



MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING AUGUST 28, 2024 4:00 p.m.

The City of Madeira Beach Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop meeting at 4:00 p.m. on August 28, 2024, in the Patricia Shontz Commission Chambers at City Hall, located at 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor
David Tagliarini, Vice Mayor/Commissioner District 1
Ray Kerr, Commissioner District 2
Eddie McGeehen, Commissioner District 3
Housh Ghovaae, Commissioner District 4

MEMBERS ABSENT:

CHARTER OFFICERS PRESENT: Robin Gomez, City Manager (Absent)
Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk
Andrew Laflin, Finance Director/City Treasurer
Thomas Trask, City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brooks called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan called the roll. All were present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FY 2025 Budget Workshop #5

Finance Director Consultant Andrew Laflin reviewed the item and changes made from the previous budget workshop.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment:

Doug Andrews, 13601 Gulf Blvd. business address, expressed concerns about the Parking Fund and the Promotions and Public Relations budget line item. There are not enough historical

perspectives about them. It only goes back to FY 2023 in the budget, which makes it tough to gauge how a department is doing and what they have done in the past regarding the amount of growth or non-growth. Four or five years of data and more line-item descriptions would help make a better determination. Each department head should be defending the budget so individual questions can be asked, for they know it better than anyone. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for the final numbers.

- Page 53. Parking Management – according to the revenues collected in FY 2023, it was \$3.54 million, and the expenditure was \$2.43 million. The Parking Fund gained about \$1.1 million in revenue. They netted more money in 2018 than in 2023. The Board approved what was put forward for FY 2023. The revenue was supposed to be about \$3.9 million. They will miss projections by about \$600,000 in FY 2025. The adopted budget must be balanced. The missing \$600,000 must be recouped from revenue when balancing the budget. In the budget last year, they approved losing \$400,000. That probably had to do with the parking garage; with the new revised number, it is a little over \$2 million. When looking at the funded positions in all departments from 2018 to now, a lot of the increases has to do with cost-of-living increases, etc., and they no longer can hire anybody at \$8 an hour. If the City put the parking out to bid, they could probably get somebody to give the City \$25 million a year straight up for parking and eliminate all the expenses.
- FY 2025, Department Line Item 548000, Promotions & Public Relations:
 - Page 17, Board of Commissioners \$5,000
 - Page 20, City Clerk \$3,000
 - Page 23, City Manager \$60,000
 - Page 25, Community Development \$5,000
 - Page 28, Fire Department \$14,000
 - Page 35, Non-Departmental \$2,000
 - Page 40, Recreation Department \$258,225
 - Page 51, Marina \$27,000

Mr. Andrews said the total Promotions & Public Relations budget for the eight divisions for FY 2025 is \$374,255. It equates to 2.3% of the entire budget of \$16,252,000. The question is, what is that for? There is nothing in the budget that says that. It is explained in the 2018 budget but not in the 2025 budget. The numbers increased from \$100,500 in 2018 to \$374,255 in 2025. That is a huge increase. What is it for?

Mayor Brooks said she talked this week with different people and Mr. Laflin regarding the Promotions and Public Relations budget. She asked Mr. Laflin to explain.

Mr. Laflin said it could be used for different things in each department. Recreation and the Marina are the largest, event driven. For some of the other departments, it would be for meetings and lunches provided at the meetings. For the FY 2026 budget workshops, he could incorporate that

information and information for other budget line items that the Board would like to see. He explained how the public could locate the information on the City's website.

Commissioner Kerr said it was something to keep their eyes and fingers on. Mayor Brooks said community input is great. She would like to get it earlier in the budget process.

Commissioner Ghovae asked how they get the community more involved. No one is at the meeting. There is no accessibility through media or the website. Mayor Brooks said it was the Board's responsibility to get people involved. Unfortunately, they do not get a lot of input until they start a project, and the City puts out the information on social media.

Commissioner Ghovae said he appreciated the input from Doug Andrews. He touched on items he agreed with. He does not understand a lot of the items in the budget. He would like to spend time speaking with staff before the public meetings to get a better understanding. The Mayor suggested speaking with Mr. Laflin for a better understanding.

Commissioner Ghovae asked Mr. Laflin to explain the Fund Balance/Net Position Available because it was information to make the budget balance. Mr. Laflin explained.

Commissioner Kerr asked how they are trending on the operating budget. Everything that drives the end number will increase yearly by a certain percentage. The way it is broken down is a great asset. Mr. Laflin said that according to their latest audited financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2023, they have about \$25 million in total Fund Balance for all their governmental funds.

Commissioner Kerr said that as they sit there going through the process, in his mind, the biggest piece of what they are doing is the \$20 million budget for operating expenses, and he asked how the needle is moving. What they approved in the last two years impacted the operating costs. They all had agreed it was something needed, and it showed their support for staff, fire, and EMS, and keeping a great staff there. The benefits outrode the costs in their mind when making those votes. But is it sustainable to keep that with the revenue increases they get each year? Revenues and expenses are increasing, so they maintain the millage rate. It would be great to understand what that chart looks like regarding their operating costs. Commissioner Ghovae said that is why the history of what they do is important.

Mr. Laflin said at a future meeting he could provide a multi-year historical analysis of revenues and expenditures and pull out the capital the same way. Commissioner Kerr said they could push capital off for five years or double up if they want to, but operating is committed to every year.

Mayor Brooks said there was no public in attendance to make public comments.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brooks adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clara VanBlargan, MMC, MSM, City Clerk

DRAFT