

Town of Melbourne Beach

MINUTES

TOWN COMMISSION WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 2019 @ 5:00pm 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 5:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Town Clerk Wilson conducted the roll call.

Commissioners Present:

Mayor Jim Simmons

Vice Mayor Wyatt Hoover

Commissioner Steve Walters

Commissioner Sherri Quarrie

Commissioner Corey Runte

Staff Present:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Town Clerk Nancy Wilson

Police Chief Melanie Griswold

Town Attorney Clifford Repperger

III. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Led by Mayor Simmons

IV. Public Comment

V. New Business

Continued discussion regarding the FY2019/2020 budget beginning on page 35.

Mayor Simmons suggested looking at the pages that have changed since the last budget meeting and then start the review where they left off on page 35.

Interim Town Manager Mascaro said she just that day received the final tax figures from the County. She was, therefore, able to plug in those numbers to change the rollback rate and determine what our ad valorem taxes can be. The taxes increased from the estimate so the budget deficit decreased leaving us with a \$17,000 surplus.

Regarding salaries, Commissioner Walters commented that there's no justification for any of the raises requested in the budget and at the current rate of increases, those salaries won't be sustainable. Vice Mayor Hoover said to keep the Town running optimally, you need to hire and retain staff. Commissioner Quarrie noted that the hourly employee salaries have been raised 2.5% and salaried employees salaries have been raised 3%. Mayor Simmons said that most of the Town's money is going to infrastructure, not salaries. Commissioner Runte said that based on his research, it is clear that the leaders of Melbourne Beach in the past have focused on

keeping taxes low and we're now paying the price. The conversation regarding salaries, the money needed for infrastructure and the upcoming expense associated with union negotiations continued. At the conclusion of the salary discussion, Mayor Simmons said the burden of taxes is on new residents.

Continuing the review of the budget, Commissioner Quarrie asked if everything they're going to buy should be lumped together and not separated by section; she wants to see one capital outlay page instead of having outlays spread among departments. Her reason was that she thought that method would give the Commission more control. Mayor Simmons responded that he thinks listing expenditures by department is more valuable and makes staff more accountable and the process more transparent. In any case, he doesn't think the format of the budget should be changed at this point. Commissioner Quarrie will readdress her wish for lumping expenditures together at the beginning of budget talks in 2020.

The Commission continued working page by page through the budget, discussing items that have been updated since their last meeting. Mayor Simmons emphasized the importance of having a plan that goes out 15 years for replacing high dollar items; each year should have the same amount budgeted instead of getting surprised at budget time.

Fire Chief Micka explained the stipend guidelines and how stipends are paid. In response to the concern that the Town invests a lot in new volunteers (\$225 per person), the Chief said that new volunteers don't receive a stipend for their first 3 months and they have to be a member in good standing.

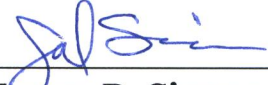
A final budget workshop will be held on July 17th at 5:30pm prior to the regular Town Commission meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Vice Mayor Hoover made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Quarrie seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm

ATTEST:



James D. Simmons, Mayor



Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk