



Fred Spencer Deno IV
Mayor

Gabriel Fernandez
President

Council Members
Jorge Arce
Debra Conover
Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez
Michael Tur

Budget Workshop Meeting
Minutes
September 8, 2026
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Council President Gabriel Fernandez called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Invocation

Council Member Taylor-Martinez led the Invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Taylor-Martinez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call

Mayor Fred Spencer Deno, IV, Council President Gabriel Fernandez, Council Member Jorge Arce, Council Member Conover, Council Member Elizabeth Taylor-Martinez, Council Member Tur were in attendance.

5. Meeting Notices

- Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the Village Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
- Pursuant to the provisions of the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this proceeding is asked to advise the Village at least 2 days before the proceeding by contacting the Village Clerk's office at **305-871-6104**

6. Citizens Comments

7. "Overview of the 2026/2027 Budget Worksheets"

Mayor Deno and Council Members thoroughly reviewed the budget's main goals and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

- The Mayor proposed a millage rate of 5.1000 Mills, which is 2.02% higher than the Roll-Back Rate of 4.9988 Mills, to balance the General Fund.
- A 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was proposed for employees; no adjustments are scheduled for board members at this time. Future decisions will depend on the November budget outlook and hotel revenue.
- The Mayor informed that Attorney Cuadra requested to be added to the village health insurance plan in lieu of a salary increase.
- Council Member Fernandez expressed concerns about Loxia's expenses and requested a meeting with Loxia and to explore other alternative quotes for cost reduction.
- Council Member Conover and Council Member Martinez raised concerns about a potential Data Center in VG.
- Council Member Fernandez inquired about the timeline for purchasing the senior van.

Once the budget goals and priorities are finalized, they will be incorporated into the budget document. This document outlines how funds will be allocated across various departments and programs, serving as a financial roadmap for the upcoming fiscal year.

8. Good & Welfare

9. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 P.M. was made by Council Member Martinez and was seconded by Council Conover. The motion passed 5-0.