

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING CONDUCTED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 AT 5:01 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Jack McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. On roll call, the following Elected Officials were found to be present: Mayor Lesly S. Smith; President Jack McDonald; President Pro-Tem Samuel C. McLendon; Councilman William J. Brooks; Councilman Norman P. Goldblum; and Councilman Allen S. Wyett. Also attending the meeting were: Town Manager Peter B. Elwell; Town Attorney John C. Randolph; Assistant Town Manager Thomas G. Bradford; Finance Director Jane L. Skittone; Assistant Finance Director Cheryl Somers; Police Chief Michael S. Reiter; Major Gary B. Sallenbach; Fire-Rescue Chief Kent W. Koelz; Recreation Director Russell E. Bitzer; Director of Planning, Zoning, and Building Robert L. Moore; Director of Public Works Albert P. Dusey; Risk Coordinator Karen Temme; Purchasing Agent Charles Boggs; Information Systems Manager Spencer Wilson; Human Resource Director William C. Crouse; and Town Clerk Mary A. Pollitt.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The following invocation was given by the Town Clerk after the tragedies of the catastrophic terrorist events of the morning of September 11th at the World Trade Center in New York City, the plane crash in western Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.:

Almighty Creator, we ask that you be with each individual and provide comfort to those who have suffered the unthinkable tragedies today that we find so hard to understand. May we all come closer together in our attempt to find a major of acceptance of this world we live in. We ask this in your name, Amen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President McDonald.

III. COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR

There were none.

MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET HEARING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by President Pro-Tem McLendon and seconded by Councilman Goldblum. The motion carried unanimously.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND "TENTATIVE" FY2002 BUDGETS

A. Notice of Proposed Property Taxes

President McDonald announced that pursuant to the notice of proposed property taxes which has been mailed by the County Property Appraiser to each property owner, this public hearing has been announced to commence at 5:01 p.m. The fiscal year 2002 proposed millage rates, the tentative General Fund, the Debt Service Fund, and Other Funds budget will be discussed including the approval of Resolutions No. 65-01 and 66-01.

B. Proposed Operating Millage

President McDonald reported the proposed operating millage for the fiscal year 2002 General Fund is 3.9757 mills and represents a 2.17618% over the rolled back millage rate of 3.8688 mills.

C. Reasons for Proposed Operating Millage Rate Increase Over Rolled-Back Millage Rate

President McDonald requested that the Town Manager identify the reasons for which the Ad Valorem Taxes are being increased above the rolled back rate.

Town Manager Elwell said that the proposed FY2002 millage rate will yield \$709,546 more than the rolled back millage rate of 3.8688 mills. Factors contributing to that increase include: the increase in the amount transferred to the Risk Fund from the General Fund; the implementation of the Compensation Study for all Town employees; the pay for performance adjustments to the Town's Merit Pay Program; and the general pay increase for all Town employees. This contributes to an overall total tentative FY2002 General Operating Fund Budget of \$43,485,556 which is an increase of \$1, 403,959 or 3.34% over the FY 2001 adopted Operating Budget of \$42,081,597.

Mr. Elwell pointed out that Exhibit C showed the changes that have been made to the

MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET HEARING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

budget since the July 9, 2001, Town Council meeting. These changes included additional funding for the Phipps Ocean Park tennis project; the replacement of the second floor, French door style Town Hall windows; the design costs for the Par 3 reclaimed water irrigation project; emergency generators for the D-16 and D-18 pump stations; the Better place software contract; and an increase in funding for the Society of the Four Arts.

Mr. Elwell noted the lease payment for the Fire-Rescue pumpers is below the original estimate and shown on Exhibit C as a reduction of \$37,000 for the General Operating Budget.

D. Overview of FY2002 Proposed General Fund (Operating) Fund Millage and Tentative Budget and Other Fund Budgets. (Peter B. Elwell, Town Manager)

Town Manager Elwell said, in addition to the previous information provided, he wanted to underscore the fact the tax rate decrease is a real decrease and will reduce the tax burden on many Town taxpayers, all of those who have a Homestead Exemption. He explained that for every \$1 million of home evaluation, on a Homesteaded property, a savings of \$309 will be realized or a 7% decrease over the previous year.

E. Comments and Questions from Public

There were no public comments.

F. Discussion and Adoption (with changes, if any) of Resolution No. 65-01 - Adopting Proposed Operating and Debt Service Millage Rates for FY2002

Town Manager Elwell read Resolution No. 65-01 by title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING PROPOSED MILLAGE RATES NECESSARY TO FUND THE TENTATIVE GENERAL (OPERATING) FUND AND DEBT SERVICE FUND BUDGETS FOR THE 2001-2002 FISCAL YEAR.

Councilman Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 65-01. The motion was seconded by President Pro-Tem McLendon and carried unanimously.

MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET HEARING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

President McDonald noted that the Resolution approved the proposed millage rate of 3.9757 mills for the General Operating Fund and .0884 mills for the Debt Service Fund for a total of 4.0641 mills.

G. Discussion and Adoption (with changes, if any) of Resolution No. 66-01 - Adopting a Tentative Operating Budget, Debt Service Budget, and Budgets for Other Funds for FY2002

Town Manager Elwell read Resolution No. 66-01 by title:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE GENERAL (OPERATING) FUND, DEBT SERVICE FUND, AND BUDGETS FOR OTHER FUNDS FOR THE 2001 - 2002 FISCAL YEAR.

Councilman Brooks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 66-01. The motion was seconded by Councilman Goldblum and carried unanimously on roll call.

H. Second and Final Public Hearing to Adopt Final Millage Rates and Budgets will be on Wednesday, September 19, 2001, at 5:01 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers

President McDonald announced the second and final public hearing to adopt final millage rates and budgets will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2001, at 5:01 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers.

President McDonald thanked everyone for their participation in the preparation, presentation, and passing of the budget.

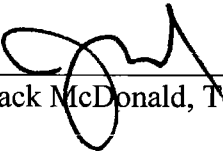
VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

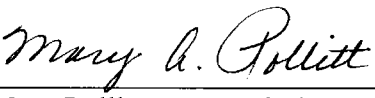
MINUTES FROM THE BUDGET HEARING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.



Jack McDonald, Town Council President



Mary Pollitt, Town Clerk