



# TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive  
Golden Beach, FL 33160

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Official Minutes for the September 12, 2023  
First Budget Hearing called for 6:00 P.M.

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**Zoom Room Meeting ID: 822 9028 4079 Password: 423046**

**For Dial In Only: Call 929.205.6099 Meeting ID: 822 9028 4079**

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 12, 2023.

## A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

## B. ROLL CALL

**Councilmember's Present:** Mayor Glenn Singer, Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein, Councilmember Judy Lusskin, Councilmember Bernard Einstein, Councilmember Jaime Mendal (*arrived during the Town Manager's budget presentation*)

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Steve Helfman, Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson, Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Police Chief Rudy Herbello, Lt. Leila Perez, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho, CIP Director Lissett Rovira, Resident Services Director Michael Glidden, Public Works Director Kirk McKoy, Office Assistant Kaitlyn Dziedzic

## C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Manager Diaz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## D. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED COMBINED MILLAGE AND PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 (TIME CERTAIN ITEM)

- 1. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Proposed Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.**

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, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 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. 2894.23

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2894.23

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Bernstein, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

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

The motion passed.

**2. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Tentative Budgets for the Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 200.065 (TRIM BILL); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 2  
Resolution No. 2895.23

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2895.23

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Bernstein, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

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

The motion passed.

**Town Attorney Helfman** read into the record the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the voted debt service millage. The proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year starting October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 is 7.6015 mills.

**Town Manager** gave the budget presentation to the Council. Our operating millage rate this year is 7.6015 and our voted debt service is .7985 with a combined millage rate of 8.4000. Our assessed value went from \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion in a \$216,000,000 increase. By the assessed values increasing we are able to hold the line on our millage rate and by making some very important adjustments to our budget, we are able to ensure what is sustainable and we will be able to continue operations in the years to come. Our debt service this year is a millage rate of .7985 mills varying \$1.2 million. Although there are two (2) bonds that the debt service millage can be used for, we can only apply the debt service millage rate for GO bonds. The second bond, the principal payment of that bond does not begin until 2038 when the principal payment of the first GO bond goes away. The Town currently holds \$22 million in outstanding debt. It is comprised of \$10.6 million is for the first bond, \$7 million for the second bond, a total of \$1.2 million in the Stormwater fund, and \$3.7 million in our City National Bank Loans making a total of \$22.8 million. This year's budget is a \$24 million budget, \$14.5 million is for the General Government Operations, \$245, 871 in the Law Enforcement Trust Fund, \$1.2 million in the debt service fund, \$7.4 million in the Capital Projects Fund, and \$1,048,744 in the Stormwater Utility Fund. Our Fund Balance is very important when talking about the Town's fiscal health. The numbers are based on the end of last fiscal year's audit and financials. At the end of last fiscal year, we had a total fund balance of \$6.5 million dollars and it was broken down by the following: \$2.6 million is due to the Stormwater Fund in the General Fund. We need to grapple with the thought of how we are going to pay that \$2.6 million to the General Fund. The State of Florida has told the Town that they will no longer loan money for the Stormwater Fund, because it is not self-sufficient. \$452,635 is set aside for the Building Department as required by State Law. Any excess revenues is what we set aside for the rainy day fund. \$210,000 is set aside for unfunded pension liabilities in the future, \$135,000 is set aside for insurance premiums, \$1.9 million was in the 2022-2023 budget and has already been allocated and spent. Our unassigned number is \$1.17 million. Of the \$6.5 million, we are asking for \$484,000+ to go into this fiscal year (23/24) budget in order to balance the budget with \$384,000 going to the General Fund and the other \$100,000 going to the Capital Projects Fund. Most of the dollars that we saved this year come from things that we could not buy this year.

**Town Manager** stated that the future of the fiscal health of the Town is our priority. When we grow and include the Civic Center and the Wellness Center, we have to talk about how we are going to sustain those buildings. While we continue to grow and offer more services, we are realigning our positioning and staying accountable for our residents and staying more focused on them. We currently have nine (9) Department Directors. We are going to be streamlining our system into four major categories with four (4) Department Directors, which will be augmented by Division Directors. Moving forward, we are going to provide Clear and Effective Services to our Residents, we are going to be Safer and more Responsive, Faster and more Direct, and finally more Efficient and Accountable. Our first priority is our residents and the services we provide to them. The Community Engagement Department will include Resident Services, Park and Recreation, Human Resources and our Town Clerk, which will be led by Town Clerk Lissette Perez. Our Public Safety Forum will be taking a more holistic approach. Public Safety is under Police Chief Rudy Herbello. Our third silo includes everything that

is construction and maintenance. Everything under our Operations Management will be led by Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson. It will include our Residential Construction and Zoning Division (previously the Building Department), Public Services (previously Public Works), Facilities and Street Maintenance. Finally, we are focusing on our Fiscal Health to make sure that our fiscal health is sound. This includes risk management, insurance, procurements, debt management, and cash management for our Accounts Payable. Our Fiscal Health will be overseen by our Finance Director Maria Camacho. The Town Managers office will be overseeing the Executive Management department, which includes the Town Council, Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Capital Projects. We are eager to announce that we are launching a new Building Links, which is an online forum where residents can learn about the City and communicate about things that are important to the community that are factual in nature. Residents can sign onto their Building Links account and exchange ideas, get information, reserve tennis courts, reserve the beach pavilion, reserve the new Town terrace, pickleball courts, and any facilities and parks.

**Town Manager** stated that this year's Executive Management Department has a department total budget of \$10.9 million. The responsibilities of this department all fall under the Town Manager with the Town Council division, Town Attorney Division, Town Manager division, General Government division, and the Capital Projects Fund. Across all departments, we had an increase in our non-health insurance premiums by \$402,000 which is a 150% increase in our rates. Our renewal rate this year is \$549,000 for our insurances. We have allocated \$200,000 for the new Civic Center Building. There is a verbal estimate of \$10 million to fund the building with 10% deductible at \$247,000. The League of Cities will not insure the building unless we have the 10% deductible with a \$247,000 increase. The builder's risk insurance does expire on 10/31 and we are hoping to have the keys for the building and be ready by 10/31 and we will meet that deadline. It does not make sense for the Town to self-insure the building. We insure each and every single item the Town is responsible for. Although FEMA does help, they are a reimbursement program that can take 4-5 years to reimburse.

**Vice Mayor Bernstein** stated that he would rather self-insure the building if we can. Our chances of something happening to that building now rather than an older building are lower. The ability of self-insuring is not as bad as it is seeming to be.

**Mayor Singer** stated that he agrees with Vice Mayor Bernstein and that the insurance money could go into a strict reserve.

**Town Manager** stated that these options have been explored. I would love to self-insure. I recommend that we do a risk assessment before we make a decision on that. The State of Florida's CPI for this year came in at 9.4% and we will be providing an increase for our employees at 5.5%. This 5.5% does not apply to our police officers because they have their negotiations with their FOP contract. The public works department also is excluded from this 5.5%. This budget does have dollars available to ensure that we can install all of the poles for our CCTV project as per our agreement with Hotwire. It does allocate for \$100,000 for the milling and resurfacing of North Parkway, the Y behind Singer Park and North Island. We have negotiated the milling of Golden Beach Drive with Miami-Dade County, so the \$1.4 million can go towards our pension plan being funded at 37% and it calls for 18% towards our health insurance. In the Executive Management Department, in the General Government division there are two (2) important numbers, there is \$159,000 allocated for Hotwire as well as the

insurance number and we have also included a chart in the budget book that shows all expenses across all departments. Under the Capital Projects Fund, the projects that are being approved for the five-year plan are the Civic Center Complex, Re-Imagined Tweddle Park, CCTV Implementation, Wellness Center, Portable Pumps, Vulnerability Study, Fountains and Signage on A1A, Lighting on A1A, and the Auxiliary Services Building. These projects are not all funded yet, but they are a part of the five-year project plan. The projects that have been funded are the Civic Center, Wellness Center, and the Re-Imagined Tweddle Park. By the end of the Wellness Center Project, we will have spent \$67 million in Capital Projects for our community in 16 years. \$19 million were from GO bond purposes. The rest were raised through federal grants, state grants, direct appropriations, or by leveraging your current millage and the current budget.

**Town Manager** continued with the Department of Community Engagement managed under Town Clerk, Lissette Perez. We needed to increase our budget for next year for some of the events being hosted by Michael Glidden and Jisel Krepp including Halloween, New Years, and the 95th Town Anniversary Carnival bringing their total division budget to \$684,203. The Parks & Recreation Division will have a Division Total of \$1,145,556. The total budget for the Town Clerk and Human Resources Division is a total of \$382,327. The total Operating Budget for the Community Engagement Department is \$2.2 million. The Public Safety Department falls under the direction of Police Chief Rudy Herbello we are adding an additional Police Officer position in the budget. There will now be a minimum of three (3) police officers on the overnight shift. We have also added a second person to the guardhouse overnights. The total Department Operating Budget is \$5,075,773 with the Law Enforcement Division Total budget at \$4.6 million, the Code Enforcement Division Budget sits at \$182,344 and the Law Enforcement Trust Fund is currently set at \$245,871. Moving forward with the Operations Management Department. The total Department Budget is set at \$4.5 million. The Residential Construction and Zoning Department (previously the Building Department) will now be staffed with three (3) staff members. We are going to be launching a new software that will make the permitting process easier and more efficient. The resident Construction and Zoning Division will have a total operating budget of \$1.1 million. The Public Services Division (previously the Public Works Department) under the direction of Kirk McKoy will be augmented by five (5) additional contracted employees to provide services. They have an operational budget of \$1.3 million. The Facilities and Street Maintenance Division has an Operating Budget of \$972,587 and the Stormwater Utility Fund has an Operating Budget of \$1,048,744. The Stormwater Utility Fund is funded by a rate of \$600 a year by our residents, it then gets \$310,000 from fees that go into our General Fund. At some point, this community will need to wrestle with the idea of what are we doing with our Stormwater fees for the purposes of regaining the debt it has developed in the General Fund, and for the purposes of building a reserve to make sure that we can maintain the system. We are not asking the Council to increase the Stormwater fee.

**Mayor Singer** stated that we eventually will have to increase the Stormwater fee to pay it down.

**Town Manager** stated that the State of Florida has taken an independent review of our Stormwater Fund and have stated that the fund cannot sustain itself and that they will no longer lend money for that area. The cost to maintain that system is not that great. The system should be able to make enough money to pay off its obligations. Currently

we owe the State \$1.2 million. The reality is we have one big project that is pump station 1 and we need to start building a reserve to replace the system.

Town Manager continued with Fiscal Health, which has a total Operating Budget of \$1.7 million with the Finance Division having a total budget of over \$480,000 and the Debt Service Fund totaling \$1.2 million. The Town currently has in debt \$22.8 million of which the debt service fund pays the \$7 million and \$10 million. Once the first GO bond retires in 2038, then the principal you getting begins on your second GO bond. We are going to continue to monitor our CNB Note and make our \$222,000 principal payments every year and rather than have a more aggressive accelerated payment, we are going to enjoy the benefits of what the market is currently yoking. This year we have a \$24 million budget and these numbers were founded on facts, not guessing games. We have done a lot of work this summer to make sure that we can trust this budget and we hope that you trust this budget and that you vote in favor of both the millage rate that we are proposing and this budget. We will be sending an e-blast on Friday with an online interactive budget that allows everyone to see the budget. Everyone will be able to see on a weekly basis where we are with our budget and see everything live where we are in terms of our expenditures as well as trends. Very proud of Finance Director Maria Camacho and Finance Assistant Gaby McKoy for their work on developing this program over the past year and a half for it to go live.

**Town Manager** stated that the next meeting will be the Final Budget Hearing and Business meeting taking place on Tuesday, September 26 at 6 pm.

#### **E. ADJOURNMENT:**

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A motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Mendal seconded by Vice Mayor Bernstein.

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lissette Perez*  
Lissette Perez  
Town Clerk