



**Town of Surfside
Visioning Budget Workshop
MINUTES
March 23, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer

Also present were Town Manager Andrew Hyatt, Town Attorney Lillian Arango, and Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene.

2. Commission Direction Budget Workshop, Discussion and Direction for the FY 2022 Budget– Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager Greene gave an introduction and PowerPoint presentation along with the program modifications. He provided the upcoming workshop dates and the timeline for setting the millage rate.

Assistant Town Manager Greene advised the Town Commission of the motion that was made by the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee as it relates to walkability and widening the sidewalks as a recommendation to the Town Commission.

Commissioner Kesl spoke regarding the recommendation that was made by the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Velasquez stated the importance of having proper staffing to assist the Commissioners. She spoke regarding the sidewalks and believes that they need wider sidewalks and would support that idea.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding assistance for the Commission. She requested more information regarding which consultants the committee wants to eliminate. She agrees with the DVAC recommendation on widening the sidewalks and it is something that has to be done with FDOT. She suggested contacting FDOT to see how we can assist with that project. She stated that there are other ideas on how to make the alleys better and more walkable sidewalks. She stated that she would like to keep the level of service they have and to see what is needed for each department to keep the same level of service.

Mayor Burkett thanked the Budget Advisory Committee for all their hard work and agrees that the level of service needs to be better as well as doing something with the limited parking on Harding Avenue. He agrees with the widening of the sidewalks and some of the businesses can use more parking to offer sidewalk dining. He also spoke regarding slowing down the traffic on Collins Avenue.

Assistant Town Manager Greene answered Vice Mayor Paul's question regarding the consultant (Jacober), which was eliminated. He mentioned Mediatech that handles the Gazette production and the photography and Jacober and Pinzur and that they eliminated \$180,000 a year from that line item.

The following individuals from the public spoke:
Jeff Rose spoke regarding the parking on Harding Avenue.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that they will have funds the Town will be receiving and he provided some of the details. He also advised them that they will be receiving a summary.

Commissioner Kesl responded to Jeff Rose's question as to the point of expanded sidewalks and he likes that idea but it needs to be fully vetted.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the consultants that were already eliminated. She mentioned that now there is an internal public relations officer. She stated that she thinks the Gazette is a good deal and bringing it inhouse may not save that much money. She stated the Commission corner of two (2) pages could be eliminated from the Gazette to save money and to keep the essential information residents need.

Commissioner Velasquez asked Assistant Town Manager Greene if Pinzur will be staying on for the Tourist Board and now that we have a Communication Director shouldn't those responsibilities be transferred over to that individual.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that they eliminated the marketing contract with Jacober which was \$180,000 and they do have a Communication Director and Tourism Manager and they will be looking at reducing or eliminating Pinzur.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the parking on Harding Avenue and if there could be a study done to remove a lane and expand the sidewalk.

Mayor Burkett stated that Vice Mayor Paul does not want the Commissioners to communicate with the residents which would happen if they eliminate the Commission Corner from the Gazette.

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding removing the Commission Corner on the Gazette and the reduction of the Budget.

Mayor Burkett addressed Commissioner Kesl's comments on the sidewalks and those flashing sidewalk crossings. He stated that the flashing sidewalk crossings would be a good idea and possibly work with some of the property owners and make a walking promenade.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding parking for deliveries and that is something that should be looked into.

Town Manager Hyatt stated that they are looking at expanding the drop off area.

Commissioner Kesl commented on maximizing for commuting and the issues with parking downtown.

3. Adjournment

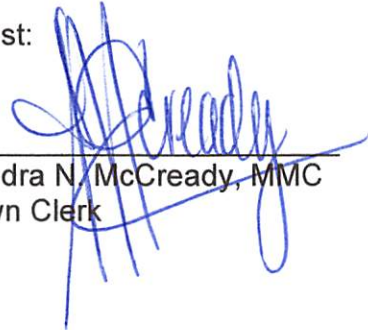
A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 6:40 p.m., seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Salzhauer absent.

Accepted this 13th day of April, 2021.



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk