

Budget Message



TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

From: Frank C. Bocanegra, Esq.

Town Manager

Subject: Second Budget Hearing for FY 2009-10

Date: September 28, 2009

GENERAL FUND

At the First Budget Hearing held on September 10, 2009, the Town Council approved a proposed millage of 2.447, which is a reduction of 0.0325 mills from the FY2008-09 millage rate of 2.4795. This will result in \$6,679,877 in revenue being collected. The millage reduction and decrease in the accessed property values represented a reduction of \$768,293 in ad valorem tax revenues in the General Fund from the FY2008-09 Budget. Therefore, the citizens of Miami Lakes will realize a tax cut in the amount of \$768,293. The focus of the Mayor and Council as well as staff has been and will continue to be to decrease expenses through renegotiating contracts while increasing the level of services provided to the citizens. Further, at the Special Council meeting held on September 23, 2009 the Mayor and Council voted to not pay the County QNIP (\$169,538 annually). These reductions coupled with not having to pay the mitigation payment to the county have enabled the Town to pass along savings to the citizens of Miami Lakes.

The reductions adopted by the Town Council on first reading are summarized below:

Town Council Expenses	2008-09 Budget	2009-10 Budget
Mobile Telephone Charges	10,400	5,500
Council Discretionary Fund	10,000	5,000
Education and Training	4,000	2,000
Administrative Expenses		
Salaries	800,000	751,894
Cola	40,000	14,743
Merit	24,000	0
Retirement Benefits	95,000	74,062
Life/Health Insurance	109,400	83,740
Mobile Telephone Charges	9,400	7,000
Membership, Dues, Publications	22,400	19,000
Education and Training	20,000	0
Grant Writing	20,000	5,000
Develop & Maintain Online Applications 60,000		12,000

Administrative Exp. Continued Database Support Copier Lease Insurance Repairs and Maintenance Printing Office Supplies Equipment purchase and Rental	2008-09 Budget 20,000 16,800 190,000 15,000 40,000 18,000	2009-10 Budget 5,000 0 132,544 10,000 10,000 32,000 7,500
Town Clerk Salaries Cola Merit Election Costs	198,400 9,920 5,952 70,000	184,406 3,616 0 0
Town Attorney Code Enforcement	70,000	50,000
Police Salaries and Overtime	6,710,000	6,482,783
Parks, Recreation and Culture Cola Merit Picnic/Mini Parks – General Repairs Picnic/Mini Parks – Utilities ROP Repairs and Improvements Barbara Goleman Maintenance	18,010 10,806 5 150,000 60,000 50,000 4,000	4,940 0 125,000 56,000 35,000 0
Public Works Salaries Cola Merit Right of Way Maintenance Street Light Maintenance Tree Trimming Tree Cutting	145,000 7,250 4,350 852,000 130,000 125,000 12,000	139,174 983 0 400,204 115,000 0
Building Cola Merit Contractual Services Computer Automation Electronic Records Storage Office Supplies Capital Outlay	14,960 8,976 501,000 75,000 14,500 15,000 2,500	7,794 0 280,000 25,000 0 6,500 0
Planning and Development Cola Merit Site Plan Reviews	18,745 11,247 20,000	7,260 0 10,000

The preceding reductions have yielded \$14,998,445 in total expenses, which is \$1,087,683 less than the FY 2008-09 budgeted expenses. The significant savings have been a combined effort by the Mayor, Council and Town Staff. This effort will continue into the new fiscal year in order to make up for another anticipated decrease in ad valorem revenue in FY 2010-11. Although the development of a balance budget this year has again been challenging through fiscal prudence and good leadership the Proposed FY 2009-10 budget is balanced and enables the Town of Miami Lakes to continue delivering outstanding enhanced services to our residents, businesses and visitors while maintaining the lowest tax rate in the County.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The development of this year's Proposed Operating Budget has taken a great deal of time, energy and hard work. I would like to thank the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and the entire Council for their valuable input, continued guidance, support and above all leadership with the budget process and in helping to accomplish so much on behalf of our town residents.

I would also like to thank all our employees for their continued dedication to the Town's mission of providing excellent public services and working so hard to help accomplish so many positive results during very difficult economic times that benefit the entire community.

Finally, I would like to thank my entire senior staff who worked so hard to ensure that this year's process resulted in a fiscally prudent and balanced budget. I would particularly like to thank Mike Appleton, Finance Director, for his hard work and dedication. Mike I commend your achievement!

I appreciate the teamwork demonstrated to accomplish our goals!

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES

Council Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Council

From: Frank C. Bocanegra, Esq. - Town Manager

Subject: Proposed Millage Rate and Budgets for Fiscal Year 2009-10

Date: September 10, 2009

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Town Council approve the attached ordinances establishing the property tax millage rate at 2.4795 and the operating, special revenue, and capital budgets Fiscal Year 2009-10.

Background

Attached are the updated proposed General Fund, Special Revenue, Stormwater Utility and Capital Projects budgets for fiscal year 2009-10. These budgets have been adjusted to reflect changes in revenues and expenses incurred after the July approval of the preliminary millage rate. Further, adjustments have been made in order to incorporate the amended 07-08 Budget approved at the September 8, 2009 Council Meeting. These recommendations came from Rodriguez, Trueba & Co. (hereinafter "CPA"), which is the Certified Public Accounting firm previously retained by the Town to amend the 2007-08 FY budget and actual figures. The original proposed Managers' budget provided to the Mayor and Council at the end of August reflected the recommendations by CPA in the 2008-09 budget; however, since the Mayor and Council have not approved an amendment to the 2008-09 budget, the 2008-09 Final Mayor and Council approved budget numbers will mirror the numbers approved by Mayor and the Council. The budget will be amended in the future to reflect the suggestions of the CPA firm for 2008-09.

The General Fund Budget reflects a decrease of revenues and expenses in the amounts of \$32,085 and \$210,362 respectively from the previous Manager's budget provided to Council. All of these changes, result in an estimated surplus of approximately \$293,543 in the General Fund Budget. Each of the changes are highlighted in yellow in the budget provided.

This budget surplus will allow the Council to implement many of the initiatives the Councilmembers proposed at the Budget Workshop held on September 2, 2009.

The following changes have been made:

- Franchise Fees: changed per actual payment received and confirmation letter dated 8/15/09.
- Salaries, Merits, COLA: All are now in a line item
- Retirement Benefits and Life Insurance: separated into separate line item
- Insurance: reduced per contract awarded to Brown and Brown at September 8, 2009 Council meeting.
- Election Costs: will be invoiced in FY 2009-10; however, payment is not due until FY 2010=11. Town will realize cost when payment is due.
- Police Rent: modified to reflect 20% of total rent currently due under present contract.
- Right of Way Maintenance: reduced per contract awarded to Florida Turf and Landscaping at September 8, 2009 Council meeting.
- Administration Fees in Special Revenue Fund: have been eliminated since they were off setting entries with no budget impact.

Conclusion

The budget preparation this year was centered on trying to minimize the impact of the significant reduction in all revenue sources. I believe that the proposed millage rate of 2.4795 approved in July should be maintained for next year. It is anticipated that the economic slowdown shall begin to turn around at some point in the next year.