

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL SECOND PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007
6:30 PM**

I. Meeting Called To Order

Mayor Lewis called the Public Budget Hearing to order at 6:30 PM.

A) The following members and officials were present:

Mayor Malcolm K. Lewis
Vice Mayor Thomas Mayes, Jr.
President Pro Tem Robert M. W. Shalhoub
Council Member Valentin Rodriguez
Council Member Gregory Freebold
Town Administrator Joann Hatton
Town Clerk Jo Plyler
Mary Pinkerman, Permit/License Supervisor
Police Chief Wes Smith
Town Finance Director Bill Thrasher
Attorney Charles Schoech

II. Presentation on Proposed 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Town Budget

A) Finance Director Bill Thrasher, announced that the 2007-2008 proposed balanced budget consists of general fund revenues of \$2,565,415 and general fund expenditures at \$2,565,415 based on a calculated taxable assessed value of \$264,059,809. A rolled-back millage rate of 4.8400 is proposed for fiscal year 2007-2008. Mr. Thrasher stated that the proposed budget includes a 2.4% COLA for the Town Staff.

B) Council Comments

Mayor Lewis requested that Mr. Thrasher define the line items that were adjusted to accommodate the reduction of 2.5% in the millage rate that was adopted at the September 4, 2007 First Public Budget Hearing. Mr. Thrasher responded that \$25,000 was taken from Town Council Contingency, and \$8,000 from Roads & Streets for Professional Fees.

Vice Mayor Mayes commented on the following budget expenditure items:

1. Questioned the budgeted line item for police vehicles. Chief Smith responded that \$27,000 has been budgeted for the purchase of one vehicle.
2. What funds have been spent on Special Events that were awarded to the Town by former County Commission Warren Newell? Council agreed that this subject would be addressed at the regular Council Meeting later in the evening when Mr. Tackett presents his report to the Council on the status of the 50th Anniversary Celebration.
3. Budget indicates that overtime expenses for staff to work the March BBQ was \$4,808 and that the Town needs to focus on additional volunteers for this event.

C) Audience Comments:

The following residents spoke with regards to the proposed budget:

William Murphy, 1841 Evergreen Drive expressed the need for employees to receive the proposed COLA increase. He indicated that the Town should consider raising fees for facilities and services and eliminate some of the Special Events and turn off the Tennis Court lights to save on expenses. Mr. Murphy further suggested that the Town consider a new telephone system for the new Municipal Complex that has automatic answering that would relieve the employees from answering.

D) ORDINANCE #07-05 - Second Reading

An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Florida, Setting and Fixing a Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 at 4.8400 Mills.

Council Member Freebold made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance #07-05, setting and fixing a millage rate at 4.8400, seconded by Vice Mayor Mayes; motion failed (3-2), Shalhoub, Rodriguez opposed. Clerk's note: Tax Reform House Bill IB requires a supermajority vote of a municipality to pass a millage rate that has not been reduced to reflect the mandated -5% from the rolled back millage. The proposed millage rate is -2.5% below the rolled back rate.

Vice Mayor Mayes made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance #07-05, by amending the millage rate to reflect a -5% reduction from the rolled back millage rate; motion died due to lack of a second.

Following clarification from Town Clerk Jo Plyler that the heading of the Ordinance should have included verbiage that the proposed millage rate of 4.8400 reflected a -2.5% reduction from the rolled by rate, **President Pro Tem Shalhoub made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance #07-05, as amended, setting and fixing a millage rate at 4.8400 that reflects a -2.5% reduction from the rolled back millage rate of 4.9650, seconded by Council Member Freebold; motion approved (5-0).**

E) ORDINANCE #07-06 - Second Reading

An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Florida, adopting a Budget for Fiscal Year 2007/2008.

Council Member Freebold made a motion to approve Second Reading of Ordinance #07-06, seconded by Vice Mayor Mayes; motion approved (5-0).

III. Adjournment

President Pro Tem Shalhoub made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM, seconded by Vice Mayor Mayes; motion approved (5-0).

Malcolm Lewis, Vice Mayor

Jo H. Plyler, Town Clerk

If an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to this meeting, a verbatim transcript may be required. If so, the individual should make provisions for a transcript to be made at the meeting. (Ref. F.S.S. 286.0105) Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please advise the town at least two (2) calendar days before the hearing by contacting Jo Plyler (561) 964-1515, Ext. 10.