



# TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive  
Golden Beach, FL 33160

---

Official Minutes for the September 13, 2022  
First Budget Hearing called for 6:00 P.M.

---

**Zoom Room Meeting ID: 895 3774 9224 Password: 114969**

**For Dial In Only: Call 929.205.6099 Meeting ID: 895 3774 9224**

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](mailto:LPEREZ@GOLDENBEACH.US) BY 2:00 P.M. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022.

## A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

**Vice Mayor Mendal** called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

## B. ROLL CALL

**Councilmember's Present:** Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal, Councilmember Judy Lusskin, Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein, Councilmember Bernard Einstein (via zoom).

**Councilmember's Not Present:** Mayor Glenn Singer

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Steve Helfman (via Zoom), Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson, Chief Rudy Herbello, Finance Director Maria Camacho, Lt. Leila Perez (via Zoom), Asst. to the Town Clerk Sallam "Destiny" AbuJarour.

## C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**Chief Herbello** led the Pledge of Allegiance

## D. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED COMBINED MILLAGE AND PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 (TIME CERTAIN ITEM)

- 1. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Proposed Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 200.065 (TRIM BILL); SETTING A DATE FOR A FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO

ADOPT THE MILLAGE RATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 1  
Resolution No. 2837.22

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2837.22

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

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

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

The motion passed.

**Town Manager** stated that we take great pride in putting together the budget every year with team of Finance Director, Department Directors, and Town Clerk. We will hold combined millage rate at 8.40 mills for seventh consecutive year. Reminded the public that the millage rate has reduced 3 times since becoming Manager 16 years ago. Will never plan for the Millage rate to go above 8.50 mills.

**Town Manager** began the presentation with the millage rate since it allows us to set our budget. 2 parts to the millage funds. First is the general operating budget which is city expenses and city funds. The second is a millage rate imposed by the residents. They decide what GO bond process they are willing to add to the millage rate that is going to cover the bonds they have approved. There is a current bond that was approved in 2008 and refinanced in 2016. The next budget (2023/2024) will see a second GO approved bond which allows for a GO approved debt millage. The commitment from this Council was to keep the combined 8.40 millage rate. We can only budget 95% of revenues generated by millage rate of 7.735 mills.

**Town Manager** started going over the General Fund Balance to determine sufficiency of millage rate and fiscal health. In adopting the 2021 financial audit statements, the General Fund balance was at \$5.2 Million. It is expected we are going to have at least a \$700,000 savings to bring the new fund balance this year to \$5.9 Million. Of the \$5.9 Million you have restricted certain dollars and they may be unrestricted through council action and reallocate them. Currently restricted to \$330,000 for the Building Department, \$1.1 Million for Capital Projects, \$210,000 for Pension Plan Liability (rainy day funds), \$135,000 for Insurance Liability, \$90,000 unassigned to Building Department, \$1 Million unassigned to the General Fund. We are making two allocations to the Fund Balance in this year's budget. One goes directly to the General Fund of \$650,000 and directly from the fund balance to the 330 fund of \$1.9 Million leaving the proposed fund balance of

approximately \$3.3 Million. Of the \$3.3 Million, \$2.3 Million was due to the Stormwater fund. Pleased to announce that although council considered increasing the Stormwater rate earlier in the year, after consulting the members of the community and the council of the needs of the community, we have decided to not increase the Stormwater fee. The Town currently has 3 outstanding debts from the Bond Issue Series refinanced in 2016 at \$12.1 Million, FDEP Stormwater feed at \$1.4 Million, and the City National Bank Note at \$2.6 Million. We will be drawing the balance of City National Bank this Fiscal Year. We do believe that the 8.4 mills meets all of our debt obligations. Our assessed value has increased to \$1.4 billion and expect that number to grow next year and flatten out. The operating millage of 7.735 will generate to the town in the 100% value of \$11.1 million. In the General Fund, we're going to have \$10.5 million for budgeting purposes because we can only allocate to the 95% number. We currently have \$64.3K in the Debt Service Fund Balance. We did set aside \$200,000 in the General Fund Budget for purposes of needing a potential new bond issuance of \$7 million, which was approved by the residents last month.

**2. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Tentative Budgets for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 200.065 (TRIM BILL); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 2  
Resolution No. 2838.22

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2838.22

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

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

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

The motion passed.

**E. PRESENTATIONS / TOWN PROCLAMATIONS**

## 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget Presentation

**Town Manager** stated that we made a couple of assumptions and commitments that the Council took related to the future of the community. The biggest assumption is that we need to fully complete the Civic Center Project. We increased the budget by \$5-million in the last meeting to make some improvements. This year, a lot of the new money in the budget goes to building. We have also increased the salary for police officers, which was approved at the last council meeting by the Council, which was a much needed and deserved increase of \$600,000. We also had to put money in for outfitting the new Civic Center. We have allocated \$705,000 secured by this Administration by securing grants that the residents will never have to pay back. We have been able to bring over \$38 million in free money. We are taking \$1.9 million dollars from our reserves and into the building. It calls for an additional \$720,000 for the new Civic Center for furniture and equipment. It also calls for money for new expanded CCTV system. We will not rush through a contract for CCTV that isn't fully vetted. Of all of our roads in town, South Island Drive has the worst conditions today. Golden Beach Drive will get a new road, however, being paid for with \$1.2 Million by Miami-Dade Water and Sewer as part of forced main negotiations.

**Vice Mayor Mendal** asked if it included the islands.

**Town Manager** responded that we worked on Center Island last year, we are doing South Island this year, and North Island is all that would be left and it has the best driving surface.

**Councilmember Lusskin** asked if we did anything to the main force line when we did these projects in 2007.

**Town Manager** answered no because the Town has a system called a gravity system assisted by pumps for the sewer system and the county wanted to increase the size of the pump because of the water infiltration in the system.

**Town Manager** requested that we start the process of going through each department to see where each of the increases are per department.

**Town Manager** began with the executive department. We went from \$448,937 to \$523,286 under personnel services because of the insurance where we went from \$88K to \$115K. The legislative account went from \$98K to \$106K due to the insurance increases. In the expenditure line, we went from \$51,056 to \$51,586 because of the 1%, which brings the department total from \$149K to \$158K. Under the Town Clerk Department personnel went from \$205,558 to \$250,392, which is the 5.5% cost of living increase, 34% pension and 15% insurance. The expenditure side has an increase because of the upcoming election from \$81,255 to \$90,218. The Finance Department went from \$248,798 to \$292,367. We are looking to fill the vacancy for an Assistant to the Finance Director as we see the increasing value of the Finance Department as well as keeping the contracted employee during the audit. The expenditure line went from \$90,951 to \$91,860 taking the department total from \$339,749 to \$384,227. Moving on to Legal, which is a department that we keep flat at \$179,500 and we welcome the Town Attorney to use his budget. We thank him for staying under budget, but do continue to encourage and urge him to use the money. The General Government budget has gone from \$2,400,000 to \$2,300,000. There is a decrease because we

decided to put all the money directly into the 330 Fund instead of putting it into the General Fund. Did not want to inflate the general fund. Restricted CIP growth went to 720. We increased our reserves from \$297,000 to \$332,000. There is a new line for Resident Communication Services at \$194,400.00, which is our Hotwire obligation. The Law Enforcement Department personnel costs have gone from \$2,969,352 to \$3,771,688. On the Operating side, we did have a hiccup due to the increased fuel costs and went over budget. We went from \$467,812 to \$501,000 and the increase came from the fuel line and the purchases of Tahoe's. In the Building Department, we will be bringing in a new Director or Official for the Building Department. The increase there is from the additional position we created, the salary line items went from \$356,000 to \$624,000. On the Operating side, we went from \$292,000 to \$364,000 because we had to bring up all of our inspectors to what the market is considering compensation for inspections and inspection services. The operating expenditure budget for the Public Works department went from \$323,000 to \$333,000. The personnel budget went from \$937,188 to \$1,015,802. Roads and Streets, although not in this budget, is also where we have the second attrition position. The salaries have gone from \$112,825 to \$121,639 and expenditures have gone from \$657,000 to \$633,000. Recreation personnel has gone from \$383,000 to \$396,000. Operating has gone from \$583,000 to \$626,000 with the majority of that increase is for landscaping. Resident Services has gone from \$232,000 to \$278,000. Festivities have stayed at \$228,000. The General Fund Budget has a total of \$13,109,000.00. The Law Enforcement Trust Fund we call to allocate personnel costs to be \$139,000 to \$172,000. The expenditure is being called from \$68,000 to \$284,000, which this increase is for the CCTV system. The Debt Service Fund went from \$899,000 to \$1,100,000 because we added \$200,000 for the potential debt issuance. Capital Projects salaries went from \$107,000 to \$121,000 and funding went from \$6,130,000 to \$5,757,000. This is seed money for the Wellness Center, reimagined Tweedle Park and all of our obligations with the new Civic Center. In the Stormwater Fund, we see the big increase from \$468,000 to \$968,000. The grand total is \$21,514,387, which is the largest budget in our Town's history. This budget will be immediately amended after the first of the year to \$28,914,000 because we will be adding whichever debt service plus any premiums we earn into the budget. There are a total of 5 vacant positions in this year's budget 3 of which must be filled at the liberty of the design of the new building. 2 of the filled positions will eventually go away as a part of our attrition program. In the police department, positions will go away as a part of our attrition program. As we see the need for our LETF Obligations to go down, we'll reduce the personnel for our police department. We have allocated \$2,000,000 in potential dag funding for the year. We currently have an executed balance in excess of \$5,000,000.00.

**Town Manager** explained the difficult decision to add a \$960 charge for the assessment with Hotwire as a part of the telecommunications bill regardless of whether or not the residence chooses to use Hotwire as their internet provider.

**Vice Mayor Mendal** asked about the allocated amount for the building department for technological advancements for the Civic Center.

**Town Manager** clarified about the cognizance of the Town and explained that the States changed that we now charge the fees associated with running the building department and limiting the reserve. We reduced the fund balance last year because we can no longer continue to create more revenues than we have in expenditures.

## F. MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA

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

## G. TOWN RESOLUTIONS

### 3. A Resolution of the Town Council Reauthorizing the Town's Schedule of Building Permit and Processing Fees, and Establishing Town Fees.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, REAUTHORIZING THE TOWN'S SCHEDULE OF BUILDING PERMIT AND PROCESSING FEES, AND ESTABLISHING TOWN FEES AND ASSOCIATED FEES; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 3  
Resolution No. 2839.22

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2839.22

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

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

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

The motion passed.

## H. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Consensus vote 3 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lissette Perez*  
Lissette Perez  
Town Clerk