



Islamorada, Village of Islands

BUDGET WORKSHOP

August 22, 2024 - 3:00 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 3:14pm

PRESENT: Council Member Mark Gregg, Council Member Elizabeth Jolin,
Council Member Henry Rosenthal, Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney,
Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III

ABSENT:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Fire Chief Terry Abel led the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Pinder said a prayer to begin the meeting.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Don Horton
Van Cadenhead
Joe Wischmeier
Sue Miller
Joan Scholz

Council Member Henry Rosenthal stated his belief that there should be more opportunities for public comment. He suggested future mayors should be part of creating the agenda.

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

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- A. Village Manager review of Budget Workshop 1
Village Manager Rob Cole summarized the previous day's workshop and budget presentation by the departments.
- B. Council Q & A on Departmental Presentations

Council Member Mark Gregg asked if we wanted to approve everything that was proposed what would the millage rate need to be to do that. Village Manager Rob Cole responded that 3 mills would fund everything and they were trying not to allocate fund balance to defray recurring expenses.

The Council noted their interest in creating a Land Acquisition Fund. Village Manager Rob Cole noted staff would show various options for funding and what wouldn't be funded.

Discussion ensued on budget best practices, the impacts of various millage scenarios, and the financial implications of hurricane recovery.

Village Manager Cole noted the COLA was assumed to be a 5% increase across the board. He noted that staff would work towards a performance-based review and merit increase system. It was noted that there was a stipulation in the Firefighter contract that they get the same increase as rest of staff.

C. Millage Rate Discussion with Alternate Scenarios

Discussion ensued about how various millage rates would affect the proposed budget. It was noted that the impact to the community should be considered when setting the millage rate.

It was further noted that the proposed budget did not include anything for the collective bargaining agreement with the Firefighters. The budget impact won't be known until the Village and Union complete their negotiations.

Ultimately, a majority of the Council decided on a millage rate of 2.650.

Mayor Joseph B. Pinder III opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Joe Wischmeier

Van Cadenhead

Deb Gillis

Don Horton

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

V. FURTHER QUESTIONS OF COUNCIL

There was no further discussion.

VI. NEXT STEPS

Village Manager Rob Cole noted staff would amend the budget based on the preferred millage rate for the September 5 Budget Hearing.

Council Member Henry Rosenthal moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.