

TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE
February 9, 2021 @ 6:00PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Reddington called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Members Bruce White, Bert Reynolds, Tom Maly and Frank Twardzik were present. Town Manager Houck, Finance Director Parks, Planning, Zoning and Development Director Cimino, Police Chief Ken McLaughlin, Town Solicitor Dennis Schrader and Town Clerk Donna Schwartz were also present.

2. ADOPTION of AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Maly, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summary of Discussion of FY21 Budget

Town Manager Carol Houck thanked Town Council, Staff, and Department Heads for their assistance with drafting the FY22 budget. She said this budget begins 5/1/2021 and the first draft being presented tonight. She said she expects some changes for Draft 2.

Mrs. Houck outlined some of the highlights of the FY22 budget saying this was a solid starting point. She said the first draft includes a two-cent per hundred tax increase for FY22. This averages to \$58.88 per property. This will raise revenues by \$197,000. Mrs. Houck suggested that rental licenses be increased to \$150 from \$75. She also proposed a 3.3% wage increase which excludes the Chief of Police and Town Manager. Mrs. Houck noted that the personnel cost is the highest cost in the FY22 budget. The Public Safety Department has requested one additional police officer. She also proposed changing a part-time employee in Public Works to full-time.

Mayor Reddington thanked Mrs. Houck and Mrs. Parks for their efforts in putting the FY22 Budget together. He also commented that the two-cent tax increase was very reasonable. Council Member White suggested that they use an illustrated low, medium, and high example of increase change. Council Member Twardzik questioned whether the Town would offer the 1% early pay discount again this year. Mrs. Houck replied yes.

Some changes being made to the FY22 Fee Schedule include the administrative variance from \$200 to \$250 and rental licenses from \$75 to \$150. Draft 2 of the Fee Schedule will include the nuisance fine of \$100 and the election filing fee of \$50, which are currently missing from the document.

Mrs. Houck said some of the Capital Budget highlights included a contribution of \$15,000 to the Historical Society for a sidewalk. She said she believes the Town has a vested interest in aiding them with the walkway. The walkway will coordinate with what is currently in the park and will cost \$43,000 with the plan that is currently in place. The Town cannot issue the C/O for the Hall Store without the ADA walkway. She said they are actively fundraising and have been in touch with Senator Hocker and Representative Gray for help. Mr. Schrader stated he was concerned about whether the Historical Society can raise the \$28,000. Mr. Cimino said that they did the oyster shell driveway without Town approval. The area was supposed to be brick pavers. The Fire Marshal did eventually approve the shells for use in the driveway.

Mrs. Houck also commented on plans for adding exercise equipment to the park. She noted she is in the process of getting bids for the equipment and hoped to have something to present to Council in March. Council Member White questioned all the drainage projects and suggest that they be staggered through the budget years. Mr. Cimino explained the drainage projects on page 12. Mrs. Houck said the funds are already accounted for in the budget. Council Member Twardzik thinks the projects should be done. Council Member Maly agreed with Mr. Twardzik.

Council Member White expressed concern of pages 48-49 and the jump to 61% for employee cost. Mrs. Parks explained governmental entities are usually about 63% average. Council Member Maly asked about the three employees that do not take Town benefits. He asked if they are compensated in other ways. Mrs. Houck replied they are not.

There were no questions regarding the Trust Funds. Mrs. Houck offered some information on the water system. The water bond has 26 years left on \$4,160,000.

Mrs. Houck stated the Town has some emerging projects. The seed funding for these projects is coming from a former money-market transfer tax fund of \$369,188 that is sitting idle, and not obligated for anything. Some of the projects she mentioned are a beach shuttle, DelDOT properties, bocce courts, Town Road, and canal park overlook. Mayor and Town Council will be the ultimate decision makers of these funds.

4. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

No additional discussion took place.

5. **CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Maly, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. The motion carried unanimously 5/0.