

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

August 17, 2021

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

Andrew Berns, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann

Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Council Member Jim Allbritton

Martin D. Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Gary Jablonski

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Council Member David Kuczenski

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Workshop 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 Breitzkreuz at 7:04 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Presentation – Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

Mayor Breitzkreuz opened the workshop and turned it over to Town Administrator Berns who provided an overview of the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. He advised the budget is a balanced budget and tonight's presentation will provide a more detailed understanding.

Town Financial Administrator Sherwood and Town Controller Rich Strum presented the PowerPoint presentation summarizing the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

Mayor Breitzkreuz thanked all staff, boards and volunteers with their assistance during the budget process. He then turned the floor over to Council Member Jablonski.

Council Member Jablonski provided a brief history of the surplus budget and his discussions with Town Administrator Berns and Town Financial Administrator Sherwood. He wanted to know how much he could utilize without any financial impact to the Town. Between Town Administrator Berns and Town Financial Administrator Sherwood, they identified a non-surtax drainage project which is approximately \$650,000. Since there are right-of-way issues to be resolved with the drainage project, some of those funds (approximately \$400,000) could be utilized as a one-time only subsidy to be given back to the residents to offset the Fire Assessment Fee increase. Council Member Jablonski then spoke about the Town applying for a grant from the Broward County Surtax Funds (MAP) and possible State of Florida grants. He asked Town Administrator Berns what the impact reduction to the residents would be and Town Administrator Berns stated the Fire Assessment Fee would go from \$764.46 to \$667.23 which would be an increase of \$40.00 to the residents. Council Member Jablonski asked for Council Member input.

Vice Mayor Hartmann asked if the Town Council could use the full amount of \$640,000 from the general fund to take the increase down to zero. Council Member Jablonski stated they could, but he was hesitant to do that without making sure the Town received the grant monies from Broward County or the State of Florida to fund the drainage project. In the end, Vice Mayor Hartmann liked the idea.

Mayor Breitzkreuz thanked Council Member Jablonski for his idea and he indicated his support however, he was hesitant to commit \$400,000 and come up short next year which would impact the residents again. He asked Council member Jablonski what the numbers would be if they applied \$300,000 instead. Mayor Breitzkreuz was concerned the millage rate and fire assessment fees will still be high in the upcoming year. Town Administrator Berns stated at \$306,000 the fire fee would be \$690, to which Mayor Breitzkreuz stated he was much more comfortable with that number.

Council Member Kuczenski thought this was a great idea as well. He recalled the Town Council subsidized barn fire fees in 2020 and he was hesitant in making a subsidy to the residents a recurring issue. He then asked how critical the drainage project was, as the flooding in 2020 with the rains were devastating. Council Member Jablonski advised since the drainage project would take about 18 months to complete due to right-of-way issues, that is why it was identified as usable funds. Council Member Kuczenski supported Mayor Breitzkreuz's amount suggestion to which Council Member Jablonski was in agreement with as well. Vice Mayor Hartmann also indicated his agreement with utilizing \$306,000 instead of \$400,000.

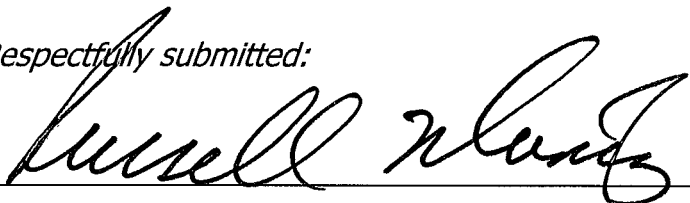
Council Member Allbritton also believed the increase in fire calls to residences is due to residents still working from home and will continue to do so in the upcoming year. He asked Council Member Jablonski what it would take to resolve the drainage right-of-way issues. Council Member Jablonski stated that the Town cannot use public dollars on private property. The Town would have to have the residents who own the right-of-way problem areas, release those areas to the Town. Council Member Allbritton inquired if there are any residents that may not agree to releasing their right-of-way, to which Town Administrator Berns stated there aren't any right-of-way issues that cannot be readily resolved and if the Town goes ahead with the compromise being discussed, it will allow the Town to keep moving forward from a design and planning standpoint that would see substantial progress within the year. Public Works Director/Town Engineer Rod Ley clarified the right-of-way issues to the Town Council and echoed Town Administrator Bern's statement there should be no problems resolving the rights-of-way issues.

Town Administrator Berns asked for guidance from the Town Council on what they would like to do. Mayor Breitzkreuz along with the Town Council supported utilizing the \$306,000 subsidy to the residents.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this 18th day of November, 2021



Steve Breittkreuz, Mayor

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