



**TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**16 NOVEMBER 2021**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Brian Henry, Guerry Green, Ashley Carter, Sarah Zimmerman, Rocky Holliday.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ryan Fabbri (Town Administrator), Michael Fanning (Chief of Police), Preston Janco (Town Clerk).

**ABSENT:** None

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Henry called the workshop to order at 5:02.

**2. AGENDA**

**A. 2022 TOWN OF PAWLEYS ISLAND BUDGET**

Mayor Henry asked Ryan to explain the flow chart diagram that he put together to better explain government budgeting. (See attached for flow chart)

Sarah Zimmerman and Rocky Holliday ask for Ryan to explain the amount and percentage transferred from the state A-tax fund to the general fund. Ryan explained and states that state and local A-Tax have restrictions on what they can be spent on. Guerry asked Ryan about the Public Works budget. Ryan stated that consist of the contractors the Town hires to handle grass cutting, trash removal, etc. Ryan explained that hiring these contractors cost much more than having an employee for the Town to handle the Public Works duties. Guerry asked about trash removal and the locations this takes place. Ryan stated that the beach access points along with the trash underneath Town Hall are the prime trash pickup locations which is handled by Rutledge. Ryan explains that toe Town had to hire Rutledge due to the fact of trash bins filling up much quicker, so the trash needed to be removed much more often on a larger scale. Mayor Henry asked additional questions regarding the budget including the process of reconciling all expenditures and revenues. Ryan explains that the Town contracts out a bookkeeper named Sandy who every month compiles the Financial Report and reconciles everything. Ryan explained how there are two years left for underground wire payments and then the general fund will begin to diminish without extra revenue.

Ryan stated that he is unsure if the local A-tax will keep increasing because of the dramatic increase this year or if it will go back down to pre-Covid levels. Ryan explained how at one point interest was a viable source of income in the beach fund and at one point the Town earned over \$100,000 in interest from the Beach Fund. Mayor Henry asked if an excess in the general fund could be transferred over to the Beach Fund. Ryan stated that if Council approved it then

it could be done. Guerry Green spoke of his businesses and stated that he likes to look at the best and worst-case scenario regarding the budget because most of the time it would not be the best-case scenario. He would like Ryan to explain the worst-case scenario regarding local A-tax revenue. Sarah Zimmerman chimed in and said that a worst-case scenario would just be the revenue of 2019 because local A-tax has been on an increasing trend for years now. Covid just consisted of a giant possible outlier increase. Mayor Henry stated that the main concern was of the general fund so he would like to get to the topic of the 2022 budget in terms of revenue and expenditures. Ryan stated that the revenue would be budgeted at \$1,711,400 which is a 16.2% increase from the previous year and the expenditures would be budgeted at \$1,490,400 which is an 8.8% increase from the previous year due to higher legal fees, cost of a new patrol vehicle, engineer studies of the creek and north end jetty. Ryan stated that any of this could change because Town Council has the decision. Ashley Carter stated that rentals booked for the following year are already high, so he likes the estimation in terms of revenue. Sarah Zimmerman felt the same way. Guerry Green stated that he would like to have a more conservative number. Ryan added that regardless of if the number for local A-tax is conservative or not the local A-Tax money goes to. It sits in there as savings. Ryan included that the only down fall of this high estimation is that more money may not be stashed away. Mayor Henry asked if Ryan could put together a range of scenarios regarding local A-Tax revenue. Mayor Henry stated that he would like to have creek dredging in the budget so that the Town can start planning for it. Guerry Green expressed concern with including it in the budget and recommended that Council add it later in the year. Ryan stated that he included a total of \$50,000 in legal fees within the budget which is \$36,000 more than usual. However, he is unsure if that is too low or too high because it is hard to estimate where the current lawsuits will stand.

Ryan stated that the cost-of-living increase is in the budget just like every year. This year just so happens to be higher than usual. The cost-of-living increase has been calculated to be 5.9%. Ryan stated that this has been built into salaries since even before he started working at the Town of Pawleys Island. The merit increase is averaged to be 1.5% which would make the total increase in pay for Town employees to be 7.4%. Rocky expressed concern with that number and discussed the Society of Human Resources that estimates employee raises to be around 3.3% this year. Guerry agreed that the number seems high and stated that the President believes inflation will go down. Guerry asked Ryan what the total increase would be combined for Town Employees. Ryan stated that the total pay raise for every employee combined would be around \$25,000. Sarah Zimmerman stated that it is always an assumption that the employees get this raise because it happens every year. Some years have been low while others have been high. Sarah stated there may be no adjustment next year if inflation goes down. Guerry Green asked Sarah if she would be willing to pay a hypothetical 30% cost of living increase. Sarah stated that if something that drastic occurred she would still be in favor of bringing employees' salaries up to the value of the dollar. Ashley Carter spoke about businesses struggling to hire people right now and part of that number from the Society of Human Resource think tank may not be taking

in affect the hiring bonuses and stay on bonuses being given to employees to stay working. Rocky Holliday was unsure of what was included in the percentage. Mayor Henry asked if Ryan could do some research on other rates that can be factored into raises. Mayor Henry expressed that he was not opposed to the cost-of-living adjustment just unsure.


Mayor Henry stated that he would like to speak about the Police budget. Ryan added that it has essentially been the same for three years other than small incremental costs that go up over the years. This year looks a little higher due to the addition of a new vehicle that has been requested. Mayor Henry stated that the Town needs to find a way to save money to fund beach renourishment and other projects, and he is not sure if Town residents are for increasing taxes or adding a tax. Mayor Henry asked we are at terms of coverage regarding the police. Ryan stated that they work in 10 hour shifts with the first shift going from 6-4 and the other from 4-2. Georgetown County handles the other 4 hours. Ryan stated that Wednesday is the overlap day so there will be an additional officer on Wednesdays. Ryan added that it works well in the off season and during the summer month's part time hours are tapped into to have more people on the Island. Sarah Zimmerman stated that she is good with the coverage we currently have. She understands the fear in taxes but the way this Town comes together to raise funds for projects is amazing. She remembered going to a civic association meeting where people were asked if they would be willing to contribute funds to help the Town. If she were to guess 80% of people would raise their hands however if they were to be asked about a tax that story may be different. She stated that she would have no problem writing a check to the town to preserve the beach and she does now think other property owners would be against that either. Sarah does not believe anything has been done in the past 2 years and would like to see things being accomplished. Guerry and Mayor Henry disagreed with that statement and believe a lot has been done in the past two years. Guerry stated that stopping the parking lot from going in the middle of the Island was progress.

Guerry stated that Ryan suggested bringing the police department down to two officers. Ryan disagreed with that statement and said that 2 full time officers would be possible to cover the Island in a certain perspective, however, it solely depends on the definition of coverage. Ryan stated that Council must determine the coverage they want, and they must factor in the administrative duties that Chief Fanning must keep up with. Ryan reiterated that Council needs to lay out their expectations. Ryan stated that things will require more than 1 officer. In the past 24 hours of coverage was the expectation, now it is 20 hours. Ryan stated that the County acts as back up. Ashley Carter added that after speaking to his nephew Sheriff Carter he came to the realization that Georgetown County is already under stress with their police department. They are actively trying to solve the problem however the problem is still active. Rocky expressed interest in employing more technology on the Island and how effective the current technology is in preventing crime. Ashley Carter added that he remembers a time that break ins were happening constantly but nowadays there are not many break ins. He believes that is directly correlated to police coverage. Rocky expressed some agreement. Rocky also stated that he does not like to see a diminishing surplus in the General fund and that somethings needs to


change. Mayor Henry added that Beach Renourishment, capital projects, and flooding are all projects that needs funding. Mayor Henry does not want to reduce safety, but he does not know how to fund projects without a tax. He added that he likes the addition of the grant writing element and would like to see more grants. Guerry Green liked the idea of determining what Council sees as adequate coverage. He asked Ryan to put something together that would show what coverage would look like with two full time officers. Ryan said that he would run that scenario.

**3. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Henry called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rocky Holliday motioned to adjourn. Ashley Carter seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

  
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APPROVED

12/13/2021  
DATE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST

12/13/2021  
DATE

MISC REVENUE	FRANCHISE FEES	UG WIRE PAYMENTS	GRANTS	COURT FINES & FEES	SPECIAL EVENTS	MISC REVENUE
\$365,000	\$63,000	\$91,000	\$26,900	\$15,900	\$60,000	\$38,600

STATE A-TAX \$310,000

LOCAL A-TAX \$740,000

**GENERAL FUND**  
BEFORE TRANSFERS \$660,400  
AFTER TRANSFERS \$640,710

**STATE A-TAX FUND**  
BEFORE TRANSFERS \$310,000  
AFTER TRANSFERS \$477,690

**BEACH FUND**  
BEFORE TRANSFERS \$741,000  
AFTER TRANSFERS \$368,800

**DEBT SERVICE FUND**  
AFTER TRANSFERS \$224,200

TRANSFER \$39,250 ←  
TRANSFER \$58,940 →

TRANSFER \$140,000 ←

TRANSFER \$224,200 →

ADMINISTRATION	\$284,250
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$283,300
PUBLIC WORKS	\$31,310
JUDICIAL	\$6,800
BUILDINGS	\$27,050
TOURISM PROMOTION	\$0
DEBT SERVICE	\$45,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$677,910</b>

ADMINISTRATION	\$102,450
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$240,300
PUBLIC WORKS	\$19,390
JUDICIAL	\$8,400
BUILDINGS	\$18,650
TOURISM PROMOTION	\$88,500
DEBT SERVICE	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$477,690</b>

BEACH MANAGEMENT	\$110,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,600</b>

PAYMENTS	\$224,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$224,200</b>

EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSE -\$37,200  
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING \$745,762  
FUND BALANCE - ENDING \$708,562

\$0  
\$0  
\$0

\$258,200  
\$508,209  
\$766,409

\$0  
\$1,014  
\$1,014

