



**Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
MINUTES
August 9, 2022
5:30 PM
Commission Chambers**

1. Opening

1.A Call to Order

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1.B Roll Call of Members

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

Present: Mayor Shlomo Danzinger, Vice Mayor Jeff Rose, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Marianne Meisheid and Commissioner Fred Landsman.

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

1.C Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Torres provided the pledge of allegiance.

2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication

Mayor Danzinger advised the public that they will have public comment at the beginning for all items.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Gerardo Vildostegui spoke regarding the first meeting in April with proposals for the corner of 94th Street and possible design flaws where Publix supermarket is located. He spoke regarding a road diet for space on Bay Drive and traffic calming device suggestions.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Rose to provide Mr. Vildostegui an additional 3 minutes to speak, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Vildostegui spoke regarding the pride flag and why it has to fly on a flag pole and the Town has to do it as government speech. He provided a history of LGBTQ. He stated that

the proposal is incorrect the way it is being presented.

Bryan Bay spoke regarding the pride flag and that Eliana Salzhauer was voted by the Miami New Times as activist of the year. He spoke regarding being a bad idea for the PR firm.

Joel Timmey spoke regarding the pride flag and he stated he did not feel welcomed. He stated that he would be in favor of flying the Israeli Rescue Team flag and they should be celebrated.

Jeffrey Platt stated that he is against the 5:30 p.m. meetings. He suggested to paint one of the turtles in the pride colors and it could possibly make everyone happy. He spoke regarding the seaweed on the beach. He spoke regarding the PR firm and is against the idea. He spoke regarding the Gazette format, and not knowing what the public forum is about.

Eliana Salzhauer stated that she objects to the 5:30 p.m. meetings and it does not allow the public to come and speak. She stated that she does not agree with the flag proposal that is being presented.

Julio Raumbaurt spoke regarding flying the Pride flag and is not in support of the PR firm proposal.

Ben Jacobson spoke regarding path lights on the beach. He spoke regarding the flag policy and is in favor of the PR firm item.

George Kousoulas spoke regarding the traffic study and the condominium and HOA item.

Mayor Danzinger closed public comments.

2.A Update on Improving Walkability and Pedestrian Safety within Residential Area - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

Town Manager Hyatt introduced the item and recapped what was discussed at the last meeting.

Public Works Director Gomez provided an overview and update of the item. He went over some of the items they are working on and will continue providing an update on a monthly basis. He spoke regarding the Corradino Traffic Study that was approved at the last meeting and they have a meeting with them on August 26, 2022. At this meeting they will develop a schedule. He also spoke regarding the possibility of using a shared lane in the residential areas.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding updated A frame signs that were placed on the road and when they will receive them.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by the Mayor and he suggested obtaining some that are more durable and they can work on that.

Mayor Danzinger asked regarding the traffic mitigation.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by the Mayor and the idea is replacing the asphalt with some green space.

Mayor Danzinger asked what is the hold up on the walkability study and the possibility of a bike lane.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by the Mayor and stated that they would like to know, through the traffic study, how it will affect the pedestrian traffic.

Mayor Danzinger thanked his department for addressing the other issues.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by the Mayor and spoke regarding the round about on 95th and Abbott.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the walkability and wouldn't they have to do the undergrounding first in order not to harm the sidewalk.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by Commissioner Velasquez and stated that if you do something immediately you create the pattern of pedestrian safety and it would be restored at its initial condition. He recommended doing some things now.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the stop signs on 88th Street that the County does not want to keep there and the smaller round about. She spoke regarding creating more green space and can it be done now or do they have to wait until the traffic study is done.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by Commissioner Velasquez and stated that the end game is that the stop signs will be replaced with something else. He stated that he suggested waiting on the infrastructure until the traffic study is completed.

Commissioner Velasquez asked how long the traffic study would take before coming back to the Commission.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by Commissioner Velasquez and stated it would take about 10 months and by October or November of 2023 they will have a study to look at.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they have to wait for the entire study to be completed before they can take action.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that he would wait until they have something more concrete to follow.

Vice Mayor Rose thanked Public Works and spoke about implementing some of the ideas. He asked if the study would create some dead end streets or creating gates along the Town.

Public Works Director Gomez will not recommend gates. It will look at all the entries to the neighborhoods and advise which are the hot spots and how to address them.

Commissioner Landsman asked if any owner's property will be taken from them.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that they will not be taking property but there are areas that are the right of way that the Town will use.

Commissioner Landsman asked regarding the time frame. He stated that undergrounding will not take place for a couple of years and suggested getting things done now and not worry about tomorrow.

Commissioner Meischeid thanked Public Works Director Gomez for the work done.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding this being something that the residents need and asked what is holding them up.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that they will have to sacrifice parallel parking and possibly a one way study and making a decision as to what they want to sacrifice.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that they do need County approval once they do the one way study and to do it as a pilot program and he will gather how much this will cost and bring it back to the Commission for their approval.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to paint the streets white and making the one way streets throughout the residential neighborhoods as a pilot program and based on County approval, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they will reach out to the residents to see what they want and do some form of survey. She stated that most homes have 2 or 3 cars and do not have anywhere to park their vehicles. She stated that then they will take parking for the walkability. She suggested doing the study first before taking away the parking spots. She stated that they need to listen to the residents.

Mayor Danzinger stated that the residents did speak on this item.

Commissioner Landsman asked for clarification of the motion and asked for it to come back next month with recommendations.

Town Clerk McCready read the motion into the record.

The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Velasquez in opposition.

2.B Turtle Friendly Lighting on the Beach Walking Path within Dune Limits and Reviewed Options for Implementation - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager

Town administration is seeking Town commission discussion regarding the current pilot program implementation and for Town commission to provide recommendation on how to proceed.

Town Manager Hyatt introduced the item and stated they are seeking guidance with

turtle lighting and they have a pilot section that is helping a bit but for it to be permanent will take conduits and other challenges.

Public Works Director Gomez presented the item and spoke regarding the possible challenges. He reiterated that the walking path does not belong to the Town and anything that will be installed that will be permanent would require State approval.

Mayor Danzinger gave an explanation of the item and stated that it does not light up the beach path and the issue is to do something more permanent is a project that the Town will be renourishing the entire area. He stated to put all the money in would be a waste since it will have to be taken out. He suggested to use the funding in placing lighting on the hardpack and there is precedence in using the property and using more extravagant lights similar to the sample downstairs. He suggested having the Public Works Director come back with some pricing on putting the lights on the hardpack.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to direct the Town Manager to have the Public Works Director come back with prices and options of lighting on the hardpack, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that these lights are great and it is a great idea and asked if they are solar. She asked if these same lights will work on the hardpack.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that he will look at options that other municipalities have used and what type of permitting will be needed. He stated that they will be doing an engineering study as well. He stated that the ones on the hardpack will need to be bigger and it will be similar to the sample that is in the lobby.

Commissioner Velasquez asked that the numbers shown is for the walking path. She asked what is being asked of him with this motion.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that the numbers are what is out there but what is being requested is in a bigger scale. He stated that it is coming back with the pricing.

Commissioner Landsman asked if that is budgeted.

Assistant Town Manager Greene stated that this was one of the items that was discussed in April but did not make it but there is a larger project that is improvements of the dunes and the hard pack is a separate cost and could be done through a budget amendment.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they voted on this in the budget workshop to put the lights on that portion but what is on there now is not doing what is needed. He stated that they would like to improve safety on the hard pack.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Turtle Friendly Lighting on Walking Path Pictures](#)

2.C Upgrade to Surfside Street Signs - Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

To direct the town manager to report back at the August meeting with options and costs for upgrading the street signs throughout Surfside.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and the idea was to put money to beautify the Town which will help with the visibility of the Town and have the Public Works Director come with a cost estimate for the signs.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose directing the Town Manager to have the Public Works Director come back with some pricing and options, seconded by Commissioner Meisheid.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comment made by the Mayor and asked if they are looking at stop signs and street name signs only in the residential area.

Mayor Danzinger stated yes. He stated that the pictures are only examples not actual signs.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if these signs will be able to be seen at night time and will they be reflective.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that they will be visible at night and they have to abide by required standards. He also stated that he could bring back some rendering as well.

Commissioner Landsman thanked him for all he does.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that it is a team effort.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Surfside Street Sign Upgrade.pdf](#)

2.D Discussion to Hold a Public Forum Regarding the New Laws Affecting Condominiums and HOA's. - Commissioner Marianne Meisheid

Direct Town Administration to coordinate and host a Town Hall discussion forum to educate and discuss the new laws pertaining to Condominium and HOA's.

This forum will be for the members of the community, elected officials, and legislators.

Commissioner Meisheid introduced the item and stated that as of July 1st they have new condominium laws and it is important to have a public forum to educate the condominium owners and HOA board. She asked to have a forum and have Senator Pizzo at the forum to educate everyone. She would like to direct the Town administration to hold a forum to address this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meisheid to move forward with scheduling a

public forum, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez.

Town Manager Hyatt stated that they have spoken with Senator Pizzo and he will be available.

Commissioner Velasquez thanked Commissioner Meisheid for bringing this and it is very much needed. She stated that the condominiums need to take seriously what happened at the Champlain Towers and that cannot happen again.

Vice Mayor Rose thanked Commissioner Meisheid.

Mayor Danzinger thanked Commissioner Meisheid.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[City of Aventura.PNG](#)

2.E Creating a Limited Public Forum for Flag/banner Display on Town Property. -
Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

1. For the Commission to create a policy, with specific procedures and parameters, in which residents can request the Town to temporarily display flags/banners on the turtle walk poles or elsewhere on Town property in support of an organization or message.
2. For the Town to establish a scope or criteria for the messages expressed in the limited public forum.
3. For all residents to have the same opportunity to have their messages displayed on flags/banners in a limited public forum, providing they follow the procedures and meet the requirements and criteria.
4. If the Commission reaches a consensus on this proposal, to direct the Town Administration and Attorney to bring back a resolution to implement this program.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and stated that this item has nothing to do with the pride flag but creating a policy and making sure they are not putting anything up that will be offensive. He stated that this Town had a gay vice mayor and mayor and he is bringing this up because when this Commission had gay members this was never brought up as a priority. He stated that this is a controversial item and he is fine with displaying certain messages but it is important to take everyone's opinion and feelings at once. He stated that they are trying to come up with a solution by creating a process which will not allow hateful groups to force the Town to fly an offensive flag.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to recognize the gay pride event for June of next year and fly the flag next year, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez.

Mayor Danzinger stated that the item is to create a policy.

Town Attorney Arango stated that Commissioner Landsman can make that motion.

Vice Mayor Rose asked Town Attorney Arango if they should have a policy in place before or will they be opening themselves up.

Town Attorney Arango stated that they laid out the option last month and explained the options that was mentioned last month. She stated that her recommendation is to make a conscious decision to have a policy and they can decide whichever flag they decide to fly.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if any policy would work here.

Commissioner Landsman stated that his motion specifically addresses next June for flying the pride flag and then the next motion could be for a policy.

The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Meischeid and Mayor Danzinger voting in opposition.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to move the remaining discussion items to the next meeting. The motion died for lack of second.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to move the remaining items to the end of the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Velasquez in opposition.

2.F Obtaining a Public Relations Firm for Surfside to Combat Negative Media. - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

For the Town Manager to present options to the Mayor for approval for the engagement or retention of a public relations firm to help the town navigate and alleviate negative public relations through strategy and drafting of meaningful responses.

The item was moved to the end of the regular August 9, 2022 Commission meeting under discussion items.

2.G Future Format of Town Gazette. - Town Manager Andrew Hyatt

The Town Administration seeks direction from the Town Commission on whether to move forward or keep exploring this more timely, environmentally-friendly and cost effective way of delivering the Town Gazette.

The item was moved to the end of the regular August 9, 2022 Commission meeting under discussion items.

2.H Seaweed Cleanup on the Beach - Vice-Mayor Jeff Rose

Clean up the seaweed on the beach.

The item was moved to the end of the regular August 9, 2022 Commission meeting under discussion items.

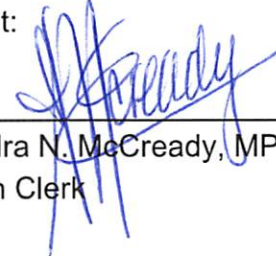
3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this 13th day of September, 2022.



Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest: 

Sandra N. McCready, MPA, MMC
Town Clerk