



**Town of Surfside
Town Commission Budget Workshop
MINUTES**

April 3, 2019

5:00 p.m.

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2nd Floor
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

A. Call to Order

Mayor Dietch called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk Novoa called the roll with the following members present: Mayor Dietch, Commissioner Karukin, and Commissioner Paul. Vice Mayor Gielchinsky and Commissioner Cohen were absent.

Vice Mayor Gielchinsky arrived at 5:32pm.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Police Chief Yero led the pledge of allegiance.

2. FY 2020 Commission Direction Budget Workshop, Discussion and Direction for the FY 2020 Budget – Guillermo Olmedillo, Town Manager

Town Manager Olmedillo presented the item to the Town Commission and provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

Commissioner Paul spoke regarding the 11.5 percent increase in the Budget Summary provided. She would like to see them tailor back some of the things they have approved and believes this could be done if they can receive a status report of the items that have been previously budgeted for and not yet implemented. Town Manager Olmedillo reminded her that we are only halfway through the expenditures of this year. She stated she does not want to see the budget grow unnecessarily.

Commissioner Paul spoke about some of her priorities for fiscal year 2019-2020. She would like to see more beautification and clean streets. The 92nd street beach end should be fixed because it is creating an unsafe situation. She spoke about the new concrete benches not reflecting the beach town atmosphere. She would like to see if they can be changed to something more pleasant. She would like to see better coordination between the police department, code compliance department and the public works department. She also stated that we need more officers on Collins Avenue and in the residential area to keep our streets safe.

She spoke about resort taxes allocations and inquired if we are allocating enough funds for town facilities, beach maintenance, and beautification as required in the charter. She stated that the beach furniture has created a litter issue and it is not being addressed by the beach furniture operation. We should look into what is been allowed out there and who is responsible for the clean-up. The only persons who are doing clean-up are volunteers and residents. She would also like to know if a fee is collected on the beach furniture operations, how does the operation work and what percent goes to the Town. In summary, Commissioner Paul would like to see the budget reflect more safety, more beautification of the streets, clean up, updated signs and better coordination between the departments that protect the streets.

Commissioner Karukin spoke about the debt management policy he has been requesting for about a year. He would like the cost of maintaining all the committees which have been created that he has also been requesting for a long time. He would like to see each agenda item with a price tag attached in order to stay fiscally responsible. He is no longer in support of approving the Bigbelly Agreement. He would like to get the cost of all software maintenance and license fees the Town currently has. He would like an overview of how the new Code Compliance Department will look. He inquired about the five-year plan because he believes that the graphics included in the current one are hard to read. He would like to see the HR Director get an assistant.

Commissioner Paul supports Commissioner Karukin's opinion about the Big Belly agreement.

Mayor Dietch spoke about the improvement of the alleyways, 96th Street Park improvements, traffic mitigation, code compliance, and resiliency as his top priorities. He spoke about the update from the Town lobbyist and the opportunity to lower the water line that crosses between Biscaya and the rest of the Town. It is an incredible opportunity to try to obtain funds from the legislation, the Town has the matching funds to accomplish that project. The Mayor also spoke about the burying of the power lines.

Vice Mayor Gielchinsky arrived at 5:32 pm.

Vice Mayor Gielchinsky spoke about the improvements to 96th Street Park, resiliency, and the possibility of undergrounding the power lines even though he is not sure if the Town has all the information to make a decision. Town Manager Olmedillo stated that they are still working on it. Vice Mayor Gielchinsky inquired about the beach raking and the status of it. Town Manager Olmedillo stated that it would be better to wait until the renourishment of the beach. He will provide an update on the beach renourishment project during the April 9, 2019 Commission meeting. The Vice Mayor stated this was not a priority but he wanted to know the status.

The following members of the public spoke:

Sasha Plutno
Eliana Sazhauer
Sheryl Goldberg
Diana Gonzalez
Sheryl Goldberg
Diana Gonzalez

Commissioner Karukin referred to Mrs. Salzhauer's comments regarding employees. He stated that he will always come to their defense and that he takes offense at the characterization of the staff as being ineffective and just interested in their pensions. He stated that the staff is the most hardworking and dedicated group of men and women that any Town can have and they are lucky to have them. He spoke about the median salary and the value of public service.

Mayor Dietch echoed Commissioner Karukin's remarks by stating that the comments were offensive to him and that the employees who were present there and the people they represent who provide the essential services everyday to this community are incredible.


Town Manager Olmedillo invited everyone to continue to send comments and input through emails and requested the Town Commission to confirm that they are available to attend the meeting dates proposed.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Karukin made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted this 14th day of May, 2019.



Daniel Dietch, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, MMC
Town Clerk