

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

Thursday 7:00 PM

March 13, 2025

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

Russell Muñiz, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann

Debra Ruesga, Town Clerk

Council Member Jim Allbritton

Emil C. Lopez, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Gary Jablonski

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Council Member David S. Kuczenski

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 7:04 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Breitkreuz attended the meeting via telephone.

**Presentations**

**3. Proclamation – Procurement Month – March 2025**

The Town presented a proclamation that recognized the month of March 2025, as Procurement Month.

Vice Mayor Hartmann asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Danielle Farrah.

**4. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**5. Board Reports**

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Schools and Education Advisory Board. She discussed the flamingo flocking fundraiser and stated that \$18,000 dollars was raised for the Town's Scholarship Fund.

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Zero Waste Advisory Board. She discussed the Board's plans to review the scope of work for the draft version of the RFP for a Zero Waste Consultant. She spoke about a presentation from WM and the Florida Beverage Association that was presented at last month's Board meeting and that the Board requested more information from the Association. She talked about the Board looking into grant opportunities for zero waste programs, working with schools to encourage recycling, and working with other municipalities regarding zero waste.

George Morris spoke on behalf of the Southwest Ranches Parks Foundation. He spoke about the success of the car show and carnival. He said the Foundation is looking into creating new events such as a pumpkin patch and food truck events.

**6. Council Member Comments**

Vice Mayor Hartmann suggested that Town Council Members limit their comments to ten minutes to keep residents engaged and recommended that it be an informal policy moving forward.

Council Member Jablonski spoke about the following upcoming Town events:

- The Debra Goff Rose Memorial on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Barn
- Bingo at the Barn on March 22<sup>nd</sup>; the cost is \$30 with dinner included
- The Unity in Diversity 5k on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Barn starting at 6:30 a.m.
- The ROCA Egg Hunt at the Barn on April 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00 a.m.
- The scheduled visits of the Broward County Property Appraiser to the Town the first Tuesday of each month
- The Town's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on June 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m.
- Hazmat at the Barn on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

He stated that the DMV FLOW event for March 26<sup>th</sup> was fully booked and there were no appointments available. He recommended contacting the Town Clerk's Office the day before for any cancellations. He spoke about the Water Matters Day that occurred on March 8<sup>th</sup> and that PROS Director December Lauretano-Haines and her team did a great job with the Town's booth. He talked about Rolling Oaks Park receiving the Emerald Award and the presentation of the award. He discussed Broward County placing speed signs on Griffin Road near SW 186<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Griffin Road and SW 199<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Council Member Kuczenski discussed the permit application process and stated that he requested Town Administration to eliminate the duplicative paper applications from the Town website because permits were required to be submitted through the kiosk at Town Hall. He discussed Governor DeSantis's idea and statements regarding property taxes in the State of Florida. He stated that if this initiative were to be implemented it would eliminate approximately 40% of the Town's budget, which does not cover the emergency services portion of the Town's budget. He said to cover that cost the Town would have to do a separate tax for Public Safety.

Council Member Allbritton spoke about attending a Cybersecurity class that was held for Town staff and stated that it was illuminating, and recommended residents create strong passwords for their logins and to keep them protected. He discussed attending the Town's Rancher Academy and said that it was informative and that each department that presented at the event provided an excellent report on how the departments function and that he was looking forward to attending the next session. He talked about attending the Broward League of Cities meeting and said that all 31 municipalities that make up the membership are fighting the three State bills which deal with property taxes, local business taxes, and sovereign immunity. He said that if the bills were to be passed, they would devastate most municipalities in Broward County. He provided an update on the bus stop on Dykes Road and said that he believes a slab is not needed there, just a guard rail along with speed signs and police details to help reduce speeding. He discussed the Town Public Safety and Traffic Committee nominating a police officer that patrols the Town for recognition and a special award. He announced that Officer Nunez was selected by the Committee and provided the reasons why he was selected. He stated that Officer Nunez would be recognized at the Town of Davie Police Officer Awards Ceremony and thanked him for his hard work for the Town.

Vice Mayor Hartmann discussed the initiative created by the Public Safety and Traffic Committee regarding commercial sand and gravel trucks driving through the Town that are not following commercial vehicle regulations. He stated that Town Administrator Muñiz has met with Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to have FHP patrolling the Town to look for violators of commercial regulations. He said that overweight vehicles cause major damage to the Town's roads so this initiative will be beneficial to the Town. He stated that he asked Town Administrator Muñiz to research the cost of adding an additional police officer to the Town. He said that one individual officer would cost approximately \$264,000 and that included equipment and a vehicle. He added that to cover all the necessary shifts, the Town would need to add 9 officers to the rotation which would total 2.3 million dollars per year added to the Town budget. He said the Town was not prepared to add an officer immediately but should consider it next year during the budget process. He spoke about Officer Nunez and said that he would like to recognize him at a future Town Council meeting and that he would like to create an Officer of the Year Award for the Town. He discussed residents that notify the Town regarding the great work that the Town of Davie Police Officers do for the Town and that he would like to create a program to have the officers recognized at Town Council meetings twice a year. He asked Town Administrator Muñiz if a plan could be implemented for the initiative. Town Administrator Muñiz stated that a program could be created and recommended the Public Safety and Traffic Committee develop it and present it to the Town Council. He discussed Governor DeSantis's state of the State address and his statements regarding the amount of taxes municipalities collect based on the property values. He asked the Town Council if would be best for the Town if Town Administrator Muñiz contact State Representative Robin Bartleman to come discuss the current bills in legislation. Town Administrator Muñiz stated that he has been in contact with Representative Bartleman's office and that she is aware of the Town's concerns, but she was currently in session so an in-person visit would not be possible, but a conference call might be a viable option. He said that the Town's lobbyists, the Broward League of Cities, as well as the Florida League of Cities are monitoring the situation because of the impact the proposals could have on the State.

Mayor Breitzkreuz thanked Vice Mayor Hartmann for running the meeting for him and thanked the Town Council and Town Administration for their hard work and dedication to the Town. He congratulated Officer Nunez for his award and stated the Town is fortunate to have a great relationship with the Town of Davie Police Department and said that he liked the idea of recognizing the officers for their hard work. He spoke about the Rancher Academy and thanked the Administration for all the work on the presentations and encouraged residents that were not able to attend the first session to attend the second session. He said the Academy was created for residents to learn about the Town and its rural lifestyle and asked attendees to contact him or Administration with their thoughts about the Academy so it can be changed or improved if needed.

## **7. Legal Comments**

Town Attorney Poliakoff had no legal comments.

**8. Administration Comments**

Town Administrator Muñiz stated he has a meeting the Town's representative from FPL regarding the items they plan on discussing at the Town Council meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and the topics include the FPL rate hike, the Drone in the Box program, and the concerns with directional boring. He spoke about the Town's upcoming composting pilot program and that the Town is looking for 100 residences to join the program and that the Town would cover the fees for the first year. He described how the program works and that information about the program would be going out on the Town's social media and through email blasts.

At this point Vice Mayor Hartmann interjected on the procedures of explaining items on the agenda. He spoke about past meetings in which after an item was read into the record and before discussion, the item was explained in further detail to the benefit of the public. He asked Town Attorney Poliakoff and Town Administrator Muñiz to begin that procedure again.

**Resolutions**

**9.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE CITY OF SUNRISE PROVIDING WATER SERVICES TO 5601 THOROUGHbred LANE, 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 SUNRISE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**10.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AGREEING TO PIGGYBACK ONTO THE CLAY COUNTY CONTRACT PRICING FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT COMPONENTS AND SERVICES FOR THE SUNSHINE RANCHES EQUESTRIAN PARK PLAYGROUND FROM REP SERVICES, INC. / LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES, INC. IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND, NINETY FIVE DOLLARS (\$56,095); AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

**Discussion****10. Proposed FY 2025-2026 Budget Calendar**

Town Financial Administrator Lopez discussed the proposed budget calendar for fiscal year 2025-2026. He stated the calendar was essentially a guide to facilitate the budget process and to keep the Town Council and public informed of the progression. He asked the Town Council for a consensus to approve the calendar. Town Council discussed the item briefly and approved the calendar.

**11. Appointments**

- a. Broward League of Cities Board of Directors Appointment, Alternate, and Second Alternate

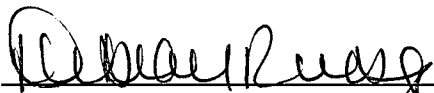
The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, seconded by Council Member Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Jablonski, Kuczenski, Vice Mayor Hartmann, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER ALLBRITTON AS THE DIRECTOR, COUNCIL MEMBER JABLONSKI AS THE ALTERNATE, AND COUNCIL MEMBER KUCZENSKI AS THE SECOND ALTERNATE.**

**12. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*



Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.



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.