

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

September 12, 2024

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz
Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski
Council Member Jim Allbritton
Council Member Bob Hartmann
Council Member Gary Jablonski

Russell Muñiz, Town Administrator
Debra Ruesga, Town Clerk
Emil C. Lopez, Town Financial Administrator
Richard Dewitt, Assistant Town Attorney

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 Breitkreuz at 7:30 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations

3. Proclamation - Officer Christi Laguna Retirement

The Town presented a proclamation in recognition of the retirement of the Town of Davie Police Officer Christi Laguna.

4. Presentations - FPL, Comcast, & AT&T - Update on Projects and Customer Outreach

Representatives from FPL, Comcast, and AT&T, provided updates on the hardening projects and fiber internet network projects happening around the Town. They addressed questions from the Town Council and Town residents and provided contact information for any further questions or concerns.

5. Senator Steve Geller - Broward County Update

Senator Steve Geller provided a Legislative Update to the Town Council.

6. Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Richard Ramcharitar, Marianne Allen, Mary Gay Chaples, James Laskey, Debbie Green, and John Steven Garate.

7. Board Reports

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Schools and Education Advisory Board. She discussed the Prime Volunteers app that the Board is using for volunteers and students can use to earn volunteer hours for the Town scholarship. She presented the QR code that can be used to find the app and install it on their phone.

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Zero Waste Task Force. She spoke about the "Stop the Incinerator" yard signs that were created and thanked the Bergerons for donating \$2,500 from the Everglades Bergeron Fund. She said they are trying to distribute the signs to cities throughout

the County. She discussed the Broward Solid Waste Authority meeting happening on September 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Lauderhill Veteran's Park.

Richard Ramcharitar spoke on behalf of the Zero Waste Task Force. He discussed the dangers of landfills and incinerators for the environment. He said it is imperative for communities to teach their residents how to achieve zero waste.

Marianne Allen spoke as the Agricultural Liaison. She discussed the importance of soil for agriculture and warned organic farmers from using biochar products on their farms.

8. Council Member Comments

Council Member Jablonski spoke about upcoming events within the Town such as Bingo at the Barn on September 14th, the Open Chess Play Event on the September 21st, Hazmat at the Barn on the September 28th, and the 25th Anniversary event on June 7th, 2025. He spoke about the monthly visit by the BCPA office and their agricultural expert happening on October 1st. He spoke about placing the future agenda item regarding parking at the Southwest Meadows Preserve as a discussion item for the next meeting. He discussed using surplus funds to reduce solid waste and fire assessment fees for the residents as the Town Council has done in the past. He stated this is the last year that Council had planned on providing that reduction and would like to continue it again and allocate possibly half a million dollars or more for future years. There was a consensus of the Town Council to continue using surplus funds to reduce rates for the residents.

Mayor Breitreuz asked Assistant Town Attorney Dewitt and Town Administrator Muñiz on how to proceed with continuing the practice of using surplus funds to reduce the assessment fees.

Town Administrator Muñiz discussed the fund balance policy and investment policy that he and Town Financial Administrator Lopez have been developing to assist the Town Council on issues such as these, and that the policies would be presented within the next few weeks.

Council Member Allbritton thanked Town Financial Administrator and the Finance staff for the work they did on the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. He discussed the Broward County Schools meetings regarding under enrollment at the schools. He encouraged everyone to check the School Board webpage for the meeting dates and to attend the meetings for detailed information on what is going to happen with those schools. He thanked Town Resident Debbie Green for taking the initiative in assisting residents with the Prime Volunteer app, and the uses the volunteer app including educating people on the zero-waste initiative. He talked about attending the Fire Advisory Board, and the needs of the Volunteer Fire Department needing a new fire truck. He spoke about the retirement of Officer Christi Laguna and thanked her for her dedication to the Town.

Vice Mayor Kuczenski discussed the proper procedures for recycling and listed items that should not be placed in the recycle bins. He discussed the Town's 3.9000 millage rate and stated that it has not been this low since 2009. He spoke about his involvement with the "Stop the Incinerator"

signs. He talked about the Town's first Halloween Decorating Contest, that the deadline for entering is October 18th, and that he hoped many homes would be decorated.

Council Member Hartmann stated that he was glad Council Member Jablonski introduced the subsidies to the discussion and stated that the Town Council will need to plan the amount that should be set aside. He stated that the Town should start developing a Capital Plan with the fund balance so the Town can have more control over the funds for future projects. He spoke about Officer Laguna's service and dedication to the Town and that she has been a great officer for the Town. He discussed the new metal detector placed in the Town Council Chambers and how it has become a common item in government facilities.

Mayor Breitreuz spoke about attending a Broward School Board meeting and discussing the South Florida Wildlife Center being in the Town and stated that it was well received and that the Town is moving in the right direction to accomplishing having the center moved to the Town. He discussed having a workshop with the City of Sunrise, City of Cooper City, City of Pembroke Pines, and the Town of Davie, regarding infrastructure for supplying water services to areas of the Town. He stated that it would be to the benefit of the Town to start developing long-range plans on this issue so when these municipalities have projects in development, the Town's needs could also be taken into consideration. He asked the Town Council for a consensus on directing Town Administrator Muñiz on setting a meeting with representatives from the named municipalities.

Council Member Hartmann stated that he would like to have a meeting and discuss the issue as a Town before meeting with the other municipalities. He said that his concern was that he feared that residents from entire subdivisions would be obligated to sign up for one municipality for water service if a certain number of residents in the neighborhood did.

Mayor Breitreuz explained his intention to have the meeting was to develop long-range plans so that the residents could choose who best could provide their water service and the Town Council would know when approving the water service agreements that this was the best option for the residents as well. He stated that in planning long range that the municipalities would be willing to provide not be limited to just one source if possible. He said that this would also help the municipalities that provide service to the Town plan for their capacity levels.

Council Member Allbritton spoke about groundwater issues and that drain fields, and septic tanks would need to be replaced with sewer systems.

Vice Mayor Kuczenski discussed the issue of rising seawater and the effect it will have on water sources in the Town.

At the consensus of the Town Council, Mayor Breitreuz directed Town Administrator Muñiz to set up a meeting with representatives from the municipalities.

Town Administrator Muñiz suggested setting the meeting as a sole purpose workshop meeting so that there would be ample time for the discussion.

Mayor Breitkreuz said that he would like to set up two meetings on the topic, one for the Town to hear feedback from the residents, and a workshop meeting with representatives from the municipalities.

9. Legal Comments

Assistant Town Attorney Dewitt had no legal comments.

10. Administration Comments

Town Administrator Muñiz discussed the metal detector in the Council Chambers and that it was being introduced tonight and that there would be a more stringent enforcement of the rules at future meetings. He spoke about Senator Geller's comments regarding City Manager group and the County working on the Interlocal Agreement regarding surtax funds. He said that the City Manager group is working with the County to amend the agreement. He described the amendment as municipalities receiving 10% of the surtax funds for repair and maintenance projects and the funds would be allocated to each municipality based on centerline miles. He gave the example that if adopted, the Town would have received approximately \$500,000 in 2024. He said that the proposal is a long way from being adopted but it is being worked on.

Resolutions

11. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH KAILAS CONTRACTORS IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$440,245.00) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDED DYKES ROAD PIPING PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE ORDER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Allbritton, seconded by Council Member Jablonski, 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 RESOLUTION.

12. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH WOLF CREEK CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTYSEVEN THOUSAND SIXTY-THREE DOLLARS AND THIRTY-ONE CENTS (\$87,063.31) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE SW 205TH AVENUE AND SW 49TH COURT DRAINAGE PROJECT; APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 TOWN BUDGET; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE ORDER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, 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.

13. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, DECLARING TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY AS SURPLUS INVENTORY; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THE SURPLUS INVENTORY; WAIVING ALL APPLICABLE PROCUREMENT CODE PROVISIONS TO THE CONTRARY; ALLOWING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF THE SURPLUS INVENTORY AND TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, 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.

14. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE AND TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RESILIENT FLORIDA PROGRAM TO HELP FUND THE SW 162ND AVENUE DRAINAGE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$263,250.00) WITH AN EQUAL TOWN MATCH; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Allbritton, 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 APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Discussion

15. Discussion - 2024 Pioneer Day Nominations

16. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. July 25, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, 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 JULY 25, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

17. Adjournment

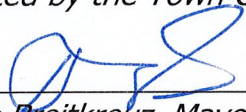
Meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this 21st day of November, 2024.



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.