

September 4, 2024

Village Council Special Meeting
First Budget Hearing

Attendance:

Mayor Yardley

Mr. Tomlinson

Mr. Hodgson

Mr. Borshchukov

Mr. Robichaux (via telephone)

Mr. Weber (via telephone)

The roll was called, and a quorum was determined.

Mayor Yardley stated Mr. Tomlinson has advised the millage rate should remain at 6.5 mills for the upcoming 2024-25 fiscal year. Mayor Yardley agrees with Mr. Tomlinson's assessment.

Mr. Tomlinson discussed the reasoning behind keeping the millage rate at the current rate of 6.5 mills. We had a \$325,000 increase in revenue from assessed values. Sea Ranch Lakes had the highest increase in Broward County at 13%, most are homesteaded properties. In light of the current situation regarding security concerns and efforts to increase impediments to accessing the village, Mr. Tomlinson felt the increase in the police department budget was the best action the council can take. Efforts to add additional railings and impediments to the wall have been met with resistance from affected property owners. Railings will be installed behind the property at 6 Minnetonka Road which borders the plaza behind Publix. The increased police budget will allow for additional officers and more coverage. The village also must follow the PBA contract giving the officers a 4.5% increase.

Chief O'Brien stated part time personnel need to be available when full time personnel are needed to do investigations, and we need to budget for that flexibility. Mr. Tomlinson stated the July and August financial statements showed police costs were in excess of budgeted amounts due to increased patrols and staffing. Budgeting for these costs does necessarily mean we will be spending the funds, but assets need to be available if needed.

Mayor Yardley and the council discussed the possibility of reducing the millage rate to 6.25 mills but that would decrease ad valorem receipts by approximately \$90,000 which would give us a deficit in the budget. Mayor Yardley appreciated all the work done by Mr. Tomlinson.

Mr. Swartz opened the public hearing. There were no members of the public present. Public hearing closed. Motion made by Mr. Tomlinson and seconded by Mr. Borshchukov to set the tentative millage rate at 6.5 mills. Mr. Swartz read the resolution to set the tentative millage rate at 6.5 mills, which represents a 13.39% increase over the rollback rate of 5.7325. The roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Swartz read the resolution to adopt the 2024-25 budget by title only. Motion made by Mr. Hodgson and seconded by Mr. Borshchukov to adopt the tentative budget. The roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

The final budget hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 5:01 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Mr. Yardley discussed several items that will be addressed at the September 11th council meeting and asked the council members to review the documentation prior to the meeting. Mr. Tomlinson stated our audit firm has proposed a new fee for the upcoming audit. This is substantially higher than we previously paid with our prior firm, Keefe McCullough. We will need to go out for RFP and look at other proposals. Mr. Swartz is working on this item so we can proceed quickly. Audit usually begins in November.

Adjourn.