

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE
MINUTES TENTATIVE BUDGET AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE HEARING
Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 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 Kevin Docherty, David Wagner; Late: Council Member Terry Locatis
Absent: Council Member Bill Arnold
 - Staff Present – Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil; Town Financial Consultant, Holly Vath, Town Clerk, Pam Orr; and Bookkeeper/Clerical Assistant, Maria Pierce

2. **Proposed Millage for Fiscal Year 2021/2022** – Holly Vath reviewed the changes from the budget workshop.

President De Angeles asked if the public had any questions or comments.

Michele Gagnon-Dolan, resident of Seawalk asked about the millage rate being lowered to 1.8 mills based on the information provided.

Ms. Vath explained how state shared revenues were calculated as well as how the millage rate was set. She also explained how the millage rate affected the Town reserves.

Ms. Gagnon-Dolan requested that the millage rate be set at 1.3 mills.

Mayor Ostrand suggested that the millage rate be set at 1.2 mills.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed millage rate and the impact a lower millage rate would have on the reserves, as well as how the reserves were used. Ms. Vath explained the millage rate adoption process.

Ms. Gagnon-Dolan asked how to become a member on the Board.

Mayor Ostrand explained that every year in August, residents could register to run for an elected Council position within the Town. Further discussion ensued regarding the election process.

Ms. Vath estimated that a millage rate of 1.2 would take an extra \$9,500 out of reserves.

Council member Wagner asked if the additional revenues were due to the new permits.

Ms. Vath explained that a small amount of money, about \$20,000 or \$30,000, was from shared State revenues. The other amount of revenue received was from building permits for Seawalk and those revenues could only be used for building permit purposes. She continued that the building permit revenue was not included in the reserve balance.

Discussion ensued regarding various millage rates, ad valorem taxes and reserves.

President De Angeles asked if there were any further comments from Council.

There were none.

Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to set the tentative millage rate at 1.4.

Roll Call: Yes: Docherty, Locatis, Wagner, De Angeles; No: Gerold; Motion Passed - 4 – 1

Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil stated that the Town would prepare a document that would show the effects of the 1.2 millage rate option and how it would affect the reserves for the Final Budget Hearing.

Vice-President Gerold asked if staff would add an option for a 1.0 millage rate.

Discussion ensued regarding Seawalk residents and their property taxes.

Mr. O’Neil explained the breakdown of the total property tax bill and stated that the portion for the Town of Ocean Breeze was very small.

Discussion ensued regarding services the Seawalk residents were receiving.

Town Clerk, Pam Orr, read Resolution No. 315-2021 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 2021/2022; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to adopt Resolution No. 315-2021.

Roll Call: Yes: Wagner, De Angeles, Locatis, Docherty; No: Gerold; Motion Passed - 4 – 1

3. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 – Ms. Vath gave an overview of the budget and stated that the estimated expenses are \$330,755. She added that the changes discussed at the budget workshop were reflected in these figures.

Discussion ensued regarding removal of \$1,000 for election cost since there would not be an election in November 2021.

Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil, confirmed that all Council Members present were in agreement to remove the line item of \$1,000 for election cost from the 2021/2022 budget.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the public.

There were none.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the Council.

Vice-President Gerold stated that at the last Town Council meeting he asked that the Council consider revoting on the Town Hall project.

Discussion ensued regarding options for the feasibility study in the proposed budget, the need for a Town Hall, the Town’s current meeting place and various uses for a Town Hall.

Town Clerk, Pam Orr, read Resolution No. 316-2021 into the record: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/2022; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Member Docherty, made a Motion to adopt Resolution No. 316-2021 with a provision that the \$5,000 for the feasibility study would need to be approved by Council before any funds are expended.

Roll Call: Yes: Wagner, Locatis, Docherty; No: Gerold, De Angeles; Motion Passed - 3 – 2

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 22, 2021 at 5:01 pm
- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, October 11, 2021 at 10:30 am

5. Adjourn – Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Wagner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm

All in Favor: Yes: De Angeles, Gerold, Docherty, Locatis, Wagner; No: None; Motion Passed - 5 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Orr
Town Clerk

Minutes approved: December 13, 2021