



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

September 23, 2024 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 Public Hearing on Final Budget and Millage Rate to order at 5:08 p.m.

Mayor MacFarlane led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Councilor Reneé Lannamañ delivered an invocation.

### 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 | Morgan Cates, Public Works Director | Rick Thomas, Police Chief | Tara Hall, Library Director | Oscar Ojeda, Finance Supervisor | John Brock, Town Clerk

### PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consideration and Approval: **Resolution 2024-009 - Final Millage Rate**

Mayor MacFarlane read Ordinance 2024-009 out loud by title only and the following statements:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-009, 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 2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

- The Taxing Authority is the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills.
- The Rolled-Back Rate is 6.9645 mills.
- The percentage over the Rolled-Back Rate is 7.69%, which is the percentage increase in property taxes.
- The proposed Millage Rate to be levied is 7.50.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Public Comment for this item only.

**Tim Everline, 1012 N Lakeshore Blvd.** – Mr. Everline stated that government employees make 40% more than private employees and that he was not in favor of large increase in employee wages in the Town’s proposed budget.

Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment for this item

Councilor Miles stated that he would like to see the Town Council lower the millage rate even if it was just a small amount.

**Motion made by Councilor Lannamañ to approve Resolution 2024-009 and the millage rate of 7.50; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gallelli. Motion 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 2024-010 - Final Budget**

Mayor MacFarlane read Ordinance 2024-010 out loud by title only and the following statements:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-010, 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 2025 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

- The Final Budget for the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills for Fiscal Year 2025 to be adopted by Fund Department is as follows:
  - General Fund in the amount of \$3,371,777.
  - Infrastructure fund in the amount of \$266,578.
  - Enterprise fund in the amount of \$6,812,737.
  - Police Pension Fund in the amount of \$234,145.
  - Police Advanced Training Fund in the amount of \$1,500.
  - Water Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$15,750.
  - Parks & Rec Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$257,100.
  - Police Impact Fee Fund in the amount of \$5,000.
  - 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 \$106,500.
  - Tree Fund in the amount of \$1,000.
  - Total all Funds \$11,072,090.

Mayor MacFarlane opened Public Comment for this item only.

There were no public comments or questions.

Mayor MacFarlane closed Public Comment for this item.

Councilor Lehning stated that he was very upset that his pay had been budgeted into the past year’s budget as he did not take a paycheck. Town Manager, Sean O’Keefe, stated that he had to budget Councilor Lehning’s pay in case circumstances changed.

Councilor Miles asked why the budget changed between the first public hearing and the second public hearing.

Mr. O’Keefe stated there had been a correction to the Water Impact Fee expenditure, an adjustment for new numbers that had been received late in the budget process for the Police Pension Fund, the Public Works Director had recently identified that the Town Hall windows needed to be repaired, and that the funds for the Finger Pier Project had been brought forward. Morgan Cates, Public Works Director, stated that he had recently received a quote to repair/replace the windows for Town Hall and it was going to cost approximately \$16,000.

Councilor Miles stated that it was incorrect to change the FY 2025 budget for the Finger Pier Project funds being encumbered and brought forward. Councilor Miles stated that the Finance Supervisor should bring all encumbered funds forward with a Resolution during an October meeting.

**Motion made by Councilor Miles to approve Resolution 2024-010; seconded by Councilor Lannamañ. Motion approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Voting**

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

**Nay:** None

**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.*

Councilor Lannamañ stated that she would like to see the Town Council notified if the window repairs to Town Hall costs exceed \$16,000.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. | **Attendees: 17**

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Mayor Martha MacFarlane

ATTEST:

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John Brock, Town Clerk