

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 6:30 PM

September 26, 2019

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Doug McKay

Andrew Berns, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Council Member Bob Hartmann

Martin D. Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Denise Schroeder

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

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 McKay at 6:30 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor McKay asked for a moment of silence in honor of Council Member Freddy Fisikelli.

3. Kevin Wernath - Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout candidate Kevin Wernath presented his project which was a hexagonal picnic table and trash receptacle made of recycled materials for Frontier Trails Park.

The following motion was made by Council Member Schroeder, seconded by Vice Mayor Jablonski and passed by 4-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Hartmann, Schroeder, Vice Mayor Jablonski, and Mayor McKay voting Yes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT.

4. Census 2020 - Marilyn Stephens, U.S. Census Bureau

Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk Muniz read a Complete Count Committee Kickoff Census proclamation into the record. Marilyn Stephens, with the U.S. Census Bureau, explained the purpose of the Census and how imperative it was for local counties and municipalities to receive their fair share of federal funding.

5. Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Steve Breitkreuz, and David Kuczenski.

6. Board Reports

Steve Breitkreuz, Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Board announced that the board had reviewed the entire list of potential uses for the US 27 Employment Center land use category. There were some items that would require follow up so he believed that they would be able to complete their review by the next meeting.

7. Council Member Comments

Council Member Schroeder thanked staff and her colleagues on the Town Council for their hard work on the budget. She spoke of the passing of Council Member Fisikelli and fondly remembered the interactions she had with him over the years and the influence he had on her.

Council Member Hartmann also spoke of his memories of Council Member Fisikelli. He felt that the ballfields at Country Estates Park should be named in his honor. He recognized Weston Commissioner Mary Macfie who was in attendance.

Vice Mayor Jablonski spoke of his admiration for Council Member Fisikelli. He spoke of Council Member Fisikelli's accomplishments while serving on the Town Council. He spoke of the Town's upcoming events including the Pet Adoption event on October 5th, Senator Marco Rubio's Outreach Service on October 10th, the Arts and Crafts Festival at the Equestrian Park on October 19th, the Property Appraiser's Outreach Service on October 21st, the Flow Mobile DMV Services on October 24th, Halloween at the Barn on October 26th. Further on, the Car Show and Chili Cookoff will be held at the Rolling Oaks Park on November 16th and on January 3rd the Mr. and Miss Southwest Ranches Contest benefiting the Town's College Scholarship Fund will be held at the Rolling Oaks Barn.

Mayor McKay reflected fondly on the contributions Council Member Fisikelli made to the community and recalled many personal conversations he had with him over the years.

8. Legal Comments

Town Attorney Poliakoff indicated that he knew Council Member Fisikelli for 35 years and recalled many conversations with him over the years. Regarding the Town's request for an Attorney General Opinion (AGO) regarding the filling of the District 3 vacancy, he informed that he had a discussion earlier in the day with the Attorney General's Office. They sought clarity on the Town's question and believed that they could render an opinion after discussing further with the Town and the Supervisor of Elections but that it could take up to six months. Discussing the issue further they indicated the law is clear that if the Council were to appoint someone in the best interest of the Town and with no malice then the decision would be upheld. They indicated that the appointment should take place after November 4, 2019. He outlined the appointment process which would include notification in the newsletter and in a newspaper of general circulation, an application, and interviews at a public meeting. If the Town Council chose this process he would inform the Attorney General that the Town's request for an AGO has been withdrawn.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Jablonski, seconded by Council Member Schroeder and passed by 4-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Hartmann, Schroeder, Vice Mayor Jablonski, and Mayor McKay voting Yes.

MOTION: TO UTILIZE THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS TO FILL THE DISTRICT 3 VACANCY AFTER NOVEMBER 4TH AND WITHDRAW THE TOWN'S REQUEST FOR AN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION.

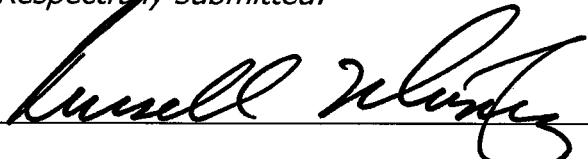
9. Administration Comments

Town Administrator Berns thanked Town Financial Administrator Martin Sherwood and Controller Richard Strum and the rest of staff for their efforts with the Fiscal Year 2020 Town Budget. He spoke of his fondness for Council Member Fisikelli and how his influence made him a better Town Administrator.

10. Adjournment


Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñoz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this day of December 12, 2019.



Doug McKay, 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.