

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES  
SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010  
TOWN BUDGET  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009**

---

**I. Meeting Called To Order**

Mayor Mayes called the Second Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM.

**A) The following members and officials were present:**

Mayor Thomas C. Mayes, Jr.  
Vice Mayor Gregory Freebold  
President Pro Tem Valentine Rodriguez  
Council Member Malcolm K. Lewis  
Council Member Robert M. W. Shalhoub  
Town Administrator Joann Hatton  
Town Clerk Jo Plyler  
Police Chief Wes Smith  
Town Finance Director Bill Thrasher  
Attorney Charles Schoech  
Mary Pinkerman, Recording Clerk

**II. Presentation of Proposed 2009/2010 Fiscal Year Town Budget**

**A) Finance Director, Bill Thrasher**, referenced the proposed budget dated September 29, 2009 which is a balanced budget that consists of general fund revenues of \$2,511,820 and general fund expenditures of \$2,511,820. He noted that the budget reflects a roll back millage rate of 6.4921. He also noted that the budget has not changed from the budget that was proposed during the September 15, 2009 First Public Hearing. He also stated that the utility fund was not balanced.

Council Member Lewis questioned why the information listed for the Utility Capital Improvement Plan had not been changed on the budget cover sheet. Mr. Thrasher noted Town Council had not directed staff to change the budget.

Council Member Lewis also questioned why Ordinance 09-05 does not include information about the Utility Budget. Mr. Thrasher noted that the Town Council has never adopted a utility budget by ordinance only the General Budget, as required by Florida State Statutes.

**B) Council Members:**

**Council Member Shalhoub** – stated that the budget is good as written.

**Vice Mayor Freebold** – agreed that the budget is okay.

**President Pro Tem Rodriguez** – also agreed that the budget is okay.

**Council Member Lewis** – stated that he would have liked the Town Council to adopt his proposed budget (presented as Budget Scenario “B” during the September 15, 2009 First Public Hearing) instead of the one that is being considered at this time. He also discussed the \$190,000 that is taken out of the Utility Fund and transferred to the General Fund each year and noted that this amount does not reflect accurate costs. He then questioned Mr. Thrasher on how he came up with the amount of \$190,000 per year.

Mr. Thrasher responded that a July 2004 memo indicated a method for calculating how much money would be transferred from the utility fund to the general fund. The information contained in the memo came from the prior auditor’s suggested method of taking 10% of each department’s budget, adding the amounts together and that total amount would be the amount transferred. He noted that this formula had been approved by the Town and has been used for many years. He also noted that the percentage had been reduced to 8% of each department’s budget instead of 10%.

Council Member Lewis also noted the increases in his tax bill and noted that his water utility bill will be increasing which will cause him additional expenses.

**C) Audience Comments:**

**Steven Grabe, 1611 Carandis Road** questioned the number of Lake Clarke Shores’ employees that do not utilize the health benefit package provided by the Town. He noted that the town could reduce the budget by not showing the full amount of the health insurance cost for those not using the benefit. He also suggested that the town look into different aspects of insurance coverage such as individual insurance instead of group coverage in order save money.

He also noted that the Town could save money by cutting Ms. Hatton’s car allowance and by combining the Town Administrator and Finance Director functions to have one person doing both duties. Ms. Hatton responded that most municipalities have the function of Town Manager and Finance Director separate as this promotes checks and balances to provide for accurate accountability.

He discussed the loan that was obtained to pay for the Town Complex and noted that the Town may need to obtain another loan for the utility repairs. He stated that he would support a tax increase, if needed, to pay for loans as long as the taxes would be reduced when the loans were repaid.

D) ORDINANCE #09-04 Second Reading

**Motion was made by Council Member Shalhoub to approve Second Reading of Ordinance #09-04 Adopting a Millage Rate of 6.4921 Mils for the Fiscal Year 2009/2010, seconded by Vice Mayor Freebold. Motion approved (5-0).**

E) ORDINANCE #09-05 – Second Reading

**Motion was made by Council Member Shalhoub to approve Second Reading of Ordinance #09-05 adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010, seconded by Vice Mayor Freebold. Motion approved (4-1) with Council Member Lewis opposed.**

III. Adjournment

**Council Member Shalhoub made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 pm, seconded by Vice Mayor Freebold; Motion approved (5-0).**

---

Thomas C. Mayes, Jr., Mayor

---

Mary Pinkerman, Recording Clerk

If an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to this meeting, a verbatim transcript may be required. If so, the individual should make provisions for a transcript to be made at the meeting. (Ref. F.S.S. 286.0105) Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please advise the town at least two (2) calendar days before the hearing by contacting Jo Plyler at (561) 964-1515, Ext. 10.