

**TOWN OF DAVIE
WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2003
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Starkey, Councilmembers Crowley, Hubert and Paul. Also present were Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

2003-2004 Budget

Mr. Willi explained that staff had attempted to maintain the Town's tax rate without a tax increase in the ad valorem and to continue the level of service that the Town offered to its residents. He stated that most of the increase in the actual operating budget was a result of employee costs that were a direct result of collective bargaining and employment agreements. Mr. Willi stated that he would be discussing some minor recommendations as to new revenue collections in the storm water fee, as well as the increase in the fire rescue assessment. This assessment would properly fund the operating expenses that would be part of the capital expenditures approved with the public bond issue.

Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen distributed documents that represented various municipalities' comparisons for storm water rates and fire rescue assessments. He explained that the documents represented the fire assessment proposal as well as the storm water drainage proposal with a rate comparison to other Broward County municipalities.

Vice-Mayor Starkey requested a presentation from staff and individual departments and stated that she would like explanations prior to moving forward. Mr. Cohen stated that individual department presentations were not available, but that certainly, any questions would be answered. Mayor Truex indicated that he met with Mr. Cohen previously, and most of his questions had been answered. Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that she had expected each department to make a presentation and was reserving her questions for after those presentations. Councilmember Hubert indicated she also had spoken with Mr. Cohen who answered all her questions. Councilmember Crowley indicated that he had met with most department directors and Mr. Cohen, and felt that the budget seemed to be lean and heading in the right direction. He stated that the fire assessment issue needed to be discussed.

Councilmember Paul questioned the administrative fee received from the water and sewer fund and if it was the free enterprise fund. Mr. Cohen indicated that the administrative fee was general fund expenses that were generated in doing work for the water and sewer utilities which would include every department. Councilmember Paul asked if the fee would tie in with the utility and internal charges. Mr. Cohen stated that those charges were for the building maintenance fund and information technology division which do not generate any revenues.

Councilmember Paul questioned the substantial increase in legislative services from \$4,900 to \$7,100. Mr. Cohen explained that the \$4,900 was the actual amount charged and added that the budgeted amount for last year was also \$7,100.

Councilmember Paul questioned the increase under General Administration from \$21,000 to \$57,600. Mr. Cohen advised that it was a formula used by Finance to spread the expenses and were internal charges for each department including water, electric and computer maintenance for laptops.

Councilmember Paul questioned the \$150,000 miscellaneous fee under the Town Administrator's Department. It was explained that the largest individual item would be

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lobbyists which are paid for from that category. Vice-Mayor Starkey indicated she had a breakdown of the costs and that another high cost within that amount would be for telecommunications. Mr. Cohen explained that it was for the consultant that the Town hired to perform telecommunications cell siting and that it was a one-time expense.

Councilmember Paul questioned the health insurance increase under law enforcement from \$640,000 to \$959,000. It was explained that last year's budgeted amount was for \$625,000 and the actual was \$640,000. Councilmember Paul asked if health insurance was on target, and Mr. Cohen stated that the reserve was building up and the Town would be able to offset some of the increase with some of the funds held in reserve last year. Human Resources Director Mark Alan explained that the Town's health insurance was below trend in South Florida.

Councilmember Paul questioned the increase in the retirement contributions. Mr. Cohen stated that it was based on the performance of the market and needing to meet minimum levels of funding based on federal law.

Councilmember Paul questioned the significant increase in salaries for Public Works. Mr. Cohen stated this was for reclassifications because of consolidation.

Councilmember Paul questioned the reduction in adult recreation. Mr. Cohen explained that there were some items that were placed in different divisions and if it appeared that the information would be more appropriate to another division, some of that information was reallocated.

Councilmember Paul questioned the not-for-profit donation requests, specifically the decrease in the Area Agency on Aging. Mr. Cohen indicated this was a miscommunication and that it had been adjusted to the amount requested. Councilmember Paul asked whether the Town received the request for the International Ballet. Mr. Cohen stated that nothing was funded this year because it was left to the discretion of Council. Vice-Mayor Starkey requested that staff provide a backup regarding the donation requests. Mayor Truex stated that \$1,000 should be added for the International Ballet.

Councilmember Hubert spoke regarding Hope Outreach and asked if they could receive an increase specifically for the food pantry. Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that Hope Outreach was providing a tremendous service to the Town and she would like to see them funded for the amount they requested. Director of Housing and Community Development Shirley Taylor-Prakelt stated that Hope Outreach depended on what was provided by the Town as they did not receive funds from the county or state. Mayor Truex felt they should receive \$30,000 as they had requested.

Vice-Mayor Starkey suggested establishing a community trust fund for the non-profit donations. The community trust fund board would comprise Councilmembers, as well as business owners. She stated that she did not think government should be subsidizing charities. Councilmember Paul suggested discussing this issue at the next Council meeting.

Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that Family Central had shown that they serve Davie residents well and she would like to see their donation request increased. Mayor Truex suggested discussing Family Central at a later date after receiving backup.

Vice-Mayor Starkey expressed that she would like to see the Police Athletic League (PAL) funding earmarked differently and not under a charitable contribution. She stated that she would like to see the donation decreased from \$95,000 to \$20,000. Vice-Mayor Starkey

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indicated that she would like to see the Memorial Healthcare System contribution increased to their full funded request of \$25,500.

Mayor Truex stated that he would not want to see the PAL contribution changed until discussing further with the organization. Mr. Cohen explained that the PAL increase was earmarked for two employees that were no longer with the organization. Mr. Cohen recommended leaving the \$95,000, but not providing any more than \$20,000 unless ample information was provided to satisfy Council. Vice-Mayor Starkey stated that there was additional funding provided to PAL under the law enforcement budget. It was suggested that rather than making a charitable contribution of \$95,000 to cover the salaries of the two employees, the \$95,000 should be moved to a Parks and Recreation line item where two full-time recreation leaders are used in the PAL program in order for the Town to control the funds. Police Chief John George stated that he would not like to see the funding to PAL cut, but rather turned into different services such as staffing and programming. He stated that to take the funding away would hurt the program which was very vital to the community. Mayor Truex stated that it might be beneficial to invite PAL to the next budget meeting to give them an opportunity to discuss the issue further.

Mayor Truex asked if all Councilmembers were in agreement with Vice-Mayor Starkey's suggestion to increase the Memorial Healthcare contribution to \$25,500. All Councilmembers responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Cohen reiterated the charitable contribution changes as follows: Area Agency for Aging increased to \$30,104; Hope Outreach increased to \$30,000; no changes made to PAL until discussed at the next meeting; staff to provide Council with backup regarding Family Central; Memorial Healthcare increased to \$25,500; the POD to be contacted for backup; and the International Ballet increased to \$1,000.

Councilmember Paul questioned the tremendous difference in the depreciation expense. Mr. Cohen explained that this was due to the significant increase in capital projects for utilities.

Mayor Truex inquired about the Davie Update and suggested that there be three issues rather than four. Mr. Willi indicated that there currently were three regular issues and one special issue as directed by Council.

Mayor Truex indicated that he did not want to double the fire rescue fee, but felt that the services proposed needed to be offered. He added that the amount of revenue that would be raised from the fire assessment needed to be recouped from the budget presented by Council and not raised from the rescue assessment.

Councilmember Paul voiced her concern regarding the need for additional police personnel and indicated that there were no positions allotted in the budget for that. Mr. Cohen stated that the Town was in the process of looking for grant funding to add nine additional police officers.

Councilmember Crowley suggested that Mr. Cohen provide Council with another option for the fire rescue assessment at the next budget workshop. Mr. Cohen stated that he would provide three options for Council.

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Vice-Mayor Starkey felt the budget was leaning toward a true cost accounting form. She felt that the miscellaneous columns were a little broad. Vice-Mayor Starkey indicated that she would like to see lobbyists under a different category rather than miscellaneous. She felt the charges for lobbyists far exceeded the estimated budget and added that this was an area that needed to be cut. She stated that she would like to see a full accounting of charges spent on lobbyists for the past year. Mr. Cohen indicated that a full accounting would be provided to Council. Councilmember Paul indicated she had a philosophical difference with Vice-Mayor Starkey on the use of lobbyists. She did not feel that Council received adequate compensation in relationship to the number of hours needed to meet the demands of constituents and felt that the lobbyists were an important asset to Council.

Vice-Mayor Truex asked if anyone from the public had any comments.

Cindy Osbourne advised that she had paid increases since 1999 from \$619 to \$1,952 refuting statements made by Mr. Cohen. She indicated that while residents had not had an increase, businesses had. Ms. Osbourne stated that she would rather see the cost of fire rescue services incorporated into the millage rate so that everyone paid a proportionate share. She felt that the business community would be impacted and may eventually move out of Davie because of the assessment. Mr. Cohen explained the formula used for commercial and industrial properties.

Councilmember Paul requested that the Budget Advisory Committee provide a report.

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Approved: _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk