

VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY
Minutes of the Special Council Meeting / First Budget Hearing of September 12, 2011
Village Hall Chambers
9705 East Hibiscus Street

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

Mayor Shelley Stanczyk
Vice Mayor Brian W. Pariser
Council Member Patrick Fiore
Council Member Howard Tendrich
Council Member Joan Lindsay

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

Mayor Stanczyk called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Mayor Stanczyk led the pledge of allegiance. She announced that the Village is experiencing audio technical difficulties this evening and thanked all for their patience.

2. 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, 2011, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Boutsis explained that the millage rate ordinance would be tabled and the budget should be considered first.

Mayor Stanczyk asked the Council if they would consider allowing for recognition of the Counselors in Training at this time. Parks Director Fanny Carmona thanked those who assisted with the Summer Camp.

Councilman Tendrich moved to table the millage rate Ordinance. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay.

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, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS;

PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Tendrich moved this item forward. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay.

Manager Williams provided a budget presentation. He reported that the Council has shown continued commitment to fiscal responsibility through its efforts to improve infrastructure and other capital improvement projects. He thanked Council and the Village Departments for their support. Manager Williams expressed his appreciation to Commander Truitt and the Policing Unit for their efforts reaching out to the community through the RADkids and DARE programs, in addition to their attention to solving crimes and traffic safety.

Manager Williams reviewed the net assets, general fund and the fund balances, general fund revenues, ad valorem tax base, and distribution of tax dollars. He noted that 13% of the average homeowner's tax bill is provided to Palmetto Bay.

Vice Mayor Pariser stated that he was pleased that the Council will continue to hold the millage rate at its current rate and not diminish the level of services for which Palmetto Bay has become known.

Mayor Stanczyk acknowledged Eddie Borego from County Commissioner Bell's office, Ed MacDougall, Mayor of Cutler Bay, and Cutler Bay Town Manager Steven Alexander.

Mayor Stanczyk stated that the Village has continued to maintain the same millage rate for at least the last three years. She stated that the Village maintains the same quality of service and has more than adequate reserves.

Councilman Fiore suggested lowering the millage rate to at least 2.271, which would provide \$50 back to the taxpayers, while keeping \$9.1 million in reserves and \$8M in capital improvements.

Councilman Tendrich stated that due the recent disasters throughout the country and the world, he would not recommend lowering the rate.

Councilwoman Lindsay remarked that ad valorem revenue is down and the Village will be transferring \$1.5 million in order to keep services as is. She opined that it would be unwise to reduce the tax rate.

Mayor Stanczyk agreed, adding that the Village has used its funds wisely; however, the economy remains uncertain.

Vice Mayor Pariser stated that while he is in favor of giving back to the taxpayer, the Village has the fifth or sixth lowest millage rate. He stated that we have very positive aspects, the property values went down 2.6% (one of the third lowest reductions of all the cities) and we continue to provide a high level of services.

Mayor Stanczyk opened the public hearing. The following individual spoke before the Council: Peter England.

Councilman Tendrich moved to table. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay. The motion carried.

Councilman Tendrich moved to bring the millage rate ordinance forward. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay.

Clerk read the caption of the Ordinance.

Mayor Stanczyk remarked that one of the many comments she received was concerning the softball fields proposed for Palmetto Bay Park. She stated that residents felt that promises were made and that many felt that the number of fields were not to change. She suggested that the two fields be removed from consideration and that the funds be moved for use at Thalatta Park.

Vice Mayor Pariser noted that he had received similar remarks and concurs with the Mayor's suggestion.

Councilwoman Lindsay stated that she, too, had heard comments concerning the softball fields and asked the Manager to not place this capital improvement item in the budget if the Council has not previously approved same.

Manager Williams remarked that the budget is a living document and any items funded would still return to the Council for approval.

Councilwoman Lindsay remarked that the Village's capital plan continues through 2015.

Manager Williams remarked that the document is updated annually.

Following brief comment, Councilwoman Lindsay stated that the agreement with the residents should be honored and she is not in favor of the additional fields. She stated that improvements to Thalatta will assist with future revenue from rentals.

Councilman Fiore stated that returning money to the taxpayers should be paramount.

Mayor Stanczyk opened the public meeting. The following individuals addressed the Council: Eric Tullberg, 7884 SW 179 Terrace; Marsha Matson, 9300 SW 180 Street; Tucker Crusan, 17501 SW 92 Avenue; Aida Crusan, 17501 SW 92 Avenue; Judy Trubbi, 8521 SW 181 Street; Jacqueline Produe, 8285 SW 164 Terrace; Arleen Feller, 7960 SW 144 Street; Henry Clifford, 8875 SW 171 Street; Todd Morrow, 9375 SW 178 Terrace; John Dubois, 17575 Old Cutler Road; John Phillips, 136 Street and 82 Court; and Alan Smith, 9345 SW 179 Terrace.

Councilman Tendrich stated that Thalatta would be renovated and made ADA compliant.

Vice Mayor Pariser thanked all for their comments. He stated that he would like to insure that all defibrillators are in place. He moved to eliminate the two softball fields from the budget and move the funds to enhance Thalatta. Second by Councilwoman Lindsay.

Following brief comment, Manager Williams stated that the additional funding would allow staff to take the next step and move forward with plans that staff has been working on at Thalatta.

Councilwoman Lindsay stated that she is not in favor of taking funds from reserves, but concurred that it should be done.

Manager Williams confirmed that every amount allocated requires staff to return with information to council.

Mayor Stanczyk suggested offering an allocation for the meditation garden at Coral Reef Park. Manager Williams stated the garden is included as part of the budget for Coral Reef Park.

Mayor Stanczyk called the question on Vice Mayor Pariser's previous motion. The motion carried (4 to 1, Councilman Fiore being the sole opposition.)

Vice Mayor Pariser moved to allocate \$1,000 specifically for the meditation garden, removing \$1,000 from Thalatta. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay.

Following brief discussion, Mayor Stanczyk called the question. The motion passed unanimously (5-0.)

Councilman Fiore asked Manager Williams to insure that defibrillators are located at each park.

Vice Mayor Pariser moved to table final action on the budget. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay. All voted in favor.

Vice Mayor Pariser moved to return to action on the millage rate ordinance. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay. All voted in favor.

Councilman Tendrich moved to set the millage at 2.447. Seconded by Councilwoman Lindsay. The motion passed (4 to 1, Councilman Fiore being the sole opposition.)

Vice Mayor Pariser moved to return to action on the budget. Seconded by Councilman Tendrich.

Attorney Boutsis reminded the Council that the budget was amended.

The motion passed (4 to 1, Councilman Fiore being the sole opposition.)

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was officially adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Prepared and submitted by:



Meighan J. Alexander, CMC
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council on this 3rd day of October, 2011.



Shelley Stanczyk, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED. THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE VILLAGE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW. WHILE THE FLORIDA STATUTES DO NOT REQUIRE TAPE RECORDINGS, TO THE EXTENT THAT TAPE RECORDINGS ARE MADE, THE TAPES MAY BE REQUESTED FROM THE VILLAGE CLERK FOR REVIEW AND/OR COPYING. THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY CAN NOT GUARANTEE QUALITY OF ANY RECORDING.