

**TOWN COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. Present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Weiner and Councilmembers Clark, Cox and Paul. Also present were Interim Town Administrator Willi, Interim Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Reinfeld recording the meeting.

Mr. Willi advised that Council had been provided with a proposed budget, including a spreadsheet with expected revenues and increases in revenue generated from the proposed increase in fire rescue fee, bringing in additional income of \$2.383 million. He stated that the proposed budget was a balanced budget. Mr. Willi indicated that two of recommended changes were the addition of a fire prevention supervisor and fire inspectors. He explained that revenues collected for building permits was earmarked to enforce the Code and he suggested moving those monies into Building Division's revenue to avoid an additional tax burden. The following additional items were listed: EMS clerical support for billing, hiring 12 police officers in lieu of 24, 5 police service aides instead of 7, senior programs at Pine Island Park reduced from \$50,000 to \$30,000 for first year startup, two Code Compliance inspectors, two planners which would be paid from property taxes, one engineering position paid from engineering permit fees, and Council spending accounts. The proposals accounted for approximately \$1.55 million of increased revenue, leaving a remaining balance of approximately \$831,000 from revenue sources which could be earmarked to other programs or expenditures.

Mr. Willi advised of the positions being requested and indicated that there was also funding for police take-home cars. Many departments requested position upgrades, which had been compiled by Mr. Wallace, totaling \$68,000, to study and upgrade positions throughout the Town.

Mr. Willi advised that a determination needed to be made when expenditures would be made out of capital improvement budget during the one to five year period. He also requested input from the Council regarding corrections or additions to the budget, as well as Council goals. Mr. Willi stated that he did not see a way to get away from the increases in the fire assessment fee and the millage rate.

Mayor Venis questioned whether the two new Code Compliance inspectors would be self-sufficient. Mr. Willi advised that Code Compliance was not a revenue-producing division of Development Services and there might be some cost offset from levied fines, but the proposed income could not be counted as revenue. Mayor Venis suggested that fines might mitigate the cost of the two new inspectors and asked how the department operated now. Mr. Wallace stated that Code Compliance assessed fines and levies and eventually some were collected. As of August 25th, the Town had received \$39,000 for Code Compliance fines; however, it was a very erratic revenue source and there was no way to tell when the monies would come in. Mr. Kutney discussed how Code Compliance was not a money-making process as it was designed to gain compliance. He mentioned that a citation-type method as a revenue source could be discussed in the future.

Mayor Venis requested that the potential savings in the Fire Department be reviewed. Mr. Willi reiterated that the fire inspection was related to Code Compliance and they would be using building permit revenues to pay the salary expenses for the fire inspections. The positions would be in the Fire Department's budget and the three existing inspectors would be backed out which would save \$350,000 to \$400,000 that could be transferred from a tax burden and put in the building revenue account. Mr. Wallace

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
AUGUST 28, 2000**

advised that the proposal was to provide more fire inspections during the year and generate more fee-related activity. Inspections were already being charged for and could not be charged again by shifting the fees to new construction. Mr. Wallace advised caution in removing fire inspections from the general fund due to fee collections.

Mr. Willi stated his goal was to hire a new fire chief by January 1, 2001. He stated at this time, the employee and equipment needed would be taken care of before a department reorganization. The battalion chief would be taken out of management which would allow employees in the ranks to be promoted by test for that position. Mayor Venis commented that this would be about \$350,000 in savings. Mr. Willi was not sure if the savings would be immediate for that change. He discussed the hiring of a cross-training EMS captain.

Vice-Mayor Weiner questioned the salary adjustments for Code Compliance. Mr. Wallace stated that original vacancies had not been filled from the original budget adoption and the cost was not picked up for quite awhile. Vice-Mayor Weiner asked about the Community Redevelopment Agency special projects budgeted for \$736,000, observing that only \$98,000 of it was spent. He asked whether the money could be repaid with Mr. Wallace advising that the Agency was looking into refunding the excess funds.

Vice-Mayor Weiner discussed the impact reserve of \$650,000 and indicated that next year's impact reserve was budgeted at \$725,000. Mr. Wallace stated that money was not spent directly out of the contingency fund and explained that the money was transferred to the department that needed it. Mr. Wallace advised that the contingency budget for this year was essentially wiped out. He further discussed how the capital funds were allocated, as well as general revenue funds.

Vice-Mayor Weiner asked about a percentage breakdown of impact fees reserves. Mr. Wallace went through the revenue sections and stated that police impact fees were \$280,000, fire impact fees were \$145,000, and parks and open space impact fees were \$300,000. Further discussion ensued regarding contingency versus unreserved, undesignated fund balance.

Councilmember Paul asked Police Chief John George if he was comfortable with the number of police officers budgeted. Chief George replied that he was concerned regarding the difficulty of hiring 24 officers and said 18 out of 24 would be a good number. Councilmember Paul mentioned the grant pending for the police service aide positions. Chief George mentioned that there were three positions for records clerks that were critical and not itemized in the budget. He said it was approximately eight months from the time an officer was hired before h/she was on the road. Chief George stated that it was the department's goal to get as many officers as it could.

Mayor Venis asked about the salaries for the police officer positions in relation to when they were hired. Chief George stated there should be a surplus at the end of the year. Mayor Venis wanted to pinpoint a more accurate figure to avoid overstatement in the budget. Chief George further discussed mileage and replacement of police vehicles. Mr. Wallace stated that take-home cars were not a capital expenditure and would cost approximately \$225,000 to fund the replacement reserve. Given the current level of staffing, the budgetary impact to fund take-home cars was approximately \$200,000 a year and would increase as officers were added. Additionally, it was a forever commitment to fund the take-home cars.

Mayor Venis inquired about the \$63,000 for 12 officers, stating that the number was high and requested a more accurate figure. Mr. Wallace advised that the number would

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
AUGUST 28, 2000**

decrease depending on if the hiring of officers was staggered over the year. Chief George advised that they were currently looking at 20 certified applicants, of which three to five may be hired, and further discussed how long it would take to get the police officers on the road. Mr. Wallace stated that the budget presumes the entire cost commencing on October 1st. The actual expense would be less if the expenditure began later in the year.

Councilmember Paul stated that her concern was with the fire rescue fees and requested a formula for making adjustments such as square footage for commercial properties and a flat fee for residential. Mr. Wallace replied that data would have to be supplied to support such a proposal which was probably not available. Current data on structures to assess per square footage would be necessary. Vice-Mayor Weiner stated that some cities had single family limits, as well as multi-family and mobile homes and trailer lots. Mr. Wallace stated that Davie currently assessed on a dwelling unit. Councilmember Paul expressed concern for the abilities of people on fixed incomes to pay the increased fee and stated that she was looking for alternatives. Mr. Willi commented that it was not feasible to continue to fund fire rescue with ad valorem. Mr. Wallace suggested that the assessment was a tax equity question and Council would need to find a level of comfort as to what was fair and what was not.

Councilmember Clark commented that she would like Council to consider adding back the three police service aide positions. Chief George responded that the positions were needed as part of the Police Department's records component in that the records unit had not grown in the last ten years.

Chief George discussed the necessity of replacement vehicles for the Police Department. Mayor Venis asked if money was currently borrowed to buy the police vehicles. Mr. Wallace advised that money could not be borrowed for vehicles as the money was annually set aside in a reserve for replacement of vehicles. He stated that with take-home vehicles, total vehicle costs increased and had to be funded annually forever. The cost was added to the fleet component of the budget and an internal service fund that replaced vehicles when they become obsolete.

Vice-Mayor Weiner asked about restructuring and staffing of the Fire Department. Mr. Willi stated that the Shenandoah and Hacienda fire stations were taken from the capital improvement five year budget. The assessment would be used to offset and recapture the expense of services provided to the residents. Mr. Wallace stated that the first year, the Town levied \$1,048,000 and the fire budget was \$6.3 million. Since then, the costs for the Fire Department had gone up \$1.7 million. Vice-Mayor Weiner stated, and Mr. Wallace agreed, that if the special assessment was an ad valorem tax, the millage would be a tax deduction. Vice-Mayor Weiner stated that he believed it was more equitable than an assessment.

Vice-Mayor Weiner asked about an additional rescue unit. Mr. Willi stated the plan was to add a rescue unit reserve vehicle from the existing budget. Personnel for the rescue unit would not be included. Mr. Willi added that the Town would be providing rescue services to neighboring municipalities which would be an additional revenue that could be earmarked for additional personnel.

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
AUGUST 28, 2000**

Capital Projects Budget

Councilmember Clark asked how the total was arrived at for the property next to the 61st Avenue Park. Mr. Willi answered that the figure was low. The property was valued at \$300,000 and was 1.7 acres of industrially-zoned land. Councilmember Clark expressed concern with the expenditure. Councilmember Cox remarked that Griffin Road would be a six-lane highway and buying property on the south side would not meet the needs of the neighborhood. She agreed it was expensive, but the land was in a location where it would benefit the neighborhood. Councilmember Clark commented that the 61st Avenue park would be a site that children would use. She further inquired as to what could be developed on the adjoining land. Mr. Willi replied that anything the land was zoned for could be built there. Councilmember Clark stated that land acquisition should not be undertaken in the first year and that the residents did not want to wait two more years for a pool or a playground while money was spent on more land. Mr. Wallace explained that the land purchase would be financed over 15 years so the debt service would not be a burden to residents as previous debt service of \$20 million would be off the books next year. Operating revenues would not be used.

Mr. Wallace advised that items 104, 105, 106, 117 had been stricken.

Mayor Venis recommended that the five year capital projects plan be updated every year. Mr. Wallace explained that Mr. Rawls had been working on a yearly update, but that would now need to be taken over by someone else. All departments had already submitted their five year plans for review.

Councilmember Cox questioned Mr. Wallace regarding items 97, 98, 99, and 100, regarding maintenance. Mr. Wallace explained that this was extensive maintenance and renovations to the fire station. All of the expenditures should be under the same item number, but were submitted by the department as individual projects. Mr. Wallace confirmed that item 96 was for Station 38. Councilmember Cox additionally asked if 97, 99, and 100 were all for Station 38. Councilmember Paul also inquired which items were for Station 38. Conversation continued regarding item expenses for specific fire stations.

EMS Coordinator Jose Rivero reported that items 89), 92, and 101 should be deleted. He requested information in reference to issues of the Deputy Chief's position and restructuring of the Fire Department. Mr. Willi advised that existing departmental positions would remain in next year's budget. He indicated that there would be no cuts but there would also be no additions except for the cross-trained EMS captains. Mr. Rivero mentioned that they were looking to Council to raise the EMS fees and advised that the Town's fees were very low compared to other cities.

Councilmember Clark inquired as to whether item 121 would come from the parks bond issue. Parks and Recreation Director Sharon Pierce-Kent advised that this would be Council's decision. Councilmember Paul questioned the development of the park for SW 61st Avenue. Ms. Pierce-Kent pointed out that there was a lot of debate regarding development or acquisition of park lands. Item 137 was for the pool and field along with the grant for the 61st Avenue park.

Councilmember Clark asked about interest on investments and how much was invested to get the return. Mr. Wallace responded that \$45 million may be invested at any given time, which was a function of having reserves. He continued by explaining how the reserves were invested and investment income.

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
AUGUST 28, 2000**

Councilmember Clark observed that the Davie Elementary shelter was not on the five year plan. Mr. Wallace acknowledged that not every project was listed and that each department would have to review their requests; however, there was flexibility for Council to decide on each project.

Councilmember Paul questioned the requests from the Old Davie School. Public Works/Capital Projects Manager Bruce Bernard pointed out that the cost project was rough estimated at \$100,000, but drawings had not been fine-tuned yet. There was \$24,500 allocated from last years' budget, as well as possible donations, so the amount needed from this budget may be less than \$65,000. Councilmember Cox commented that the School was looking for a commitment from the Town to help out financially with improvements, if necessary, to finish the entire project. She described the proposed hurricane shutter system contemplated for the School. Mr. Bernard suggested a yearly assessment to augment the funds the School may need. Discussion continued regarding expenditures on hurricane shutters, parking, and other improvements to the School. Mr. Willie suggested that grant funding be secured for the hurricane shutters.

Vice-Mayor Weiner inquired if the issues in terms of hiring for the Fire Department could be revisited if the Town gets any contracts with neighboring municipalities for fire services. Mr. Willi responded affirmatively.

Regarding the fire fee and millage, Councilmember Paul advised that she would rather stay at the higher millage rate and reduce the fire fee. Mr. Willi explained that he would like to revise the figures and get as close to a year one actual expense as possible, warning that year two would be a full-load budget. Additionally, there was \$843,000 which could be adjusted on items 30 through 46. Mr. Willi then questioned Council as to which they would like to see reduced, the millage rate or the assessment. Mayor Venis indicated that he would like to see no increases and that the budget should be reviewed again for cuts.

Cindy Osborne spoke regarding the "big issue" appearing to be the residents and not the business people. She pointed out that merchants had been hit hard with fees and assessments. The fire assessment for her business alone would increase over \$1,000. Mrs. Osborne expressed concern for the small retail businesses not being able to afford the increases.

There being no objections or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk