



**Town of Surfside**  
**Special Town Commission Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 28, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**  
Commission Chambers

**1. Opening**

**1.A Call to Order**

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 6:05 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: Town Manager Andrew Hyatt, Town Attorney Lillian Arango, and Assistant Town Manager Jason Greene.

**1.C Pledge of Allegiance**

Senator Jason Pizzo provided the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication**

Mayor Danzinger recognized Senator Jason Pizzo, Israeli Consultant Maor Elbaz-Sharinsky and Bal Harbor Mayor Gabriel Groisman.

Mayor Danzinger passed the gavel.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to move item 2.I (Town of Surfside Sister city Resolution Approval and Key to the Town Request) up to be heard before item 2.A (Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (ASFCME Florida Council 79)), seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

**2.A Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME Florida Council 79) - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

It is recommended that the Town Commission adopt the Resolution approving the Collective Bargaining Agreement with AFSCME Florida Council 79.

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

Mayor Danzinger stated that he will open up public comment for all the discussion items.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

George Kousoulas spoke regarding sprucing up the street signs and come up with a more comprehensive plan. He spoke regarding the walkability item. He spoke regarding the hedges and what they want the community to look like. He spoke in support of the Pelican Harbor donation.

Eliana Salzhauer stated that it is important that there is no one opinion on the items. She stated that these are issues for years and solutions they tried for years and failed. She spoke regarding flooding being more important than street signs.

Mayor Danzinger closed public comment.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Approving CBA.docx](#)

[AFSCME CBA - Final.docx.pdf](#)

## **2.B Town Manager's Report - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

Town Manager Hyatt provided the Town Manager's Report and provided an overview of the upcoming projects.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they will be doing an outreach to get the residents input.

Town Manager Hyatt stated that they will do an outreach and charettes.

Mayor Danzinger stated that this Commission is looking to see what the residents would like and stated that there are more individuals that are in support than the 20 that show up at the meetings. He spoke regarding the importance of having walkability and have the trail implemented.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that 90th Street was a disaster.

Mayor Danzinger stated that many loved it including himself. He stated that when they did this project it was a relief.

Commissioner Meisheid asked what the plans are for staffing the Building Department and the online application process.

Town Manager Hyatt addressed the comments made by Commissioner Meisheid

and introduced the new Town Planner Judith Frankel.

Commissioner Landsman addressed the comments made and concerns regarding the walkability project. He stated that they have not made any decisions on the one-way and what they requested was ways to improve walkability.

Vice Mayor Rose asked where are they with the beach chairs, tot lot, tennis center, walkability, downtown, and street ends. He stated that these were approved and nothing has been done. He asked if they could have a start date and completion date on these projects and hold someone accountable. He spoke regarding prioritizing and what becomes frustrating is that they want to see shovels in the ground. He gave the example of undergrounding. He suggested having a list of start dates for the projects. He spoke regarding the improvement of walkability in Town and stated that will cut the traffic down.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding pedestrian walkability and they pushed for that in April and they still have not received the information they requested and stated the same thing with other projects. He has not seen anything on the items they voted on.

Commissioner Velasquez agrees.

Mayor Danzinger stated that there is consensus by the Commission to have a project tracking mechanism.

Commissioner Velasquez asked to add the roundabouts and that would help with the walkability and will slow the cars.

Town Manager Hyatt stated that it is his responsibility and he works at the will of the Commission and if they are not satisfied with him they know what to do.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they do one way streets are they going to do the avenues as well because many would like to see Byron closed.

Mayor Danzinger stated that the State and the County will not allow that.

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding the different pending projects.

Mayor Danzinger passed the gavel.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to have staff create a project schedule to track the projects, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[2022-09 September Town Manager's Report.pdf](#)

## **2.C Town Attorney Report** - Lillian Arango, Town Attorney

Town Attorney Arango provided the Town Attorney's Report and listed all the items they worked on. She also spoke regarding the FAA lawsuit.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the noise study that was done and what were the results.

Town Attorney Arango stated that it was not able to be heard under appeal. There was an attempt to have it heard but was not accepted by the court. She summarized the motions pending for review.

Mayor Danzinger asked how much that would cost.

Town Attorney Arango stated it would be about \$10,000 for attorney's fees and \$2,000 in costs and there is less than a 10% of success. She explained the number of judges it would have to go before.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they all understand that you will not beat the federal government and the FAA did do everything the way they were supposed to. He stated he has no desire to continue fighting this.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that if Indian Creek with deep pockets are not fighting it, then we shouldn't.

Commissioner Landsman stated he agrees not to move forward.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to allow the FAA lawsuit to sunset, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Town Attorney Arango stated that there are more litigation cases in the report and if they have any other questions.

Town Attorney Arango stated on the Gallagher case, the court granted the Town's motion requiring the petitioner to file the amended petition and she has until October 3rd.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that they should have heard from her by September 6 and they provided her more time.

Town Attorney Arango addressed the comment made by Commissioner Meischeid.

Town Attorney Arango continued with the summary of her report.

[Town Attorney's Report.DOCX](#)

## **2.D Charter Review Board - Lillian Arango, Town Attorney**

Charter Review Board Summary for September 13, 2022 Regular Commission Meeting

Town Attorney Arango provided an overview of the item and advised the Commission the requirements of the Board. She stated that this needs to be ready by December of this year. She outlined the procedures and timeline and she attached the code section. She stated that the charter requires that every 10 years

there should be a charter review and each Commissioner must appoint 1 member ratified by the entire commission. She suggested having those appointments by December or November. She stated that in January the committee will meet and they would nominate a board chair and vice chair as well as having a sunshine orientation. She went over the timeline.

Mayor Danzinger asked if a member can be appointed that is not a resident.

Town Attorney Arango stated that per the code the appointments must be a resident and a Miami Dade County elector.

Commissioner Landsman stated that they would want residents that live in Surfside on this board. He asked if they would have to do a resolution to have it in October instead of December.

Town Attorney Arango stated that you do not need a resolution now and they could bring their appointments to the October meeting.

Mayor Danzinger asked if they appoint in October can they start prior to December.

Town Attorney Arango stated that the timeline is stated in their charter. She stated that the process needs to start in December of 2022. She stated that there is nothing wrong in making the appointments prior to December.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if this goes before the residents to vote.

Town Attorney Arango stated that the Commission will decide which ones go to the voters.

[Exhibit A.docx](#)

## **2.E Beautification of Residential Area Street Signage - Andrew Hyatt, Town Manager**

Town administration is seeking direction from the Town Commission on how to proceed with the decorative street signs throughout Town. In order to proceed with the decorative signs, the following actions need to occur:

- Obtain product approval from Miami Dade County
- Enter into an interlocal agreement with Miami Dade County
- Procure sign materials and contractor to perform scope of work

Town Manager Hyatt introduced Public Works Director Gomez to provide an summary of the item.

Public Works Director Gomez provided a summary of the item and went over the framework and ideas in order to obtain clear direction on how to move forward.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the options and range.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comments made by Commissioner

Velasquez as to the options and price range. He stated that they would have to go out for bids.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if they put these down and then they do the undergrounding would they have to be removed and reinstalled.

Public Works Director Gomez stated they would have to be removed and reinstalled.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if it is possible that they could cast it with a turtle.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that would be more costly.

Commissioner Landsman asked regarding the time frame.

Public Works Director Gomez spoke regarding the time frame and specifics.

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding the item and different options.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to move forward with the project and bring back more options for the next meeting and have staff negotiate an interlocal agreement with Miami Dade County, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to have a 5 minute break at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Exhibit A - Surfside Street Name Sign Technical Memorandum](#)

[Exhibit B - Decorative Sign Visual Options](#)

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

The meeting resumed at 9:06 p.m.

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

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

Public Works Director Gomez provided an update on the item. He stated that they have a project schedule and data collection schedule.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the one way where Publix supermarket is and she would like it opened up in order to have better traffic flow.

Vice Mayor Rose asked regarding 89th and 90th and could they be shut as dead end streets at Harding.

Public Works Director Gomez addressed the comments made.

Commissioner Velasquez is in agreement.

Commissioner Meischeid commented on the one way on 95th Street and you must allow people to shop and that is her concern.

Commissioner Velasquez suggested leaving the downtown district area a two-way street.

Public Works Director Gomez provided the process of the County review and approval.

After a lengthy discussion among the Commission and Public Works Director Gomez regarding the study and the pilot program the following motion was made.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to include the dead ends and passive gating as part of the solutions to be contemplated by the company as they put together the data, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Exhibit A - "One Way Pilot Technical Memorandum"](#)

[Exhibit B - "Estimate of Probable Cost for One-Way Trial Implementation"](#)

## **2.G Hedges in the Right of Way (H30A/H30B) - Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor**

For the commission to determine if a revision to the town code is required regarding bushes in the right-of-way for the H30A & H30B zones.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and gave a background analysis why the item came about. The idea is to modify the current code but access must be available to the Town with the underground project.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if they do the undergrounding and then rip up some of the hedges would they put it back at the property line the way it was.

Mayor Danzinger stated that it will be put back as it was before.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that landscape is not deemed part of the cost.

Mayor Danzinger stated that he was told it would be put back.

Public Works Director Gomez stated that if they are hedges that were in an illegal area then they will not be put back.

Mayor Danzinger stated that there needs to be more clarity to the residents because that is not what was introduced to them.

Commissioner Landsman stated that was not what was mentioned to the public. He spoke regarding some of the hedges that were allowed to grow to the right of way and now they are suggested to trim them back and they do not want to do that.

Mayor Danzinger stated that there are residents that planted the hedges to the edge of the curb and there needs to be a process for consistency.

Commissioner Meischeid agrees there should be a consistent and coherent policy.

Vice Mayor Rose stated if you put it on the property line you can have it higher in the air and you wouldn't want it too high if they are planting it to the property line.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that most cars have blind side monitoring.

Commissioner Landsman asked if his suggestion is to change the code to allow hedges to be planted up to the right of way.

Mayor Danzinger suggested that being his opinion.

Code Compliance Manager Sanchez-Alborna stated that if they add that provision to the Code it would make it easier for them but they must leave clearance for view from the driveway.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she does not think the height has anything to do with that but the fact that it is being planted to the right of way.

Code Compliance Manager Sanchez-Alborna suggested clearance in the height and safety.

Town Planner Frankel stated that if things stay in the property it is easier then if it is on the right of way it becomes more of a problem for Code Compliance. She stated that it will become a visibility issue. She cautioned them putting anything like this in code because we could be liable for things that could come up.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they are then back to square one.

Town Planner Frankel suggested to advise the homeowners that this is a transitioning period due to the undergrounding and advise them of the code.

Commissioner Landsman stated that these hedges could be trimmed back.

George Kousoulas spoke as a subject matter expert on the item.

After a lengthy discussion among the Commission and staff, the following motion was made.

Mayor Danzinger passed the gavel.

Town Attorney Arango provided what other municipalities do and that would be a suggestion to also do since there will be the undergrounding project coming forward.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to have the Town Attorney to come back with an ordinance amending the existing sections to allow landscape/bushes to be planted in the right of way, town will have access to the property, include the sight



triangle, limit the height and the homeowners sign a hold harmless agreement, seconded Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

## **2.H Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Donation Request - Commissioner Marianne Meischeid**

Continue the Town of Surfside's legacy in donating \$1,000 to their cause of rehabilitating and releasing seabirds, pelican and other wildlife.

Commissioner Meischeid introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meischeid to approve the \$1,000 donation and bring back at the next meeting a resolution ratifying the donation, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Velasquez requested to move the October 12, 2022 meeting to October 18, 2022.

Town Attorney Arango advised Commissioner Velasquez that she cannot discuss the change in meeting dates since this is a special commission meeting and only items on the agenda are allowed to be discussed.

Town Clerk McCready stated that the regularly scheduled meeting is October 11th and that is the actual Jewish holiday and that is why they moved it to October 12th which is not a holiday.

Town Attorney Arango stated they cannot discuss this item at this meeting because this is a special meeting.

[Application for Assistance from the Town of Surfside.pdf](#)

[Request Letter of CB.pdf](#)

[2021 990 Pelican Harbor Seabird Station Inc.pdf](#)

[PHSS Consumers Certificate of Exemption 2022-2027.pdf](#)

[2021 PHSS Audited Financials.pdf](#)

[PHSS - IRS Letter of determination.docx](#)

## **2.I Town of Surfside Sister City Resolution Approval and Key to the Town Request - Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor**

For the commission to approve the resolution of the town of Surfside, Florida, establishing a sister city relationship with the region of Shomron, Israel as a sister city to the Town of Surfside, Florida.

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

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and read an introduction statement into the record.

Senator Jason Pizzo spoke regarding his support for this item and about his recent trip to Israel. He spoke regarding the relief of pain and struggle when they heard that

IDF arrived at the collapse. He also stated that Senator Shevrin Jones just got back from a trip to Israel.

Consult of Israel spoke regarding the item and thanked the Mayor. He pledged his commitment to any decision for the Sister City will not have any affect on the peace agreement. He gave a history of the region of Shomron, Israel. He urges the community to support.

Mayor Gabriel Groisman, Bal Harbor, provided his support on this item and the Sister City is very important.

Mayor Danzinger stated that there were some parents that lost their children at the collapse but they were unable to attend due to the weather. He asked Town Clerk to read the letters in support from U.S. Senator Rick Scott and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio.

Mayor Danzinger opened public comment.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jeffrey Platt stated that he would rather it be a city and not an illegal area of thrown together settlements.

Eliana Salzhauer stated that the letters of support is a political statement. She spoke against the item.

Judy Martinez read a statement from the Jewish Boys for Peace South Florida Chapter in objection to this item.

Jennifer Hill spoke against the item.

Diana Gonzalez spoke against the item and does represent everyone in Town.

Darold Arnold spoke against the item and proposal.

Sharona Whisler, Director of the ZOA spoke in support of the item and stated that those that speak against it do not understand the importance of this item.

Rose Reinfeld spoke against the item.

Andy Baliff stated that in Israel everyone works together and he respects the Commission and spoke in support of the item. He stated that Israel came within 2 days of the collapse and believes it is a wonderful thing to do.

Joshua Epstein spoke against the item.

Sara Jacobs spoke against the item.

Ben Jacobson spoke in support of the item and the shown of support from not only republican but also democrat politicians. He spoke regarding the history of this item and is appalled at the anti-Semitism he is seeing in this Town.

Charlotte Aseitky stated that her husband is Palestinian and stated her children are Muslim. She asked how her Palestinian family and Muslim children be treated in that region. She spoke against the item.

Joseph Alony and founder Strong for Surfside addressed comments made by other public speakers and spoke in support of the item.

Eve Stieglek addressed comments made by a public speaker and this is very important and in support of the item. She suggested having the hotels show some of the wines from the Shomron winery.

Nadav Alkoby spoke in support of the item.

Mayor Danzinger asked the resident that moved to Surfside from the region to come

up and speak.

Shaked Rogo stated he moved to Surfside about a month ago and served with the Israeli military and spoke in support of the item. He thanked the Mayor and the community.

Mayor Danzinger closed public comment.

Mayor Danzinger read a statement into the record regarding the day of the collapse and the Israeli coming to Surfside to help. He stated this region is not controversial nor illegal as stated by some.

Mayor Danzinger passed the gavel.

Vice Mayor Rose took the gavel.

Commissioner Landsman stated he did some research on the region and area and two other Cities in New York that have Sister Cities with this region. He stated that he has had spirited communication with residents and even his family on this item. He stated that he keeps tabs on who supports it and who are against it. He stated that he received 60 in support and 20 against. He stated he recognizes the political aspect and understands some people will not be happy with the decision. He wanted to bring to the attention to the residents that you can have many relationships with different sister cities.

Commissioner Meisheid appreciates everyone's opinions. She has received several emails and several conversations for and against the item. She does believe this sister city community came to our assistance at the time we needed it.

Commissioner Velasquez thanked the Israeli government for their assistance during the collapse. She supports the State of Israel and has no issue with this but just the location which seems to be controversial. She has questions regarding this sister city pact and one is how does this benefit the Town of Surfside and will there be financial obligation to the Town like paying for any of the member of the Commission to Israel paid by our tax payers.

Mayor Danzinger stated that there is no financial obligation.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if there is any financial obligation in the future would it have to come before the Commission and is that stated in the resolution. She stated that there should be some form of financial amount in the resolution if there will be money spent. She also asked why this city in particular.

Mayor Danzinger stated that in other resolutions there would be funding stated but this one does not have it because there are no expenses to be approved. He stated that if Commissioner Velasquez wants to add funding to the resolution, she can add it. He addressed the question regarding why he chose this city and it is because the amount of terror attacks this city suffers and the Colonel of the Israeli Defense Force came from this region. He stated that he received 128 emails in support.

Vice Mayor Rose thanked all the residents that came out and he is in support of this item. He stated that he prefers to be on the news for supporting this and being in the news for shooting the middle finger.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to approve the resolution as amended adding the \$500.00 cap in spending with any additional funds having to come before the Commission and approving the key to the Town, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Shomron Sister City Resolution.pdf](#)

[Key Request for Shomron.pdf](#)

### 3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022.



Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCreedy, MPA, MMC  
Town Clerk