



Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
MINUTES
May 4, 2021
6 p.m.

1. Opening
A. Call to Order

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

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

Present: Mayor Charles W. Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Charles Kesl and Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer (arrived at 6:06 p.m.).

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

2. Appointment of Miami-Dade County League of Cities Delegate and Alternate Delegate - Mayor Charles W. Burkett

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and stated that the Town has always had a representative. He stated that Vice Mayor Paul has been the representative and it is a Commission appointment.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she is interested in the position.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke on the position and stated that she held it for two years. She stated that the most important thing is to show up to the meetings, about working with other municipalities, and due to COVID she attended over 50 meetings in the past year. She spoke regarding the meetings she attended as a representative and about the information she brought back to the commission. She is interested in continuing serving but will pass it on to someone else, stating it is important for whoever serves that they attend the meetings.

Mayor Burkett asked if there was anyone else in support of Commissioner Velasquez being the representative. Commissioner Kesl stated he was interested in the alternate position and then suggested Vice Mayor Paul as the alternate.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that Vice Mayor Paul has been doing a great job and should continue to serve.

Vice Mayor Paul explained her service time and what the position entails. Discussion took place among the Commission regarding what an alternate's duties entails.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to appoint herself as the delegate, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Salzhauer voting in opposition.

Commissioner Salzhauer spoke regarding Vice Mayor Paul keeping her role as the delegate and Commissioner Velasquez being the alternate.

Commissioner Kesl stated that he will work hard as an alternate and possibly the Town Clerk and Town Attorney could guide them.

Mayor Burkett stated that it is not an issue of experience but more of dedication and believes that Commissioner Velasquez would be good for the position.

The following individuals spoke on the item:
Joshua Epstein supports Vice Mayor Paul continuing.
Horace Henderson supports Commissioner Velasquez.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to appoint Commissioner Kesl as the alternate, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

3. Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation Approval and Presentation – Mayor Charles W. Burkett

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and read the history of the position of Town Clerk.

All commissioners thanked the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

Town Attorney spoke in support of the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk.

The following individuals spoke in support of the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk:
Eli Tourgeman
Joshua Epstein
Debbie Cimadevilla

4. Authorization to Expend Undergrounding Coordinating Design Engineering Services - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, APPROVING A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH KCI TECHNOLOGIES, INC. FOR UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING SERVICES FOR PHASE I PREPARATION OF UTILITY COORDINATION PLANS PURSUANT TO THE CONTINUING SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL

ENGINEERING SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Kesl thanked the Town Manager for listening to the Commission requests and remarks.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the research she has done in the past and would like to approve the Resolution with conditions and would be comfortable with a stop gap limitation at \$50,000 subject to an order of magnitude.

Paul Abbott, Town Consultant, does not understand the question regarding the stop gap which is only authorizing \$50,000 of work and then check their work.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that the idea is to have an order of magnitude limitation at \$50,000 with KCI and would like to proceed with the full amount but to check and make sure it is estimated correctly.

Mayor Burkett asked Vice Mayor Paul to clarify what she means when she states order of magnitude.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that it is the magnitude of the project and Mr. Abbott and KCI based, on their experience and the information they have collected, to know if they are in line with the \$18 million ballpark that has been presented.

Mayor Burkett stated that she is asking Mr. Abbott to put a cost estimate based on his experience to see how it lines up with the information that was provided to the residents.

Commissioner Salzhauer stated that she feels that this is a bait and switch on the residents based on the flyers that were provided to the residents.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the expense of the undergrounding and the need to spend the \$16 million dollars. She stated that Mr. Abbott needs to give a more accurate cost amount.

Mayor Burkett stated that Commissioner Salzhauer never wanted this project and she will do anything in her power to stop this project. He spoke regarding Vice Mayor Paul's comments on the cost and he stated that this is not a cost estimated expedition, it is doing the plans of doing the project. He spoke regarding the delay of the project.

The following individual spoke on the item:

Joshua Epstein

Horace Henderson

Jeff Rose

Jeffrey Platt

Debbie Cimadevilla

George Kousoulas
Alicia Boymelgreen

Mayor Burkett read the ballot question into the record for clarification.

Commissioner Velasquez asked for the ballot question to be placed on the screen.

Vice Mayor Paul addressed comments made by the speakers, the ballot questions and the conditions put in place.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the proposal on the undergrounding and Abbott Avenue drainage.

Further discussion took place regarding the cost of the project and how FPL, and Atlantic Broadband would be connecting.

Commissioner Kesl asked Mr. Abbott what caused him to quit and come back.

Mr. Abbott felt that the Commission did not act professionally and that the Commission were not in agreement to do this project.

Commissioner Kesl stated that there were areas that were missing. He stated that he spoke with the Town Manager and they are in sync. He stated that it is a very continuous process and they crafted a legitimate ballot question. He stated that the expenditure of this project has his support.

Assistant Town Manager Greene spoke regarding the cost of FPL.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding what information is needed for the project.

Mr. Abbott spoke regarding a cost estimate for FPL and Atlantic Broadband as well as Hotwire.

Commissioner Salzhauer disconnected from the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Abbott responded to Vice Mayor Paul questions regarding the utility companies.

Assistant Town Manager Greene spoke regarding the capital projects update on the Town Manager's report and that will be reported every single month.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by Vice Mayor Paul.

Vice Mayor Paul said that she is authorizing the expense and is requesting a progress report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kesl to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Salzhauer absent.

Vice Mayor Paul left the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

5. FY 2021 Budget Amendment Resolution No. 8 - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, APPROVING BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 8 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Horace Henderson
Fernanda Siquiera
Joshua Epstein
Jeff Rose
Debbie Cimadevilla
Jordan Walkalchtel
George Kousoulas

Town Attorney Arango advised the Commission of the Governor's Order and they will be resuming effective May 11, 2021 in person Commission Meeting. She stated that they are evaluating the order as it pertains to face masks and social distancing. She stated that the County has a meeting tomorrow and they will be evaluating the impact of the Governors order tomorrow.

Commissioner Kesl stated that he does not think that Vice Mayor Paul or Commissioner Salzhauer are against undergrounding and understands their contention and questions on undergrounding. He stated that he will continue due diligence on the project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Vice Mayor Paul and Commissioner Salzhauer absent.

6. Adjournment

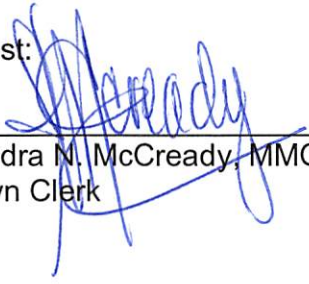
A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. without objection, seconded by Commissioner Kesl. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Vice Mayor Paul and Commissioner Salzhauer absent.

Accepted this 8th day of June, 2021.



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk