

**TOWN OF HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
6:00 P.M.
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

The special meeting of the Haverhill Town Council was held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at the Town Hall, 4585 Charlotte Street, Haverhill, FL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Foy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and called for a moment of silence in memory of September 11, 2001.

ROLL CALL

Town Administrator Stevens called the roll and Council Members present were Mayor Jay Foy, Vice Mayor Lawrence Gordon, Council Member Ray Caranci, and Council Member Teresa Council Member Dennis Withington was absent with notice. Town Staff present included Town Attorney John Fenn Foster and Town Administrator Tracey Stevens. With a quorum present in the Council Chambers, the meeting proceeded.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Johnson moved to approve the agenda as amended, allowing the FPL presentation to occur directly after the consent agenda; seconded by Vice Mayor Gordon. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2024, Workshop Meeting
2. Approval of Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust General Liability and Workers' Comp Insurance Renewals for October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

Council Member Caranci moved to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Council Member Johnson. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY25 TENTATIVE BUDGET

3. Tentative Budget Hearing for FY25
 - a. Town Administrator's Presentation of the Tentative Budget & Proposed Millage Rate for the FY2024/2025 Budget

Town Administrator Stevens presented the FY25 tentative budget. Based on the proposed budget and mil rate variations chart, Management recommends utilizing the current millage rate of 4.05. The mil rate variations chart shows that if the Council decides to keep the current mil rate of 4.05, the contingency line item in the budget will be \$16,087 to utilize for emergencies throughout the year such as storm events and other unplanned expenses. Any unexpended contingency amounts will be rolled back into the reserves of the town at the end of the fiscal year. Building the reserves of the town is important, as a capital improvements plan has not been developed for the town for many years, and infrastructure improvements such as painting Town Hall, replacing the roof, paving the roads, and improving the stormwater infrastructure need to be planned for. Utilizing reserves for those purposes is cheaper than taking out a loan and paying interest over time. Town Administrator Stevens stated that it is Management's recommendation that the Town Council adopt the balanced tentative operating budget in the amount of \$1,564,337; the Special Revenue Infrastructure Surtax Fund budget in the amount of \$256,000; the Special

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Revenue Building Department Fund budget in the amount of \$271,400; and the Special Revenue American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund budget in the amount of \$441,360 for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

- b. Mayor Foy announced the Town of Haverhill Computed Millage Rate is Higher Than the Rolled Back Rate of 3.7606 by 7.70%. The millage to be levied is 4.0500.
- c. Public Comment & Comments from Town Council Members
There were no comments made by the public. Council Members discussed the budget and the importance of keeping the mil rate as low as possible. Management answered questions related to contingency and reserve amounts.
- d. Resolution No. 2024-07: Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate for FY2024/2025
Council Member Johnson moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-07; seconded by Council Member Caranci. Motion carried 4-0 at 6:47 p.m.
- e. Resolution No. 2024-08: Adoption of Tentative Budget for FY2024/2025
Council Member Caranci moved to adopt Resolution No. 2024-08; seconded by Vice Mayor Gordon. Motion carried 4-0 at 6:48 p.m.
- f. Mayor Foy announced the second/final hearing on the FY2024/2025 Budget will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at Town Hall.

PRESENTATIONS

4. FPL Presentation Regarding Storm Secure Underground Program

Ilan Kaufer of FPL introduced his team to the Council, including Rudy Toledo, Jacob Benator, Carlos Nunez, and Curt Perey. The team provided information to the Council regarding the Storm Secure underground program, noting that the program focuses on transmission lines, main feeder lines, and neighborhood lateral lines. They noted that vegetation is the leading cause of outages for overhead lines particularly during severe weather events, and underground lines are 50% better in day-to-day operations and speed of power restoration and reduces interruptions due to vegetation. The underground program focuses on 281 households and 4.47 overhead miles of lines in Haverhill. The project timeline was discussed, with year 1 of the project focusing on project design and customer outreach, and year 2 focusing on project permitting and construction. Customer outreach includes municipal introductions and meetings, customer letters mailed, door-to-door interactions with property owners as well as phone calls, easement preparations, and municipal updates. They asked for municipal collaboration and resident collaboration to accomplish easement and junction box agreements, permit approvals for right-of-way work and directional boring for primary cables, locates, and potential special-use easements. They presented the easement and junction box forms that the property owners will be asked to sign, along with graphics showing how the properties will appear before and after the project, and how to identify customer outreach specialists in the field. They also noted that rear outdoor lights will be removed while streetlights will remain. The team answered questions posed by Council Members and Town Administrator Stevens. Town Administrator Stevens noted that the Town will help with outreach as needed. Mayor Foy reported a street light that is out along Military Trail on the corner of Charlotte Street, and Town Administrator Stevens reported a leaning pole near Town Hall.

5. Town Attorney's Annual Legislative Session Update

Town Attorney Foster gave an annual update on the 2024 state legislative session and provided a written report. The bills that were highlighted included SB1628 regarding business impact estimates; HB267 regarding residential building permits; SB7014 regarding ethics and elections committee; CS/HJR7017 regarding an amendment to the constitution that would require an annual adjustment to the value of certain homestead exemptions; HB1365 regarding unauthorized public camping or sleeping; SB328 regarding amendments to the Live Local Act; SB1526 regarding the Resiliency and Safe Structures Act; SB1420 regarding the Department of

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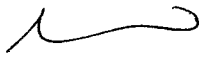
Commerce and amendments to requirements for comprehensive plan amendments; HB621 regarding squatters and rights of property owners; HB103 regarding public records exemptions for County and City Attorneys; SB7040 regarding environmental resource permitting for stormwater management; SB602 regarding release of balloons; HB433 regarding workplace heat exposure requirements; HB705 regarding public works projects; and HB1285 regarding education. Town Attorney Foster and Town Administrator Stevens answered questions posed by Council Members regarding the unauthorized public camping or sleeping bill, and Town Administrator Stevens noted that she would be attending the upcoming Board of County Commissioners meeting to gather information regarding this topic. Town Attorney Foster answered questions posed by Council Members.

Vice Mayor Gordon updated the Council that the street lighting on county roads issue is still pending, and the County will not confirm when or if they will place the item on their agenda.

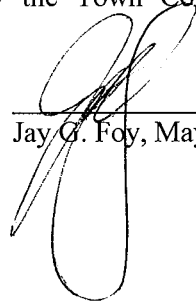
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Town Administrator Stevens and adopted by the Town Council on September 26, 2024.

Approved: 

Tracey L. Stevens, Town Administrator



Jay G. Foy, Mayor

