

## BLUFFTON TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

### ELECTRONIC MEETING

May 21, 2020

Mayor Sulka called the meeting to order at 6 PM. Council members present were Mayor Pro Tempore Fred Hamilton, Larry Toomer, Bridgette Frazier, and Dan Wood. Town Manager Marc Orlando, Deputy Town Manager Scott Marshall, Town Clerk Kimberly Chapman, Chris Forster Director of Finance and Administration, and Bryan McIlwee, Director of Engineering were also present.

#### Public Comment:

Mike Raymond, 58 Ginkgo Lane, Bluffton – With 36 million Americans out of work, now is not the time for local governments to raise taxes or implement new fees. Now is the time to tighten the budget belt in solidarity and wait for better times. Lets let folks get back on their feet before mandating that they pay more.

#### Workshop Items:

##### Town of Bluffton Fiscal Year 2021 Consolidated Budget

The proposed consolidated budget consists of four funds, the General Fund, the Stormwater Utility Fund, the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Fund, and Debt Service Fund.

Orlando gave an overview of the General Fund, the Stormwater Fund and Debt Services Fund.

The proposed consolidated budget is a decrease of 8.3% from the FY20 budget which reflects the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FY21 revenues. The budget keeps the tax millage rate the same at 38.50, which reflects an increase in General Fund mills from 35.30 to 36.80 and a decrease in Debt Service Fund mills from 3.20 to 1.70 mills. In addition, it proposes a new vehicle tag fee to support public works and public safety, a proposed stormwater utility fee increase to complete unfunded stormwater projects that improve the May River and surrounding watershed stormwater quality improvements and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) plan review fee and inspection fee.

**The General Fund** accounts for and reports the financial resources for the Town's primary operating fund. Principal sources of revenue are property taxes and licenses and permit fees. The General Fund budget is 56.6% of the consolidated budget at \$19,363,015. Budget details are available in the attached Executive Consolidated Budget Summary.

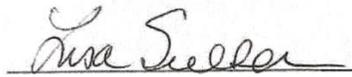
**The Stormwater Fund** accounts for and reports the financial resources of all stormwater-related expenditures including Watershed Management staffing and operations, routine

watershed maintenance and capital projects. The primary source of revenue is stormwater utility fees. The Stormwater Fund budget is 6.0% of the consolidated budget at \$2,043,817 and includes a transfer of funds to the Capital Improvement Program Fund for stormwater related projects. Budget details are available in the attached Executive Consolidated Budget Summary.

**Debt Service Fund** accounts for the accumulation of resources for the payment of interest and principal on general long-term debt obligations. The primary source of revenue is property tax and bond proceeds. The Debt Service Fund budget is \$3,631,628 or 10.6% of the consolidated budget and supports the debt service for the 2014 Tax Increment Revenue Bond, 2020 General Obligation Bond for the Law Enforcement Center at Buckwalter Place, a transfer to the Capital Improvement Program Fund for allowable projects, and future debt payments and allowable expenditures. Budget details are available in the attached Executive Consolidated Budget Summary – attached to the minutes.

Orlando stated that there will be an additional workshop that covers the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund on May 26<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing and the final reading of the Proposed Consolidated Budget is scheduled for June 9, 2020.

Hamilton made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Mayor



Town Clerk