No: None; Motion Passed - 6 - 0

Holly Vath asked for comments from the Council regarding setting of the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Discussion ensued regarding the reserve fund balance, the various options on Page 8, the Seawalk community and property tax estimated taxable value.

Ms. Vath took questions from the public regarding the ad valorem tax revenue and expenses.

Mr. O'Neil clarified that the ad valorem tax revenue represented roughly half of the Town's revenue sources.

Discussion ensued regarding the reserve fund balance, unforeseen emergencies and the historical millage rate.

Ann Kagdis, 111 NE Bay Drive, spoke about the high millage rate currently in place and the growth in the Town. She urged the Council to lower the rate as much as possible to give the Town growth a boost.

Discussion ensued regarding the millage rate option and the fund balance.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Gerold, made a Motion to set the millage at a rate of 3.0800 mills.

Discussion ensued regarding the final millage rate hearing and the options available at the future hearing.

President De Angeles asked for further comments from the Public.

There were none.

Mayor Ostrand urged the Council to lower the millage rate.

Discussion ensued regarding the lowering of the millage rate, the property tax savings of a resident in Seawalk with a homestead exemption, millage rates adopted by other local taxing authorities, taxable value and assessed value increases.

Roll Call: Yes: De Angeles, Gerold, Arnold, Docherty; No: Locatis, Wagner; Motion Passed - 4 - 2

Ms. Vath took questions from a resident regarding the projected fund balance and the reserve fund.

Discussion ensued regarding changes in state revenue and adjustments due to the population tables and the millage rate options.

Town Clerk, Pam Orr, read Resolution No. 306-2020 into the record: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, MARTIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Gerold, made a Motion to adopt Resolution No. 306-2020.

Roll Call: Yes: De Angeles, Gerold, Arnold, Docherty; No: Locatis, Wagner; Motion Passed - 4 – 2

3. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 – Ms. Vath gave an overview of the budget.

Town Clerk, Pam Orr, read Resolution No. 307-2020 into the record: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Arnold, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to adopt Resolution No. 307-2020.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the public.

There were none.

Roll Call: Yes: De Angeles, Gerold, Arnold, Docherty, Locatis, Wagner; Motion Passed - 6 – 0

4. Announcements – President De Angeles announced the following meetings to be held at Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room, 700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, Florida:

- Public Hearing for Adoption of Final Millage Rate and Budget, Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 5:01 pm
- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, October 12, 2020 at 10:30 am

5. Adjourn – Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Arnold, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 pm

All in Favor: Yes: De Angeles, Gerold, Arnold, Docherty, Locatis, Wagner; No: None; Motion Passed - 6 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Orr
Town Clerk

Minutes approved: October 12, 2020