



**Town Council Public
Hearing on Final Budget
and Millage Rate**

**September 25, 2023 at 5:05 PM
Howey-in the-Hills Town Hall
101 N. Palm Ave.,
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL 34737**

MINUTES

Mayor MacFarlane called the Town Council Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
Mayor MacFarlane led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Acknowledgement of Quorum

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor Reneé Lannamañ | Councilor David Miles | Councilor George Lehning | Mayor Pro Tem Marie V. Gallelli | Mayor Martha MacFarlane

STAFF PRESENT:

Sean O’Keefe, Town Manager | John Brock, Town Clerk | Rick Thomas, Police Chief | Tom Wilkes, Town Attorney | Tom Harowski, Town Planner | Morgan Cates, Public Works Director | George Brown, Police Lieutenant

Confirmation of Meeting Notification and acknowledgement of Quorum was completed.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consideration and Approval: **Resolution 2023-010 - Final Millage Rate**

Martha MacFarlane, Mayor, read Resolution 2023-010 by title only and the following statements.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-010, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 7.50 FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

- The Taxing Authority is the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills.
- The Rolled-Back Rate is 6.5274 mills.
- The percentage over the Rolled-Back Rate is 14.90%, which is the percentage increase in property taxes.
- The proposed Millage Rate to be levied is 7.500.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Public Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Everline had questions about the rolled-back rate.

Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment and Questions.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Councilor Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Councilor Miles made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-010 but amend the Final Millage rate in the resolution to 7.450; this was seconded by Councilor Lehning.

Mayor MacFarlane stated that she would prefer that the Town Council would not reduce the millage rate this year and would prefer to see the money spent on fixing parks or repairing roads.

Councilor Miles stated that the 0.050 reduction in the millage rate would reduce the Town's gross revenue by less than \$9,000. Councilor Miles stated that he thought the Town Council could afford to give \$9,000 back to the residents of the Town. Councilor Miles stated that it was his belief that the Town Council needed to work to continually reduce the millage rate. Councilor Miles stated that the current budget had a surplus of approximately \$28,000 and that this millage rate reduction would reduce that number by just \$9,000. Councilor Miles stated that, ultimately, he would like to see the Town millage rate below 7.000.

Mayor MacFarlane stated that she thought a substantial lowering of the millage rate could occur the next year due to Talichet neighborhood maturing and making a substantial impact.

Councilor Lannamañ stated that she would like to see a reduction in the Town's millage rate next year, but this was not the year to do it. Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli agreed with Councilor Lannamañ stating that next year would be the year to reduce the Town's millage rate.

Town Manager, Sean O'Keefe, stated that the 0.050 millage rate reduction would reduce the Town's budget by \$8,915.85.

Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve Resolution 2023-010 but amend the Final Millage rate to 7.450; Seconded by Councilor Lehning. Motion failed by roll-call vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Miles, Councilor Lehning

Nay: Councilor Lannamañ, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Motion made by Mayor MacFarlane to approve Resolution 2023-010, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 7.50 FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; seconded by Councilor Lannamañ. Motion was approved by roll-call vote.

Voting Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: Councilor Miles

2. Consideration and Approval: **Resolution 2023-011 - Final Budget**

Martha MacFarlane, Mayor, read Resolution 2023-011 by title only and the following statements.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-011, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

• The Final Budget for the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills for Fiscal Year 2024 to be adopted by Fund Department is as follows:

- General Fund in the amount of \$2,555,938.
- Infrastructure fund in the amount of \$273,355.
- Enterprise fund in the amount of \$6,943,736.
- Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$198,423.
- Police Advanced Training Fund in the amount of \$3,000.
- Water Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$1,162,653.
- Parks & Rec Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$738,000.
- Police Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$738,000.
- Road Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$1.
- Wastewater Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$1.
- Stormwater Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$1.
- Building Services in the amount of \$679,565.
- Tree Fund in the amount of \$1,000.
- Total all Funds \$13,293,673.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Public Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Everline stated that the Town has budgeted too many expenditures based on proposed sales in developments. Mr. Everline said that he was not a fan of big government. Mr. Everline reminded the Town Councilors to remember their neighbors that were on fixed incomes.

Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment and Questions.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Councilor Comment and Questions for this issue only.

Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to approve Resolution 2023-011, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF HOWEY-IN-THE-HILLS, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli. Motion was approved by a roll-call vote.

Voting

Yea: Councilor Lannamañ, Councilor Lehning, Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli, Mayor MacFarlane

Nay: Councilor Miles

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any person wishing to address the Mayor and Town Council and who is not on the agenda is asked to speak their name and address. Three (3) minutes is allocated per speaker.

Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd. – Mr. Everline stated that he was concerned with the Town’s budget being too high.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilor Lehning to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Lannamañ seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m. | **Attendees: 28**

Mayor Martha MacFarlane

ATTEST:

John Brock, Town Clerk

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