



**Town of Surfside  
Special Town Commission Meeting  
MINUTES  
May 14, 2020  
7 p.m.**

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Surfside, FL 33154

**1. Opening**

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**B. Roll Call of Members**

Town Clerk McCreedy called the roll with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Charles Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer and Commissioner Charles Kesl.

Also present were Town Manager Guillermo Olmedillo and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

**2. Discussion Items**

**A. Proposed Charter Amendment - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and read his statement into the record.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented that many people talking tonight stated that she would like for everyone to be very upfront with their comments and be an honest dialogue.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the Town Charter and how it empowers the rights of the residents in approving the zoning code and restoring the integrity of the zoning code.

Vice Mayor Paul read her statement into the record.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that under the prior Commission there was much misinformation out there and the health, safety and welfare of the community is what is most important.

Town Attorney Arango clarified for the record that item 2G should read ordinances adopted from 2008 to the present.

The following individuals from the public spoke on the item:

Ellen Abramson spoke regarding the undergrounding of powerlines

Jeff Rose spoke regarding the old code and current code and its impacts

Matthew Barnes spoke as a representative of the Marriott Hotel and their primary concern is to protect their investment and the changes to the zoning code.

George Kousoulas spoke regarding improving the zoning code. He also spoke regarding understanding the chronology of the changes to the code.

Lindsay Lecour spoke regarding her chairing the Planning and Zoning Board for the past 9 years and is perplexed with the current code and shared some of her comments on the history of the zoning code.

Anthony Blane spoke regarding the Marriott and how it occurred and single-family homes.

Sharone Hackmon spoke regarding this item and having to stop the renovations of his house due to not having a Planning and Zoning Board meeting and the current code and its setbacks.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by speaker George Kousoulas on the history of the code and gave speaker George Kousoulas an additional three minutes.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked speaker Lindsay Lecour why building lengths were left out and the meeting that the Town raised that issue and feels that was a terrible oversight. She asked how no one from Planning and Zoning caught that oversight.

Speaker Lindsay Lecour stated she could not answer that because she does not know the chronology of the changes to the code. She stated that was one of the first things Commissioner Karukin brought up. She stated that they did vote to limit certain lengths.

Commissioner Kesl commented on zoning changes going to referendum and this is an exploratory journey.

Mayor Burkett closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mayor Burkett stated that Planning and Zoning Attorney Edward Martos would be available to answer any questions.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on the Marriott and when it was addressed.

Mayor Burkett commented on a conversation he had with the Town Planner and the zoning code and provisions made.

Commissioner Salzhauer believes that they need to address the issue that no one is a zoning expert and they need experts to guide us through this process and believes the Town needs its own in-house Town Planner.

Commissioner Velasquez agrees with Commissioner Salzhauer and believes they need to trust the individuals they have working for the Town.

Commissioner Kesl commented on changes that are beneficial to development projects and building lengths that are in the best interest of the community.

Mayor Burkett stated that as elected officials they have to make the ultimate decision and possibly bring in an outside consultant to assist. He stated that there were great lengths taken to make these changes to the zoning code. He commented on the zoning code and its history.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the previous impacts flooding is having in the Town.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on her notes from item 2b from agenda on the April 14, 2020 meeting and retaining the character of the neighborhood and the building and prioritize what is the most important issues they would like to address.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Vice Mayor Paul.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the first step is dismissing CGA and bringing in their own Town Planner.

Mayor Burkett addressed Commissioner Salzhauer's comments on bringing in a Town Planner.

Vice Mayor Paul suggested when looking for a Town Planner to also consider an individual or a firm that can perform those duties.

Town Attorney Arango stated that planning services can be asked for an inhouse position and also as outside services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to have Town Manager Olmedillo go out and look for an inhouse Town Planner and for that individual be an expert in small town development and historic preservation and have beach experience as well as possibly looking for a firm and have a job description sent out. Motion seconded Commissioner Kesl. All voted in favor.

The following individuals spoke on the topic:

Jeff Rose spoke regarding the Commission wait for the new Town Planner before they vote on anything.

George Kouslouas spoke on the single-family residence.

Commissioner Salzhauer spoke regarding the future land use and addressing that issue.

Commissioner Kesl commented on the item and would like to see a broader interpretation on intensity in the charter.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she agrees with Commissioner Kesl and believes that the language needs to be specific and have a better interpretation of the code.

Vice Mayor Paul asked when the next comprehensive plan will be done and when will the changes to the comprehensive plan be done and provided.

Town Manager Olmedillo stated that the Commission can amend the comprehensive plan as many times as they would like.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on loopholes in the current code and those loopholes need to be closed.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Commissioner Salzhauer.

James Hickey, CGA Town Planner, addressed the comments made by the Town Commission.

Town Manager Olmedillo requested the Town Commission to submit to the Town Attorney what areas they would like to be fixed and he will place it into a form that will assist the Commission.

Further discussion took place among the Town Commission on the loopholes in the current zoning code and variances that have taken place and buildings that are built should have their own parking.

Mayor Burkett spoke regarding the Pension Meeting that will be held tomorrow and is uncomfortable with this meeting.

Town Attorney Arango stated that because it is a special meeting that is noticed for requirements under law, they cannot discuss the item of the pension board.

Commissioner Velasquez commented on the pension board meeting and it should be addressed and voted by and placed on the ballot and have residents approve or disapprove.

Further discussion took place regarding the pension board members.

Commissioner Salzhauer inquired what the next step will be regarding the Zoning Code.

Mayor Burkett stated that once the Town has a Planner in place, a workshop will be schedule to discuss the Zoning Code.

- B. Comparison of Code 2006 to 2020 – Guillermo Olmedillo, Town Manager**
- C. Ordinance No. 08-1491 (May 13, 2008) Adopting New Chapter 90 Zoning Code and Adopting Official Town Zoning Map for all Districts, with adopted replacement of Ch. 90 attached as Exhibit “A” and Zoning Map.**
- D. Ordinance No. 10-1558 (August 10, 2010) Adopting New Chapter 90 Zoning Code and Adopting Official Town Zoning Map for all Districts (Re-adoption of 2008 Ordinance).**
- E. Comparative Table of Zoning Ordinances Adopted after 5/13/2008 to the present.**
- F. Zoning Map from 2006 and Future Land Use Map 1996.**

**3. Public Comments**

**4. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 8:37 p.m. The motion received a second from Commissioner Kesl. All voted in favor.

Accepted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

Attest:

  
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Sandra N. McCready, MMC  
Town Clerk

  
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Charles W. Burkett, Mayor