

From: Laura Aldrich <townclerk@irshores.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 4:28 PM
To: Laura Aldrich
Subject: DEBRIS update & Recap of Town Actions at Council & Budget Meeting 9-14-17
Attachments: 9-14-17 IRC EOC Alert re FEMA.PDF; 20170324_Zodiak demo .jpg; 20170324_PSD patrol boat on lift.jpg
Importance: High

Greetings, Residents and Interested Parties!

There are some important reminders related to **post-storm clean-up**.

- The **amount of vegetative storm debris** in the County is massive, initially estimated at well over 100,000 cubic yards. The **private developments** in Town are required to have their own landscaping/tree company take care of debris removal. It is not financially feasible for the Town to have a debris removal contract for the minimal **non-gated communities** within the Town, so those who live on Town-owned streets and have yard-waste service with Republic Services as part of their solid waste/recycling services, **Republic will pick up your yard debris** as long as you follow their rules (see [middle of the page on the Town website for details](#)). and unincorporated County have a pre-arranged debris service contract well in advance of any storms (expenses covered in their tax bills – and FEMA Reimbursement if available).
- Republic also offers “bulk pick-up” for a fee if you want the debris removed quicker. Here is a link to their website if you’re interested in that service: <https://www.republicservices.com/residents/yard-waste>

If you have not yet signed up for County alerts and missed information on **applying for FEMA assistance**, I have attached the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) alert that was sent to me yesterday. **We urge you, once again, to sign up for these alerts.** The EOC is located in a secured, fully powered, safe bunker. **They** receive every bit of important, vital news and determine whether evacuation is needed, when or if the bridges are closed and opened, and keep the Town informed. **Please take advantage of knowing the same time as we do** as this vital information is released. We may not be on the island, may not have power, or access to internet to convey this to you in a timely manner. Through our personal cell phones, as you would, there is timely information available literally at our fingertips.

Actions taken at the Council meeting yesterday were as follows:

- **Land Sale Proceeds** – (added as part of item 2) By a 3-0 vote the Council determined to **consider rescinding the previous motion to use \$2,000,000 to reduce taxes for fiscal year 2018** at the next regular Council meeting on **September 28**. This was after reviewing recent financial needs that have occurred before and after the Hurricane. The Treasurer was directed to remove those funds from the Tentative Budget, which will be published in the Press Journal and available online next week. The **Final Budget Public Hearing is at 5:01 on September 28**.
- The purchase of a **patrol boat for Public Safety** was **approved** after considering 6 different models that ranged in price from \$70,000 to \$140,000, of which \$60,000 is covered by a grant. The most economical to operate was a commercial boat that’s able to use the existing boat lift, a Zodiac with a 300 hp Mercury XL V, which will **fully utilize the matching funds grant at \$60,000 cost to the Town**. Photos of the old boat on the lift and a similar one brought for demonstration in March with Vice Mayor Ochsner at the helm are attached. It won’t be available for 5 months, so it will be removed from the current budget and added to the FY 18 budget. With 7 ocean and 23 riverside miles to patrol, the plans are for 360 hours/year use of the vessel.
- The **Public Safety Training Budget and Overtime** was reviewed by Chief Rosell as requested, with a resulting determination to reduce the amount for a per diem officer to \$5,760, which covers all the nonrequired training classes. As directed by Council, the 2018 budget was adjusted for the above discussion.
- As recommended by the **PZV Board**, a 6’ rear setback variance was granted for **926 Beachcomber Lane**, approval of a 1 year site plan extension for the **River Club South Condominiums** was granted, and the master development plan for **The Strand** (formerly Charleston Estates, 31 acres on the northwest side of A1A) was approved.
- **Jim Poole**, currently serving as Chairman, was reappointed to the **Finance Committee** for his final term ending March 2021.

Added to the agenda as part of item 2 was the **Police-Fire Pension actuarial cost study results**, which revealed that by paying \$235,000 now the 2018 budget could be reduced by approximately \$550,000 for the Town's contribution. This additional payment would **not** lower the employee payment. An **amendment to the 2017 budget** was approved (3-0) to adjust for making the \$235,000 payment, which the Town Treasurer was directed to make as soon as feasible (3-0). The 2018 budget was adjusted Town to reflect the decreased payment.

- Committee Chairman Jerry Weick presented **plans to be used to go out for bid** for the **new Community Center**, which **were approved** by the Council along with direction to the Town Manager to proceed with preparing the RFP.

At the **1st Budget Public Hearing**, we had one resident present, who had no comment. These are held statutorily after 5 pm to allow the general public to attend. Actions taken were:

- A **tentative millage rate** of **1.3774** was set by 3-0 vote (majority approval of 5 member council). The **tentative budget** was set as follows: General Fund - \$5,902,273; Road & Offsite Drainage Fund - \$1,764,365; and the Planning, Zoning & Building Fund - \$645,300. The total Budget is \$8,311,938.
- The percentage decrease for the millage rate is 19.9% over last year. The General Fund budget decreased 13.7%. Town residents should see a 15.4% decrease in their taxes to the Town. Please remember, the Town's portion is just 10% of your total ad valorem taxes.

Thank you for your interest, as always.

Respectfully yours,

Laura

Laura Aldrich, MMC

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