

**MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
JULY 25th, 2022, 7:30 PM**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Council Chair Mayor Patrick T. Reilly called meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mayor Reilly led P&P.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

CHAIR:

MAYOR PATRICK T. REILLY

VICE CHAIR:

STEVE RIVET

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARISA ACQUAVIVA

BRIAN VAIL

DAVID SCARDINO

MARY HOFMEISTER

TOWN MANAGER:

MATT STINNETT

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER:

LISA MORRELL

DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER:

RICHARD KOHLER

ACTING FIRE CHIEF:

J.C. HOOKER

**3. WORKSHOP ACTION:**

**a. Draft Budget Presentation**

Mayor asked TM Stinnett to begin. TM Stinnett stated the main focus of the draft budget was to consolidate as many projects as possible. The budget as presented includes our major expenses. We hope to pay off the Gradall this year with the Stormwater Fund, freeing that account up for future projects. We have trimmed one Public Works employee, as we have had a rough time getting qualified applicants. He then asked Council for direction.

CM Rivet states that in streets and roads, we are down significantly lower than last year. If we have 4-5 roads in "Que" for paving, can we support this? TM Stinnett states the unallotted funds can assist in that department.

CM Scardino asks if the problem is no applicants or getting qualified applicants? TM states that the issue has become getting a CDL driver. We used to offer that class as a perk, but the laws about how a CDL license is given, requiring in class testing, at schools fully booked for the next year.

CM Acquaviva asks if we can keep the Streets and Roads budget at least at the same amount as last year? Disaster relief went up, why? TM Stinnett explained that is where the ARPA funds will be placed. SPM Morrell gave a more thorough explanation of the financing rules associated with the ARPA funds.

Mayor asks if there are any question on the funding page? TM Stinnett states there are a few unknowns, as estimates come from the County and State. We have estimated as best we can and will get more definite estimates towards the end of August. CM Vail noted the gas tax is down about 20K, but the electrical tax is up about 20k. CM Acquaviva asked about line item 349.8000, paving assessment. TM explained that is money still owed to the Town for past paving projects. CM Scardino asks if we can take any of the building department revenues for other projects? TM Explains that is an enterprise fund, so it must support itself. We have budgeted more expenses than revenue for the Building Department. CM Scardino asks if we can improve the Building Department? TM states he recently got new furniture for the office.

CM Acquaviva asks about the surplus line, is there anything else we can sell? TM states we have a tractor posted now, but that is the last item we are looking to

remove. Mayor asks if there is any TIFT funding? TM states there are funds available, but we didn't budget it. We can add it, or make the change as needed. CM Vail states it is the act of applying with a shovel ready paving project. TM believes there is about \$300k in the account. CM Vail reminds Council that those funds can only be used for the actual paving, not the preparation. CM Scardino asks what percentage of our paving costs is road prep? CM Rivet states it depends on the road. Smith Ln was minimal, but Hunter Ln required major improvements before it was ready for paving. TM Stinnett suggests placing 50k in that account. He will research if those funds can be used for engineering.

Mayor asks for comments or questions in 511, hearing none, he suggested moving on.

CM Acquaviva suggests a raise for TM Stinnett. CM Scardino states the interest has gone up to 12%, 8% is falling behind. If we are giving a raise, we need to be higher than inflation. CM Rivet states we are having a hard time finding qualified applicants. We should pay the people here the wages they deserve by keeping up with, and possibly passing inflation. CM Scardino states he is basing his opinion on past experiences. By raising the pay of his employees, he found more qualified applicants. CM Rivet states it is an elastic market. CM Scardino asks what a 10% raise would do? CM Acquaviva states she looked at other TMs in the area, and Grant Valkaria pays 100k. TM Stinnett hasn't gotten a major raise since he started. Mayor suggests 12%, CM Scardino suggests at least 10%. CM Vail states we should separate the discussion to TM and rest of staff. CM Scardino suggests 10 % for staff across the board. Consensus agrees. CM Vail asks what Council feels about the TM position? Mayor asks how Council feels about 12%? CM Rivet states that is about 75k. CM Scardino agrees. CM Acquaviva states she believes since we are advertising new positions at such high pay, we should boost the TM pay to a comparable rate. She doesn't feel a Clerk or Treasurer should make more than the TM. Mayor reiterated that it is experience based. Straw poll for 75k is 4-1.

Mayor asks if the 10% is included in the new Clerk and Treasurer position? Consensus is those positions will be based on experience. Mayor asks about a secretary. TM states he believes it won't be needed. CM Vail states that in 513, the bottom line only went up 36k while adding a high-level position.

No comments for 514 and 515.

Mayor asks for comments on 519, General Government, stating it is less than last year. CM Vail asks why the Employee Benefits has gone down. TM states that we will have less employees on the payroll next year. CM Acquaviva asks why travel training per diem is down? SPM explains it is COVID related, as conferences have been few and far in-between.

Mayor suggests moving on to 522. CM Vail reminds Council the FD personnel is under Contract. Interim Chief states a 10% raise for staff, may trigger an attempt to get more than the contract 6%. CM Vail asks if we want to make any changes, or take this as is? Is this the appropriate setting? CM Scardino states it is a contract, that should be handled in a contract negotiation. TM suggests including some funds for training in 522, as the Interim Chief recommended some classes. CM Vail suggests 2k. Interim Chief states there is required training for the Life Pack ordered through ARPA. TM explained that the Grant we were awarded has been delayed, and we are carrying the expense over to the new year. CM Vail states in the next few years we will need to get a new Tender. The existing truck is an '04. We can get a second run

engine that doubles as a tender. Normal service life is 20-25 years. CM Acquaviva states hopefully the donations will increase now that we are mostly past COVID.

Mayor suggests moving on to 524, and asks if the Building Inspector is now under contract? TM states it is now in 524.3440, and he budgeted that item high expecting to utilize the new service heavily. Currently, we have a Building Official 2 days a week. Mayor asks if the Building Department is self-sustaining? TM states it has made more than it has spent in the last few years, and we need to work down the reserve. Inspector went from \$30 per hour, to over \$100 per hour.

Mayor suggests moving to 525. Mayor asks when then the ARPA funds will be spent. SPM states we have allocated most of it, but the POs have been delayed by supply chain issues. CM Scardino asks if the records scanning will help with storage costs? SPM states it will likely cut the storage costs in half.

Mayor suggests moving to 538. CM Acquaviva asks about the vac truck services? TM states we wanted to start a program involving that this year and didn't get to it. We will try to start it next year.

Mayor suggests moving to 541. TM states the wage shown for MEO is the existing wage. Do you want to increase that wage? CM Scardino asks if we can send employees out of state for CDL training? TM states he knows the local one is in Ft. Pierce and is booked for over a year. CM Scardino suggests expanding our search for CDL drivers, and for places to train CDL drivers. TM explained that a new law enacted in February has changed the requirements.

Mayor suggests moving to 572, and asks why the Parks Supervisor was eliminated? TM states the person filling it retired, and we are consolidating it in 541. CM Acquaviva asks if we are getting along okay without one? TM states we are getting along. SPM gave more information about the CDL training. A federal law has regulated the system and restricted places that can offer classes.

Mayor suggests moving to 574. CM Vail states what is budgeted is appropriate with what we have spent in the last year.

TM states we have \$219,822 left to allocate. CM Scardino suggests salaries. CM Acquaviva states the biggest issue is roads. We should concentrate on them. CM Scardino states we should increase existing salaries. CM Vail suggests a contingency for Streets and Roads. TM states we could also look into getting a smaller loan to do some roads. Use the excess as collateral to get a loan to get some work done. CM Rivet states we have a Stormwater Master Plan, with millions of dollars' worth of projects. However, people will be willing to pay more taxes if they see improvements in the roads. Consensus agrees.

Discussion continued about different amounts of debt Council would be willing to finance. CM Acquaviva asks if we still want to do a road survey? SPM states she has been looking into that and will have an estimate soon. CM Vail states they will rate our roads and tell us what roads are in the worst shape and need the most attention.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to discuss and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

BY: Original Signed

Mayor Patrick T. Reilly, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Original Signed  
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Richard Kohler, Deputy  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: 07/18/2022