

**TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1998**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Venis and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Mayor Harry Venis, Vice-Mayor Kathy Cox, Councilmember James Bush, Councilmember Judy Paul, and Councilmember Richard Weiner. Also present were Interim Town Administrator Robert Rawls, Town Attorney Barry Webber, and Town Clerk Gail Reinfeld recording the meeting.

**1. PUBLIC HEARING**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF DAVIE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1998-1999.**

Mayor Venis opened the public hearing.

Anita Platt, on behalf of Family Central, stated that there was a request for \$8,536, which was the Town's fair share to serve 164 children this year. She indicated that this organization had received \$8,000 last year to serve 118 children. Ms. Platt understood that the organization was already in the budget for "a little over \$2,000" and requested that Council consider giving an additional amount to Family Central so that it could continue to serve the children of Davie. Mayor Venis asked how much was allocated in the budget for Family Central. Budget and Finance Director Christopher Wallace replied \$8,536.

Audrey Milsaps and Noble McArtor, on behalf of the Area Agency on Aging, were present. Ms. Milsaps stated that this agency was the prime focal point for planning, coordinating, and funding to benefit the multiple needs of over 339,000 senior residents in Broward County. She indicated that in 1997, the Agency had provided Town residents with over \$412,896 worth of services. Ms. Milsaps requested that the Town provide \$13,176 in local matching funds so that the Agency could continue to assist senior citizens. She explained that for every dollar raised locally through matching funds, the Agency was able to receive \$9 in federal and state resources. Mr. McArtor distributed copies of the Fair Share Report and briefly reviewed the services provided to Davie residents at different centers. Ms. Milsaps stated that the Town had, in the past six years, given its full fair share to the Agency and requested that Council would continue this "step in the right direction" by providing the funding requested.

Monroe Kiar and Susan Landis, on behalf of the Hope Outreach Center, were present. Mr. Kiar gave a brief overview of the Center's programs and how each program assisted different residents with needs. He stated that although the majority of the programs were run by volunteers, the Center did have overhead expenses that needed to be met. Mr. Kiar stated that the Center had requested a \$10,000 grant, representing \$1 per volunteer hour, to proceed with the necessary services being provided to Davie residents. He asked for Council's favorable consideration.

Earl Morrall, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Davie, and David Hughes, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Broward County, were present. Mr. Morrall stated that these agencies were looking to establish a new club in the Flamingo Elementary School area. He gave a brief description of the current membership of the existing clubs and believed that the new location would be truly beneficial to the Town and its children. He provided some drawings of the proposed facility for Council's review, stating that the building had been modeled after a unit located within the City of Hollywood. Mr. Morrall stated that a benefactor had donated \$1.5 million for the building and requested Council's favorable consideration. Mr. Hughes stated that this organization had been looking at western Davie as a priority area as the youth population was immense with very few services.

Mr. Hughes stated that it would cost \$1.8 million to construct and equip the facility. He indicated that the Broward County School Board had agreed to lease the land to the organization at no cost; however, he indicated that it would cost approximately \$375,000 to \$400,000 yearly to operate the facility, while expecting a membership of 2,000 children. Mr. Hughes stated that the average daily attendance during summer months was expected to be approximately 550 children, with approximately 325 children attending on a daily basis during the school year. He explained that there was a \$10 yearly membership fee, which ensured that no child was precluded from being involved. Mr. Hughes thanked Council for its consideration in making this project a reality. Vice-Mayor Cox asked if the facility on the east side of town would be maintained. Mr. Hughes replied that some real thought had

been put into that consideration due to the economics. He explained that approximately \$200,000 was being spent at that location, with some of the monies being received from WestFair. Mr. Hughes emphasized his hopes that WestFair would continue to grow and generate funds for the Davie operation. He indicated that it was the organization's intent to maintain programs at that facility, as well as the proposed site. Vice-Mayor Cox asked if the proposed project was developed near Flamingo Elementary, would the school be allowed to use the facilities during the day. Mr. Hughes replied that this was a negotiated agreement and that some facilities did provide alternatives to suspension programs wherein children were sent to the club when suspended as opposed to being sent home. He indicated that such a program ensured that children kept up with their schoolwork, while providing guidance from teachers, police officers, and other staff members. Mr. Hughes went on to explain the different labs, game rooms, gymnasium, arts and crafts, and physical conditioning areas being proposed for the new facility. He stated that the close proximity of the new facility with Western High School would provide great opportunities for in-service community services. Vice-Mayor Cox asked what was the estimated number of children that were in walking distance of the new facility. Mr. Hughes replied that there were approximately 6,000 children within the area.

Mayor Venis asked if the proposed facility would be as big as the facility in Hollywood. Mr. Hughes replied that the facility would be a little bigger as it would be enhanced. Mr. Morrall described the proposed amenities. Vice-Mayor Cox stated that the Town had struggled for a long time to provide organized programs for the children in that area. She felt that this project would be beneficial to the Town and its students. Councilmember Paul agreed and indicated that the principal, Ms. Morris, had expressed her excitement that this project was being pursued. Vice-Mayor Cox stated that the School Board was interested in "fast tracking" this project and believed that perhaps Council should contact County Commissioners to help move this project along. Mr. Rawls stated that the Town had been able to hold the line at 5.1086 mills for the past six years. He indicated that the Town was seeing a small reduction in the debt level which, in turn, gave a small savings to the residents. Mr. Rawls emphasized that services had increased, with the primary focus being with the police and fire services. He stated that it was the Town's objective to take over the emergency medical services during this fiscal year, with the Town taking over of Station 68 on October 1st. Mr. Rawls added that the Nob Hill station would be completed in February 1999, and believed that the Town could have full operation of its fire facilities by this time next year. He believed that the budget reflected the Town's ambition to move forward with this project.

Mr. Rawls stated that the parks program had grown significantly over the years and felt that the proposed budget addressed the maintenance and operation. He indicated that the budget would provide for the hiring of ten additional maintenance personnel to operate the parks and enhance services. Mr. Rawls stated that he and Community Services Director Sharon Kent had been working together to review the operations of the parks to ensure the most efficient delivery of services. He indicated that some consideration had been given to the possibility of out-sourcing some services.

Mr. Rawls stated that Council had previously indicated that the enhancement of Code Enforcement was a priority and, therefore, the budget provided for two additional Code Compliance Inspectors, as well as clerical assistance. Mr. Rawls stated that activities in the Building and the Planning and Zoning Divisions had continued to grow, thereby requiring additional clerical assistance, as well as providing a Planner I and Land Management positions. Mr. Rawls indicated that in an effort to enhance the Open Space program, the Town would be hiring two additional part-time park rangers to provide the necessary services. He added that a Recreational Attendant and a Recreational Leader were also being sought to optimize the recreation program.

Mr. Rawls stated that additional personnel would be added to Information Systems and indicated that due to the growing number of events at the Rodeo Arena, additional employees would be sought for that Division as well. Mr. Rawls explained that the Town had enjoyed an increased tax base and, as such, the Town had been able to benefit from increased services. He was delighted in announcing that the Town had a balanced budget.

Mayor Venis commended Messrs. Rawls and Wallace for their work on the budget.

Vice-Mayor Cox asked if the budget included a landscaping person. Development Services Department Director Michele Mellgren replied affirmatively. She explained that the Town would seek to fill the position of the Planner I with an individual who had landscape/landscape architect background. Vice-Mayor Cox stated that there was a definite void on the Site Plan Committee and was looking forward to having this position established. She felt that out-sourcing some of the services of the parks program would be beneficial to the Town.

Vice-Mayor Cox asked if Council approved this budget, was Council bound by the specific figures. Mr. Rawls

replied negatively, explaining that Council traditionally approved approximately \$100,000 to be used to assist organizations it deemed worthy. He indicated that it was requested that Council formally approve the budget so that staff could have an indication to move forward with the necessary projects.

Mayor Venis stated that the General Fund summary showed that there was \$6 million to be collected; however, there was \$7 million to be expended. He asked Mr. Wallace if any budgetary problems could be expected. Mr. Wallace did not expect any budgetary problems, indicating that the Town showed it was coming in a little higher than expected during the last budget review. He stated that it was staff's goal to proceed without any difficulties. Mayor Venis stated that the Town had recently been working to complete another cable franchise agreement and asked when the agreement would be finalized. Mr. Wallace replied that the agreement should be completed by October. Mayor Venis felt it was important to provide the residents with a choice between the two companies. Mr. Wallace stated that the budget reflected \$7,500 for the Hope Outreach Center instead of the \$10,000 it was currently asking for. He explained that the budget had been prepared using figures which had been provided some time ago. Mr. Wallace indicated that most organizations had not contacted the Town since they originally requested funding and he was unsure if there were any other discrepancies. He asked Council if it was their desire to have him update the budget to reflect the new amounts. Some discussion followed, with Council agreeing to use the figures provided until consideration could be given to all charities.

Mayor Venis asked if the offsetting revenue for the landscaping grant was included in the budget. Mr. Wallace replied affirmatively. Mr. Rawls explained that this grant was for the proposed improvements on SW 136 Avenue and Interstate 595.

Vice-Mayor Cox asked what the transport rate for the Fire Department and asked what calculations was used to figure out the percentage of collection. Mr. Wallace replied that the Fire Department had used the same calculation used by the current provider. He indicated that the calculation was difficult to determine, but felt it was the best estimate that could be provided. Vice-Mayor Cox asked if a percentage of error was available. Mr. Wallace replied negatively and reminded Council that this would be a new source of revenue. Vice-Mayor Cox asked if the Town would be tracking the revenues from this program. Mr. Wallace replied affirmatively. He explained, however, that the revenues would probably not be seen until several months later. Some discussion followed.

Mayor Venis stated that some of the contractual services had been reduced and asked if more personnel was being hired to provide the same services. Mr. Wallace replied affirmatively. Mayor Venis was happy that additional personnel was being hired by the Town, stating that staff appeared to do a better job than individuals hired from outside sources. Councilmember Paul wondered if under the breakdown of contractual services, could staff separate the funds needed for maintenance and the funds needed for future needs of consultants. Mr. Wallace stated that he would try to provide Council a complete breakdown by the end of the week.

Councilmember Paul asked if the funds requested for the cost of mailing the "Davie Update" included those areas which were to be annexed. Mr. Wallace replied affirmatively.

Mayor Venis referred to special projects and stated that this section seemed to be substantially reduced. He questioned if the Town would be "okay" with that. Mr. Wallace explained that there were unforeseen expenses that occurred during the year. He indicated that although carefully budgeted, it was difficult to determine if sufficient funds had been reserved. Mr. Wallace reminded Council that these types of expenditures would be brought to Council for its consideration. Mayor Venis asked that Council be advised if any unbudgeted item was considered in the future during the course of a regular meeting.

Vice-Mayor Cox asked Mr. Wallace if he was comfortable with the contingency fund. Mr. Wallace replied that he would prefer that the contingency was higher; however, relative to the budget, the contingency fund was a low percentage compared to previous years. He indicated that he would prefer to have a five percent contingency level, but felt that the established contingency level was adequate. Mr. Wallace stated that if things got "tight," then staff would look to the expenditure side of the budget to reduce expenditures. He added that the Town's reserves were sufficient and holding steadily, relative to the budget. At Vice-Mayor Cox's inquiry, Mr. Wallace replied that the reserves were holding steadily in terms of percentages.

Mayor Venis asked if there was a problem with the level of reserves, would the outside auditors advise the Town of any problems they found during their certified audit. Mr. Wallace replied affirmatively. Mayor Venis asked if this problem had ever arisen. Mr. Wallace replied negatively and indicated that, under State guidelines, the State Auditor General would advise of possible financial crisis if any negative reserves appeared for a period of two or more years.

Councilmember Paul stated that in reviewing the budgets for individual departments, she noticed a column for legal expenses. She questioned if these legal expenses were for work done by Mr. Webber's firm or if outside counsel was being used. Mr. Wallace explained that each department was accountable for their legal fees; however, he indicated that the nature of the legal work required dictated the type of counsel that was utilized. He emphasized that the Town spent less per capita for legal fees than most of the other municipalities in Broward County.

Councilmember Paul asked if the Town received any revenue from the aquacultural center. Mr. Wallace replied affirmatively, stating that a report had been prepared but not distributed in time for this meeting. He indicated that he really did not expect a net income from the operation for one or two more years.

Mayor Venis closed the public hearing.

Town Clerk Reinfeld read the ordinance - first reading by title only.

Councilmember Bush made a motion, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cox, to approve. In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Venis, yes; Vice-Mayor Cox, yes; Councilmember Bush, yes; Councilmember Paul, yes; and Councilmember Weiner, yes. (**Motion carried 5-0**)

There being no objections, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.