

From: Laura Aldrich <townclerk@irshores.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 3, 2017 3:16 PM
To: Laura Aldrich
Subject: IR Shores Town Council 7-27-17 Budget & Council Meeting Recaps & News Alert

Dear Residents and Interested Parties,

Below are the major results from the **July 27th meetings**.

Budget meeting:

- A part-time **inspector** for the **Building Official** was discussed, as there is an imminent need for necessary equipment. The budget for the Building Department includes a full-time inspector for FY 17-18.
- A **full-time assistant** for the Town **Manager** was approved and a **part-time assistant** for the Town **Clerk** will be determined by the Town Manager.
- A lengthy discussion on **Public Safety Department's training** and a quick one on **Old Winter Beach Road** repairs occurred.
- An extended discussion on the potential use for **funds from the sale** of the 5-acre parcel resulted in unanimous agreement to **fund the OPEB** (Other Post Employment Benefit) **liability** of \$1.15 million. They were also in favor of **lowering the millage rate** with \$1 - \$2 million. An actuarial study will be done before determining the direction on possibly lowering pension liability.

At the Regular Town Council meeting that followed:

- Ordinance 536 regarding a **public works permit for stormwater, erosion and sedimentation control** as mandated by the state's NPDES program passed first reading. Please [refer to the website to review the ordinance](#) and it's attached permit in its entirety.
- The Vero Beach **electric utility financial model** prepared by Councilman Auwaerter was discussed. The Town is out of the loop on the sale of the utility at the moment, unless the full sale stalls.
- The Council expressed **no opposition to the request by homeowners in River Club on the Old Winter Beach Road extension for an electronic gate** to be closed dusk-dawn, which allows daytime access to the County's Bridge Tender park.
- A motion to **fully fund \$1,151,954 OPEB liability** as a budget adjustment using some of the proceeds from the sale of the 5-acre parcel passed unanimously.
- A motion to **reduce taxes for one year** using \$2 million of the funds from the sale of the 5-acre parcel **subject to the caveat that there is not a problem returning to the normal tax rate** passed 4-1, with Councilman Auwaerter dissenting.
- A **patrol boat for Public Safety Department** was discussed in depth, with more research on costs to maintain a smaller, single engine boat that will fit on the boat lift to be provided by the Public Safety Director at the next meeting. This boat is vital in protecting residents along the waterways in Town with sporadic patrol.
- A **preliminary millage rate of 0.8604** was set, with a **preliminary General Fund budget of \$6,250,526 approved**.
- In preparation for **collective bargaining** next year, the Council agreed to enter into an agreement with Municipal Solutions, Inc. for \$9,900 beginning in November and concluding in January **to compare salaries and benefits** with peers. The **Finance Committee** will be participating in the project.
- The **August Council meeting** will likely be foregone unless something critical surfaces. The **1st Budget Public Hearing** will be held on **September 14th at 5:01 p.m.**, and the **Regular Town Council meeting on September 28th will commence at 3 or 3:30, prior to the 5:01 p.m. 2nd Budget Public Hearing**.
- The Council approved **Linda Bolton** being reappointed for her second 4-year term on the **PZV Board**.
- The Town Manager's new executive assistant, **Michelle Fentress**, was introduced to the Council. Stefanie-Jo Osborn resigned to pursue a degree in law.

- **Councilmember Peniston** reported that she was selected as **Chairman of the Elected Officials Oversight Committee**.
- **Councilman Auwaerter** reported that he was selected as **Chairman of the Vero Beach Utilities Commission**, and also as **Chairman of the Audit Committee for the School Board**.
- Town Manager Stabe reported that the **engineering assessment of town-owned streets** was completed, and he is in the process of following their recommendation to obtain bore samples to be completed on 13 areas that were of concern.
- **Ralph McCrae, President of Pebble Beach Villas Condominium Association**, discussed **the bushes** adjacent to the Town's **5' footpath to the beach**.

Tidbits

- Please note that [dogs must be on a leash](#) **on the beach or anywhere in Town**. The Public Safety Department has been receiving numerous complaints that many people are allowing their dog to run free, even though the owner may be carrying a leash. It is **important to alert Public Safety immediately** if you witness this by dialing 9-1-1, as nothing can be done to correct it when reported hours later. Thank you for following this important law.
- Do you have **old electronics or household hazardous waste** and are wondering how to dispose of it? The County is having a *free event Saturday, August 12, 9-noon at 1590 9th Street SW in Vero Beach*. Please [see this link](#) for more information.
- Everyone is aware that it's **hurricane season**, and TS Emily surprised us with just over 1 ½" rain and a minor wind gust of 27 mph. All in all, a non-event, thankfully! We will post **important updates** on the website, under the [RESIDENTS, Safety & Weather Alerts page](#). If you have not signed up for [County alerts, please do now by clicking here](#). You will receive **lightning alerts** and other important information as well.

Your continued interest and assistance in keeping our Town a beautiful, safe and enjoyable place to live is appreciated!

Respectfully yours,

Laura

Laura Aldrich, MMC

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