

**FINAL MINUTES AND AGENDA
TOWN OF JUPITER
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022**

Mayor Kuretski called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call: Mayor Jim Kuretski; Vice-Mayor Ron Delaney, Councilor Cameron May; Councilor Cheryl Schneider; Councilor Malise Sundstrom; Town Manager Frank Kitzerow; Acting Town Attorney Stanley Klett and Town Clerk Laura Cahill.

1. **TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT** - Requesting Council to authorize the Town Manager and Town Clerk to notice an Attorney-Client Session to discuss the pending litigation, styled *Harbourside Place, LLC vs the Town of Jupiter and the Jupiter Community Redevelopment Agency* at a Town Council Special meeting.

Council unanimously agreed to authorize the Town Manager and Town Clerk to notice an Attorney-Client Session to discuss the pending litigation, styled *Harbourside Place, LLC vs the Town of Jupiter and the Jupiter Community Redevelopment Agency* at a Town Council Special meeting on August 23, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

2. Discussion of Operating Budget and the Proposed Community Investment Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2027.

Mayor Kuretski thanked Staff for their extraordinary work on preparing the budget year after year.

Mr. Scott Reynolds, Finance Director thanked Mayor Kuretski for acknowledging Staff's hard work. He reviewed the operating budget which included a reduction to the general fund and noted the State shared revenues had decreased due to errors in their calculations

Mayor Kuretski asked if the estimates were based on calculation errors and not on the recession. Mr. Reynolds stated that was correct.

Mr. Reynolds discussed expenditures and millage reduction options which included a 2.4633 flat millage rate or a 2.3894 reduction millage rate. He noted the reduction would amount to almost a million dollars.

Mayor Kuretski said he would like some reduction but wanted it to be a majority decision.

Mr. Reynolds reviewed proposed salary increases with an inflation subsidy for employees.

Mayor Kuretski said he advocated for a six percent salary adjustment for inflation.

2. Discussion of Operating Budget and the Proposed Community Investment Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2027.

Councilor Schneider stated she also wanted an increase more towards six percent.

Mr. Reynolds stated it would be an additional \$351,000 from the fund balance.

Vice-Mayor Delaney said he supported \$2,800 per employee as a subsidy.

Councilor Sundstrom noted if the Town were to decrease the millage it would be a recurring expense to the Town and if salaries were increased it would be an increase in costs. She stated she had no concerns for the current year but for the future. She supported a percentage over a subsidy but did not know if the Town could afford the six percent due to the Town's millage rate being one of the lowest in the county.

Councilor Schneider stated the subsidy came out of the reserves but Council needed to decide how it would be done.

Councilor May asked if the percentage increase included Council or was it just for Town Staff. Mr. Reynolds said it was only for Town Staff.

Mr. Reynolds discussed: the water fund; community investment plan (CIP) summary fiscal year 2023-2027; General Government of CIP program funding fiscal year 2023; New Projects/Project funding increases which included a Police Memorial; Riverside Drive pedestrian and sidewalk improvements; Sawfish Bay Park seawall repair; Tony Penna Drive and Busch Road intersection; Police renew and replace (R&R) vehicle program; Police radio replacement; new town hall and the southern extension of Island Way.

Mayor Kuretski asked for clarity on the scope change for Sawfish Bay Park. He also noted, Council had intended to fund some improvements at Roger Dean stadium but would need a roundtable or workshop to have a consensus.

Vice-Mayor Delaney asked why there was an increase for the Police R&R vehicle program. Mr. Reynolds explained it was primarily due to the increase in cost per vehicle. He noted it was very difficult to get the dealerships to guarantee the pricing due to the manufacturing demand.

Councilor Sundstrom asked about how the life of a vehicle was determined. Chief England confirmed 8 years or 100,000 miles were the first indicators but then each vehicle was evaluated by the fleet manager.

Councilor May explained the vehicles sometimes took a long time to arrive and outfit as well. He asked if more should be ordered to mitigate waiting times. Mr. Kitzerow said it could be considered.

2. Discussion of Operating Budget and the Proposed Community Investment Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2027.

Mr. Reynolds stated he worked with Staff to pinpoint where strategic initiatives were in the budget. He said Council could expect a companion document showing specifics.

Mayor Kuretski discussed the South Island Way initiative, challenges with rights of way and the project being on hold for years. He supported moving ahead with engineering design work on the project.

Mayor Kuretski mentioned the West Indiantown Road extended scope initiative, and confirmed the dollar amount listed was just for the engineering design work.

Mayor Kuretski noted he had heard from Brightline officials and they received a federal grant that would help finance fencing in some vulnerable areas to improve safety.

Council discussed the frustrations with a property owner delaying rights of way for the Island Way project.

Mr. Reynolds moved on to discuss surtax funding projects. Council discussed the best way to plan how to use those funds in the future.

Mr. Reynolds went over the water fund, upcoming projects, grant funding, the stormwater fund and stormwater projects.

Mayor Kuretski discussed the analysis of water revenue, new connection fees and stormwater project funding in relation to his position on the capital investment plan. He noted the water demand forecast for 2025 and saw an opportunity to defer some current spending.

Mayor Kuretski stated there was \$44 million in the proposed water utility budget that he did not support. He felt some wells could be delayed until needed.

Councilor Schneider said her understanding of the new wells was a change in strategy in terms of how the wells were used and that wells in future years could be reevaluated at that time. Vice-Mayor Delaney agreed and said a well rotation use was needed.

Mayor Kuretski agreed but still wanted an analysis of which wells were needed based on anticipated demand. He went on to discuss the deep well injection budgeting, the meter replacement program and nanofiltration concentrate blending and asked for clarifications on each.

2. Discussion of Operating Budget and the Proposed Community Investment Program (CIP) Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2027.

Mayor Kuretski said he was surprised to see Loxahatchee Backwaters natural area (Taylor property) water quality improvements for \$6.4 million. He noted it did not make it into the budget but was a recommended project that he was unaware of.

Vice-Mayor Delaney suggested discussing Taylor Property projects in the future as it was not urgent.

Councilor Sundstrom stated she supported keeping the millage rate flat and the Town Staff salary adjustment and subsidy. She suggested raising the employee salary adjustment to five percent and lowering the one-time subsidy to make sure the Town's level of service is maintained.

Councilor Schneider agreed to keep the millage rate flat. She mentioned she was comfortable with the four percent employee salary adjustment and \$2,800 subsidy to avoid a bigger impact to the operating budget but still show appreciation towards Staff.

Vice-Mayor Delaney stated he was also in favor of keeping the millage rate flat. He mentioned he wanted to make sure the Town kept the same level of public safety and quality of life and that he might be open to more than four percent for the employee salary adjustment.

Councilor Schneider mentioned she would consider a five percent salary adjustment but wanted to be cautious.

Councilor May stated he supported maintaining the flat millage rate and looking at a five or six percent salary adjustment. He mentioned the people who work hard for the Town should be able to afford to live in the Town.

Mayor Kuretski stated there seemed to be a consensus to keep the flat millage rate.

Mr. Andrew Weston, resident of Dolphin Court, spoke regarding widening Dolphin Drive and supported the flat millage rate.

Ms. Kim Nash, resident of Cypress Drive, stated she supported the Cypress Drive Grant program and stormwater improvements. She also supported the flat millage rate and salary adjustments for Staff.

ADJOURNMENT - 8:30 P.M.

Laura Cahill, Town Clerk