

VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY
Minutes of the Special Meeting/First Budget Hearing
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
Deering Estate Visitor's Center
16701 SW 72 Avenue

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Eugene P. Flinn, Jr.
Vice Mayor Brian W. Pariser
Council Member Ed Feller
Council Member Howard Tendrich
Council Member Shelley Stanczyk

Staff present:
Village Manager Ron E. Williams
Village Attorney Eve A. Boutsis
Village Clerk Meighan J. Alexander

Mayor Flinn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Flinn led the pledge of allegiance.

2. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Williams provided staff report. He noted that the Village does not intend to increase taxes; rather, the Village intends to hold the millage rate to the current level. He explained the principal focus of this budget would be to continue to maintain a high quality of service. He provided information concerning the capital projects, which are a crucial part of development of the village; however, he acknowledged that capital projects are also the aspects of government that inconveniences the public the most. Manager Williams noted that there has been very little impact, event with the recent major rainstorms, due to the capital improvements in the storm drainage system. He also remarked that the Village's entry signs are very popular. He thanked the police department and congratulated them for keeping emergency response times low and for their diligent work in reducing crime. Manager Williams discussed the outstanding parks; congratulating the Council for their leadership on the LEED certified concession stand.

Manager Williams continued by noting how important the removal of mitigation was to the village. He then provided an explanation of the General Fund Revenues. He explained how the reduction of ad valorem affected the Village; however, due to mitigation, the Village used to living "lean." He advised how each resident's tax dollar is distributed, with the municipal tax bill being only 13% of the entire tax bill. He noted that the Village has an outstanding resident to employee ratio – with one employee for every 341 residents. He concluded that while some people get concerned when they hear talk of increasing the number of personnel; he reminded the Council that that employees are important to this process – employees are important for service delivery.

Manager Williams explained the Village's debt service. He noted that two years ago, the debt service was \$2,718,400 annually over 30 years for a total of \$81,552,000. Currently, through the policies recommended by staff and support by the Council, the Village's debt service is \$891,101 annually over 30 years for a total of \$26,733,030. He concluded that the Village has saved \$54,818,970 over a 30-year period. He advised that the Village also received the highest ever bond rating given to a municipality, as stated by the Florida Municipal Loan Council.

3. ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING – PUBLIC HEARING

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2010, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2011, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Pariser moved this item forward. Seconded by Councilman Feller.

Attorney Boutsis suggested conducting the public hearing following discussion of the budget.

Councilman Feller moved to table the item. Seconded by Councilman Tendrich. All voted in favor.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2010 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2011; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Pariser moved this item forward. Seconded by Councilman Tendrich.

Manager Williams advised that he did not have an additional staff report.

Mayor Flinn opened the public hearing on the Budget. The following individuals addressed the Council: Gunther Karger, 14950 SW 86 Avenue; and, Warren Lovely, 15323 SW 74 Place.

Mayor Flinn closed the public hearing.

Councilman Feller thanked Mr. Lovely for his advice about pension plans in the past. He remarked that this Council has been consistently conservative. He stated that residents who have been living in their Palmetto Bay homes for a long

period of time may end up paying more on their tax bill, but new residents are experiencing a decrease. He noted that the Village has a \$6,600,000 reserve fund, with \$2.8 million in a "lock box", which is one of the reasons for the high bond rating. He commended the Manager and staff for their service.

Vice Mayor Pariser asked if the bond rating is reviewed annually. Manager Williams advised that it is. Vice Mayor Pariser asked if the rating would change if the reserve changed. Manager Williams stated that as long as the Village meets the threshold, and staff will be bringing forth a debt policy in the future, there would be an opportunity to protect the high rating. Vice Mayor Pariser commented that staff has done an outstanding job. He congratulated the Manager and the Finance Director for their strict accountability, which has resulted in unqualified and unblemished audits. He stated that he would like to be able to place more funds in reserve and provide tax relief to the residents.

Mayor Flinn expressed his pride in staff. He noted that the Village has had tremendous success in receiving funds through grants. He stated that he is proud of the community programs, like RADKids and DARE and hopes that we continue to properly fund and include these programs, even expanding them to adults. He expressed his gratitude to Manager Williams and Director Chin for their hard work.

Vice Mayor Pariser remarked that the police budget is 42% of the Village's budget, which is actually lower than most cities.

Councilman Tendrich noted that he is very happy with the budget and proud to be a member of the Council.

Councilwoman Stanczyk noted that the Village is dedicated to providing an excellent quality of life to its residents. She stated that while economic times are difficult, the Village continues to do well and improve. She remarked that the Village has been very careful and conservative and she is happy to continue to maintain the current millage rate. Councilwoman Stanczyk stated that while the Village has been very successful in receiving grants, the lobbyists have been very helpful in this endeavor and she would like to see funding for the lobbyists continue.

Councilman Feller stated that he supports reinstating the federal lobbyist to the budget. He noted that with the timing of the budget cycle in the federal government, very few budget items are passed the first time around and a two-year cycle is important.

Vice Mayor Pariser concurred, adding that as the lobbyist were not very successful this year due to the economy, he believes the Village Manager can negotiate better contracts with the lobbyists this year.

Councilman Feller moved to table consideration of the budget. Seconded by Councilman Tendrich. All voted in favor.

Councilman Tendrich moved to bring the millage back to the table. Seconded by Councilman Feller. All voted in favor.

Councilman Feller moved to set the millage rate at 2.447. Seconded by Councilman Tendrich.

Mayor Flinn opened the public hearing. No one wished to be heard. He closed the public hearing.

Mayor Flinn called the question. All voted in favor of the millage rate of 2.447.

Councilman Tendrich moved to reconsider the budget ordinance. Seconded by Councilwoman Stanczyk.

Councilman Feller moved to pass the budget on first reading. Seconded by Councilman Tendrich. All voted in favor. The second public hearing is scheduled for September 27, 2010.

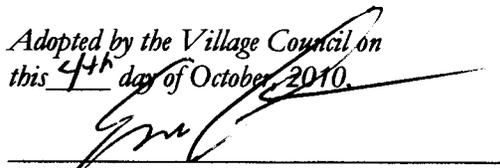
4. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was officially adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Prepared and submitted by:


Meighan J. Alexander, CMC
Village Clerk

Adopted by the Village Council on
this 4th day of October, 2010.


Eugene P. Flinn, Jr., Mayor

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