

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Southwest Ranches, Florida**

Thursday 7:00 PM

June 27, 2024

13400 Griffin Road

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Present:

Mayor Steve Breitzkreuz

Russell Muñiz, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor David S. Kuczynski

Debra M. Ruesga, Town Clerk

Council Member Jim Allbritton

Emil C. Lopez, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Bob Hartmann

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Council Member Gary Jablonski

A Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held at 13400 Griffin Road in the Southwest Ranches Council Chambers. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor Breitzkreuz at 7:02 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Breitzkreuz recognized Luis Ochoa, Director of the South Broward Drainage District, who was in attendance, and asked him up to the podium to introduce himself to the Town Council.

Director Ochoa introduced himself to the Town Council and provided a brief description of his credentials. He expressed that the Town and the District have had a great relationship over the years, and he looked forward to continuing that tradition.

**3. 2024 SEAB Town College Scholarship Recipient Awards**

Kathy Sullivan, Chair of the Schools and Education Advisory Board (SEAB) presented the scholarship awards to each recipient.

Mayor Breitzkreuz asked for a moment of silence in honor of the passing of Town Resident Ruth Wolff.

**4. Public Comment**

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Michael Katz, Lori Parrish, Joy McKie, John Steven Garate, Marianne Allen, and Mike Rodriguez.

**5. Board Reports**

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Zero Waste Advisory Board. She talked about the Town's PSA video on proper recycling and the recycling decals that were sent out by WM, to be placed on resident recycling bins. She stated the best way to avoid incinerators and raising the height of landfills is to move towards zero waste but that the effort will take time. She discussed the topics to be covered at the next Board Meeting, which will be on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Zero Waste Task Force. She said the next meeting will be July 10, at Town Hall at 7:00pm. She stated the Broward Solid Waste Executive Committee which was meeting June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the Broward Government Center West in Plantation, and said it is important for public feedback at the meetings.

## **6. Council Member Comments**

Council Member Jablonski thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and spoke about the importance of being involved with the community. He stated that Town Hall will be closed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and advised that the Code Compliance Department was putting out signs reminding residents that “fireworks and animals don’t mix” in anticipation of the holiday. He spoke about the Mayor’s Open Chess Play Event happening on July 20<sup>th</sup> and talked about the DMV FLOW event being back at Town Hall on August 28<sup>th</sup>. He spoke about the Broward County Mosquito Control aerial spraying happening on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00am to 6:00am, weather permitting. He discussed the Annual Photo Contest for the Town Calendar and reminded everyone that the theme for the contest was “Proud of Our Town” and the deadline to enter is September 9<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, he recognized Aster Knight, who was in attendance, and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

Council Member Allbritton discussed his reelection campaign and spoke about his history with the Town and the organizations he has become a part of during that time. He thanked Schools and Education Advisory Board Chair Kathy Sullivan for the great job she did with the Town Scholarship Fund and thanked the members of the SEAB for their work on the Board and their efforts involving the Town Scholarship Fund as well. He asked residents to be respectful of their neighbors during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and discussed the importance of the holiday.

Council Member Hartmann spoke about the upcoming Town Meetings involving the Town’s Budget. He stated the Budget Workshop Meeting will be happening on August 13<sup>th</sup>, the First Public Hearing will be September 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Second Public Hearing will be on September 26<sup>th</sup>. He said that if anyone wanted information on how the Town works from a financial standpoint or if anyone had any public input regarding the Town’s Budget, they should attend the meetings.

Vice Mayor Kuczenski provided the Town Council with the traffic citation statistics for the previous month. He discussed the road closure on Hancock Road and said the construction was to redirect some drainage in the area and the matter should be resolved within the next day if everything goes accordingly. He spoke about the issue of residents applying for applications for equestrian breeding facilities and not being approved for agriculture exemption. Lastly, he recognized Fred Seagal for his work on the “Southwest Ranches Farm Guide” and thanked him for his efforts on it.

Mayor Breitzkreuz recognized Aster Knight, who was in attendance, and thanked him for his legacy of work that continues in the Town. He spoke about the work being done currently on creating an Agricultural Department for the Town and about meeting with the Broward County Property Appraisers Office on July 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss it. He introduced Mila Schwartz, General Counsel for the Broward County Property Appraisers Office, to speak to the Town Council.

Ms. Schwartz introduced herself to the Town Council and discussed the upcoming meeting between the BCPA and the Town and said she was looking forward to working together.

Mayor Breitreuz discussed the Zero Waste Advisory Board and stated the Town Council was waiting on feedback and recommendations from the Board to move forward with the Zero Waste Plan. He spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the importance of the holiday but also spoke about the dangers presented by fireworks to the equestrian community. He reminded residents that the Town has ear plugs for horses that were available for pick up at Town Hall, if anyone wanted to try some for their horses.

## **7. Legal Comments**

Town Attorney Poliakoff stated that he was very impressed with the efforts of SEAB Chair Kathy Sullivan and the Board members in their efforts to raise monies for the Town Scholarship Fund and that it was great to see the funds go to the incredible kids of the Town. He spoke about Ruth Wolff and her influence on the Town before it was incorporated and that she would be missed by all.

## **8. Administration Comments**

Town Administrator Muñiz introduced Christina Semeraro as the Town's new Procurement Officer and spoke of her qualifications. He discussed the Public Safety and Traffic Committee and its actions to create an operations plan to address speeding in the Town. He stated there is an initiative to enhance traffic enforcement in the Town and once the plan is finalized it will be presented to the Town Council. He presented to Town Council three renderings of the different locations for the placement of the Southwest Meadows Restroom Facility. He discussed the pros and cons of each of the renderings and addressed questions presented by the Town Council. He called upon PROS Manager December Lauretano-Haines and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Rod Ley to answer questions from the Town Council.

A discussion ensued between the Town Council regarding the options presented by Town Administrator Muñiz. Mayor Breitreuz opened the item to public comment, and after further discussion a motion was made to select option two of the renderings.

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, seconded by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitreuz voting yes.

### **MOTION: TO SELECT OPTION 2 FOR THE PLACEMENT OF THE RESTROOM FACILITY.**

At this point of the Meeting, Mayor Breitreuz discussed the Presidential Debate happening later during the evening and suggested the meeting be concluded by 8:45 and that if any items were not presented tonight, they could be tabled to the next meeting.

## **Resolutions**

**9.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY PROVIDING WATER SERVICES TO 695 1 APPALOOSA TRAIL, REAL PROPERTY LYING WITHIN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES,

FLORIDA; PROVIDING THAT NO FURTHER EXPANSION OF SERVICE SHALL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO BE FURNISHED TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, seconded by Council Member Hartmann, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE RESOLUTION WITH AMENDED SCRIVENER'S ERROR CORRECTING THE ADDRESS FROM 6951 APPALOOSA TRAIL TO 6591 APPALOOSA TRAIL.**

**10.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY PROVIDING WATER SERVICES TO 5775 SW 130TH AVENUE, REAL PROPERTY LYING WITHIN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA; PROVIDING THAT NO FURTHER EXPANSION OF SERVICE SHALL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO BE FURNISHED TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, seconded by Council Member Hartmann, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**11.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S SITING, PERMITTING, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLID WASTE TO ENERGY CAMPUS AT THE OPA-LOCKA WEST AIRPORT SITE AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES AND THE CITY OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA FOR THE CITY OF MIRAMAR TO LEAD THE TOWN'S OPPOSITION; THE EXPENDITURE OF THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$30,000.00) TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LEGAL SERVICES TO OPPOSE THE SOLID WASTE TO ENERGY FACILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Hartmann but failed for lack of second.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Kuczenski but failed for lack of second.

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**MOTION: TO CREATE A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE BUILDING OF AN INCINERATOR IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.****Discussion****12. FPL Staging Area Agreement – Mayor Breitkreuz**

Mayor Breitkreuz introduced the item and stated that Florida Power and Light was looking for partners to provide locations for FPL to stage equipment and machinery during emergency situations. He stated the potential location for the staging area is the area used for the Farmer's Market at Griffin Road and Dykes Road. He discussed the benefits of having FPL staging their equipment in the area and said it would be good for the community.

Town Attorney Poliakoff stated that the director of FPL's Emergency Response Unit will be at the next Town Council Meeting to address the Town Council directly and an agreement will be presented as well.

Council Member Hartmann raised issues regarding any damages done to the area of the Farmer's Market and future restroom facility and the responsibility that FPL must repair them and/or pay for damages. Mayor Breitkreuz stated that he and Town Attorney Poliakoff addressed those issues, and any liabilities would be covered by the agreement.

Council Member Jablonski spoke about his past experiences with partnering with FPL and stated that it was a good partnership, and it would be beneficial to work with them.

**13. Approval of Minutes****a. May 09, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes**

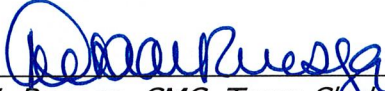
The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, seconded by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MAY 09, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*



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*Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk*

*Adopted by the Town Council on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.*



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*Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor*

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.