

**MINUTES
TOWN OF LAKE CLARKE SHORES
TOWN COUNCIL SECOND BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
JULY 15, 2008
6:30 PM**

I. Meeting Called To Order

Mayor Lewis called the Budget Workshop Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

A) The following members and officials were present:

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

Vice Mayor Tom Mayes, Jr. was absent

II. Presentation of Proposed 2008-2009 Fiscal Year Town Budget

A) Mayor Lewis noted the document listing the proposed 2009 Budget Millage options and the vote required for passage of each option stating that the Town Administrator has proposed a budget using the 5.6278 millage rate that generates revenues of \$1,194,061. Mayor Lewis stated that the tentative millage to be established by the Council at this meeting can only be decreased not increased, during the September budget hearing process. Mayor Lewis further advised that the Town's taxable value of homes in Lake Clarke Shores has decreased by 12 ½ percent.

Finance Director, Bill Thrasher, referenced the proposed balanced budget of \$2,608,927 and Town Administrator Joann Hatton's recommendations dated July 9, 2008. Mr. Thrasher also noted that the proposed millage of 5.6278 overrides Amendment #1 that was voted in by the residents of Palm Beach County in 2007. However, the state has allowed an adjustment of 1.0415 for growth in per capita Florida personal income. This budget includes a transfer credit from the Utilities Fund to

the General Fund in the amount of \$190,000 and a 4/5% COLA increase as reflected by the April CPI report.

B) Council Members: No Comments

C) Audience Comments:

Panna Kulkarni, 8131 West Lake Drive, thanked Town Administrator Joann Hatton, Finance Director William Thrasher and staff for such a good job in establishing the proposed budget. .

In response to the question from Mrs. Kulkarni, Mr. Thrasher responded that under this proposed budget, a home in Lake Clarke Shores that is valued at \$300,000 would be taxed at \$1,688.00 for a non-homestead and \$1,408.00 for homestead status.

In response to question from Mrs. Kulkarni, Town Administrator Joann Hatton stated that the cost for waste disposal service is included in the proposed budget.

William Murphy, 1841 Evergreen Drive, expressed concern that the Town Council has not supported the employees by giving them merit increases, he would like to see the employees receive the merit increases that they deserve since the COLA increase was the only increase they received last year. It was explained that there is an allowance for a COLA increase of 4.5%; however, merit increases have not been included into the proposed budget.

Ashok Kulkarni, 8131 West Lake Drive, commended the administration and staff for preparing the budget. Mr. Kulkarni stated he does not want his comments to reflect the great job being done by the members of staff, however, due to the difficult economy he feels that the proposed COLA increase for the employees is sufficient for this budget.

III. Adjournment

President Pro Tem Shalhoub made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m, seconded by Council Member Freebold Motion carried (4-0).

Malcolm K. Lewis, Mayor

Jo H. Plyler, Town 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.