



Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
MINUTES
February 14, 2023
5:30 PM
Commission Chambers

1. Opening

1.A Call to Order

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

1.B Roll Call of Members

Town Clerk McCready called the roll with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Shlomo Danzinger, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rose, Commissioner Marianne Meisheid, Commissioner Fred Landsman and Commissioner Nelly Velasquez.

Also Present: Acting Town Manager Hector Gomez and Town Attorney Tony Recio.

1.C Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Healy provided the pledge of allegiance.

2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication

2.A Resident Only Parking in the Abbot Ave Parking Lot - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

For the commission to establish short term parking spaces in the Abbot Ave parking lot reserved for "Resident Only" parking.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

There were no public speakers.

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comments.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and would like to dedicate some short-term parking spaces for residents to do business in Town.

Mayor Danzinger passed the gavel.

Vice Mayor Rose explained to Commissioner Velasquez the process of a motion for discussion purposes.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to approve reserving 12 spots total for resident decal parking for short term (15 minutes) (6 in the north side by CVS and 6 by Starbucks and Chase bank), seconded by Commissioner Landsman.

Commissioner Landsman stated this solution helps to save spots for residents only and will be monitored by Parking Enforcement. He thanked his wife for starting this discussion and idea that was posted on NextDoor.

Commissioner Meischeid thinks this is a great idea and this Friday she was circling for a long time and had to go back home.

Commissioner Velasquez thinks the idea is great but does not believe it should be that many spots and the main problem is during lunch time. She suggested instead of making it a whole day thing make it a couple of hours. She also spoke regarding the Bal Harbour parking garage and that might help alleviate the parking issue on the Abbott Avenue lot. She also suggested increasing the parking fees.

Vice Mayor Rose agrees with the idea, and it is only 15 minutes for residents to get in and out. He stated that the location of those spots will be left to the Town Manager. He asked if it is in the motion for the 15 minutes.

Mayor Danzinger stated that in Town Hall already has the 15-minute parking established. He believes 15 minutes is enough.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

2.B Reappointment of Acting Town Manager as per Section 12 of the Town Charter - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

To reappoint Hector Gomez as Acting Town Manager as required by Section 12 of the Town Charter.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and explained that due to the charter they have to reappoint an Acting Town Manager. He asked for clarification if this is only up to 90 days.

Town Attorney Recio stated it is for up to 90 days and then you have to reappoint him every 90 days or appoint a permanent Town Manager.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if the reappointment is constant.

Town Attorney Recio stated this is an interim measure until you appoint a permanent Town Manager.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meischeid to reappoint Hector Gomez as

Acting Town Manager, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

2.C Increasing accessibility of the Town Calendar - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

To have our Town Calendar of events entered into and managed in a google calendar, which residents can subscribe to, allowing upcoming Town events to be displayed on their mobile devices and other digital platforms.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and stated the technology exists and this would put your calendar on your phone and calendar, and you can choose which items you would like to add, and you would get notifications. He stated the platform is free and should be easy to implement. He would like to incorporate one of these features in the Town's website and the residents be able to subscribe to the Town's calendar.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to have Town calendar of events entered into and managed in a google calendar, which residents can subscribe to, allowing upcoming Town events to be displayed on their mobile devices and other digital platforms, seconded by Commissioner Meisheid.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that they could do this and explained the format and features available.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if it could be done by the next meeting.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated he will work on it to have it done within 30 days.

Commissioner Velasquez asked which of the two options does the Commission want to use.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated he will work with all of them.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

2.D Playground Equipment at Community Center During Park Closure - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

To install the playground apparatus from 96th St park in a section of the green space at the community center during construction of the new 96th Street park.

Mayor Danzinger introduced the item and essentially, they have closed 96th Street Park and they are now redoing the Tot Lot and unfortunately it is being done at the same time and he was thinking of putting a swing set or apparatus at the Community Center's greenspace for people to go with their children after school.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose for purposes of discussion of where the park equipment could go, seconded by Commissioner Landsman.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding a park in Miami Beach that will be done in

a month and is close to the Tot Lot and stated before moving equipment to other places, and the greenspace is used for events during the year, possibly waiting on this one until the Tot Lot is done.

Commissioner Landsman asked for input from the Parks and Recreation Director Milian to see if it is appropriate.

Mayor Danzinger asked Acting Town Manager Gomez if that space is appropriate for use.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated the space is a great idea and spoke regarding events and when it is used it is not that big of an area and possibly exploring other options. He does not believe it is the best location for the month that it will take the Tot Lot to be finished.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that they also approved the beach chairs in the Community Center for storage and that will take away from the greenspace.

Parks and Recreation Director Milian addressed the question and stated that prior to the design of the park they did do sole searching of what could be used. He spoke regarding the events and programs that are held in the greenspace.

Mayor Danzinger appreciates them looking into other options and asked what is the timeline of the Tot Lot being opened.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that they are seeking to close on February 28 and they will reopen within a month and half.

Vice Mayor Rose spoke regarding the different parks that are within 10 minutes from the Town that can be used.

2.E FREEBEE Transportation - Commissioner Marianne Meischeid

Explore the possibility of utilizing Freebee Transportation in Surfside. Bay Harbor Islands and Bal Harbour are currently using Freebee, as well as other local communities.

Commissioner Meischeid introduced the item and provided a background of FREEBEE Transportation, and it operates on clean energy. She would like to ask the Town Manager to provide research.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman for purposes of discussion, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose.

Mayor Danzinger asked Acting Town Manager Gomez to provide some information.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that services like these, which is a public transportation that is no charge to the individual using it, is funded through CITT which is a surtax that is a 1/2 penny tax collected by the County. He spoke regarding the amount that the Town receives and what it is used for which is funding the

Town's current shuttle program. He stated it is not a feasible study for this fiscal year and spoke regarding the City of Aventura removing their shuttle service and replaced them with FREEBEEs and explained the growing pains. He explained the way this form of transportation service works. He stated that the senior citizens use the shuttle bus, and the FREEBEEs are used like an uber service.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding expansion of the route and understands it is not in our budget and possibly discuss it at the budget meeting.

Commissioner Meischeid would like to bring it up at the budget meeting coming up.

Acting Town Manager Gomez spoke regarding bringing more information and spoke regarding what will be discussed at the budget vision meeting.

Mayor Danzinger stated to bring demographics of those using the shuttle bus and expanding to Mount Sinai and Aventura Hospital with this new service.

Commissioner Velasquez asked to possibly expand their current shuttle service to Mount Sinai and Aventura Hospital.

Vice Mayor Rose thanked Commissioner Meischeid and this is more technology driven and would like a survey of those using the current shuttle service and if the people using the current shuttle service would like to use this new service.

Mayor Danzinger would like to explore adding more services to the Town's shuttle service and possibly incorporating this into the current shuttle service.

Commissioner Landsman does not think they could do both and believes it should be either or and possibly using the current shuttle service and expanding it. He stated they need to look at the numbers and see if it is feasible.

Acting Town Manager Gomez explained how the budget workshop will be handled and asked if they want to bring other alternatives as well.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meischeid to recommend bringing this item along with other options as well as expanding the Town's current shuttle service to the budget workshop for consideration for the 2024 budget, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:

Sandra N. McCready, MPA, MMC
Town Clerk