

MALABAR COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
August 29, 2017 7:30 PM

This meeting of the Malabar Town Council was held at the Malabar Town Hall, 2725 Malabar Road, Malabar, Florida.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Mayor Reilly. Prayer & Pledge were said by Council Chair, Mayor Patrick T. Reilly.

B. COUNCIL:

COUNCIL CHAIR:	MAYOR PATRICK T. REILLY
VICE-CHAIR:	STEVE RIVET
COUNCIL MEMBERS:	GRANT BALL
	LAURA MAHONEY
	DICK KORN
	RICHARD KOHLER
ADMINISTRATOR	DOUG HOYT
CLERK/TREASURER:	DEBBY FRANKLIN

C. WORKSHOP #3 ACTION: DISCUSSION ON 2017/2018 BUDGET –

Chair recapped last workshop – it was Council consensus to keep millage rate at 2.0906 and put the reductions made at the last workshop into Streets and Roads. Franklin stated those reductions of \$28,200.00 were placed in the 541.4610 account.

CM Ball proposed putting those reductions into reserves to build it back up rather than redirect it to Streets and Roads. He stated they just raised the stormwater fee and now we are raising ad valorem to the maximum.

CM Korn said that it is not the maximum – and Council needs to say it out loud. Council's job is to approve budget to cover what is needed to provide the services to the municipality; if they don't they are not they are not fulfilling our duty. He stated that the other 66 counties in Florida can set the millage at whatever they feel is needed; Brevard is the only one restricted. The Mayor said it needs to go into roads. CM Rivet said that previous councils have always done a good job of managing the money – there just hasn't been enough.

TA said we are not raising taxes. We are adjusting for inflation. 2.14 % - using that number from the Federal government. They are simply keeping up with the costs same as other local and state and federal agencies.

CM Korn asked Clerk for the current year millage rates from other Brevard municipalities and then read from the list. (attached) We are the bottom of the barrel. If anyone says we are raising taxes to the maximum they should try living elsewhere.

CM Mahoney – some of her concerns – she proposed using the roll over money, saying that if the money budgeted this year for a particular expense should have any remaining money it should "carry forward" to the next budget.

Franklin explained that the municipal budget is required by the State to be balanced and must accommodate expected annual expenditures and their proposed financial revenue sources to pay for those expenditures.

CM Mahoney asked about the pension amount shown on the audit. She called Withum (town audit firm) they confirmed the 6% is the town portion that it pays.

CM Mahoney also said a lawn service would be cheaper than being done in-house. She never gets the information she requests.

CM Korn said they have done it both ways and it is not cost effective to out-source mowing.

CM Kohler said when a culvert fails, they would have to stop and bid the job and wait and then get it scheduled – not practical at all; the department staff are needed.

CM Korn said it comes from experience. CM Rivet said we are stretched to the limit. Even using contractors – we are understaffed. It makes sense from every angle that you look at it to have the dept.

CM Korn said we have gone from a levy of 1.9 to 2.02 to 2.09. We are buying two new pieces of equipment. CM Korn also mentioned the value of the Town property subject to levy. There will be an additional (3rd) 25K exemption on ballot in 2018 for voter consideration. He attended a seminar on exemptions in Orlando for 2017 FLC conference. He thinks it may not pass due to the number of non-homesteaded properties that would not vote for it.

Mayor said Council needs to show the potential financial impact, then plan for that lost revenue by this levy and educate the residents on what this means.

CM Ball said they have to make a big push on drainage this coming year with the recent increase. He wants to see the money cut from the general fund budget go into reserves – not roads.

TA said the town has replaced 52 culverts under roads at an average cost of 12K; depressions on roads means a culvert failing below. Probably have another xx number of failing culverts – do the math.

TA said the Atz Road drainage project will go forward - running a straight grade to make water flow towards Corey Road. The project at Hall Road and Flashy Lane will be starting on Sept 4.

CM Korn said he talked to Senator Bill Nelson at the FLC Conf. The Senator was familiar with the issue and said the TA was keeping him informed. TA said the grant for Eva Lane drainage was well received by the IRL grant commission, but they did not like the road paving included.

Mayor said any more cuts?

CM Ball didn't think there would be any more cuts.

CM Korn said the health, safety and convenience to the resident is his priority; people need fire protection, scrapped roads and police protection.

CM Rivet said the loud protesters are not representative. When the MSTU goes to voters every two years it is approved with an overwhelming majority.

CM Korn "transparency" is like the "apparatus" word used at previous meeting. He has good friends and neighbors that think Council is misspending the taxpayer's money based on what they hear. He has followed Town business since 1995. There is no "misspending" of Town funds – they are continually playing catch up because there hasn't been enough money budgeted in the past.

CM Korn then goes into Eva Lane paving – there is a need for it there. He would support that. But there are some people that would object.

CM Mahoney said it is not about the money – she talks to many people and they want their property fixed. They don't like the way the money is spent – some people used to have a crown and ditches done. They don't call town because they know that they will be told there is no money.

CM Korn said the point is we are going to have to work on the infrastructure whether I am on council or not. Have a responsibility to the residents of Malabar.

CM Kohler – show residents that things stated in the budget are getting done for the Town's benefit.

CM Ball suggests taking it to the voters as a referendum question to increase the millage rate.

CM Korn agreed and said they would need to commit to educating the residents in the upcoming year on the need for the increased levy.

CM Rivet – regarding the repeated criticism about lack of transparency – this budget shows what the high-level goals are – including road improvement and the drainage plan from 2014 that is posted on the wall as updated. It is not Council's job to micro manage.

CM Ball said we are getting off topic.

Clerk Franklin explained that the intent of the budget is to develop a spending plan. Council decides on the high-level goals to accomplish in the FY and funds them and staff carries them out. All proposed expenditures are identified. She recommended excess money not be placed in a slush fund for possible projects. The appropriate place is in a contingency fund in the major departments to provide funds in the budget for unforeseen expenditures – not planned ones.

Any change to the approved budget that increases or decreases the bottom line would require a budget amendment – with two public hearings and a legal notice in the paper.

The Flashy Lane and Hall Road is a planned SW project and all property owners have all been sent notices. Regarding the east end of Atz Road there was a community meeting held with advertising and notices to solicit resident's input on the proposed SW project to put the swales and ditches within the Town's right-of-way. CM Rivet said it dove tails with the SW improvements for the whole area.

CM Korn asked Chief if he was ok with the budget. Chief is ok with it.

Mayor said they could do a consensus at a workshop – do a straw vote: put the \$28,200.00 into reserves or keep it in road improvements. CM Mahoney agrees with CM Ball to put it into reserves. CM Rivet said to keep it transparent – keep it in roads. CM Kohler, Korn and Mayor agree.

8:40 pm - End of workshop

Mayor then opened discussion on the Five-Year Plan. Council is interested in either fire wells or tanks within the town for fire safety. They discussed the plan to pursue information on a shared building with EELp for a new Town Hall. TA will continue to work on that.

8:50 pm - End of Discussion

Clerk Franklin suggested a future Council workshop to lay out a short, medium and long range plan and possible vision statement.

Summary of proposed Budget:

Revenues: The column on the right side of budget page provides source of estimate.

Expenditures:

511 Legislative: includes the recording equipment and support and the updates to the code.

512: Executive: related to Administrator. Column to right of budget shows a conservative estimate of what Council can expect to pay for next Administrator.

513: Finance and Administration: this department includes cost for audit, elections, legal notices as well as Clerk/Treasurer, Deputy and clerical assistant and related personnel costs. TA said Deputy has two college degrees and is working towards his Masters in Public Administration.

514: Legal:

515: Comprehensive Planning

519: General Government:

522: Fire Control:

524: Protective Inspections: This is the Building Department.

525: Disaster Plans

538: Flood Control / Stormwater Management: non-ad valorem fees & carried forward revenues pay for these expenditures.

541: Streets and Roads:

572: Parks and Recreation

574: Special Events: This is budgeted annually as a break-even event.

Chair Reilly, without objection, adjourned the workshop meeting at 8:50pm.

BY: Patrick T. Reilly
Mayor Patrick T. Reilly, Council Chair



ATTEST

Debby Franklin
Debby Franklin, C.M.C.
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: RTCM 10/02/2017