



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

**Official Minutes for the September 22, 2020
Final Budget Hearing & Special Town Council Zoom Virtual Meeting
called for 7:00 P.M.**

Zoom Room Meeting ID: 880 6163 5666 Password: 357442

For Dial In Only: Call 929.205.6099 Meeting ID: 880 6163 5666

THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE AT GOOD AND WELFARE; PLEASE HOLD ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS UNTIL THEN! THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ALL COMMENTS VIA EMAIL TO LPEREZ@GOLDENBEACH.US BY 2:00 P.M. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmember's Present: Mayor Glenn Singer, Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein, Councilmember Jaime Mendal, Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein, Councilmember Judy Lusskin

Staff Present: Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Steve Helfman, Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho, Police Chief Rudy Herbelo, Building Director Linda Epperson, Resident Services Director Michael Glidden, Public Works Director Kirk McKoy, Facilities Maintenance Director Ken Jones

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Herbelo led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. ADOPTION OF FINAL MILLAGE AND FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020/2021 (TIME CERTAIN ITEM)

- 1. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Final Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 200.065 (TRIM BILL); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 1
Resolution No. 2699.20

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2699.20

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Luskin, seconded by Councilmember Bernstein.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Luskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

2. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Final Budgets for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 200.065 (TRIM BILL); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 2
Resolution No. 2700.20

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2700.20

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Bernstein, seconded by Councilmember Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Luskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Mayor Singer stated the proposed millage rate for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 be hereby fixed at the rate of 7.7720 mills which is 7.7720 dollars per a \$1,000 of assessed property value within the Town of Golden Beach. The roll back rate 7.688 and the proposed millage rate is 7.7720 mills which 4.06 percent over to the rollback rate. The voted debt service millage rate is for the fiscal year will be .6280 mills.

Town Manager stated on page two of the memo there was a scribblers error on the Law Enforcement Trust fund the amount should be \$249,154 bringing the total fund to \$18,657,130. Unlike the budget at first reading, your implementation language also includes the Town Managers memo. Since the time of the first budget hearing the council, a decision as it relates to insurance. He has legal authority to move money up and down within a department fund. The memo says we will not transfer fund out of the insurance line. Those funds will stay in the insurance line they will be frozen and reallocated.

Councilmember Mendal asked when we will find out those savings. Asked if we will find out the savings as soon as open enrollment closes.

Town Manager stated that is correct.

Councilmember Mendal asked if there will be an amendment to this budget at the next month's meeting

Town Manager stated we will bring a cleanup amendment for the current fiscal year not the upcoming one at the next month's meeting

E. PRESENTATIONS / TOWN PROCLAMATIONS

None

F. MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS/ REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA/ AND CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mayor Singer made a motion to direct the Town Manager in implementing a resolution 2694.20 previously adopted relating to the building processing and permit fees. They fees were .75 we are raising it .25 to 1.0, which was approved at the last meeting.

Councilmember Bernstein seconded it

Councilmember Mendal stated after going through the numbers with Linda Epperson and helping him understand how much new revenue we are going to see. He would like to try to limit this to only new construction as apposed to everyone in Town. So we don't further impose a burden on them.

Town Manager stated the Mayor as the motion maker must accept that amendment. If he does no then the motion fails.

Mayor Singer stated he understands that but it is not a big number. The .75 has been the same for the last 20 years. He also looked at the numbers if we do the same amount of building as we did last year the total would be \$40,000 to \$50,000 increase, which would go to the building department, which could be used. He thinks for simplicity purposed his opinion is to keep it the same for renovations and new constructions.

Councilmember Mendal stated he got a higher number of \$80,000.

Mayor Singer asked if he is basing it on revenues.

Councilmember Mendal stated yes

Mayor Singer stated he is basing it on square footage, because that is what the building processing and permit fees are based on

Town Manager stated the Mayor is correct. The process fee is based on value, the permit fees are based on square footage.

Councilmember Bernstein stated to councilmember Mendal's point he thought we would be only charging new construction. He would prefer not to further increase current tax payers.

Councilmember Lusskin stated she does not mind doing it for the new construction. She is also very much in favor of modernizing the building department and being able to computerize a lot of the things were doing now. Not so sure how she feels about remodeling's, she also thought it was only for new homes. She would rather just do it for new homes

Town Manager recommends to the council and thinks the administration could support not having it for remodels of residents that are currently living in town. However, if someone buys a house and remodels it to move in he thinks the fee should apply to them.

Councilmember Mendal stated he is assuming the vast majority of the revenue comes from new construction because the value seems high for it to be because of remodeling, new docks, or new seawalls

Town Manager stated the challenge he has is having with the renovation part is because the number of homes that we have seen change hands in the last two months. He e understands that councilmember Mendal is trying to help our residents that are here. However, if someone is buying an older home and they are going to gut it and remodeled it. The administration believes that fee should be passed on to those. He understands for the residents that are currently living here but he believes there should be a distinguishing factor there.

Councilmember Mendal stated he agrees with the manager that is what he means by new construction

Town Attorney asked if the developer wants to renovate a kitchen does he have to pay the fee

Town Manager stated the Council delighted that determination to the manager's office

Vice Mayor Einstein stated if he was sitting in the developer's seat, he thinks that could be subject to constitutional attack. The other question is what constitutes a resident

Councilmember Mendal suggested for it to read something like if it is new construction or are remodeling and the remodeling has a value of let us say 50% of your current assessed value of the home because that is practically a completely new home

Town Manager stated he guesses we could

Mayor Singer stated if you think about the dollar implication. It is a \$250 difference on a \$100,000 renovation. For simplicity purposes, he says stick with the original adoption for everyone

Councilmember Bernstein as agrees with the Mayor just so that we have objective standard.

Councilmember Mendal it is about what the increase entails it entails about \$10,000 additional dollars on a \$4-million home. Yes, we are about Bal Harbor we are below Bay Harbor, and below Indian Creek. What you do not see there is a millage rate. We just adopted a millage rate that is the second highest in Miami-Dade. When you consider those, we catch up to Indian Creek and Bay Harbor very quickly within the year. So to keep additional burdens to the residents is not ok with him, there has to be a line drawn somewhere.

Mayor Singer stated it is not a burden to the residents because the residents are not paying it. In our budget our costs increase every year not just the building department, but our health insurance, operating costs, they go up every year and we try to stay above the curve. It will get to a point that our cots will exceed our revenues, so by doing this we are trying to stay ahead to add technology improvements to the department so we can reduce prices in the future. Yes, it expensive to build in Golden Beach but we are a unique community, we are probably the most prestige's community in the state of Florida.

Councilmember Mendal stated its bitter sweet because he did not want the fee increase to begin with but at least the building department will have new technology improvement's. Asked if every year the .25 will be allocated toward technological advances for the building department

Town Manager stated each year when you set the fees, you will set that

A motion to approve was made by Mayor Singer, seconded by Councilmember Bernstein.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Nay</u>

G. GOOD AND WELFARE

Town Clerk read a letter into the record from Adalbert and Dagmara Paruas at 654 Golden Beach Drive.

H. MAYOR'S REPORT

Commended the Town Staff and Town Manager on a phenomenal job on the budget. He understands everyone is concern about the flooding. He, the Manager, and Town staff are all aware of it. The water level above the seawall is the highest he has ever seen it. He asked the Town Manager to look at which sea walls are not maintaining the proper height and are causing an additional burden to the influx of water. Stated to the residents if you have an issue with your sea wall you need to address it immediately because it is effecting the whole Town.

I. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

All the home in Town should have received the next round of COVID kits that we delivered to their homes. Since the last report we have only had three new cases identified to the Town from the Department of Health. The police department continues to monitor all of the changes from the county. The county Mayor extended the curfew to 11:00 p.m. reminded everyone that the cases seem to be climbing in the state. We need to make sure everyone follows proper mask protocols. The beach is still closed to unaccompanied guests. The next round of COVID kits will be going out some time in December.

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Einstein

Echoed the Mayors flooding concerns. Stated the staff did a great job on the budget.

Councilmember Bernstein

Asked what the policy is for Mr. Adalbert and Dagmara Paruas request

Councilmember Mendal

Wished all the residents a staff that celebrate the Jewish New Year a happy new year. He stated that after the tide went down he did see rushing water from certain areas. He is concerned of where the water is coming from. Thanked the Town administration for the consideration on the resolution for International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on the tonight's agenda.

Councilmember Lusskin

Stated that deliver trucks burling down the street during floods. If we can have a sign out by the guardhouse to help with that. Commended the Town Manager on a great budget and keeping the town looking great. Stated it's been windy and the swales if we can get some of the coconuts down.

K. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Thanked the staff for all their hard work not only through the budget process but with last week's healthcare issues. Reminded residents that on October 10, 2020 the Department of Moto Vehicles will be in Town they are by appointment only. On October 17, 2020, there will be a virtual painting class. The Town Elections will be held next February the qualifying period is at the end of the year. If you are interested, meet with the Town Clerk for more information as it relates to town elections. We ask all Town residents and council to get the word out that mosquitos borne illness are growing in South Florida. As it relates to political signs, we will look at our enforcement efforts to make sure that we are consistent with the application of our code. The October Town council meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020 we do not know yet if it will be virtual or in person. As it relates to Halloween, this year it falls on Saturday, we have it on good words that there will be an order from the county Mayor not allowing trick or treating to occur. There is a virtual costume contest that Michael Glidden put in an AD in the newsletter. All of our homes will be receiving a care basket providing all our youth with Halloween treat and all of our adults with a Halloween surprise. We do have extra police staffing during peak times. As it relates to flooding Mrs. Epperson has been working on flooding issues with home owners who have deterred seawalls over the past year. Todays flooding is 100% attributed to homes where water was seeping either cracks in the seawall or cracks in between seawall caps. This week under the direction of chief Herbello will be sending out a notice to all the homes asking them to come into complaint. We will give every home until February of next year to address the seepage that is occurring. If by February of next year those homes have not taking the necessary steps to correct the water infiltrations we are having, we are going to ask the Town Attorney to assist us with getting a bit more enforcement. October 20, 2020 is our COVID safe groundbreaking ceremony. We have invited all the dignitaries from the neighboring communities to join us. It is at 10:00 a.m. at the basketball courts the future home of our civic center. Thanked the Town Council in their efforts in putting together our budget.

Councilmember Mendal stated with all the rain and increment weather thee has been a lot more trash on the beach. Does not know what we are doing got try and clean that up. He is seeing large bulky items.

Town Manager stated typically on Wednesdays the beach is staffed by three individuals, on Wednesday's we do bulk beach cleaning. Every day they do the light bags, bottles, etc. that might wash up.

L. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

None

M. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

None

N. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

None

O. QUASI JUDICIAL RESOLUTIONS

None

P. CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX MASTERPLAN UPDATE

- Groundbreaking Ceremony Scheduled for October 20th, 2020

Town Manager stated we received this morning the 75% plans. He is having them blown up in large formats so that we can have them in the council chambers for everyone to review. Are civil plans are finally ready for DERM review. His goal is that once we get to 90% we will bring those sets at the council meeting so you can see where we are. There have some change as it relates to layout of building all those changes have been in consultation with the Mayor. We wanted to maximize the allocations of space within the building. The Project is on schedule, and he is hoping for a successful ground breaking ceremony.

Q. CONSENT AGENDA

3. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN AMERICA AND CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO ADDRESS IT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 3
Resolution No. 2701.20

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2701.20

Consensus vote 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Item Q3 passes.

R. TOWN RESOLUTIONS

4. A Resolution of the Town Council Awarding Employee Bonuses.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AWARDED EMPLOYEE BONUSES; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 4
Resolution No. 2702.20

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2702.20

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Luskin, seconded by Councilmember Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Luskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Town Manager stated the total amount is \$93,653 as indicted in the agenda. That come from our contingency account. As we know, we only give bonuses if we are projecting a year end savings for non-reoccurring savings from the current fiscal year.

Mayor Singer stated the bounces that are allocated to the employees are extremely fair. Our employees did a great job throughout the year. All the employees rose to the occasion during the COVID situation from the police department to the Town Administration ,to the Public Works department. The Town Manager came in during the peak of COVID to make sure our staff as properly protected, made sure our residents were properly protected. No matter what time the mayor called him he picked up the phone. We are very fortunate to have not only the Town Manager but also all of Department heads.

Councilmember Bernstein stated he noticed some key people that were leading the Town were getting lower bonuses then last year and was not sure why

Town Manger stated each year the amount that we set aside for the bonuses is determined by the Mayor and him. Bonuses are determined by a series of things, this year in particular was the employee's devotion during COVID, what type offsets their going to have with their spending costs for the coming year. We do not measure bonuses years to year they are one time reoccurring. They are only administered if there is a savings to the budget that year. Typically, directors are given the same amount except for those directors that go above and beyond of what's expected of them. Police officers are given a certain amount except this year we gave a higher amount because of the level of involvement from police during COVID. He recommended to the Mayor that in his opinion our public work staff this year had more exposure to them as it related to COVID.

Councilmember Bernstein asked why department heads are not getting what they received the year before

Town Manager because we do not carry those numbers from year to year

Councilmember Bernstein stated he would not mind trying to find an extra \$5,000-\$10,000 to give our departments head an increase

Mayor Singer stated he believes we allocated the proper amount for the proper people

Town Manager state the will never turn away more money to give to our directors if that's the wish of the council

Vice Mayor Einstein asked the manager to elaborate on the employees not receiving a merit increase. In addition, if during the downtown when employees were not reporting to Town Hall were they reporting to the Town Manager and how did that work into the bonus schedule.

Town Manager stated he did away with merit increases when he was first hired in 2007. Our employees are only offered a cost of living increase. This year we decided we are not going to give a cost of living because this year the cost of living did not increase. What we substitute a merit increases with is performance-based bonuses. This year we looked at the performance of our employees and those employees who did not have as much exposure or risk and maybe were not giving us that 100% like our directors. They did not rise to earning to let's say what we gave our police and sanitation workers.

Mayor Singer stated we are trying to stay within our budgeted amount. If we could give the employees a lot more we would, but everything has to be within reason. He believes the amounts he and the manager allocated are sufficient based on our budget.

Councilmember Lusskin stated the employees are like family, they always go above and beyond. They are good people because the Town Manager makes sure of it. She would love to give more money but its whatever the budget can handle.

Town Manager stated he failed to mention this earlier there is an executive order the Mayor and he agreed to. It is being passed out tomorrow morning to all of our executive team members. It is an additional executive benefit just for our directors to help recognize their efforts this past year. And that is not presented to you tonight.

Councilmember Mendal echoed everyone and hopes these bonuses show everyone their appreciation towards a job very well done this year.

S. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Glenn Singer:
None Requested

Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein:
None Requested

Councilmember Judy Lusskin:
None Requested

Councilmember Jaime Mendal:

- At the direction of Councilmember Mendal, the staff has included a fee schedule comparison for your review

Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein:
None Requested

Town Manager Alexander Diaz
None Requested

Town Manager stated we will be trying to coordinate with you a work shop as it relates to high speed internet. The clerk will be sending out some dates please try to make yourselves available. Thanked the council on behalf of the Town staff.

Mayor Singer asked if we can try and make the meeting in person because there is a lot to go over

Town Manager stated we will look into it

T. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Mayor Singer seconded by Councilmember Lusskin.

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Perez
Lissette Perez
Town Clerk