

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING HELD SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Mayor Sears called the Town Council Final Budget Public Hearing of September 24, 2018 to order at 5:21 p.m.

Mayor Sears led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Services Director Ernest led the Invocation.

Present: Chris Sears, Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel, Councilor Macfarlane, Councilor Scott and Councilor Conroy.

Also Present: Chief Thomas, Town Clerk Burke, Library Director Hall and Public Services Director Ernest.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Sears read the Resolution by title and following statements:

Resolution No. 2018-007, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 9.2750 FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY IN THE HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- The Taxing Authority is the Town of Howey in the Hills.
- The Rolled-Back Rate is 8.8056 mills.
- The percentage over the rolled-Back Rate is 5.33%.
- The Millage Rate to be levied is 9.2750 mills.

Mayor Sears opened for Public Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Vance L. Jochin, Fiscal Watchdog Blog, asked why the Town has the highest millage rate in Lake County. **Mayor Sears** replied that the Town has minimal if any commercial buildings. The existing residents have to share the cost to run multiple departments. Mayor Sears tried to roll back the millage rate but the needs to run the departments didn't allow the Town Council to roll back the rate. **Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel** said that the Town doesn't know if the double homestead exemption will pass. If it does it will cut another tremendous amount of money out of the Budget.

Mayor Sears closed Public Comment.

No Town Council discussion.

Councilor Conroy, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem David Nebel moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-007, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 9.2750 FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY IN THE HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion passed 4-1 with a roll call vote. (Mayor Sears voted no.)

Mayor Sears read the Resolution title and the following Statements:

Resolution No. 2018-008, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Final Budget for the Town of Howey in the Hills for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to be adopted by Fund Department is as follows:

- General Fund- In the amount of \$1,565,964
- Special Revenue-In the amount of \$118,000
- Enterprise Fund-In the amount of \$837,521
- Police Pension Fund-In the amount of \$218,500
- TOTAL ALL FUNDS - \$2,739,985

Mayor Sears opened for Public Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Steve, Last name unknown, Resident, asked what was in the Special Revenue. **Mayor Sears** replied that the Special Revenue included Impact Fees and the Police Advance Training Fund. He then asked what the Enterprise Fund was. **Mayor Sears** replied the Water Utility. **Steve** then began to state that the water bill in Howey is twice to three times the amount he paid in Miami, FL.

Vance L. Jochim, Fiscal Watchdog Blog, said that he was impressed that the Town included four years of prior Budgets in their software. He recommended that the Town have a section on the Website that included five years of prior Budgets for the public to review. He also said that it was hard to read and the font was too light. He then said that he suggest an executive summary of the entire Budget and maybe even bar graphs. He had difficulty with the website and slow upload speeds. Also recommended that the Town

video record their meetings. **Councilor Macfarlane** said that she would pass on his concerns about the Website speed to the Website's IT Department.

Mayor Sears closed Public Comment.

No Town Council discussion.

Councilor Conroy seconded by **Councilor Scott** moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-008, **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion passed 4-1 with a roll call vote. (Councilor Scott voting no.)**

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Chris Sears, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dairian Burke
Town Clerk