



Town Council Budget Workshop

July 12, 2024 at 3:00 PM

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 03:00 p.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 | Rick Thomas, Police Chief | 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 reviewed the status of grant submittals and awarded grants, as they relate to the upcoming budget. Mr. O'Keefe reviewed the Budget Workshop Executive Summary.

Councilors Lannamañ, Miles and Gallelli stated that they wanted Florida Retirement System (FRS) to be removed from the proposed budget.

Councilor Lannamañ stated that she would like to see the Town contract for its own salary study, rather than trying to utilize the Salary Study that the City of Mascotte had commissioned this year. Councilor Miles stated that he would like to see a revised Salary Summary sheet before the next workshop.

Both Councilors Lannamañ and Miles stated that they would be against an increase in the Town's millage rate for the next year. Mr. O'Keefe stated that it would be possible for the Town not to increase its millage rate, but the Town Council would need to cancel the Water Tower Restoration project.

Councilor Lehning stated that he would like to see the originally approved budget for FY 23-24, so he can use it for comparison (not the Mid-year amended version of the budget). Councilor Lehning stated

that he would like to see the Executive Summary address each department and highlight items that were different.

Councilor Lannamañ suggested combining the Special Events budget under Park & Recreation's budget (which accounts for all Town events other than the Christmas Festival), with the Special Events account budget (which is just the Christmas Festival). Mayor MacFarlane suggested cutting back expenses on the Christmas Festival. There was some talk of not budgeting for a Founders Day Event next year. There was no consensus from the Town Council to make any changes to the Events budgets.

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.

Tim Everline 1012, N Lakeshore Blvd – Mr. Everline stated that he was astounded that Florida Retirement System (FRS) was in the budget and he was not in favor of the proposed millage increase.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m. | **Attendees: 12**

ATTEST

John Brock, Town Clerk



Mayor Martha MacFarlane