

**MINUTES OF THE HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS TOWN COUNCIL
TENTATIVE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

Interim Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Tentative Budget Public Hearing of September 11, 2019 to order at 5:05 p.m.

Interim Mayor MacFarlane led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Services Director Ernest led the Invocation.

Present: Interim Mayor MacFarlane, Councilor Scott, Councilor McGill, Councilor David Nebel and Councilor Conroy.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Interim Mayor MacFarlane read Resolution by title and following statements:

Resolution No. 2019-009, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9180 FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY IN THE HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- The Taxing Authority is the Town of Howey in the Hills.
- The Rolled-Back Rate is 8.9180 mills.
- The percentage over the rolled-Back Rate is 0.00%.
- The Millage Rate to be levied is 8.9180 mills.

Interim Mayor MacFarlane opened for Public Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine Ave, stated that he approved of the 8.9180 Millage Rate.

Interim Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment.

Councilor McGill stated that he was hoping to get the millage rate lowered. That the Town needs to set goals in the future to lower the millage rate. The Town is still the highest in Lake County and he was trying to get to be the second highest.

Councilor Conroy said that this is the lowest the Millage Rate has been since 2012 so the Town is showing improvement.

Councilor Scott seconded by **Councilor Conroy** moved to approve Resolution 2019-009. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 8.9180 FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY IN THE HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion passes 4-1 with a roll call vote. (Councilor McGill voting No.)

Interim Mayor MacFarlane read the Resolution by title and the following Statements:

Resolution No. 2019-010, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Tentative Budget for the Town of Howey in the Hills for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to be adopted by Fund Department is as follows:

- General Fund- In the amount of \$1,695,723
- Special Revenue-In the amount of \$118,000
- Enterprise Fund-In the amount of \$836,800
- Police Pension Fund-In the amount of \$185,500
- TOTAL ALL FUNDS - \$2,836,023

Interim Mayor MacFarlane opened for Public Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Carmen Khaleel, 721 Calabria Way, asked what projects the Town was looking into. **Interim Mayor MacFarlane** said fixing Island Drive, road projects throughout Town, Obtaining a sewer system and fixing Sara Maude Mason.

Marnell Drabik ,524 Bellissimo Place, asked what we were getting for the taxes they spend \$2,500 a year in Howey. She said the water bill is high. There is a six-man Police Department. The Police Department Budget is outrageous. The Town Council talked about getting an electronic sign. Use the Town's email blast system that is free.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine, said to keep things at a minimum. Look at the cost of using the Sheriff's Department.

Councilor McGill said that he liked the Police Department being in Town. That he talked to the Tavares Chief of Police and they said they would cover the Town for \$325,000 unfortunately there is a state statute that doesn't allow other municipalities to cover other municipalities. He had talked to the Sheriff's Office but there were no hard figures.

Councilor David Nebel said to get the proposals in writing and signed.

Elwis Benson, 408 S. Florida Ave, said that there wasn't enough time for the public to review the Tentative Budget and know the meeting was occurring and suggested to the Town Council to postpone. **Town Clerk Burke** stated that there were several different Budget Special Sessions, the notice for the Tentative Budget Public Hearing was on the resident's trim notice. The meeting was also posted on the Website along with other materials such as final Budget and Resolutions. **Mr. Benson** then said to get the figures for the Sheriff's Office and let the people vote.

Ed Smith, 308 N. Palm Ave, said he agrees on lowering the taxes. However, he thinks that the Town Council does a great job and he understands the Budget process. That the people need to give the Town Council a chance to run the Town and take care of projects.

Carmen Khaleel, 721 Calabria Way, said that she wished there was a way the Town could get the information on the Water and Taxes out to new buyers who may be unaware.

Interim Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment.

Councilor McGill stated that the Town Council is fiscally responsible for the Budget. That he asked all departments to justify raise. He brought back adjustments to the Police Department and nothing happened.

Councilor Nebel-No Comment

Councilor Conroy stated that Police Department survey came back with outstanding comments. That there have been suggestions of forming a Citizens Police Advisory Board. That the Budget is a compromise from all parties.

Interim Mayor MacFarlane said that there has been an impact analysis started for the Police Department. That the Town could go to Sheriff's Office to ask for a proposal once they understood the scope of the work.

Councilor Scott said that the Town Council needs to step in and do their jobs.

Councilor Conroy, seconded by **Councilor Scott** moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-010, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Motion passed 3-2 with a roll call vote. (Councilor Scott and McGill voting No.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lou Howell, 1005 Tangerine Ave, said that the good ole boys club has been running the Town since 1925 and that the Charter needs to be changed.

Sal Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine Ave, said that a click runs the Town and it needs to change.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

Martha MacFarlane
Interim Mayor

Dairian Burke
Town Clerk