

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

June 10, 2021

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz	Andrew Berns, Town Administrator
Vice Mayor Bob Hartmann	Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk
Council Member Jim Allbritton	Martin D. Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator
Council Member Gary Jablonski	Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney
Council Member David S. Kuczenski	

Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held in person and virtually using the ZOOM meeting platform. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor Breitkreuz at 7:02 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Proclamation for Rick Cormier Day

Mayor Breitkreuz announced that a proclamation recognizing Rick Cormier of Lemon Lime Landscaping would be read into the record to recognize his volunteer service.

4. Representative Robin Bartleman - Legislative Update

State Representative Robin Bartleman announced that Governor DeSantis approved the budget which included the Country Estates Drainage and Water Quality Improvement project. She also spoke about regional bills that were approved that would improve drainage for the region and the State of Florida as a whole. She also gave accolades to Town Attorney Poliakoff and Town Administrator Berns for their diligence in working with her on several bills that may have affected local control as part of her work on the State Affairs Committee.

5. Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Marianne Allen, George Cailis, Michelle McBride, Chase Pepper, Jim Laskey, Newell Hollingsworth, and Debbie Green.

6. Board Reports

Christina Brownlow, Chair of the Parks Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board, spoke about the focus of the Board on habitat preservation and indicated the Town has taken the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and the importance of pollinators to the environment. The Board also wants to raise awareness about vandalism in the parks to curtail the number of incidents.

George Morris, Chair of the Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board spoke about the potential need for the increase in size of the surface water management area. He thanked Town Administrator Berns and his staff on how they have managed operations while the Town was closed to the public during the pandemic.

7. Council Member Comments

Council Member Jablonski thanked Representative Bartleman for all of her efforts. He advised that the Town will hold the First Responders photo shoot on July 13th at the Rolling Oaks Barn. He advised that in advance of the July 4th holiday the Town would be erecting signs asking people to be mindful of their neighbors and livestock when using fireworks. He responded to public comments made by Mr. Cailis about the condition of the property adjacent to his. He indicated that he was unsure what could be done but he would continue to monitor the situation. He congratulated the graduating students from the Class of 2021 who have had a very difficult year because of the pandemic. He also congratulated Madison Sullivan for winning the Silver Knight award.

Vice Mayor Hartmann stated he was happy to once again be meeting in person. He spoke in favor of Council Member Allbritton's suggestion to pursue CARES Act funding in relation to the Volunteer Fire Rescue Department's COVID response if possible. He spoke about the upcoming First Responder Photo Shoot at the Barn on July 13th. He also indicated there were two rain dates, July 20th and July 27th if needed. He indicated that he had some thoughts about the property next to George Cailis and would speak to him personally about them. He also wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Council Member Kuczenski felt that the Town Council Meetings and HOA Meetings provided an important forum for residents to speak with Council Members. He spoke about the topic of canal cleanouts that was discussed at the recent Drainage and Infrastructure Advisory Board. He offered support to Mr. Cailis about the ongoing situation he has endured with the property adjacent to his. He urged residents to get vaccinated against COVID. He asked if there was a way to have the Advisory Boards utilize ZOOM to keep it accessible for residents. He spoke about the Children's Photo Contest for the Town Newsletter and the 2022 Town Calendar Photo Contest sponsored by the Rural Public Arts Board. He urged residents to register for Code Red for emergency notifications. He also expressed gratitude that the Country Estates Drainage Project was approved by Governor DeSantis. He spoke about the pending bill to prohibit anonymous code complaints and felt that it would have a negative effect and deter people from reporting violations to Code. He stated that he would oppose any efforts to create condensed or zero lot line affordable housing and would also oppose any efforts to make Dykes Road 4 lanes wide. He spoke in favor of the Volunteer Fire Rescue Department and recounted a recent accident with an ejection on Griffin Road that the Department responded to. Lastly, he indicated that he may not be in attendance at the June 24th Town Council meeting as he had surgery scheduled.

Council Member Allbritton was grateful to be meeting in person once again. He spoke about his campaign platform to combat speeding in Town and indicated that enforcement had stepped up and cited police department statistics that proved the number of speeding tickets written had increased. He also spoke of signs that he had commissioned to help combat speeding in neighborhoods and advised that he had some available if anyone was interested. He thanked the Town Administrator and staff for their support and advised that he read all information prepared by staff so that he would be prepared for meetings.

Mayor Breitkreuz welcomed Council Members Allbritton and Kuczenski to the dais and congratulated them on all they have accomplished to be elected and serve the residents. He thanked Town Administrator Berns and his staff for their efforts over the past 15 months in dealing with the pandemic continuing to provide services to the residents. He also thanked Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk Muniz for his efforts as well. He also spoke about the drainage project in Pembroke Pines referenced by Representative Bartleman. He felt that water doesn't know Town boundaries and the Pembroke Pines project would benefit the Town as well. He also addressed her comments about affordable housing and indicated that the Town was not the right place for that type of housing as it was not in line with the rural lifestyle. Addressing public comments made regarding using Zoom meetings beyond June, he indicated that it was not possible due to the mandate from the State indicating that meetings must take place in person beginning in July. He spoke of the ideas mentioned by George Cailis on how to address the nuisance property adjacent to his and asked to schedule a meeting with Mr. Cailis, Town Administrator Berns, Town Attorney Poliakoff, and himself to determine a strategy to pursue. Lastly, he addressed the overlay idea along SW 188th Avenue that he brought up at the last meeting and stated that after careful consideration it was determined that it would not be viable.

8. Legal Comments

Town Attorney Poliakoff advised there was a proliferation of illegal parties that were occurring around Town. He recognized that Code has some limitations in curtailing these parties and urged residents to call Davie Police at 954-693-8200 should one of these parties occur. He urged everyone to get the vaccine and stated that there was no wait to get a vaccine at the CVS at Griffin Road and Flamingo Road. Mayor Breitkreuz asked Town Attorney Poliakoff to place an article in the newsletter to discuss the proposed law concerning the prohibition on anonymous code enforcement complaints. Town Attorney Poliakoff responded that he would but also wanted to clarify that if a resident want to remain anonymous they could call a member of the Town Council to lodge the complaint and then the Council Member can list themselves as the complainant.

9. Administration Comments

Town Administrator Berns advised although Representative Bartleman left the meeting earlier she was listening at home and wanted to clarify for the record that her comments regarding affordable housing were not relating to the Town of Southwest Ranches but rather Broward County at a macro level. He also mentioned that the DMV FLOW program would be restarting in July or August.

Resolutions

10. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING A LEASE AGREEMENT AND A MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH TOSHIBA AMERICA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR THREE (3) COPIER/PRINTER/SCANNERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Hartmann, 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.

11. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A PURCHASE ORDER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$16,000.00) TO SOUND PLANNING DISTRIBUTORS FOR A NEW CAMERA SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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 APPROVE THE RESOLUTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,000.

Discussion

12. Fire Assessment Update, Mayor Breitkreuz

Mayor Breitkreuz indicated that he asked this discussion item be placed on the agenda because there have been some challenges with the fire assessment over the past several years. Once he was elected he wanted to examine what was occurring with the fire assessment and provide as much time as possible to react and adjust. In examining the data it became apparent that the mix in call volume has changed significantly. Over the past year, the calls from the residential category has increased significantly. As a result, the resident's portion of the fire cost will therefore increase. He introduced Town Financial Administrator Sherwood to present the findings. Mayor Breitkreuz assured the residents that the presentation would be available online subsequent to the meeting.

Financial Administrator Sherwood presented a PowerPoint presentation created in conjunction with the Town's consultant Chris Wallace of Munilytics that outlined the utilization of fire service by categories, exemptions provided by the Town, methodology considerations, and the costs to be included. Town Financial Administrator Sherwood explained that fire costs rose by approximately \$200K but 80% of that or approximately \$160K was due to contractual obligations. He advised that cost increases would be covered in greater detail at the June 24th meeting.

Regarding utilization considerations he explained that the Town was using a rolling five year average. He explained that the current five year average (2015-2019) for the Residential category was 56.08% of calls but had dramatically increased to 65.29% for the latest five year average (2016-2020) which he attributed in large part to the COVID pandemic and many people staying at home.

Chris Wallace of Munilytics spoke about the various exemptions and considerations provided by the Town including totally disabled veterans and those statutorily provided for, such as those

designated with the Agricultural classification. He outlined the factors influencing rates including the proportion of calls for service in each category, costs of service, subsidy or no subsidy by general fund, and the selection of "discrete" or "blended" categories to eliminate rate volatility. He further indicated that it may make sense to blend the Commercial, Industrial and Institutional categories because they did not even equal 4% of the Town's taxable value, while the Residential category was 88%.

Mayor Breitkreuz felt that the best approach was to use the five year average to smooth out the "bumps." He indicated that the Town currently uses the "discrete" categories but it might make sense to use the "blended" categories to smooth things out. He wanted to get feedback from the Town Council and the residents. Vice Mayor Hartmann agreed with the five year average but was still uncertain about the blended categories. Council Member Kuczenski agreed with the five year average. Council Member Jablonski also agreed with the five year average but the blended categories needed more examination. Mayor Breitkreuz emphasized that the Town Council was only discussing this in terms of the methodology, not the actual rates at this time. He encouraged residents to contact the Town Council when the tax notices were received if something has radically changed so that the Town Council can address any issues early in the process.

13. Approval of Minutes

a. May 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, seconded by Vice Mayor Hartmann 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 MINUTES.

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this day of July 29, 2021



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.