



VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK
640 NE 114TH STREET
BISCAYNE PARK, FL 33161
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Mayor and Commission

Noah Jacobs
Mayor

Robert "Bob" Anderson
Vice Mayor

Bryan Cooper
Commissioner

Roxanna Ross
Commissioner

Commissioner Watts
Commissioner

Maria C. Camara
Interim Village Manager

John J. Hearn
Village Attorney

MINUTES

2nd Public Hearing - FY 2013-14 Budget
Ed Burke Recreation Center - 11400 NE 9th Court
Biscayne Park, FL 33161
Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 6:30pm

1 Call to Order

Mayor Noah Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:45pm

2 Roll Call

Mayor Noah Jacobs - present
Vice Mayor Bob Anderson - present
Commissioner Bryan Cooper - absent (*Arrived at 7:05pm*)
Commissioner Roxanna Ross - present
Commissioner Barbara Watts - present

Present from staff were:

Interim Village Manager Maria C. Camara
Village Attorney John Hearn
Chief Ray Atesiano
Asst to the Manager / Public Services Director Candido Sosa-Cruz
Finance Director Irwin Williams
Assistant Public Works Director Cesar Hernandez

3 Pledge of Allegiance

4 Presentations

5 Additions, Deletions or Withdrawals to Agenda

Mayor Jacobs added discussion on North Miami Foundation for Senior Services.

Director Debbie Kleinberg provided information on the services provided.

Mayor Jacobs: Village works to benefit the best of the community and those most in need. And it shows we are compassionate.

Vice Mayor Anderson makes a motion to make a \$2,500 donation to the Foundation, taken from the contingency fund. It is seconded by Commissioner Ross.

All in favor: Mayor Jacobs, Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 4/0

6 Public Comments Related to Agenda Items / Good & Welfare

< None >

7 Consent Agenda

7.a Resolution 2013-40

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA **APPOINTING CHARLES J. SEAMAN AS THE HEARING OFFICER TO PRESIDE OVER HEARINGS CONCERNING THE IMPOUNDMENT OF VEHICLES**, CONSISTENT WITH ORDINANCE 2013-02; AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE VILLAGE OFFICIALS TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CHARLES J. SEAMAN FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (*reference item 8.a, Ordinance 2013-02*)

7.b Resolution 2013-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM VILLAGE MANAGER TO **EXECUTE THE NOTICE OF SALE FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) VEHICLES FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS** TO BE USED WITHIN THE VILLAGE'S POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Anderson makes a motion to accept the consent agenda. It is seconded by Commissioner Watts.

All in favor: Mayor Jacobs, Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 4/0

8 Ordinances

SECOND READING

8.a Ordinance 2013-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA **PROVIDING FOR A UNIFORM METHOD OF IMPOUNDING VEHICLES USED IN THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME; PROVIDING FOR IMPOUNDMENT AND TRANSPORTATION FEES**; PROVIDING FOR WRECKER FEES; PROVIDING METHOD FOR ASCERTAINING PERSONS OF INTEREST; PROVIDING FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING COSTS; PROVIDING FOR FINAL HEARING COSTS; PROVIDING FOR BOND; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE TO PERSONS OF INTEREST; PROVIDING FOR HEARING BY HEARING OFFICER; PROVIDING FOR PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney read the title.

Mayor opened the meeting to public comment and there were none.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-02 and it is seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson.

All in favor: Mayor Jacobs, Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 4/0

8.b Ordinance 2013-09

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE ASSESSMENTS IN THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA; **APPROVING THE SCHEDULE FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 1, 2013**; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney read the title.

Mayor opened the meeting to public comment and there were none.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-09 and it is seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson.

All in favor: Mayor Jacobs, Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 4/0

8.c Ordinance 2013-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA **TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND RESERVES TO COVER NEGATIVE FUND BALANCES** OF \$23,341 FROM THE FORFEITURE FUNDS AND \$44,203 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney read the title.

Mayor opened the meeting to public comment and there were none.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-10 and it is seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson.

All in favor: Mayor Jacobs, Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts.

Opposed: None

Motion carries: 4/0

8.d **Ordinance 2013-11**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, **ESTABLISHING THE 2012-2013 MILLAGE RATE AT 9.70 MILS** FOR EACH \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION UPON REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE VILLAGE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney read the title.

Mayor opened the meeting to public comment.

Chuck Ross: The way the highest millage was calculated was in reverse. Figure out what it takes to run the Village. Use a logical method to determine how to set the trim. We lost approximately \$26,000. Per household, approximately \$13.00.

Commissioner Cooper arrived at 7:05pm

Janey Anderson: All of us who are progressive and see the infrastructure needs, it is falling on deaf ears. Bryan, Barbara and Noah - don't know where you are getting your information. Power without vision, courage or backbone is meaningless. Bryan is all about Miami Shores. There has been no outreach to Miami Shores. You should be working to sustain the Village. Wonder what is going on behind our backs.

Commissioner Ross makes a motion to approve Ordinance 2013-11 and set the millage at 9.700. It is seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson.

Mayor Jacobs: Previous administration expressed that we had an operating budget of 9.300. They put 9.500 forward. Consider state of pocket book of the Village. Not eager to go higher. Those residents have not made it to meetings. I am going to stick with 9.500. That is what previous professional management suggested.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Looking at 9.500, there would be \$25,000 going into reserves. If no emergency issues, we could put more in. \$25,000 going into reserves that is woefully underfunded is cutting it too close. If we go to 9.300, we would have to pull from reserves. \$25,000 could go in a blink. A few dollars more per household at 9.700 is the prudent thing to do.

Commissioner Ross: I am looking at all my notes and drafts of the budget, and in the first draft, the Administration submitted a budget with 9.50, and setting aside about \$5,000 contingency. Don't know where 9.30 comes in? As we worked through the workshops, the budget was tweaked, errors found, and things tightened up. What we set at first reading at 9.70 still allows for what I think is still not enough. Anything short of 9.70 would be a dis-service to the Village and residents.

Mayor Jacobs: Just to be clear, Management stated it was an operating budget of 9.30, and was presenting a budget requesting 9.50. This was stated in full public.

Commissioner Cooper: For four years, the majority on this commission has chosen not to make budget reallocations to more properly fund our reserves. Disappointed hit has reached a point where we are debating 9.50 and 9.70, or \$25,000. Had plenty of time to make necessary cuts and give us more time to prepare for the inevitable future of hitting the wall of 10.0. We are at a point where we need to look at alternatives. Looking at annexation. A resident said there was behind the scene deals with Miami Shores. There are none. But we need to reach out to them. Will not support 9.70. We consistently bump up the millage and not addressing the problem. It has been four years of the same. Will not accept this ordinance as read. Will encourage this commission to reach out to Miami Shores as an alternative. See what they say. Some of the power brokers of this Village are afraid of what Miami Shores will say. They may make a difference in the quality of our environment and our politics. Let's give it a shot. Will not be voting for this as it stands.

Commissioner Watts: Trying to dig us out of a hole. We have had expenses in the past which has contributed to lessening of our reserves. Economy is getting better slowly. Too much to put on residents who have lost their income and so many other things going up. Even the amount it would increase per year, if you add that to everything else, it is a lot.

Motion is called to a vote:

All in favor: Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts

Opposed: Mayor Jacobs and Commissioner Cooper

Motion carries: 3/2

8.e Ordinance 2013-12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 FOR THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney read the title.

Mayor opened the meeting to public comment.

Barbara Kuhl: Commissioner Cooper - for four years we have had the same thing. In the past four years, where are your suggestions to cut our budget. Easy to say you won't support, but you have nothing pro-active. On your suggestion of Miami Shores, why did you ever run for commissioner? To Commissioner Watts you are quick to say you don't want to penalize the residents, but in two seconds you came up with \$2,000 in expenses for the potato vines and \$2,500 for a mural. You are micro-managing. I don't hear people telling you to cut taxes or to save money. You say you have people writing to you, those are public records so bring them forward. How many people have actually said this, because I don't see them here. Getting tire of hearing the same excuses from the three of you about all the people that are upset. Why if you think 9.50 is great and will have a \$5,000 contingency fund, tell those people what is wrong with that. Hope you have an open mind on annexation.

Commissioner Ross: In the last four years, there have been substantial cuts to the budget. There is a reduction in the number of employees from 46 to 35, both full time and part time. Police budget previously at \$1.3 million. Proposed this year at \$998 thousand dollars. A reduction of \$400 thousand dollars. Substantial reduction and the department is performing spectacularly. Our administration has economized and cross trained employees. There is a tremendous effort by the administration and entire staff to do more with less. Should not set aside \$2,000 for personal interests as in the case of the removal of potato vines. And it was proposed only on Australian Pines. This is narrow minded and micro-managing. Confirms we are in line for the historical grant and that is properly budgeted for, both the revenue and expenditure. Appreciates staff to secure that grant. Have another one coming up in the following year that we will keep an eye on and lobby legislation to fund. The shorter these meetings are the more we can save.

Director Sosa Cruz: Provided a recap of the grants we have submitted for and have been awarded.

Mayor Jacobs: Different process during budget season. A lot of stress to the administration and elected officials. We all have different views. We all hope for what is best for the Village. Drawback is we are representing different constituency. Appreciate the administration's efforts. Believed in 9.500 and with next Manager will work within that budget and do the best that we can.

Motion is called to a vote:

All in favor: Vice Mayor Anderson, Commissioner Ross and Commissioner Watts

Opposed: Mayor Jacobs and Commissioner Cooper

Motion carries: 3/2

9 Final Public Comment

Janey Anderson: Thanks to the three of you that voted for the budget. Bryan, you said you would assist with grant writing, but when you weren't able to chop up our medians, you gave up on your grant writing effort.

Barbara Kuhl: In regarding grants, there are no grants available. I am very happy that we hired Candido as the Assistant to the Manager, that not only looks for grants, but that he helps out with other departments and wears many hats.

Jared Susi: Our greatest revenue is our property taxes. Homestead fraud is a big issue. Something the Village has to look into.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Agrees with the situation on homestead fraud and has reported cases to the Clerk. It is a real problem.

Director Sosa-Cruz provided the process by which possible homestead fraud cases are reported to the Property Appraiser's Office.

Vice Mayor Anderson: Thanks the commission for passing the budget and a millage rate that we can work with. We look to spend \$5,000 for strategic planning session, but what we come up with we don't have the money to do. We should hold off on it. On the mural, should all be through donations. Strangler fig removal should be moved over and all this rolled over to contingency.

Commissioner Cooper: On our Assistant Director, and my comments about having a grant writer. I have the highest esteem for Mr. Sosa-Cruz. He has brought the highest degree of professionalism, has reformed the Code enforcement process, and works well with residents. The best I have seen in the 10 years I have lived here. Has been very successful with grants. But my point is, the more hours you put into seeking grants, the more we could get. The Village could be a lot more further along if we had a professional fund raiser and grant writer. Has not dried up, but it is more competitive. Millions of dollars available from foundations and the government. Need someone to ferret it out. Comments about my grant writing expertise, I had problems the way the Village was run the first year. Attempts to break scope changes, fight and break federal rules. Would not associate my name. Made a process if that was cleaned up I would participate. Hold you in high esteem and that you don't take my comments personally.

Commissioner Ross: Commissioner Cooper refers to scope changes when we were both on the Commission. I made the motion to bring back that project based on his representation that the scope changes could be made, and we spent a lot of tax dollars going down that road when it was actually not a reality. Thanks the staff for their dedicated efforts to accomplish the passing of the budget. We don't do right by our staff. Some are paid lower than county living wage. Strive hard to improve that. Thanks the commission for passing the budget and millage. Keep an open mind on annexation.

Commissioner Watts: Agrees with Vice Mayor Anderson on the strategic plan. Should wait until we get a new Manager. On Children's Safety Day, looks for volunteers to assist the Recreation Advisory Board.

Mayor Jacobs: Thanks all who came out. Hectic process. Got a good budget out. Looks forward to Health & Fitness Expo on Saturday.

10 Announcements

All public meetings are held at the Ed Burke Recreation Center, 11400 NE 9th Court.

Saturday, September 28th - Fun Run and Health/Fitness Expo starting at 8:00am.

Our next regular commission meeting is Tuesday, October 1st at 7:00pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Commission approved on November 6, 2013.



Noah Jacobs, Mayor

Attest:



Maria Camara, Village Clerk