

1. **Request:**

Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE OPERATING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE OF 1.25500 MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH; ESTABLISHING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARINGS TO ADOPT THE FINAL OPERATING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Why the action is necessary:

Pursuant to state law, a Tentative Millage Rate must be adopted by the Town Council and submitted to the County Property Appraiser prior to August 5th. Once the tentative millage rate has been set it cannot be increased, only reduced.

What the action accomplishes:

Sets the Tentative Millage Rate in compliance with state law.

2. **Agenda:**

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

3. **Requirement/Purpose:**

A resolution is required to set the Tentative Millage Rate.

4. **Submitter of Information:**

William McKannay, Town Manager, Susan Roberts, Interim Finance Director

5. **Background:**

A Tentative Millage Rate must be adopted by the Town Council and submitted to the County Property Appraiser prior to August 5, 2025. Currently, the Town staff are developing the General Fund Operating Budget. The Town has been awarded an \$11,900,000 Bridge Loan to offset shortfalls in ad valorem revenue of which the Town's FY2026 preliminary budget includes \$2,447,757. To become more sustainable in the future, staff recommends considering an increase in the millage rate. Once the tentative millage rate has been set it cannot be increased, only reduced.

The first budget hearings will be scheduled for September 11, 2025 at 5:01 pm, and the second budget hearing will be held on September 24, 2025 at 5:01 pm.

Attachments:

1. NS 25-210, Tentative Operating Millage Rate FY2026

Financial Impact:

With the preliminary budget numbers, we are using \$2,447,757 from the Town's bridge loan to cover operating expenditures due to loss in ad valorem revenue since hurricane ian. A millage increase of 1.255 will provide \$1,191,486.

6. **Alternative Action**

Propose alternative millage rates.

7. **Management Recommendations:**

Staff recommends Town Council consider setting the Tentative Millage Rate at 1.255 per \$1,000 of property value, which will provide more sustainable ad valorem revenues and lessen the usage of the Town's bridge loan.

8. **Recommended Approval:**

Kassandra Penner, Budget Manager
Susan Roberts, Interim Finance Director
nancy stuparich, Town Attorney
Amy Baker, Town Clerk
William McKannay, Town Manager

Created/Initiated - 7/21/2025
Approved - 7/21/2025
Approved - 7/22/2025
Approved - 7/22/2025
Final Approval - 7/25/2025

RESOLUTION NUMBER 25-210

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE OPERATING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE OF 1.255 MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH; ESTABLISHING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE FOR HEARINGS TO ADOPT THE FINAL OPERATING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes provide that municipalities shall have the governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services, and exercise any power for municipal purposes, except when expressly prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, Article X of the Town Charter of the Town of Fort Myers Beach empowers the Town to adopt, amend, or repeal such ordinances and resolutions as may be required for the proper governing of the Town; and

WHEREAS, Section 200.065, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the method for determining and levying an ad valorem millage rate and adopting a budget for all taxing authorities in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fort Myers Beach, by and through its Town Council, hereby determines it is in the best interest of the Town and orderly governmental process to hold public hearings as required by Section 200.065, *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents and visitors of Fort Myers Beach that the Town Council set the tentative operating millage rate as set forth herein and take the other actions set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Lee County, Florida has been preliminary certified by the Lee County Property Appraiser to the Town of Fort Myers Beach estimated as \$4,609,770,610.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference and adopted as the legislative and administrative findings of the Town Council.

Section 2. The tentative ad valorem operating millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 is hereby adopted at 1.255 mills, which equals \$125.5 per \$100,000 dollars of property value.

Section 3. Public meetings and hearings will be held in compliance with Florida Property Tax Truth In Millage (TRIM) Process at the Town Council Chambers located at 2731 Oak Street, Fort Myers Beach, FL, to consider and adopt the final millage rate and to consider and adopt the Town budget for Fiscal Year 2026 as set forth in Section 200.0654, et seq., *Florida Statutes*. The first hearing will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:01 pm, and the second hearing will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2025 at 5:01 pm.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Town Council upon a motion by _____ and seconded by _____, and upon being put to a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

Dan Allers, Mayor	_____
Jim Atterholt, Vice Mayor	_____
Scott Safford, Council Member	_____
Karen Woodson, Council Member	_____
John King, Council Member	_____

ADOPTED this 4th day of August 2025 by the Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

Dan Allers, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amy Baker, Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH ONLY:**

Vose Law Firm, LLP, Town Attorney

This Resolution was filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on this ____ day of August 2025.