

**TOWN OF ASTATULA  
MAYOR AND TOWN  
COUNCIL MINUTES**



**PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2021  
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Mitchell Mack called the Preliminary Budget Hearing to order at 7:00pm. He led a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:**

Mitchell Mack, Mayor  
Kimberly Kobera, Vice-Mayor  
Stephen Cross  
Orita Issartel

**Absent:**

Gayle Sikkema

**Also Present:**

Graham Wells, Town Clerk  
Walter Hoagland, Police Chief

Roll Call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

This public hearing is for the purpose of announcing the percentage by which the millage rate differs from the rolled-back rate; and for Council to adopt a tentative millage rate by Resolution. Council will also adopt the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 by fund department.

**RESOLUTION 2021-15 - DETERMINING THE AMOUNT AND FIXING THE RATE OF  
AD VALOREM TAXATION**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA,  
DETERMINING THE AMOUNT AND FIXING THE RATE OF AD VALOREM TAXATION;  
LEVYING THE ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FOR THE  
TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Mack read the resolution title and announced the following information as required by Florida Statutes:

- The Taxing Authority is the Town of Astatula
- The Rolled-Back Rate is 7.1113 mills
- The Percentage over the Rolled-Back Rate is 5.47 percent
- The Millage Rate to be Levied is 7.5000 mills

At this point the Mayor opened the meeting for public comment on this issue only; there being no residents present he closed public comment.

It was then opened for Council discussion. There being no questions, the Mayor called for a motion to approve Resolution 2021-15.

**MOTION by Councilwoman Issartel to approval Resolution 2021-15; SECONDED by Councilwoman Kobera**

**A roll call vote was requested**

**Councilman Cross - YES**

**Councilwoman Kobera - YES**

**Councilwoman Issartel - YES**

**Mayor Mack - YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

**RESOLUTION 2021-16 - ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF ASTATULA, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Mack read the resolution title and announced the following information as required by Florida Statutes:

The Tentative Budget for the Town of Astatula for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to be adopted by Fund Department is as follows:

- General Fund – In the amount of \$1,377,756.00
- Transportation Fund – In the amount of \$77,430.00
- Infrastructure Fund – In the amount of \$190,000.00
- Enterprise (Utility) Fund – In the amount of \$179,270.00
- TOTAL ALL FUNDS - \$1,824,456.00

At this point the Mayor opened the meeting for public comment on this issue only; there being no residents present he closed public comment.

It was then opened for Council discussion. Councilman Cross asked several questions.

Explanation of the 54% increase in the Executive Budget (512) – Clerk Wells responded that approximately \$32,000 was for a new staff member for town hall, the increase in the clerk's salary and the corresponding amount of FICA and FRS, plus an increase in health insurance. The premium for Insurance had increased by \$12,000 due to new vehicles and equipment and \$56,000 was included to install a generator set for town hall.

Mr. Wells further confirmed that the majority of the increase in expenditure for the police department was due to the cost of an additional officer, promotion of an officer to full time and salary increases with the corresponding FICA, FRS and an increase in health insurance.

Councilman Cross asked why the Infrastructure fund showed an increase of 52% and why revenues were \$190,000 and expenditures only \$176,426. Clerk Wells responded that in the last fiscal year the budget was significantly reduced as we did not know the effect that COVID-19 would have on the state revenues. \$130,000 of the 2021-22 budget is for repayment of the loan for the new community building and that the \$13,574 difference between revenues and expenses was a carry forward of unappropriated funds.

Mr. Cross asked for an explanation for the 23.5% increase in the total expenditure. Clerk Wells responded that in addition to the reasons already mentioned in these minutes, that there was no budget for the Enterprise fund last year and therefore, the entire budget for 2021-22 represented an increase. He added that the total increase in the budget against the amended 2020-21 budget was 12.7 percent.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Mack requested a motion to approve Resolution 2021-16 adopting the budget that included the salary increases as proposed.

**MOTION by Councilman Cross to approve Resolution 2021-16; SECONDED by Councilwoman Issartel**

**A roll call vote was requested**

**Councilman Cross - YES**

**Councilwoman Kobera - YES**

**Councilwoman Issartel - YES**

**Mayor Mack - YES**

**MOTION CARRIED 4-0**

The Mayor announced that the final budget hearing would be on September 29, 2021 at 7:00pm at Town Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mitchell Mack, Mayor

ATTEST:



Graham Wells, Town Clerk & Finance Officer