



Town Council Budget Workshop

**July 26, 2024 at 9:00 AM
Howey-in-the-Hills Town Hall
101 N. Palm Ave.,
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737**

MINUTES

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
Mayor MacFarlane led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Councilor Reneé Lannamañ delivered an invocation.

ROLL CALL

Acknowledgement of Quorum

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor Reneé Lannamañ | Councilor David Miles | Councilor George Lehning | Mayor Pro Tem Marie V. Gallelli | Mayor Martha MacFarlane

STAFF PRESENT:

Sean O'Keefe, Town Manager | Tara Hall, Library Director | Morgan Cates, Public Works Director | John Brock, Town Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion: Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Sean O'Keefe, Town Manager, led a lengthy discussion on the Town's Proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget. Mr. O'Keefe explained revisions that had been made to the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget since the first Budget Workshop.

Councilor Miles suggested that revenue account 1-335150 (SRS - Alcoholic Beverage License) be reduced to \$1,419. Mr. O'Keefe agreed with this.

Councilor Miles requested that the Stormwater Grant Revenue and Expenditure amounts be moved from the current fiscal year to FY 2024-2025. Mr. O'Keefe agreed with this.

Councilor Miles suggested that the revenue account 1-314100 (U.S.T. – Electricity) be increased by \$10,000.

Councilor Miles asked about the status of the Library Grant, revenue account 1-337720 (Library Expansion - Impact Fees Funds). This Library Grant was for a homeschool children's literature book

collection that the library was in the process of purchasing. Library Director, Tara Hall, explained that the Town has until March 2025 to continue purchasing and submitting invoices to the county for repayment. It was decided that a portion of the Library Expansion (Impact Fee Funds) would be budgeted into the next fiscal year.

Councilor Miles suggested that the amount going into the Infrastructure Fund of \$273,355 should be rounded up to \$300,000 by doing an interfund transfer from the General Fund to the Infrastructure Fund.

Councilor Miles stated that he believed that the Town had underbudgeted object code 316 Town Engineer and overbudgeted 318 Town Planner. Councilor Miles suggested that the amounts budgeted for each object code should be reversed.

Councilor Lehning asked about the projected salaries for Town employees. Councilor Lehning said that the turnover rate for certain positions may be high due to salaries for those positions being too low. Councilor Lehning suggested that Town Councilors should cut their salaries in half to assist with paying the Town Employees a higher wage. Councilor Miles disagreed with this suggestion. Mr. O’Keefe stated that he would get a benchmark of what other Town/City Councilors were being paid in the county before the next Town Council meeting.

Mayor MacFarlane suggested that the Town contract to have a salary study conducted. Town Clerk/HR Manager, John Brock, suggested that the Town Council set aside money in the budget to have this Salary Study conducted. Mr. Brock stated that he believed the City of Mascotte had recently done this for somewhere between \$6,000 and \$10,000. Councilor Lannamañ stated that she would not be in favor of budgeting this amount for a salary study this year.

Councilor Miles questioned the library’s utility budget, object code 430. Councilor Miles suggested that it was currently over budgeted and should be reduced to \$13,000.

A lengthy discussion of the Town Events budgets was had. It was decided that the Events budgets would remain at the proposed levels and that Town staff should move forward to ensure that events such as the Town Christmas Festival and Founder’s Day should still take place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

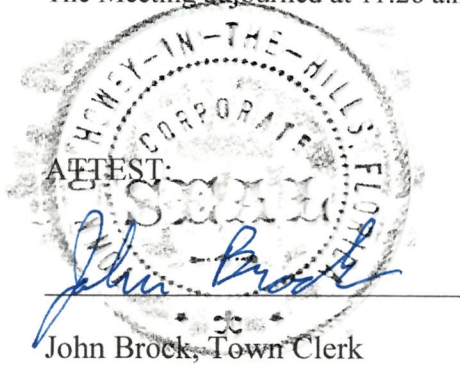
Any person wishing to address the Mayor and Town Council and who is not on the agenda is asked to speak their name and address. Three (3) minutes is allocated per speaker.

Todd Hawkins, 1110 N. Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Hawkins stated that he was not anti-growth for the Town, but that he was for “good” growth. Mr. Hawkins suggested that the Town look into hiring private contractors, rather than additional Police Officers for patrols in the future. Mr. Hawkins was also concerned about the amount of money the Town was budgeting for a Code Enforcement Department.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilor Miles to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lannamañ seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m. | **Attendees: 15**


ATTEST:
John Brock, Town Clerk


Mayor Martha MacFarlane