

Town of Melbourne Beach

PUBLIC NOTICE

MINUTES

**TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY JUNE 5, 2019 @ 6:00pm
MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE**

Commission Members:

Mayor Jim Simmons
Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover
Commissioner Steve Walters
Commissioner Sherrie Quarrie
Commissioner Corey Runte

Staff Members:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson
Town Attorney Clifford Repperger

I. Call to Order – Led by Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Town Clerk Wilson conducted the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons

Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover

Commissioner Corey Runte

Commissioner Steve Walters

Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Staff Present:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Led by Mayor Simmons

IV. Public Comment

Kate Wilborn

502 2nd Avenue

Ms. Wilborn thanked the Commission for the cutout on 1st Avenue and Pine Street that serves to percolate water to help stem the flow of water onto her street.

V. New Business

A. Discussion regarding budget for FY2019/2020

Interim Town Manager Mascaro said the budget has a shortfall because of the budget requested by the Fire Department where big changes have been made. They are looking to add 2 additional employees and increase the stipend amount from \$7,500 to \$100,000. Normally, the budget would show zero revenues over expenditures so the Fire Department changes will require the most attention. She based the proceeds on a number provided by the Brevard County Property Appraiser's office although it is a tentative figure and is subject to change. We won't receive the final number until July though she doesn't expect that number to change much. We based the budget on 9% over rollback.

Because the audience consisted of people who were in attendance because they want to have Officer Vila to serve as the School Resource Officer again at Gemini Elementary, the Commission began with discussing the Law Enforcement Budget. Interim Town Manager Mascaro provided the Commission with a break out of Officer Vila's salary and other expenses which total \$75,861. We received \$52,000 from Brevard County and \$120 from the GoFundMe account, leaving us with a shortfall of \$23,741.

Mayor Simmons said when an estimate was provided for the cost of an SRO the previous year, the shortfall was \$12,000 and Commissioner Walters, at the time, said it was going to be a lot higher, which it turned out to be. The Town got commitments from people who live in the South Beaches to help fund the shortfall for the SRO but those commitments weren't fulfilled. With information provided by Commissioner Walters, the actual shortfall is \$23,741.

Sorelle Davis
417 Riverview Lane

Ms. Davis didn't know that there was an effort to raise funds for this effort. There was a lot of miscommunication. Her family moved to this area because of Gemini Elementary and she is willing to be a liaison between the Town and the school to open the lines of communication and to help raise funds. The Gemini family is more than willing to contribute to ensure they have an SRO.

Mayor Simmons explained how the SRO program works and emphasized how unfair it is that Town of Melbourne Beach residents are subsidizing county students.

Sarah Apelquist
508 Hibiscus Trail

Ms. Apelquist said she also never saw a GoFundMe account and thinks that the gentleman who committed to paying the \$12,000 last year if the GoFundMe account didn't do the job, thought that the Commission voted to fund the entire project. She asked what parents should expect when their children head back to school in August. The Mayor responded that his vote is conditional based on fundraising activities.

Heather Barlow
210 Elm Avenue

Ms. Barlow commented that people will pay more in order to live in Melbourne Beach and attend Gemini Elementary and they all want Officer Vila to be the SRO.

Sorelle Davis
417 Riverview Lane

Ms. Davis wanted to ensure that whatever money is collected goes into a dedicated fund. She will help to improve the lines of communication by being the liaison.

Melissa Fletcher
333 Marlin Place

Ms. Fletcher agreed that better communication will help greatly and she thinks parents will be very supportive.

Molly Domin
120 Sea Crest

Ms. Domin asked for a point of contact; that person will be Interim Town Manager Mascaro. She added that every year, parents will know that money needs to be collected for this effort.

Mayor Simmons said the budget won't be finalized until September adding that the Town is looking for skin in the game from the South Beaches and a show of support for Officer Vila. People want services but they don't want to pay the associated taxes.

Continuing with the Police Department budget, Commissioner Walters explained that unionizing is really expensive so the legal budget may need to be increased. Interim Town Manager Mascaro said the officers aren't getting pay increases because all benefits are on the table for negotiation. The Police Benevolent Association has not yet contacted us to begin negotiations.

The Commission went page by page through the budget but decided to address salaries at a future budget meeting. The Mayor added that he would like to see a spread sheet that shows the infrastructure maintenance/replacement items 10-15 years out so major changes aren't required every year; the Commission should be able to plan for these items (and amortize the associated costs) and that the significant year-to-year changes we are currently seeing do not help that process. He recommended that department heads look forward 10-15 years and develop a 10-15 year plan when working on their budgets

Interim Town Manager Mascaro said the Commission held a workshop with the Fire Department on May 1st where they explained the challenges facing them in the future. Chief Micka proposed adding 2 firefighters and to supplement other firefighters, from money set aside for stipends, to which they are proposing an increase from \$7,500 to \$100,000. Those changes would ensure that the Fire Department is manned 24/7; this (stipend personnel increases) would more than double the current Fire Dept budget (a 108% increase over last year).

Commissioner Walters asked how the Town would pay for this. He suggested putting it in a referendum to see if the taxpayers want to pay for this by way of a special fire tax. He doesn't see how else the Town could afford to do this. We'd continue operating the way we are now until FY2021 at which time we'd know if

the referendum passed. If the referendum passes, for one year, the Town would pay the stipend. Chief Micka explained how the Monroe County stipend works and suggested a couple of grants. Also, because he may be retiring soon, a succession plan was discussed. Fire Chief Micka said there are still some things to discuss so the plan will evolve over time. The point was made that the Town Manager has the final word on how stipends are paid; she requested that she be provided with specific information prior to any stipends being paid.

Commissioner Walters suggested that the entire Fire Department budget of \$468,849 be included in the proposed fire tax that will be put on the ballot in November.

The Commission consented to paying the requested stipend amount of \$100,000 for FY19-20 but not to pay for the requested new employees and to go to referendum in November to impose a fire tax for the entire FD budget.

Mayor Simmons added that having a Fire Department saves our residents a lot of money on insurance and he feels they will approve a fire tax.

The Commission continued with their review of the budget and one issue of note was that Commissioner Runte feels we should increase the number of hours worked by our Building Official because he has received a lot of complaints about delays in getting inspections. The Commission requested that staff advertise the position at \$85,000/year and see who responds.

The Commission wrapped up their budget discussion on page 34. They will continue their review at the next Workshop.

B. Discussion regarding future budget meeting dates

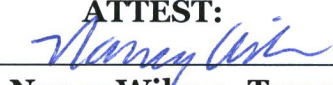
The Commission agreed to hold the next budget meeting prior to the regular meeting that will most likely be rescheduled to June 26th. The Workshop will begin at 5 pm followed by the regular meeting that begins at 6:30 pm.

VI. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Hoover made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Runte seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm


James D. Simmons, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk