



# *The Village of Biscayne Park*

Village Log Cabin  
640 NE 114th Street, Biscayne Park, FL 33161

## MINUTES

**Jonathan Groth**  
*Mayor*

*Commission*

**Veronica Amsler**  
**Art Gonzalez**  
**Ryan Huntington**  
**Dan Samaria**

**Albert Childress**  
*Village Manager*

**Brad Weissman**  
*Village Attorney*

**Pamela L Latimore**  
*Village Clerk*

### **FY25-26 FIRST BUDGET HEARING COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

**Village Log Cabin**

**640 NE 114th Street, Biscayne Park, FL 33161**

Mayor Groth called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm.

The following persons were in attendance at the meeting:

Mayor J. Groth  
Vice Mayor D. Samaria  
Commissioner V Amsler  
Commissioner A. Gonzalez  
Commissioner R. Huntington

Mayor Groth opened the meeting for Public Comment.

There were no speakers for Public Comment.

#### 1. Ordinances

Attorney Weissman read the Ordinance into the record.

There was a Motion by Commissioner Huntington to move Ordinance 2025-01 into discussion. The motion carried 5-0

Ordinance 2025-01 Adopting Millage Rate for FY 2025-26 1st Reading  
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE AND LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF 9.3 MILLS FOR EACH \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION UPON REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE VILLAGE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, WHICH IS 9.03% HIGHER THAN THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 8.4009 MILLS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The proposed millage rate of 9.3 mills was presented by the Village Manager, who explained the rationale behind the decision and highlighted the funding of collective bargaining agreements and CIP projects. The Commission approved the first reading of the ordinance adopting the 9.3 mill rate, with a note to confirm the exact percentage due to a discrepancy between the agenda cover sheet and the ordinance.

There was a Motion by Commissioner Amsler to table Ordinance 2025-01, seconded by Vice Mayor Samaria, and move to Ordinance 2025-02 for discussion.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 20252026 FOR THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Groth called for a Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed.

The village manager provided an overview of the budget process, which began in January with the hiring of Dr. Marlowe as a strategic planning consultant. After a two-day strategic planning session in February, department directors compiled their operational and capital needs for the upcoming fiscal year. The proposed budget of \$3.2 million for fiscal year 2025-26 was presented at two workshops in August, addressing departmental needs, increased personnel costs, and investment in village initiatives and capital improvement projects. The village manager requested approval of the first reading of the budget tonight.

The village manager presented a budget summary showing significant savings of \$25,000 in operating costs and a \$400,000 increase in property values. Together, these figures, along with revenue savings, enabled full funding of the proposed capital improvement projects. The budget includes \$577,000 from the 2026 budget for CIP, \$177,000 from unassigned fund balance, and an anticipated \$710,000 contribution to emergency reserves, bringing the total to \$4.3 million. The village's financial health was praised, with Paul Winklejohn noting that the 13% CIP allocation and 70% emergency reserves were in good standing for bond rating purposes.

The commission discussed a pay raise request from the village attorney's firm, with the Village suggesting they should put it out to RFP rather than approve a \$75,000 increase. Commissioners agreed that while they valued the firm's experience, the requested amount was too high, and decided to first negotiate a lower amount, around \$125,000, before considering an RFP. Paul confirmed that even with a raise, the military millage rate would remain at 9.3, and the village had sufficient recurring revenue to absorb the expense.

There was further discussion on the Public Works Budget and Priorities, Park and Recreation Staffing concerns, Road maintenance, and Village CIP Projects.

There was a Motion to reopen Ordinance 2025-01 by Commissioner Huntington and seconded by Vice Mayor Samaria. Motion carried 5-0

Attorney Weissman read the corrected title to Ordinance 2025-01 into the record.

There was a Motion by Commissioner Huntington and Vice Mayor Samaria to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 on First Reading as amended. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Groth - YES  
Vice Mayor Samaria- YES  
Commissioner Amsler- YES  
Commissioner Gonzalez- YES  
Commissioner Huntington -YES

There was a Motion by Commissioner Huntington and seconded by Vice Mayor Samaria to adopt Ordinance 2025-02 on First reading. 5-0

Mayor Groth- YES  
Vice Mayor Samaria-YES  
Commissioner Amsler-YES  
Commissioner Gonzalez-YES  
Commissioner Huntington YES

There being no other Business before the Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Commission approved December 2, 2025



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Pamela L. Latimore, MMC  
Village Clerk