



MINUTES

FORT MYERS BEACH TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2523 ESTERO BOULEVARD
FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA 33931

WORKSESSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010

9:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kiker called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. Present with Mayor Kiker was Vice Mayor Raymond, Council members List, Babcock and Mandel along with Town Manager Stewart, Finance Director Evelyn Wicks and Town Clerk Michelle Mayher.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. FY 2011 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Town Manager Stewart indicated the budget came in below the tentative millage rate of 1 mil with a gap of \$32,352.

Mr. Stewart discussed reserves, and beach renourishment fund interest earnings. As of the end of July the beach nourishment and interest funds totaled \$1,245,664.62 with a total interest for the month of July at \$10,465.18. Mr. Stewart indicated it was staff's preference to use the interest earnings from the fund to bridge the budget gap.

Ms. Wicks suggested using interest to bridge the gap since over \$50,000 of interest had been built in the last 9 months.

Council had been provided with a packet showing the work that had been done on the budget narrowing the gap from \$809,859 down to \$32,352.

Council member Babcock indicated his expectations were that the town would be no higher than the roll forward rate and hopefully less than that and to make the present goal reducing the ad valorem taxes.

Town Manager Stewart addressed the issue of revenue diversity and the fluctuation of the economy affecting property values and taxes and to have the discussion of those issues separate from the budget discussion.

Council member Mandel felt it necessary for Council to start working on the next budget in late October and start working on specific topics which would include finding and balancing revenue sources and dealing with the county for additional revenue.

Mayor Kiker commented on working on a budget year round, stressed the need for the Town to decide how much debt it was willing to assume, addressed other issues which included Town Hall rent v. mortgage, not finishing programs which were started such as signs, water department, road/street maintenance, opportunities with other taxing districts and the general accounting of the town's money.

Discussion continued regarding the funds which had been set aside for beach renourishment and the need for making decisions on how to prioritize and spend the funds followed by continued thoughts on necessary projects and issues for the future of the town.

Conversation moved to timing and budget planning, reserve limits and allotting funds to Mound House, Town Hall, Laguna Shores and other marine dredging issues.

Recess: 10:40 AM

Reconvene: 10:55 AM.

Mayor Kiker indicated he would like to provide information to Council regarding Seafarers.

Mayor Kiker addressed Council stating they had been presented with a budget and the need to transfer \$32,000 to balance, with recognition from the Council that instead of increasing taxes to cover Laguna Shores and other projects there would be money left from the beach nourishment fund to complete some of those projects. Mayor Kiker suggested Council use Council member List's thoughts on each Council member to bring back their proposals along with data for which project they would like to see the funds used for.

It was also suggested for Council to do a formal review of the budget every 3 months. Council chose the M & P Meeting on September 20th to bring back their proposals for discussion.

Mayor Kiker provided Council and staff with information sheets regarding Seafarers and indicated additional meetings and negotiations with the county would be forthcoming, providing a review of their most recent meeting between the Mayor, Town Manager and County staff discussing issues such as who owns the property, safety and ADA requirements on the Gulf side, and the use of Seafarers as parking.

Town Manager Stewart felt it necessary for Council to let the county know what they would like them to do with the Gulf side property in terms of making it safe and usable at the present time.

Council discussed the tenants utilizing the Gulf side property which included the slide operator and a parasail company and the options for those operators. Council member Mandel stressed his desire for the town to end up owning one or both sides of the property while Council member Babcock wanted to see the county do the minimum necessary to secure the Gulf side for now to keep from fencing the property in for safety issues. Council member Babcock also felt there should not be any further action on the Seafarers side until the engineering study came back to see what could be done with the property and what would be needed to alleviate traffic congestion and pedestrian traffic in the area.

Council member List wanted to also see the minimum amount done to provide usage of the property. Vice Mayor Raymond was upset with losing the slide on the Gulf side and indicated he was not for anything that brought additional cars to the beach so was against any parking on the Seafarers site.

Mayor Kiker disagreed with asking the county to do the minimum on the Gulf side, indicating the Council could wait for the engineering study and see if the county would purchase the remainder of the property which he felt was unlikely, or the town could push for numerous items such as trolley pull offs, three lanes for traffic, and pedestrian crossings.

Discussion continued regarding short term and long range solutions. Mayor Kiker will put together additional information after the next meeting with the county and bring it back to Council.

Town Manager Stewart addressed comments regarding an employee raise referring to public comments recently made, Mr. Stewart wanted it made public that the employees did not ask for a raise and the information provided to Council regarding salaries was not included in the current budget.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Adopted _____ With/Without changes. Motion by _____

Vote: _____

Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

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