

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE
MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SETTING OF THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE
Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 5:01 pm
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 pm

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

2. Budget Workshop – Budget and Tentative Ad Valorem Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 – Holly Vath, Town Financial Advisor – Ms. Vath explained the Truth in Millage (TRIM) process. She reviewed the 2023 Budget Summary.

Discussion ensued regarding the homestead exemption and assessed values of the three properties located within the Town.

Ms. Vath explained the 2023 Source of Funds pie-chart and the 2023 Use of Funds pie-chart. She explained the Historical Sources of Revenue chart (Page 11) and the Expenditure Line-Item Detail.

Discussion ensued regarding the line item for Meeting Security, Permit Processing Services, restructuring of the Town office, retirement of the Town Clerk, hiring of a new Town Clerk and an office assistant.

Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Member Locatis, made a motion to leave the Meeting Security line item in the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the Building Official line item.

Mr. O’Neil commented that the base cost of having a Building Official with the proper credentials was \$15,000; and, if a jurisdiction was going to engage in the oversight of building functions it was required by the State of Florida. He added that the remainder of the costs for the Building Official were covered by building permit fees.

Discussion ensued regarding the Building Official’s duties and why his fees were going up when the permitting should be going down.

Mr. O’Neil stated that staff would look at the Building Official projection again and return with details.

Discussion ensued regarding the building permit fees, the Town’s adoption of Martin County’s building permit fee schedule, payroll versus contracted positions, grading issues and the Permit Processing Services line item.

Mr. O’Neil explained that the residents of Seawalk were adding fences and pools; and, that the Resort residents were enclosing the ground floors of their homes for additional living space. He discussed the close-out of Seawalk, the outstanding bond, and the Town’s responsibility as the authority to make sure all the development requirements were met. He indicated that the close-out would take place within the next three to four months. He spoke about the related tasks and how they were related to permitting; and, that

the Resort still had hundreds of modular units to be installed. He commented that he believed the Council recognized that the residents attending the meeting would like to see everything reduced as much as possible.

Discussion ensued regarding details pertaining to the processing of permits.

Council Member Docherty pointed out that the Sheriff's Department would not only be there for security reasons, but to offer input and feedback about crimes in the Town and the surrounding area.

Mr. O'Neil asked if the security line item was to be kept in the budget.

Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Member Locatis, made a motion to keep the security line item as a new expenditure for the purpose of this meeting.

President De Angeles asked for public comment regarding the security line item.

Discussion ensued regarding the security line item, community service, regular patrol by law enforcement, the number of meetings per year, meetings by zoom, televising the meetings and the additional expense, the Sunshine Law, the web-hosting line item, insurance line items, dissolving the Town, ad valorem taxes for the Seawalk residents, the use of the Town's reserves, attorney fees, costs of management of the Planned Unit Developments, lowering the Town's reserves, and questions about why Seawalk residents were paying the bulk of the advalorem taxes.

Mr. O'Neil explained that the Town was not placing a different millage rate on the residents of Seawalk. He added that the assessment was performed by the Martin County Property Appraiser's office... (his comments were cut-short by interruptions from the audience).

Discussion ensued regarding annexation, Martin County ad valorem taxes, double-taxation, services provided by Martin County, the election qualifying period, historical millage rates, Jensen Beach versus Ocean Breeze mailing address, preliminary TRIM notices which would be sent by the Property Appraiser, dates of future budget meetings, the annual audit line item, conferences and travel line item (interruptions; indecipherable).

Mr. O'Neil asked for a close out of the security line item by having a Motion, second and a vote.

President De Angeles asked for public comment.

The audience was polled, raising hands for those who were for and those who were against the line item.

Discussion ensued regarding security from the Sheriff's Department, additional information the Sheriff's Department provided and a neighborhood watch.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Locatis, De Angeles, Arnold, Gerold, Docherty, Wagner; No: None; Absent: Arnold; Motion Passed - 5 - 0

Council Member Wagner, seconded by Council Locatis, made a Motion to approve the Tentative Millage Rate of 1.40

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

Discussion ensued regarding the Street and Lights line item, the proposed 1.40 millage rate, Page 8 of the presentation documents, consideration of a lower millage rate, lowering the reserve and suggestions for the next budget meeting.

Ms. Vath further explained the details of Pages 8 and 9.

Discussion ensued regarding services provided by the Town of Ocean Breeze, Jensen Beach addresses, the millage rates of surrounding Towns, (indecipherable), benefits provided to the residents of Ocean Breeze and grading issues raised by a Seawalk resident.

3. Resolution #324-2022 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, FLORIDA, DETERMINING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 AND PROVIDING NOTICE THEREOF TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

Ms. Stanton read the Resolution into the record.

Council Member Locatis, seconded by Vice-President Gerold, made a motion to approve Resolution #324 – 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Docherty, Locatis, Wagner, Gerold, De Angeles; No: None; Absent: Arnold; Motion Passed - 5 - 0

An unidentified member of the audience asked about the storage unit and copier line items.

President De Angeles stated that the answers would be provided at the next budget hearing.

4. Comments from the public on topics not on the Agenda – There were none.

5. Comments from the Council on topics not on the Agenda – There were none.

6. Comments from Town Management Consultant, Terry O'Neil – There were none.

7. Comments from Mayor Ostrand – There were none.

8. Announcements – Meetings to be held at Ocean Breeze Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room, 700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze:

- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, August 8, 2022 at 10:30 am
- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, September 12, 2022 at 10:30 am
- Proposed Budget and Tentative Millage Hearing, Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 5:01 pm
- Final Budget and Millage Rate Hearing, Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 5:01 pm

9. Adjourn – Council Member Docherty, seconded by (indecipherable) made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Orr
Town Clerk

Minutes approved: Sept. 13, 2022