

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall – Council Chambers
2523 Estero Boulevard
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

August 22, 2007
6:30 PM

Mayor Boback called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. All town councilmembers were present, along with the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Community Development Director, Public Works Director, Finance Director and Town Clerk.

All stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Town Manager Gary Parker addressed some housekeeping items: staff determined there is a need for a Council meeting on September 17, 2007 at 6:30 PM.

Opened Public Comment

Public Comment was heard:

Dan Gravis spoke on the budget, and that it should be run as a business.

Closed Public Comment

The budget process was discussed at length, as well as the Public Works Services Inc. The question was raised as to the Town's administrative handling of the County's sewer charges. The capital reserve fund was questioned as to its adequacy. The County's increase in a bulk water rate hike was discussed toward the possible need for a Town's rate increase.

Public Works Director Jack Green spoke to the capital improvement plan for the North Estero improvement, and that the FEMA clock is ticking; the Town has 20 months to complete the project.

Finance Director Evelyn Wicks indicated she could provide July 31st numbers YTD to the Council by the end of the week.

Mr. Parker ran through the numbers. Discussion ensued regarding public works staff. There was discussion regarding the town's contribution to employee benefits.

Recess: 8:15 PM Reconvene 8:30 PM

Councilmember Meador left the meeting for the evening.

Councilmember Shenko made a motion to not increase the rates. Vice Mayor Kiker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Shenko amended his motion to not pursue hearings for a rate increase until a needs analysis on the water utility has been completed.

Councilmember Shenko further amended his motion to look at a public hearing to consider passing along the Lee County rate increase for bulk water and not to pursue a profit. Vice Mayor Kiker amended his second.

Motion passed 3-1, with Councilmember Acken dissenting, Councilmember Meador absent.

Discussion continued along the budget numbers. Public Works Director Jack Green referenced a memo from the Town's IT Committee. Council spoke in favor of taking reserve funds in order to get the phone system recommended by the IT Committee.

The Council discussed the Town's legal services. Attorney Dalton outlined the information she had researched at the direction from the Council as to what other municipalities have in place for legal services. She referenced neighboring cities. Councilmembers discussed going out for bid for this service as is done with other service contracts. This item will be discussed further after the budget adoption.

In discussion of the Newton Park, Mayor Boback indicated he would like to emulate the language in another interlocal with the County, whereby the property could be owned by the Town after a certain period of time. He requested a copy of the interlocal between the Town and the County for when the Community Pool was built.

Mayor Boback requested that all councilmembers receive a copy of the Beach Renourishment Interlocal agreement.

Council requested another special meeting for the budget, at which they would receive one document – one packet – with these recommended changes, and then go through it line by line.

This meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2007 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM

Adopted 9-10-07 With/Without Changes. Motion by Shenko
(Date)

Vote: 5-0

Michelle D. Mayher
Michelle D. Mayher
Town Clerk

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