

**SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MAY 5, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Town Clerk Avery led the roll call, which was answered by the following:

Mayor Pugh	Present
Vice Mayor Coz	Present
Commissioner Ajjala Jr.	Present
Commissioner Cassidy	Present
Commissioner Hutchins	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pugh led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT - (3-minute individual limit)

Mayor Pugh opened the floor for public comment. Hearing no comments, he closed the floor for public comments.

REGULAR BUDGET ITEMS

1. Preliminary Discussion of FY 26

Interim Town Manager Heiser gave a presentation of the FY 2026 budget and discussed details of providing preliminary directions on strategic priority areas, identifying high-importance areas for budget allocations, draft Vision, and Mission statements, and establishing a clear focus to guide the next phases of the budget.

Commissioner Cassidy suggested adding "Ocean Ridge is a thriving residential seaside Community" to the mission statement.

Vice Mayor Coz asked for the meaning of LMS, and Interim Town Manager Heiser stated LMS stands for Local Mitigation Strategy. There was discussion about what LMS provides and how the plan benefits the town. Further discussion followed regarding tax revenues and the drainage loan.

Jean Hallahan, Town Treasurer, commented on the drainage loan payments. The balance of the loan was then discussed further.

There was discussion on ad valorem property taxes and categorizing the budget.

Commissioner Cassidy stated that she printed out a memo from the TSE about the property taxes and placed it on the dais for the Commission to review. More discussion followed about the impact of eliminating property taxes.

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There was further discussion regarding a fixed number for capital improvements.

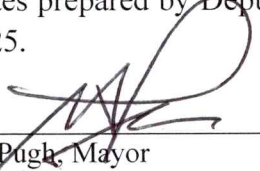
Mayor Pugh questioned the surplus balance. Interim Town Manager Heiser stated that her goal is to provide the information by August. She mentioned a concern about recognizing grant revenue before being deposited into the bank. There was a brief discussion regarding finding a certified financial officer to assist with the budget and innovative items.

Vice Mayor Coz mentioned that the town should investigate obtaining AAA rating to get extremely low interest rates to help with loans.

ADJOURNMENT

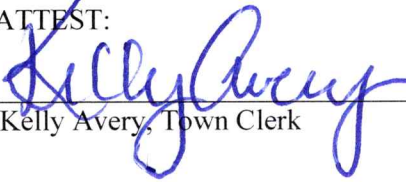
Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Deputy Town Clerk Pinder and adopted by the Town Commission on July 8, 2025.



Geoff Pugh, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kelly Avery, Town Clerk

