

# **FIRST BUDGET HEARING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Southwest Ranches, Florida**

Monday 6:00 PM

September 15, 2025

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

Russell Muñiz, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann

Debra M. Ruesga, Town Clerk

Council Member Jim Allbritton

Emil C. Lopez, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Gary Jablonski

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Council Member David S. Kuczenski

First Budget Public Hearing of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held at 13400 Griffin Road in the Southwest Ranches Council Chambers. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor Breitkreuz at 6:02 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. Administration Comments**

Town Administrator Muñiz stated that the Fiscal Year 2026 budget was the result of several months of preparation. He said that Town Council would be presented with a balanced budget that, like the previous year, aimed to enhance municipal services for residents. The proposed budget maintained the existing millage rate and, with the support of the Council, worked to limit increases in both the solid waste and fire services assessments. He concluded by turning the floor over to Town Financial Administrator Lopez for a detailed presentation

### **4. Presentation by Finance**

Town Financial Administrator Lopez narrated the PowerPoint presentation in detail which illustrated the Town's final solid waste assessment of \$560.67 per unit, final fire assessment of \$767.67 for residential properties, and a total tentative millage rate of 3.9000 and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026. He concluded the presentation by asking Council to approve the fire and solid waste assessments and for their direction regarding the millage rate and budget.

A discussion between the Town Council, Town Administrator Muñiz, and Town Financial Administrator ensued regarding the presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Town Budget. The Mayor and Town Council congratulated and thanked Town Administration, the Finance Department, and Town staff, for their hard work and efforts to keep a balanced budget for this upcoming fiscal year. Town Council talked about having a policy change regarding projects that are approved in the current fiscal year but are carried over into the next fiscal year budget. Council asked that in the future these types of projects be shown in the presentation, and listed possibly as footnotes in the budget, for easier reference and transparency.

## **Millage Rate and Budget Hearing**

### **Resolutions**

**5. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS; AMENDING IN PART**

SECTION 3 OF RESOLUTION 2025-070 BY PROVIDING A NEW DEFINITION; INCORPORATING THE 2025 FIRE ASSESSMENT REPORT ADDENDUM; PROVIDING FOR PROVISION AND FUNDING OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR IMPOSITION AND COMPUTATION OF FIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE DETERMINATIONS OF SPECIAL BENEFIT AND FAIR APPORTIONMENT; APPROVING THE FINAL FIRE SERVICES ASSESSMENT RATES AND FINAL ROLL RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE TOWN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26; CONFIRMING AN EXEMPTION FOR VETERAN'S WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECT OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION OF ASSESSMENT PROCEEDS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Hartmann, seconded by Council Member Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Jablonski, Kuczenski, Vice Mayor Hartmann, and Mayor Breitreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**6.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA FOR FY 2025-2026 COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FINDINGS; INCORPORATING THE SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY REPORT; PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR VETERAN'S SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Kuczenski, seconded by Vice Mayor Hartmann, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Jablonski, Kuczenski, Vice Mayor Hartmann, and Mayor Breitreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**Tentative Millage Rate Resolution**

**Tentative Millage Rate Resolution**

**7.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR TAXATION OF REAL PROPERTY LYING WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Hartmann, seconded by Council Member Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Jablonski, Kuczenski, Vice Mayor Hartmann, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**Ordinance - 1st Reading**

**8.** AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET BASIS; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; AND, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. {Second Reading scheduled for September 25, 2025}

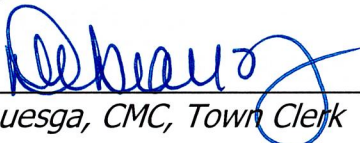
The following motion was made by Council Member Kuczenski, seconded by Council Member Jablonski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Jablonski, Kuczenski, Vice Mayor Hartmann, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING.**

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*

  
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Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

*Adopted by the Town Council on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025.*

  
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Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.