

TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE
MINUTES OF THE FINAL BUDGET AND MILLAGE RATE HEARING FOR FY 2023/2024
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
Ocean Breeze Resort Clubhouse, Pineapple Bay Room
700 NE Seabreeze Way, Ocean Breeze, FL – 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President De Angeles called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Ostrand led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call – Present: Mayor Karen Ostrand, President Kenneth De Angeles, Vice-President Bill Arnold, Council Members Kevin Docherty, Sandra Kelley, Gina Kent and Liz Reese
- Staff Present – Town Management Consultant, Terry O’Neil; Town Financial Consultant, Holly Vath; Permit Processor, Pam Orr

Vice-President Arnold stated his frustration and anger concerning the actions that took place at the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate meeting held on September 13, 2023. He spoke about removing the extra patrols by the Martin County Sheriff’s Department and the questions concerning the Administrative Assistant line-item. He resigned, effective immediately.

2. Proposed Millage for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 – Holly Vath, Town Financial Consultant –

Ms. Vath explained the process to set the final budget and millage rate. She reminded the Council that the millage rate was set at .8 mills at the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing. She discussed the fuel tax revenues, FP&L expenses for lighting along Indian River Drive, extra patrols, fuel tax reserves and maintenance to crosswalks on Indian River Drive. She reviewed all revenues and the changes that were made to the budget at the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing.

Discussion ensued regarding the extra patrols by Martin County Sheriff’s Department, traffic along Indian River Drive, fuel tax revenue and the Administrative Assistant line-item.

President De Angeles asked if there were any comments from the public.

Richard Gerold, 29 NE Nautical Drive, Ocean Breeze, relayed his displeasure concerning the resignation of the Town’s Administrative Assistant.

David Wagner, 124 NE Bay Drive, Ocean Breeze, spoke about his **displeasure** concerning the actions taken at the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing.

President De Angeles asked for further comments from the public.

There were none.

President De Angeles asked for a motion from the Council to set the final millage rate.

Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Kent, made a motion to set the final millage rate at .8 mills.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Docherty stated his concerns regarding the millage rate. He spoke about the close-out of the Seawalk community project and continued PUD compliance. He discussed Home Rule, the 2023/2024 budget and the final millage rate adopted.

Council Member Reese expressed her sorrow concerning the actions that took place at the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing and stated that it was unfortunate. She spoke about the Administrative Assistant line-item and commented that she was dismayed at the presentation of the figures. She remarked that she did not think it was wrong of the Council Members to ask tough questions. She informed the Council that she checked with the Ocean Breeze Plaza business owners and with her neighbors at Seawalk regarding the extra patrols and stated that they had reported to her that there was "no change." She continued to discuss the Martin County Sheriff's Department patrols and stated that nobody was defunding the police because the police are funded with tax dollars.

David Wagner, 124 NE Bay Drive, asked Council Member Reese if she had obtained the gate codes used by the MCSD.

Council Member Reese stated that she believed the matter was closed because the Council had decided to remove the extra patrols.

Discussion ensued regarding the codes used by MCSD for the gate in the Seawalk community, police presence in the Plaza and in Ocean Breeze Resort.

Michele Dolan, 1434 NE White Pine Terrace, commented that she and Council Member Kelley attended a Martin County Crime Watch meeting. She informed the Council about that meeting and stated that she and Council Member Kelley were going to personally make sure that the Town was represented at the Crime Watch meetings.

Council Member Kelley spoke about her good intentions as she questioned the line-item for Administrative Assistant at the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rate Hearing.

Discussion ensued regarding the figures on the budget documents, the job descriptions of the Clerk and Administrative Assistant, and explanation of the figures of the Administrative Assistant line-item.

President De Angeles asked for a motion to adopt the final millage rate at .8 mills.

Council Member Reese, seconded by Council Member Kelley, made a Motion to adopt the final millage rate at .8 mill.

Pam Orr, Permit Processor, read Resolution No. 340-2023 into the record:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, MARTIN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

President De Angeles asked for public comments.

There were none.

President De Angeles as for comments by the Council.

Council Member Kelley asked the Mayor for an explanation of the line item for the Administrative Assistant.

Discussion ensued regarding the Administrative Assistant line-item including hourly rate of pay, hours worked and an explanation of how the figures were calculated.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Kelley, Reese, Kent; No: De Angeles, Docherty; Motion Passed: 3-2

Discussion ensued regarding the vote, quorums and number of votes needed to adopt the motion.

After a brief suspension, Ms. Vath confirmed that the number of votes needed to adopt the motion was 3-2.

Council Member Kelley asked if there was an error in the calculation, she would like it to be so noted. She asked that former Council Member Arnold be told about the calculation error.

3. Proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 – Financial Consultant, Holly Vath – Mr. O’Neil informed the Council that there were a few more additional patrols in the current fiscal year and asked for direction as to whether those additional patrols should be cancelled.

Discussion ensued regarding the additional patrols, the costs and visibility of the patrols.

Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Kent, made a motion to continue the scheduled additional patrols through the remainder of the month of September, 2023.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the Council.

There were none.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the public.

There were none.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Docherty, Reese, De Angeles, Kent, Kelley; Motion Passed: 5-0

President De Angeles asked for comments from the public regarding the final budget.

There were none.

President De Angles asked for comments from the Council.

Mayor Ostrand stated that Council Member Kelley would like a breakdown of the hours worked by the Administrative Assistant and what was paid over the course of the year.

Council Member Docherty asked for further clarification regarding a petition for Martin County relating to the Publix **roadway**.

Mr. O’Neil explained the restricted gas tax funds and that they could be used during the upcoming fiscal year for projects or initiatives. He added that staff would come before the Council and request a budget

amendment should projects arise.

Council Member Kent asked about the legal counsel that the Town might seek regarding the close-out of the DR Horton project and whether the gas tax funds would be available for this type of expenditure.

Mr. O'Neil answered that the gas tax funds were not allotted to be utilized that way. He stated that the expenses to close out the DR Horton project, code compliance issues and any expenses for PUD compliance issues would come from the Town's reserve balance. He added that staff would ask the Council to approve a budget amendment for those costs, if necessary.

Mr. O'Neil took questions from the audience and the Council regarding the Planned Unit Development agreements the Town had with DR Horton and Sun Communities.

President De Angeles asked for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 341-2023.

Pam Orr, Permit Processor, read Resolution No. 341-2023 into the record:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN BREEZE, MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Council Member Kelley, seconded by Council Member Reese, made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 341-2023.

President De Angeles asked for public comment.

There were none.

President De Angeles asked for comments from the Council.

There were none.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Kelley, Reese, De Angeles, Kent; No: Docherty; Motion Passed: 4-1

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

- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.
- Canvassing Board Meeting, Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, November 13, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.
- Regular Town Council Meeting, Monday, December 11, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

5. Adjourn – Council Member Docherty, seconded by Council Member Kelley, made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

All in Favor: De Angeles, Docherty, Kelley, Kent, Reese

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Stanton
Town Clerk

Dec 11, 2023
Date