

# Town of HOLLY RIDGE

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**HOLLY RIDGE TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET WORKSHOP # 2  
March 30th. 2023  
1:00 P.M.**

Mayor Jeff Wenzel called the Special Meeting of the Holly Ridge Town Council to order at 1:04 p.m. at the Holly Ridge Town Hall. Council members present were Councilman Sholar, Councilman Hines, Councilwoman Stanley, Mayor Pro-Tem Hall, and Councilwoman Bragg. Also present were Town Manager, Heather Reynolds; Finance Director, Chuck Strickland; Holly Ridge Fire Chief, Brandon Longo; and Police Chief, Mike Sorg. Deputy Clerk, Tracy Martin was absent.

**Invocation and Pledge**

Councilman Hines gave the Invocation and Mayor Wenzel led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by **Councilwoman Stanley** and seconded by **Councilwoman Bragg** to approve the agenda as amended. *All Agreed.*

**Persons Wishing to Address the Town Council**

**Margaret Coyle-Rees – 342 Spicer Lake Dr** commended the Manager Reynolds, Finance Director Chuck Strickland, and the Town Council for their hard work in putting the budget together. Ms. Rees said she appreciates the consideration of some of Summerhouse's requests that were made at the March regular meeting. Ms. Rees said specifically paying for the electrical cost of the lights and access to the Holly Ridge community center for taxpayer residents at no extra cost for community activities.

Ms. Rees said Holly Ridge is going to partner with Surf City for summer programs with an anticipated revenue of \$9,000.00. Ms. Rees said she has heard complaints about the lack of space in the summer programs and that it also fills up very quickly. Ms. Rees asked if Holly

Ridge would be offering summer programs for children and residents within the Holly Ridge city limits.

Ms. Rees said she appreciates the consideration of a part-time parks and recreation employee, and we would like to make she thinks we would want to better serve the taxpayers, mostly to make the parks and recreation more available for events outside of normal business hours. Ms. Rees heard that there are activities such as pickle ball and she would like to know where this is being advertised. Ms. Rees also asked if the Town's Park and recreation director is permanently located at the community center and can she pursue grants at the local and state level.

Manager Reynolds said she believed Ms. Rees and Councilman Hines had met and Manager Reynolds had given the incorrect information about the pickle ball. Manager Reynolds said Ms. Madia had coordinated with a resident at Summerhouse to do a trial run. They mocked up the building to see the number of courts that would fit inside and since that was successful the plan is to implement pickle ball at different times in the week.

Manager Reynolds said Ms. Madia works out of the Town Hall, but she is also at the community center when events are taken place. Historically we have found that having someone segregated does not work as well as having them at the Town Hall with everyone else under one roof.

#### **Workshop to review and discuss the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Manager Reynolds said our current population is 4,420 residents and we are currently at thirty-five cents, which is the same as Swansboro. The other municipalities are at a higher rate. Our local garbage and recycling rates are the same as Richlands and the other local municipalities are higher than we are.

Manager Reynolds said fifty percent of our revenue comes from property taxes which includes the current and prior years. The next largest is our sales and use tax which is the local option sales and use tax. The is around \$115,000.00 per year. DMV and Building and Zoning, and the smallest which includes utility franchise tax, cable franchise and ABC revenue.

Manager Reynolds said you have expense by department. Our streets, because of re-directing those funds as requested in our last workshop, shows that twenty-two percent of the expense is in our streets. The second largest is the Police Department, administrative and then the other departments.

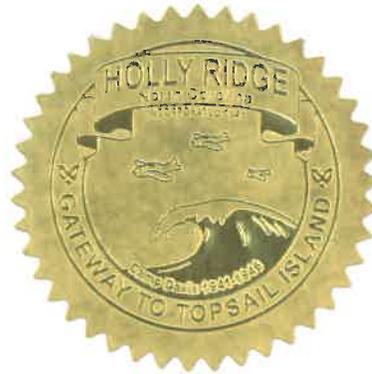
#### **Persons Wishing to Address the Council**

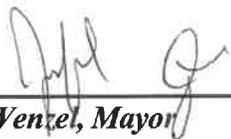
#### **Call for a Public Hearing to receive Comments on Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

Adjournment

A motion was made by *Councilman Hines* and seconded by *Councilman Sholar* to adjourn at 2:28 p.m. *All Agreed.*

*Attest:*



  
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*Jeff Wentzel, Mayor*

  
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*Tracy Martin, Deputy Clerk*

*These minutes were recorded and prepared by Deputy Town Clerk, Tracy Martin.*