



TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – FINAL BUDGET HEARING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Meeting audio available in Town Clerk's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Shorr called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Shorr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Shorr led a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Robert Shorr, Vice Mayor Laura Danowski, Councilmembers Phillis Maniglia, Marianne Miles, and Margaret Herzog, Town Manager Francine L. Ramaglia, Town Attorney Elizabeth Lenihan, Esq., Public Works Director Larry Peters, Assistant Public Works Director Mario Matos, and Town Clerk Lakisha Burch.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Motion was made Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve the agenda as is it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

FINAL BUDGET AND PUBLIC HEARING

1. Pursuant to F.S. 200.065(2)(d) & (e), the following announcement must be made:

Town Manager Ramaglia stated that the first public hearing on the proposed budget and the corresponding ad valorem millage rate in accordance with Florida Statutes Chapter 200.065 was held September 8, 2022. She stated that tonight is the final budget hearing for the millage and adoption of the budget. She also stated that the total taxable value of \$443,854,986.00 dollars we have a 3.000 millage rate which it has been the same as the past five (5) years however, although it is the same rate as in the prior year this proposed millage rate is 12.38% above the roll back rate of 2.6694 mills, the proposed millage rate of 3.00 produced tax revenue of \$ 1,331,565 which is an increase of \$171,062 however we are only allowed to budget 95% of that which is \$ 1,264,987 which is an increase of \$ 156,833 from last year. The total budget of this year is \$ 5.9 million excluding transfers between funds and maintains funding for existing levels of service. Town Manager Ramaglia stated that Town Council held budget workshops on August 23rd, 29th and 30th to discuss

the proposed operating and capital budgets which is \$ 2,178,000.00 million dollars and will be bringing forward the first reading of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) on October 4, 2022.

“The Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Florida’s rolled back rate is 2.6694 The percentage increase in property taxes for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 is 12.38% and the Town’s millage rate to be adopted is 3.0000 mills”.

- a. Approval of *Resolution No. 2022-67* adopting the final 2022-2023 millage rate.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Herzog to approve Resolution No. 2022-67 adopting the final 2022-2023 millage rate 3.00 mills; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Herzog asked was the Town’s reserves the 1,264,987. Town Manager Ramaglia responded that the \$ 1,264,987 dollars are our revenues and that our reserves were around \$ 800,000 dollars in general fund which is over 25%.

- b. Approval of *Resolution No. 2022-68* adopting the final 2022-2023 operating budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Maniglia seconded by Councilmember Miles to approve Resolution No. 2022-68 adopting the final 2022-2023 operating budget, including balances bought forward and related fiscal policies; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Ramaglia asked Town Council would be kind enough to put in public records that was discussed in the budget workshop for all employees except the Town Manager receive a 3% COLA on October 1st.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Danowski seconded by Councilmember Maniglia to approve the 3% COLA adjustment for all employees except the Town Manager that was agreed upon in the budget workshops; it was voted as follows: Ayes: Mayor Shorr, Vice Mayor Danowski, Councilmembers Herzog, Maniglia, and Miles. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN STAFF COMMENTS

Town Manager

Town Manager Ramaglia mentioned the storm that was coming, she also stated that a CODE RED would be going out with this information, she also stated that the schools and Town Hall would be closed tomorrow and until further notice and will continue to watch the storm. She also stated that she was scheduled off so Mr. Peters would be in charge, but she would be available.

Town Attorney

No comment.

Public Works Director

Mr. Peters stated that they are continuing to lower the water levels of the canals and monitoring them, and all Public Works also stated that all employees are on call. Mayor Shorr asked about Town Hall being opened on Thursday and Town Manager Ramaglia responded that we will be waiting to see what happens with the storm. Councilmember Herzog asked what is happening with

the water levels of canals, doesn't seem to be showing that they are dropped, they are still at up to the high grass level because normally when you drop it, there is a baroness with no grass. Mr. Peters responded that they are dropping it slowly, so it doesn't wash the banks out as it flows out. Councilmember Herzog asked when was this started. Mr. Peters responded Friday. Vice Mayor Danowski stated that we have to follow the schedule and requirements by South Florida Water Management that allows other systems to our north to drain. Mr. Peters responded that is correct, and that we have 8,000 acres of land out there that sheet flowing into our canal system as quickly as we lower it. Town Manager Ramaglia also stated that we have heard from the County Commissioner, the District Commander, the Village of Wellington, and Indian Trail if there is anything that we need.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Burch thanked the Council for coming in for the Special meeting and apologize for the inconvenience.

TOWN COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Margaret Herzog (Seat 5)

Councilmember Herzog commented for all to stay safe.

Phillis Maniglia (Seat 1)

Councilmember Maniglia commented to stay safe.

Marianne Miles (Seat 3)

Councilmember Miles commented thank you and stay safe.

Vice Mayor Laura Danowski (Seat 2)

Vice Mayor Danowski commented to keep an eye for your neighbors and other folks that may need your assistance, stay calm and if you hoarded all the water and toilet paper, she hopes Publix doesn't allow you to return it.

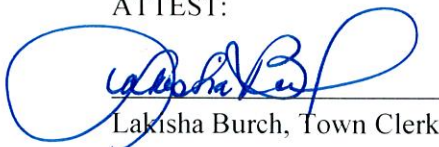
Mayor Robert Shorr (Seat 4)

Mayor Shorr reminded everyone about signing up for CODE RED, see something please call 561-985-2558, on call number for Public Works, if you see something that needs immediately attention.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

ATTEST:


Lakisha Burch, Town Clerk

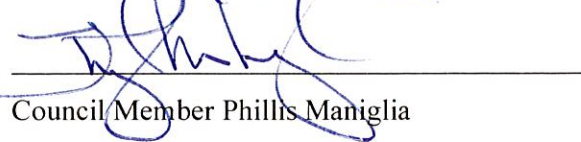
**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES,
FLORIDA**


Mayor Robert Shorr


Vice Mayor Laura Danowski


Councilmember Marge Herzog


Council Member Marianne Miles


Council Member Phillis Maniglia