

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL FIRST PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007
6:30 PM**

I. Meeting Called To Order

Vice Mayor Mayes called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:30 PM.

A) The following members and officials were present:

Mayor Malcolm K. Lewis (Present via telephone conference call)
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. Discussion on Proposed 2006-2007 Fiscal Year Town Budget

A) Finance Director Bill Thrasher, announced that the 2007-2008 proposed balanced budget consists of general fund revenues of \$2,598,415 and general fund expenditures at \$2,598,415 based on a calculated taxable assessed value of \$264,059,809. A rolled-back millage rate of 4.9650 is proposed for fiscal year 2007-2008. Mr. Thrasher stated that the proposed budget includes a 2.4% COLA for the Town Staff.

B) Audience Comments

The following residents spoke with regards to the proposed budget:

Panna Kulkarni, 8135 West Lake Drive, referenced her letter dated August 14, 2007 regarding Budget Related Issues and Lake Clarke Shores Community Park and stated that she would like to discuss at this time. Vice Mayor Mayes indicated that these issues would be addressed during the meeting.

Mrs. Kulkarni stated that with the rising costs of everything the Council should consider an additional 5% reduction in the millage to help the residents.

John Dowd, 1721 Carandis Road, questioned if the budget included expenditures for the Town Municipal Complex and the LCS Community Park. Town Administrator, Joann Hatton, responded that the Complex is currently being funded by unreserved funds and that Council has not made a determination how the balance will be funded. She further advised that the LCS Community Park is being funded by State grants. Mr. Dowd indicated that the Town should have obtained a loan prior to starting the complex, as the interest rates were lower at that time.

Mr. Dowd requested that a budget and project schedule for the Community Park be prepared by the Project Manager and made available to the residents.

William Murphy, 1841 Evergreen Drive questioned the possibility of the Council approving a lease agreement for three (3) new cars using the monies allocated for the purchase of one (1) car in the proposed budget. Chief Smith responded that he would be discussing this matter with the Town Administrator.

C) Council Comments:

Council Member Rodriguez responded to Mr. Dowd's request regarding the Community Park stating that Town Administrator, Joann Hatton, submitted an updated report on the Community Park last month and that Mr. Murphy is currently working on a project schedule.

Mayor Lewis (via conference call) suggested an additional 2.5% reduction in the millage by possible expenditure cuts in the budget line for Council Contingency and Special Events.

Vice Mayor Shalhoub questioned the Staff's position on Mayor Lewis' suggestion to cut expenditures. Town Administrator, Joann Hatton, responded that the capitol expenditures and other line items have already been cut and was of the opinion that further cuts may affect Town services. Financial Director, William Thrasher, stated that everything possible has been cut from the current budget to assist the residents and he does not recommend any further changes to the budget.

Council Member Freebold advised that he reviewed the budget with the Town Administrator and that a 2.5% additional cut in the millage may or may not work.

Vice Mayor Mayes questioned the reduction in revenue for fines and forfeitures. Chief Smith responded that there has been a reduction in the dollars received from the County on the Town's portion of tickets issues.

D) ORDINANCE #07-05 - First 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 4.9650 Mills.

President Pro Tem Shalhoub made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance #07-05, setting and fixing a millage rate at 4.9650, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez; motion failed (2-3), Mayor Lewis, Vice Mayor Mayes and Council Member Freebold opposed.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance #07-05, setting and fixing a millage rate at 4.840, a 2.5% reduction. Vice Mayor Mayes passed the gavel to President Pro Tem Shalhoub and seconded the motion; motion approved (4-1), Council Member Freebold opposed.

Vice Mayor Mayes assumed the gavel.

E) ORDINANCE #07-06 - First Reading

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

President Pro Tem Shalhoub made a motion to approve First Reading of Ordinance #07-06, as amended to reflect the change in proposed millage, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez; motion approved (5-0).

III. Adjournment

President Pro Tem Shalhoub made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM, seconded by Council Member Rodriguez; motion approved (5-0).

Tom Mayes Jr., 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.