

Special Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Thursday, September 13, 2005 at 5:01 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Chambers

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kaleel and roll call was answered by the following:

Commissioner Bingham	Commissioner Pugh
Commissioner Allison	Commissioner Hogan
Mayor Kaleel	

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget
 - 1. Consideration of adopted tentative budget and proposed millage rate for fiscal year 2005-2006

There were no comments from the Commission and there was no public in attendance.

Mayor Kaleel announced that the millage rate of 4.7500 exceeds the rolled back rate of 3.8366 by 23.81%.

- 2. Adopt Final Millage Rate for fiscal year 2005-2006

Comm Hogan moved that a final millage rate of \$4.2500 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation be adopted for the 2005-2006 general operating revenues. There was no second to the motion.

Comm Hogan moved that a final millage rate of \$4.5000 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation be adopted for the 2005-2006 general operating revenues. There was no second to the motion.

Comm Pugh moved that a final millage rate of \$4.7500 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation be adopted for the 2005-2006 general operating revenues. Comm Bingham seconded the motion.

Comm Hogan requested to discuss this motion stating that after rethinking the budget she felt the capital expenditures should be reconsidered. She cited the lower millage rates for other smaller or oceanfront communities and added that she felt that a 23.81% tax increase was too steep. She also stated that she serves on a Florida League of Cities Committee and felt that the Town should be more prudent with its expenditures and the residents should be made aware that the Town cannot fund all of their repairs and special assessments should be explored.

Comm Bingham commented that she also re-reviewed the budget and felt that the 2005-2006 budget year was a better time for the increase and hoped that the millage could be reduced next year. She added that she did not want to see any projects stalled.

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Comm Allison stated that she too was uncomfortable with the 23.81% increase but she agreed with Comm Bingham and added that because she writes many grants she is aware that assisted funding is difficult to obtain.

Comm Pugh stated that he felt the increase was necessary in order to perform upkeep and maintenance.

Mayor Kaleel stated that he agreed with the budget citing that the other communities mentioned earlier had different circumstances such as providing utilities or having commercial properties as addition revenue generating sources. He added that he was proud of the decisions made and adamantly defended this budget as presented citing there was nothing really that could be cut and everyone was aware that an increase was eminent.

Motion carried – Yea 4 (Allison, Bingham, Pugh, Kaleel)
Nay 1 (Hogan)

3. Resolution No. 2005-19; Making a tax levy based on 2005 Assessment Roll

Comm Bingham moved to adopt Resolution No. 2005-19 making a tax levy based on the 2005 Assessment Roll, seconded by Comm Allison.

Motion carried - Yea (5).

4. Adopt a Final Budget for fiscal year 2005-2006

Comm Hogan moved that the Ocean Ridge Budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 be finalized at \$4,686,852 for operating expenses, seconded by Comm Allison.

Motion carried - Yea (5).

5. Ordinance No. 559; Adopting an annual budget for the year beginning October 1, 2005 and ending September 30, 2006; Providing for repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; and providing an effective date

Comm Allison moved to adopt Ordinance No. 559 appropriating funds for fiscal year 2005-2006 be adopted, seconded by Comm Pugh.

Motion carried - Yea (5).

6. Resolution No. 2005-20; Updating funds for the Capital Projects Fund for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2005 and ending September 30, 2006

Comm Bingham moved to adopt Resolution No. 2005-20 reappropriating funds for the Capital Projects Fund for fiscal year 2005-2006, seconded by Comm Pugh.

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Motion carried - Yea (5).

SPECIAL MEETING

As a point of information Mayor Kaleel distributed an article from Stormwater in which the Town’s drainage project and SFRN were complimented in their efforts for protecting low-lying development. He also distributed a proposed letter that was composed to Governor Bush, Clay Shaw, Jeff Atwater, and Adam Hasner expressing the Town’s dissatisfaction with the FDOT in their recent threat of action to revoke any permits issued to the Town in what appears to be a power play within their department over a permit that has already been issued and renewed for a generator in the ROW. Atty Spillias commented that the revocation of the generator permit came about due to an objection raised by the Town of Briny Breezes. He added that in the interim the Town has made efforts to secure easement rights to locate the generator on private property but no positive decisions have been made.

After a short discussion there was a consensus to forward the letters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSS SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS OR STRATEGY RELATED TO LITIGATION EXPENDITURES IN THE CASE OF CORY HEITH; MARIENELLA HINSON; KLAUS & ANNETTE JANUSCHEWSKI; WILLIAM MORRIS & SANDRA MORRISON; LAWRENCE & BARBARA O’DALY; STEVEN & DENISE ROMANOWSKI; JAMES & CHERYL VECCHIONE; AND JEFFREY WILLENS & CLARA M. HANSON v. TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE – CASE NO. 2003 CA 010524 AB

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE SPECIAL MEETING PORTION IS THE SUBJECT OF AN ATTORNEY-CLIENT SESSION AS PROVIDED IN 286.011(8), FLORIDA STATUTES; THOSE ATTENDING SHALL INCLUDE THE TOWN COMMISSIONERS, TOWN MANAGER, TOWN ATTORNEY, AND INSURANCE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE

Atty Spillias declared that the meeting would now proceed into the executive session at approximately 5:45 PM and reconvened at approximately 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Attest By:

Town Clerk

Mayor Kaleel

Commissioner Bingham

Commissioner Pugh

Commissioner Allison

Commissioner Hogan

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