



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH
One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

Official Minutes for July 24th, 2007
First Budget Workshop 2007/2008 Fiscal Year called for 7:00 P.M.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Councilmember Lusskin called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

B. ROLL CALL

The Town Clerk called the roll.

Councilmember Present: Mayor Singer by phone, Vice Mayor Bernstein by phone, Councilmember Einstein by phone, Councilmember Lusskin and Councilmember Rojas.

Staff Present: Town Manager – Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney – Stephen Helfman, Finance Director – Maria Camacho,

C. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Lusskin led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

1. Proposed Budget 2007/2008 Fiscal Year

The Town Manager provided an explanation of the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008. He was proposing a tentative millage rate of 8.5 mills. This would appropriate a reduction in property taxes and yet securing funding for Capital Improvement Projects. Therefore, the proposed tentative millage rate for the Town would be set at 8.5 mills with a tentative reduction of 0.9 mills from the previous Fiscal Year. The Operating Budget millage rate would be proposed at 7.09 mills, this would generate at ninety-five percent of expected revenues \$4,751,243.00 and the proposed tentative Capital millage rate of 1.41 mills, this equates to 944, 888.00, this would be dedicated exclusively for Capital Programs. Once the General Obligation Bond Referendum moves forward, the debt service millage rate would be placed at 1.41 mills. In the interim, the Town would be collecting the funds to pay for the debt service. He stated that this budget allows for a Cost of Living Increase for the Town's employees of 3.5% with the possibility of giving employees a one-time bonus sometime within Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget. Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget reflects 3% decrease in all of its line items, and a 4% increase for all of the Town's utilities. Administration does not know what the expected increase or decrease may be as a result, of the Police Contract which is up for renewal. If

the Town was to keep the existing, Police Contract there is an unfunded expected need of \$92,713.00 for salaries only. He stated that there are funds in the Town's contingency to cover that unmet need. He also explained that the Town does not know what the cost for Health Insurance is going to be, because the Town recently issued a Request for Proposal. Traditionally, they have grown on an average of 12% and 16%; therefore, he took 15% cost increase for Health Insurance and allocated \$38, 520.00, which can also be paid from contingency. He stated that last year the Town's Building Department had collected enough revenues to be self-sufficient; however, he conducted an analysis over the past two years to determine whether that was a true statement. He explained that his analysis revealed that because this Council had been fiscally responsible and budget a reserve for the Building Department, which enabled the Building Department to cover its operation costs. He explained that the Building Department revenues have not been able to secure enough resources to cover that unfunded expense. Therefore, he is proposing to eliminate the \$150,000.00 reserve from the Building Department's budget. He is also proposing to reduce the Beautification budget by \$30,000.00 and reducing the landscaping budget by \$60,000.00. He explained that as the Capital Improvement Projects move forward, beautification and landscaping is included in the Capital Budget. He stated that it would be fiscally prudent not to plant shrubbery along the roadways when the Town is moving forward with its Capital Plan. He reported that he was going to transfer \$400,000.00 from the Town's current General Fund account into the Town Hall/Pavilion Fund in addition to the \$370,000 that he is proposing in this fiscal year's budget for the Beach Pavilion at the Strand. He stated that this would be considered the start-up money for the Capital Improvement Program. This budget proposes some increases in the Building Department fees, as a result, expected revenues would be \$334,650.00. He explained that the fee increases did not have significant difference; some of them are approximately \$50.00 in the difference.

R. ADJOURNMENT

The Budget Workshop was adjourn at 8:50 PM.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Sewell

Elizabeth Sewell, CMC
Town Clerk