

MINUTES
FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

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

August 27, 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.

Mayor Boback had a few housekeeping items. He asked the Council if they would agree to adjourn at 9:00 PM or sooner, regardless of level of completion. Council concurred. Mayor Boback also requested that the Town Attorney research the possibility of eliminating real estate property taxes within the Town.

Councilmember Acken suggested that the Council run through each budget line item and notate any items of which council might have a question, and then go back to it for discussion.

Mayor Boback began page by page and announced each item. Members noted line items to refer back with questions. Mayor Boback then asked if there was any public comment.

Opened Public Comment

Public Comment was heard:

Terry Cain spoke in favor of the funds budgeted for the Charlotte Harbor National Estuaries Program, and Keep Lee County Beautiful.

Pat Smith spoke regarding the budget being underspent by four million dollars, and that the Town continues to overtax residents.

Dan Gravis indicated her would like to see last year's budget with a complete accounting break down.

Raymond DesRosiers spoke on behalf of Boy Scout Troup 999 and thanked the Council for the work they do.

Closed Public Comment

After initial review, Council then turned to Page 4, Town Council Miscellaneous Other Expense. Finance Director Evelyn Wicks explained that \$ 23,000. was an expense that had not been budgeted, and was paid in the search for a Town Manager that was conducted in the winter of 2006 and 2007.

Page 5, Town Manager. Ms. Wicks explained that figure was based on last year's negotiated amounts.

Page 6, Legal. When asked what settlements were paid out of the figure, Finance Director Evelyn Wicks listed the stand outs: Miscellaneous court reporters, several different law firms, as well as ADA compliance. For Ms. Dalton's legal services, council reduced the number to \$125,000. after backing out costs associated with extra services during the Town Manager's search. Council spoke of the benefit of having separate Council for the LPA, and will discuss with the LPA items.

Page 7. Administration

Mayor Boback questioned what "as authorized" meant. Ms. Wicks explained it was an authorized position for a minutes clerk. The increases in the telephone and communications item, and the IT system were from recommendations by the Town's IT committee, and supported at the last budget special meeting. Miscellaneous other expenses were explained to be payments made as a pass-through reimbursement for a FEMA flood mitigation grant to a beach property owner. There are also Fort Myers Beach Fire District impact fees that are pass-through fees. Council suggested these be a separate item all its own.

Recess 8:00 PM Reconvene 8:10 PM

Regarding the Municipal Code, Town Clerk Michelle Mayher explained that two proposals have been received for codification and both are under the budgeted amount of \$20,000. Council asked to reduce the bottom line from \$898,088 to \$850,000.

Page 8, Special Events

Council asked to combine special events and seasonal events. The bottom line on Special events would be \$54,500. with \$500 each for National Estuaries and Keep Lee County Beautiful.

Page 9, Financial Services

Council reduced the bottom line on financial services by 17,000.

Page 10, Insurance

Council requested a break down of the individual insurances.

Page 11, Contract Management

Ms. Wicks explained that this position would assist the departments with contract management, as well as find grant funding for the Town. Vice Mayor Kiker suggested that the position be listed under Finance.

Page 12, Public Works Administration

Mr. Parker explained a difference between the budgeted number and what will be spent. Public Works Director, Jack Green explained that three positions were added this year.

Page 13, Maintenance
No comments.

Page 14, Maritime

Canal Dredging – The Laguna Shores projected was discussed. Mr. Parker indicated that it was a 60-40 split. There was a disagreement as to what was actually approved by Council for that project. Mr. Parker indicated that on Jan 2005 Councilmember Rynearson moved to recommend a 60-40 split, as recommended by staff.

Councilmember Meador moved to adjourn. Councilmember Shenko seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

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

Vote: 5-0


Michelle D. Mayher
Town Clerk

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