

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Wednesday 7:00 PM

November 16, 2016

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Doug McKay

Andrew D. Berns, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Steve Breitreuz

Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Council Member Freddy Fisikelli

Martin D. Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Gary Jablonski

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Council Member Schroeder

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

3. Presentation - SW 188th Avenue/Griffin 345 Traffic Plan Report – Thomas A. Hall, Traffic Planner

Town Administrator Berns summarized the history of the traffic issues between these two communities. He informed that the Town Council, after years of seeking a permanent solution to the traffic issues present, recently gave direction to hire a traffic planner who could study the communities, the issues present, and make recommendations from which they could choose at this meeting to make a final decision. He introduced Thomas A. Hall as the traffic planner utilized by the Town to assist with this matter.

Mr. Hall summarized his background which included numerous municipal clients in his 28 years as a consultant. He spoke of meetings with members of both communities so that he could attain a grasp of the issues present. He also spoke of meeting with Mayor McKay regarding this issue, and also attending a meeting hosted by Vice Mayor Breitreuz in which five (5) proposed remedies to close SW 190th Avenue were discussed. The five were:

1. Placing a gate on SW 190th Avenue at 49th Street while closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street and leaving SW 63rd Street open.
2. Placing a gate on SW 190th Avenue and 63rd Street while 49th Street remained open, and closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street.
3. Placing a gate on SW 63rd Street while SW 190th Avenue and 49th Street remained open, and closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street.
4. Placing a gate on SW 190th Avenue at 49th Street, closing SW 63rd Street at the canal east of SW 190th Avenue, and closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street.
5. Leaving SW 190th Avenue open at 49th Street, closing SW 63rd Street at the canal east of SW 190th Avenue, and closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street

Another option had been recommended by one of the residents, which was to put a gate in the middle of SW 190th Avenue between SW 49th Street and SW 63rd Street. At this meeting he believed it was the consensus of the Griffin 345 community to favor the first option while the contingent of residents from SW 188th Avenue appeared to prefer the fourth option.

He explained that after this meeting he toured the area in question and met with several of the residents in both communities. What became readily apparent was that a significant portion of traffic was actually emanating from the agricultural businesses south of SW 63rd Street. He felt that this was a significant factor for traffic in the area and included it in his basis to develop options for Council consideration. When he met with the residents of Griffin 345 several issues came to light including:

1. Desire to close SW 190th Avenue at the north side of SW 49th Street so as to include members of Griffin 345 within the gated area since access to these homes is on SW 49th Street.
2. SW 190th Avenue is a private roadway with insurance paid for by the residents of Griffin 345, and without a way to restrict public traffic on this roadway they would have difficulty obtaining insurance for it.
3. Opposition to placing the gate at the south end of SW 190th Avenue along SW 63rd Street as it would allow the public to drive to the end of their private roadway before being stopped and would then have to turn around and drive through the community a second time thus defeating the residents' desire to reduce traffic in their community.
4. The willingness to allow a keypad and gate at SW 190th Avenue and SW 49th Street to allow residents and authorized service personnel to access the community.

He spoke about discussions with Town Attorney Poliakoff and Town Engineer Rod Ley about the best possible locations for a gate. Ultimately the issue centered around where a gate could be placed on property owned by Griffin 345 that could best serve them and achieve the objective of removing their traffic from SW 188th Avenue.

He then presented two alternatives to address concerns raised, and what he believed could effectively achieve the objectives previously stated. Option 1 proposed to place a gate with a keypad on the north end of SW 190th Avenue on the south side of 49th Street, closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street, and leaving SW 63rd Street open. He stated various reasons why this was his preferred option. He also proposed installing "No Through Trucks" street signage that informed commercial traffic that SW 188th Avenue could not be used. Option 2 proposed to place a gate with a keypad on the south end of SW 190th Avenue at SW 63rd Street, closing SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street, and leaving the north end of SW 190th Avenue open.

Council Member Schroeder advised that the Town's acquisition of the property from FPL to create the new access from Griffin Road to Griffin 345 cost \$25,000 which affected the entire Town, not just Griffin 345. She felt whichever option was chosen, not everyone would be happy with it, but it was better to have some improvement than none at all.

Vice Mayor Breitkreuz thanked Mr. Hall for his efforts. He was excited that a decision would finally be made at this meeting. He advised that the School Board has been advised that a change was forthcoming. He felt that a gate with a keypad was necessary and was encouraged that both sides, and both options, recognize the need for the keypad. He believed that with either option, the resident with medical issues on SW 54th Place will receive quicker response times from rescue personnel. He believed that both options presented by Mr. Hall were viable and an improvement over the traffic conditions present today. He concurred with Mr. Hall that

Option 1 was the preferred choice. With respect to the placement of the gate on SW 49th Street he preferred to place it on the north side, but acknowledged the advantages raised by Mr. Hall to place the gate on the south side of SW 49th Street.

Council Member Jablonski thanked the residents for attending and thanked Mr. Hall for his efforts. He agreed with the "No Through Trucks" sign, the closing of SW 54th Place and SW 57th Street, and the opening of SW 190th Avenue at the north end. He favored the idea of closing the aforementioned roadways and leaving SW 190th open and letting the residents of Griffin 345 decide where the gate should go. In regards to public comments concerning SW 184th Avenue he asked everyone to understand this roadway was on the County's Trafficways Plan and would not be improved for many years. He also liked the idea of placing a gate similar to one being employed in the Town of Golden Beach, as previously suggested by Town Attorney Poliakoff, on SW 63rd Street which would give the appearance of a gate but would open to all traffic and allow for a picture to be taken of each vehicle's license plate.

Mayor McKay asked Mr. Hall why he didn't consider also closing SW 63rd Street in either of his options. Mr. Hall explained that closing SW 63rd Street would require the nurseries to access SW 190th Avenue which he was trying to avoid as it was a private roadway. Mayor McKay objected to the gate at the north end of SW 190th Avenue because the back door (SW 63rd Street) would remain open. He felt that the best alternative was to place the gate at SW 63rd Street and leave the north end of SW 190th Avenue open. He also suggested that Griffin 345 could place a gate at the north end and the south end of SW 190th Avenue which would give the residents there everything they could want but cautioned that it would take a unanimous vote of the Town Council to accomplish. He would be ok with that option.

Vice Mayor Breitzkreuz liked this idea, but stated the financial obligation for the second gate would be entirely the responsibility of Griffin 345. This option would also still have to overcome the Right of Way (ROW) issues discussed previously, it would exclude some HOA members from the gated areas, and also include some properties within the gated areas that were not members of the HOA. He felt that this option would be too "sticky." He felt that the majority of Griffin 345 favored the gate at the north end of SW 190 Avenue.

Mayor McKay believed that if this action were taken, before long the community would be back asking the Council to place a gate on SW 63rd Street thereby making Griffin 345 a gated community. Vice Mayor Breitzkreuz felt this was a valid point and was the rationale for him asking that traffic counters be placed on SW 63rd Street so traffic in that area would be known before the change was made. Council Member Jablonski questioned whether the Council action was to direct Griffin 345 to place a gate, or whether it was to direct them to where a gate could be placed. Vice Mayor Breitzkreuz wanted Council to provide clear direction. He felt based on the report there were two options where the gate could be placed. His motion was to support the gate on the north side. Griffin 345 could choose not to erect a gate at all. If they did not, the barrier at the north end of SW 190th Avenue would be removed on May 1, 2017.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Breitkreuz, seconded by Council Member Fisikelli and passed by 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Fisikelli, Jablonski, Schroeder, Vice Mayor Breitkreuz, and Mayor McKay voting Yes.

MOTION: TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL INDICATED AS OPTION 1 IN THE FINAL REPORT OF TRAFFIC PLANNER THOMAS A. HALL TO PLACE THE GATE AT SW 190TH AVENUE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SW 49TH STREET WITH SUPPORT FROM A TOWN PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT, ERECTION OF BARRIERS ON SW 54TH PLACE AND SW 57TH STREET, AND TO MAINTAIN THE MAY 1ST 2017 DEADLINE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE BARRIER ON SW 190TH AVENUE AND IF THE GATE IS ERECTED PRIOR TO THE MAY 1ST DEADLINE THE BARRIERS IN PLACE WILL BE REMOVED AS SOON AS THE GATE IS FUNCTIONAL.

Resolutions

4. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AWARDING A NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY- SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS (\$37,875) TO THE GRIFFIN ROAD 345 PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (GRIFFIN 345) FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC CALMING DEVICE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Breitkreuz, seconded by Council Member Fisikelli and passed by 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Fisikelli, Jablonski, Schroeder, Vice Mayor Breitkreuz, and Mayor McKay voting Yes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION SUBJECT TO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES, TO ACCEPT THE ONE BID RECEIVED FOR THE GATE AND ALLOW A LOWER BID IF RECEIVED, TO ALLOW A ENTRYWAY BOX (KEYPAD) ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GATE AS PART OF THE PROJECT, AND TO MAINTAIN THE MAY 1ST 2017 DEADLINE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE BARRIER ON 190TH AVENUE.

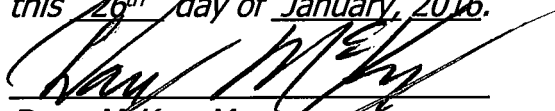
5. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñoz, MMC, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

*Adopted by the Town Council on
this 26th day of January, 2016.*



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.