



Islamorada, Village of Islands

SPECIAL CALL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING BUDGET HEARING # 1

September 5, 2024 - 5:01 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Public Works Director A.J.Engelmeyer led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pinder started the meeting with a prayer.

III. AGENDA: Requests for Deletion / Emergency Additions

There were no emergency additions or deletions to the agenda.

IV. REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Elizabeth Jolin asked for a statement from the Council and Village to oppose the Tavernier Publix project, if that is the will of the rest of Council. She further asked that the public be permitted to weigh in. There being a consensus of Council interested in discussing it Village Manager Cole noted staff would prepare a resolution of opposition to the project for the September 10 meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This is general public comment. It provides an opportunity for the public to speak about matters not scheduled elsewhere on the agenda. The mayor opens public comment on agenda items throughout the meeting.)

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Joe Zioma

Jill Zima Borski

Joe Wischmeier

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Pinder closed public comment.

VI. RESOLUTIONS

Assistant to the Village Manager Stefanie Rodriguez provided an overview of the Charitable Contribution awards. She noted that AHEC is asking for the funds for salaries, and Council had previously stated salaries were not eligible, so we would not be funding them. Council then discussed the Charitable Contribution program, with a majority stating their preference to discontinue it. Mayor Pinder noted that, at least for this year, Council had already committed to funding. There was a consensus of the

Council to fund AHEC salaries and the total award amount of \$62,000 was increased to \$67,000.

A. Resolution Adopting a Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 24-07-64; ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Finance Director Lisa Lynch stated that two items need to be approved tonight - setting a millage rate and adopting a tentative budget.

Director Lynch noted that the SAFER grant expired this year so we were taking on the salaries of the six firefighters and the unresolved Collective Bargaining will affect the unreserved fund balance.

There was some discussion about establishing a \$3,000,000 land acquisition fund and what to cut to fund it. Village Manager Rob Cole made a point of clarification that tonight was a vote on the tentative budget - Council was not finalizing the budget tonight. The purpose of this meeting was to set the millage rate and adopt a tentative budget (two separate items) with final adoption on September 17.

Finance Director Lisa Lynch explained what has been changed since the workshops. There were decreases to the hurricane reserve and fund balance reserve.

Six different scenarios were provided for Council to consider. Director Lynch explained the impacts of each scenario.

Village Manager Cole restated that we have a collective bargaining agreement that must be adhered to and that money would come out from somewhere. He also noted liabilities can pop up unexpectedly and that GFOA minimum is at least 2 months of operations.

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Deb Gillis

Don Horton

Joe Wischmeier

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Pinder closed public comment.

Interim Village Attorney John Quick read the millage rate resolution, noting that what's listed there was a tentative millage rate of 2.65, which would be a 4.7% increase above the rollback rate. If the Council wanted a different millage rate, it was the time to make that change. Attorney Quick noted we are required by statute to set the millage rate first, and then the budget second. Village

Manager Cole notes the scenarios were meant to show what the Village would get for a particular millage rate.

ACTION: Motion to approve 2.800 millage rate item VI.A. by Mark Gregg second by Elizabeth Jolin;
Motion Passed with a 3:2 vote
AYES: Mark Gregg, Elizabeth Jolin, Joseph B. Pinder III
NAYS: Henry Rosenthal, Sharon Mahoney
ABSTAIN: None

B. Resolution Adopting the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF THE VILLAGE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025, COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR BUDGETARY CONTROL; PROVIDING FOR PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR GIFTS AND GRANTS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR ENCUMBRANCES; PROVIDING FOR ISSUANCE OF CHECKS; PROVIDING FOR POST AUDIT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III opened public comment.

There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Pinder closed public comment.

ACTION: Motion to Approve scenario 1B as presented in the slides item VI.B. by Elizabeth Jolin second by Mark Gregg;
Motion Failed with a 2:3 vote
AYES: Mark Gregg, Elizabeth Jolin
NAYS: Henry Rosenthal, Sharon Mahoney, Joseph B. Pinder III
ABSTAIN: None

ACTION: Motion to Approve scenario 2B as presented in the slides item VI.B. by Mark Gregg seconded by Elizabeth Jolin;
Motion Passed with a 4:1 vote
AYES: Mark Gregg, Elizabeth Jolin, Sharon Mahoney, Joseph B. Pinder III
NAYS: Henry Rosenthal
ABSTAIN: None

VII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

VIII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Henry Rosenthal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.