



**Town of Surfside**  
**Town Commission Workshop**  
**MINUTES**  
**June 13, 2023**  
**5:00 PM**  
Commission Chambers

**1. Opening**

**1.A Call to Order**

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 5:06 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 Jeff Rose, Commissioner Marianne Meisheid, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez and Commissioner Fred Landsman.

Also Present: Town Attorney Lillian Arango, Town Attorney Tony Recio, Town Manager Hector Gomez and Finance Director Javier Collazo.

**1.C Pledge of Allegiance**

Chief Healy provided the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication**

**2.A Budget Workshop, Discussion, and Direction for FY 2024 Budget - Hector Gomez, Town Manager**

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item and stated the objective of this meeting is to present to the Commission what the estimated value of the properties are and how it translates to ad valorem as well what they will use as the proposed millage rate and proposed budget. They will have a meeting to discuss the millage rate at a later date. He stated that what staff needs is a short list of the projects and program modifications the Commission would like to see.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comment.

The following individual from the public spoke:

George Kousoulas stated they have a number of good program modifications and would like to encourage them to approve the Freebie program.

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comment.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they have a hard stop due to having dignitaries attending the 6:00 p.m. meeting.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they should bring up what they have issues with.

Mayor Danzinger stated yes and if they have any to add to bring it back at the end.

### **Town Attorney - Non-Contract Professional Services**

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding this item and he stated that it does seem a bit excessive, but he understands it is being allocated and set aside if needed.

Town Attorney Arango stated it would be for special projects and services and it is an estimate.

Mayor Danzinger asked how much was paid last year outside of the scope.

Town Attorney Arango stated she could come back with that information which includes employment, labor and appeals, charter review and referendum process, CTS and an item for land use specialty.

Commissioner Velasquez provided a suggestion if they could do it as budget amendments if it does happen instead of just budgeting a certain amount.

Town Attorney Arango stated some will be expended which includes labor and employment, litigation, charter review, undergrounding, etc. and you cannot foresee what lawsuits are coming. She stated it would be better to have it budgeted like it has been done in the past.

Vice Mayor Rose stated he agrees to budget for it.

Commissioner Landsman agrees to have it budgeted and if they leave it out they would not be able to pay their attorneys.

Commissioner Meisheid appreciates Commissioner Velasquez' comment but agrees that if the attorney feel it should stay budgeted she agrees.

Mayor Danzinger asked if they bill it to a specific file and if they go over the amount on a specific item do they borrow from another one.

Town Attorney Arango stated they do bill it to a specific file.

Town Manager Gomez addressed the comments and they usually budget it in a lump sum.

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

Town Manager Gomez spoke regarding how the millage rate was forecasted and estimated.

Budget Officer Andria Meiri provided an overview of the millage rate and program modifications.

The Commission went over each item as listed below.

**Senior Management Team Building.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

**Customer Guidance Outreach Materials.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

**Landscape Inspection Services.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

Mayor Danzinger would like to obtain an RFP for these services.

**Desktop/Laptop Replacement.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

**Video Agenda Software Subscription.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

Mayor Danzinger stated this is primarily initiated for ADA requirement compliance and asked for the Town Manager to look for grants to assist.

**Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan.**

Mayor Danzinger provided an overview of this section.

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

**Parks and Recreation 96th Street Park Staffing.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

**96th Street Park Grand Re-Opening Party & Ceremony.**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

**Crisis Communications Consultant.**

Commissioner Velasquez asked if this was discussed before and it was determined

they did not need someone in that position.

Mayor Danzinger addressed the comments made and agrees they do not need an individual on staff.

Consensus was reached to remove this from the budget.

### **Programming for Subscription Calendar Feature on Town Website**

Mayor Danzinger is not in agreement with this item and the software exists and all you need to do is plug and play. He understands the cost and requested to have a developer come up with the program for much less than the \$14,000. He would like for the Town to price this out with other vendors.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they should put it as a discussion item and remove it from the budget.

Mayor Danzinger explained that gmail is for free and they could price this out and does not think \$14,000 is adequate.

Consensus was reached to remove this from the budget.

### **Parks and Recreation Customer Service Rep**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated and it will come out of the Tourist Fund.

### **On-Demand Freebee Transportation Service**

Vice Mayor Rose stated that he does not know why Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor and Surfside are so disconnected and why they cannot work together and be more efficient.

Mayor Danzinger stated that he will try again and speak to those Mayors and that they had stated they did an analysis but he will have the conversation again.

Commissioner Velasquez stated she likes the idea however the shuttle bus has more benefits because you are able to carry more people.

Commissioner Meisheid stated she rode the shuttle bus and she was the only Surfside resident on the bus.

Mayor Danzinger likes the idea but his recommendation would be to start with one Freebee and add another one as needed.

Commissioner Meisheid is fine with that and to keep in mind they have an extra \$39,000 that was just removed from the budget.

Mayor Danzinger stated this comes from the CITT Fund and not the General Fund and the money has to come out of the CITT Fund. He suggested starting with one to

see how it works.

Vice Mayor Rose stated he is good with two.

Commissioner Velasquez is good with one.

Commissioner Landsman stated that his concern is the level of service and not removing services from the shuttle bus and that is more important to service the community.

Mayor Danzinger stated that was also his concern and the seniors really liked it.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if they need to use an app.

Mayor Danzinger stated they have a phone number they can call.

Town Manager Gomez stated that if you go with two you will be in a deficit, but they are seeking a grant for next cycle to subsidize it but cannot guarantee they will receive the grant.

After further discussion the consensus was to go with one Freebee.

#### **Skid Steer - Capital Outlay Request**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

#### **96h Street Park Equipment and Security Cameras**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

#### **Police Department remodel and renovation**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

#### **Town Hall Commission Chambers renovation**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

#### **Community Center Exterior Doors**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

#### **Replacement of Police Vehicles**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

Mayor Danzinger stated they are not tied to the hybrids and to explore other vehicles.

#### **4x4 Work Utility Vehicle**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

### **Parking Division Handheld Radio Replacement**

Consensus was reached to have it budgeted as stated.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they are asking for 10 radios but they only have 3 parking officers.

Chief Healy stated they have 4 parking officers and one in the pipelines but this will also give them extra radios in the event any of them break.

Town Manager Gomez stated there is one more item which is a position that was discussed at a previous meeting which is a Capital Improvement Director in the amount of \$209,000 which includes benefits.

Mayor Danzinger stated that the amount sounds like a lot but when you take into account the amount they spend with different vendors doing these duties on our projects you actually have a savings.

Town Manager Gomez stated that if you look at the other project management services for the different projects you are looking at over \$6,000,000. He stated that they did discuss the position in a past meeting. He will provide the Commission with the information of the breakdown which he read into the record. He stated the actual salary will be \$140,000 a year which will be a seasoned and experienced individual.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if they could have it as a consultant.

Town Manager Gomez stated it will be a full time employee position.

Consensus was reached to approve the Capital Improvement Director position as budgeted.

Mayor Danzinger stated one of the items discussed during their budget visionary workshop which was missing here is the Police Safety Cameras and he would like to make sure it is added back to the budget.

Town Manager Gomez stated that it was an oversight and it will be added with the cameras and their locations.

Mayor Danzinger stated that they moved a lot of their events to 93rd Street across from Town Hall and possibly making it a bit different and have the streets paved with pavers to make it look better.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the construction across the street if it would damage the pavers.

Mayor Danzinger stated they will be held liable to replace the pavers if they damage them.

Consensus was reached to add this item to the budget and to come back with a cost estimate.

Town Manager Gomez stated he will be bringing it back with a cost estimate.  
[FY2024 Budget Workshop Presentation.pdf](#)

### 3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Meisheid. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra N. McCready, MPA, MMC  
Town Clerk