

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

March 12, 2026

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

Russell Muñiz, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

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 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 7:01 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Hartmann read a statement into the record addressing comments he made in reference to Steven Garate at the May 9th, 2024 Regular Town Council meeting.

Presentations

3. Presentation – Horseshoe Monument – George Morris

George Morris presented to the Town Council a possible Horseshoe Monument that would honor the volunteers and people that have served the Town throughout the years. He stated that this monument would have plaques placed on it that list the person's name as well as having a podium in front of the monument with a qr code listing the names and description of the person. He said the goal is to raise \$100,000 of private funds so that there will be no cost to the Town taxpayers. He said that each step of the process would go before the Boards for approval.

4. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

5. Board Reports

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Zero Waste Advisory Board. She discussed the International Day of Zero Waste event on March 29th, at the Southwest Meadows Preserve Pavilion. She talked about the WM Recycling Facility Tour happening on April 18th at 10:00 a.m. and encouraged residents to attend.

Debbie Green spoke on behalf of the Schools and Education Advisory Board. She stated that Flamingo Flocking would be ending this weekend and that the Barn Dance would be happening this Saturday, March 14th.

6. Council Member Comments

Vice Mayor Jablonski spoke about the following Town events:

- Water Matters Day on March 14th
- The Barn Dance on March 14th
- Wings Over the Ranches on March 14th

- March 20th – Relay for Life at the Pembroke Pines Charter School on Sheridan Street and 172 Avenue
- FLOW Mobile event on March 25th
- Rolling Oaks Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th at the Barn
- Public Workshop on the Town's Horse Trails on March 31st
- International Zero Waste Day Event on March 29th
- Wildlife Seminar at Town Hall on April 2nd
- Hazmat at the Barn on April 11th
- Unity in Diversity 5k on April 25th
- Memorial Day event on May 25th

He reminded residents that the deadline for the Town Scholarship Applications is at the end of May. He spoke about the Chili Cook Off and Car Show and stated that it was a great event, and congratulated Town Administrator Muñiz's on his win in the Chili Cook Off.

Council Member Hartmann wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He discussed the Wings Over the Ranches event happening on Saturday, F March 14th at Country Estates Park and gave a brief description of the migration patterns of birds that may be seen on the tour. He provided an update on the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization's widening of Griffin Road. He said that the project is still listed as being scheduled for the year 2045 but stated that he has asked Town Administrator Muñiz to have them review restriping the road for visibility and to task them to see what can be done to improve the flow of traffic out west. He stated that the organization recently completed a traffic study, which found the road was not at capacity and did not need to be widened. He asked Town Administrator Muñiz to review the study to see if it was feasible to at least add turn lanes to alleviate traffic issues. He spoke about the Town possibly doing a bond to improve the roads and use the County surtax to pay it back.

Council Member Kuczenski discussed the issue of speeding in Sunshine Ranches. He stated the Town is still working on installing speed tables in the neighborhood and thanked the Town of Davie Police Department for their efforts to reduce dangerous driving in the Town.

Council Member Allbritton thanked all the residents that attended the Relay for Life event that raised money for Kathy Sullivan's Relay Team. He thanked John, the owner of the Wings n' Things restaurant, for allowing the use of the restaurant as a venue and all the contributions they have made to the Town. He thanked Rose Allbritton for her efforts in organizing the event. He said the Relay for Life walk will be on March 20th at the Pembroke Pines Charter School at Sheridan Street and 172 Avenue. He discussed the Memorial Day breakfast event happening on May 25th. He asked if any veterans would like to attend the event, to please contact him or Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director December Lauretano-Haines.

Mayor Breitreuz discussed the South Florida Wildlife Center event happening on April 2nd at Town Hall. He said it was a good opportunity for the Town and its residents to get to meet members from the organization and for the organization to learn more about the Town. He spoke about

attending the City of Tamarac City Council meeting to present on the SWA Master Plan and Facilities Agreement. He said they were able to answer questions about the process and agreement. He stated that the SWA would be finalizing the Facilities Agreement next week and that document will need to be approved and adopted by the municipalities in the County. He said that 80% of the population of the municipalities was needed to approve the Facilities Agreement to adopt the Master Plan. He spoke about the SWA pledge drive and encouraged members of the public to sign the pledge so other cities in the County will recognize that their residents support the Master Plan. He discussed the upcoming Workshop meeting on March 31st regarding the Multi-Use Horse Trails. He said the purpose of the meeting was to develop a Townwide plan for the horse trails that would focus on the trails system and safety of the trails.

7. Legal Comments

Town Attorney Poliakoff stated there were no legal comments.

8. Administration Comments

Town Administrator Muñiz advised Town Council that at the March 5th Public Safety and Traffic Committee there were attendees at the meeting that asked to be appointed to the Committee. He asked Town Council if they would like to make formal appointments for those residents.

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

MOTION: TO APPOINT CHERE REYNOLDS, BEN HODGERS, AND ALEXIS DAGER, TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.

Town Administrator Muñiz provided an update on the Florida Department of Transportation response to the Town requests for assistance on improvements to the interchange at I-75 and Griffin Road. He said that the FDOT analyzed crash data for the area and stated they identified a notable shift in the crash patterns and that FDOT would investigate further. He spoke about the Town's strategic planning process and that there will be a vision and goal setting meeting on Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 a.m. at Rolling Oaks Barn. He said the meeting will be an opportunity for the Town Council, Town Administration, and Department Heads to meet with the strategic planning consultants to further develop the strategic plan. Lastly, he spoke about the Chili Cook Off and Car show and stated that Vice Mayor Jablonski was a great mentor for the competition.

Vice Mayor Jablonski asked Town Administrator Muñiz if there was an applicant for the Town Parks Board included in the names he read earlier. After discussion with Town Clerk Ruesga, it was clarified that Mailin Beckman had requested to join the Parks Board.

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

MOTION: TO APPOINT MAILIN BECKMAN TO THE PARKS, RECREATION, FORESTRY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD.

Resolutions

9. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH BROWARD COUNTY TO RECEIVE FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$587,890.00) FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TURN LANES ON DYKES ROAD, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND TOWN ATTORNEY, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT; APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ADOPTED BUDGET; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

10. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING PURCHASE ORDER TO KIMLEY HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. TOTALING SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$68,215.00) FOR DESIGN OF THE GRANT FUNDED TURN LANES ON DYKES ROAD, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND TOWN ATTORNEY, TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE ORDER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Jablonski, seconded by Council Member Allbritton, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Member Kuczenski, Vice Mayor Jablonski, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes, and Council Members Allbritton and Hartmann voting no.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

11. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2024-034 APPROVING THE OWNER'S REQUEST TO OBTAIN WATER AND SEWER SERVICE FOR 14251 MUSTANG TRAIL FROM THE CITY OF SUNRISE; CONSENTING TO THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES TO PROVIDE WATER AND SEWER SERVICE TO 14251 MUSTANG TRAIL, REAL PROPERTY LYING WITHIN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES; PROVIDING THAT NO FURTHER EXPANSION OF SERVICE SHALL OCCUR WITHOUT THE TOWN'S WRITTEN CONSENT; PROVIDING FOR A CERTIFIED COPY TO BE FURNISHED TO THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

12. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDED AND COMPREHENSIVE FEE SCHEDULE FOR BUILDING PERMIT FEES, ENGINEERING FEES, FIRE FEES, PLANNING FEES, AND ZONING FEES ASSOCIATED WITH PERMITTING AND INSPECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

MOTION: TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO REFLECT ONLY THE ADDITION OF THE \$100 NOTIFICATION FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY PERMITS.

13. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

14. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2026-009 TO CORRECT THE MAY MEETING DATES IN THE APPROVED TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Discussion**15. Discussion - Ordinance, Charter Amendment, and Ballot Language for Council Member Compensation**

Mayor Breitkreuz introduced the item as a discussion on creating an Ordinance regarding Town Council Compensation to be placed on the upcoming November election ballot. He said that there are two proposed ballot questions between which the Town Council will decide. He stated that it has been over twenty years since the last salary increase for the Town Council and expressed that he felt it was time for an increase.

A discussion ensued between Town Council, Town Administrator Muñiz, Town Financial Director Lopez, and Town Attorney Poliakoff on the differences, merits, and drawbacks, between the two ballot questions. The first option gave the Town Council the authority to increase salaries with a supermajority vote. The second option increased the Town Council's compensation and then adjusted it annually with a cost-of-living adjustment.

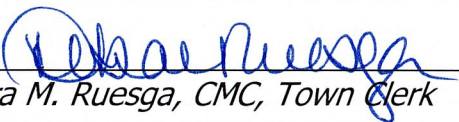
The consensus of the Town Council was to select the ballot question increasing the Council Member compensation to \$1,500 a month and the Mayor salary to \$2,000 a month, with a maximum annual three percent (3%) cost of living increase based on the Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. The Town Council added the clause that the cost-of-living increases will occur on September 30th of each year, with the exception of the first year due to the initial flat fee increase.

Council Member Hartmann reread his earlier statement correcting the name to John Steven Garate.

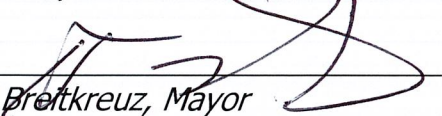
16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this 11th day of June, 2026.


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 A 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.