

**MINUTES of the Workshop**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**32 WEST AVENUE**  
**February 25, 2025 @ 3:00PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Reddington called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

*Present:* Council Members Colleen Twardzik, Jay Tyminski, Don Walsh with Steve Cobb on Zoom, Police Chief Ken McLaughlin, Finance Director Dawn Parks, Town Manager Carol Houck, and Town Clerk Donna Schwartz were also present. Planning, Zoning & Development Director Ken Cimino and Town Solicitor Veronica Faust were not present.

**2. ADOPTION of Agenda**

*A motion was made by Council Member Walsh, seconded by Council Member Tyminski, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously 5/0.*

**3. CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE – none**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Houck opened the presentation on the FY26 Budget stating that this was the 7<sup>th</sup> budget her and Mrs. Parks had made together. She noted that they are presenting a balanced budget at \$6,377,515. The tax rate will increase two cents to \$.2578 per \$100. Mrs. Houck noted some other items like salaries for the public safety department, increases in health insurance costs, and COLA. She followed through the power presentation noting the highlights on each slide. On slide 15, she noted that there are key issues facing the town and that a through “Police Compensation Study” and a “Legal and Risk Analysis” would be done in FY26 along with the financial analysis being done by PFM.

Following Mrs. Houck was a presentation by Ms. Vileen Leung, of PFM, who offered a Financial Condition Assessment to the Council. She offered suggestions on capital spending and having a competitive compensation package in an unknown economy. Ms. Leung stated that we should formalize reserve policies and codify them. She also suggested tax rate stabilization. She also recommended dedicating funds from the water sale to the reserve funds and consider establishing a tax rate policy for inflationary growth.

Mayor Reddington commented that they had done an outstanding job with the budget again this year. It is very understandable and balanced. Mayor Reddington also complimented Ms. Leung on her presentation and noted that he heard a lot of things that sounded interesting.

Mayor Reddington and Council Members’ Cobb and Tyminski all asked questions about the budget. Mrs. Houck stated she would reply to all questions in written form, and they would be posted on the website.

All the Council Members thanked Mrs. Houck and Mrs. Parks for their diligence and hard work on the budget and thanked Ms. Leung for her presentation on finances.

Mrs. Houck asked if the Council felt they needed another workshop on the budget, those present stated no. The answers to the questions asked can be found at [https://www.oceanviewde.gov/media/FinanceReports/Budget/FY26%20Budget\\_Town%20Council%20Questions%20and%20Answers\\_updated%20through%2002%2025%2025.pdf](https://www.oceanviewde.gov/media/FinanceReports/Budget/FY26%20Budget_Town%20Council%20Questions%20and%20Answers_updated%20through%2002%2025%2025.pdf)

5. **CITIZEN'S PRIVILEGE** – None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Council Member Twardzik, seconded by Council Member Tyminski, to adjourn the meeting at 4:48pm. The motion was carried unanimously 5/0.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna M. Schwartz, MMC,  
Town Clerk