



**Town of Surfside
Regular Town Commission Meeting
MINUTES**

**February 13, 2024
6:00 PM**

Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

1A. Call to Order

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

1B. Roll Call of Members

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

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

Also Present: Town Attorney Lillian Arango, Town Attorney Tony Recio, and Town Manager Hector Gomez.

1C. Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Marciante led the pledge of allegiance.

1D. Mayor and Commission Remark - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

The Mayor and the Commission welcomed everyone in the Chambers and gave some opening statements.

Commissioner Meisheid gave a brief summary of her visit to Miami-Dade Days in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Velasquez and Vice Mayor Rose spoke about the new candidate forum.

Vice Mayor Rose provided a copy of a text message from former Commissioner Salzhauer for the record.

1E. Agenda and Order of Business Additions, deletions and linkages

Vice Mayor Rose made a motion to move item 5F (Establishment of the Surfside Youth Council) after item 2 (Quasi-Judicial Hearings) and pulled item 3C (Installation of Safety Roadway Feature with Landscaping and Security Components at Hawthorne Avenue and 88th Street) from the consent agenda. Commissioner Landsman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Meischeid made a motion to pull item 3D (Town Hall and Police Department Improvement Project) from the consent agenda and hear it after item 3C (Installation of Safety Roadway Feature with Landscaping and Security Components at Hawthorne Avenue and 88th Street). The motion received a second from Commissioner Velasquez and all voted in favor.

Commissioner Velasquez made a motion to link items 9B (Update - Abbott Avenue Town Stormwater Improvements) and 9C (Stormwater Masterplan and Abbott Avenue Drainage) and move them after item 3C (Installation of Safety Roadway Feature with Landscaping and Security Components at Hawthorne Avenue and 88th Street) . The motion received a second from Commissioner Meischeid and all voted in favor.

1F. Community Notes - Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

Mayor Danzinger provided his community notes and introduced State Representative Basabe.

State Representative Basabe spoke about how he loves Surfside and he loves attending the Town's community events. He further spoke about the accomplishments that he and Mayor Danzinger have made in Tallahassee.

He spoke about one of his interns that has spoken throughout his district and requested for those sending out emails and campaigning against him to please stop. He stated that his intern is a high school student. He stated that if anyone has any issues with the work that is happening, to please keep their battles with him.

He further spoke about the Live Local Act and stated that he was one of the co-sponsors of the bill and he is very upset about it. He stated that the League of Cities requested his support for this bill. He said that they are working on tweaking the language on the Live Local Act bill. He believes that this bill is something that was voted on for the State as a whole and it was voted unanimously but moving forward he encouraged everyone to get involved.

Mayor Danzinger thanked State Representative Basabe for all his hard work in obtaining funds for the Town of Surfside, including funds for the CTS investigation, walkability, watermain infrastructure and other projects that affect all the residents in town.

2. Quasi-Judicial Hearings

3. Consent Agenda

All items on the consent agenda are considered routine or status reports by the

Town Commission and will be approved by one motion. Any Commission member may request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately. If the public wishes to speak on a matter on the consent agenda they must inform the Town Clerk prior to the start of the meeting by completing a speaker card. They will be recognized to speak prior to the approval of the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 4-0. Commissioner Velasquez was absent from the Dais.

3A. Approval of Minutes - Sandra N. McCready, MMC, Town Clerk

Approved on Consent.

[January 9, 2024 Special Town Commission Meeting-Quasi-Judicial Hearing Minutes](#)

[January 9, 2024 Regular Town Commission Minutes](#)

3B. Board and Committee Reports/Minutes - Sandra N. McCready, MMC, Town Clerk

Approved on Consent.

[November 16, 2023 Regular Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Minutes](#)

[November 30, 2023 Regular Planning and Zoning Board Meeting Minutes](#)

[December 4, 2023 Tourist Board Meeting Minutes](#)

[December 18, 2023 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes](#)

[January 8, 2024 Tourist Board Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

3C. Installation of Safety Roadway Feature with Landscaping and Security Components at Hawthorne Avenue and 88th Street - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration is seeking the Town Commission approval to install a new traffic roadway feature with safety components at the intersection of 88th Street and Hawthorne Avenue with a not to exceed construction cost of \$40,000.00.

This item was pulled from consent and heard after item 5F (Establishment of the Surfside Youth Council).

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item to the Town Commission.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Landsman.

Vice Mayor Rose opened the floor to public comments and the following members of the public spoke:

Mark Blumstein spoke against the item. He has lived on Hawthorne Avenue for years and has no idea why this is on the agenda. He doesn't believe this project is necessary and should wait till the traffic study is finalized.

George Kousoulas spoke and provided ideas on how the project can be done better with complete drawings as 88th Street is a very narrow street. He also stated that it shows poor judgment to bury the item under the consent agenda.

Randi MacBride asked how many residents that neighbor that section were contacted regarding this item that go through that intersection. She is worried about the signage that is being proposed that does not affect visibility.

Todd Weintraub spoke on the item and stated that this may be a benefit for the citizens of Biscaya and the project should wait until the traffic study is completed.

Mel Schlessler spoke in favor of the item as it will be an enhancement. He stated that Biscaya Drive is different because its an island and it needs a traffic calming device. He is in favor of any project that will benefit and enhance the Town like a license plate reader to avoid crime.

David Lombardi spoke in favor of the item. He stated that a license plate reader and the traffic calming device will be very helpful to avoid speeders.

Kevin Seknigi spoke in favor of the item and stated that roundabouts are a proven way to calm traffic. His car was stolen and thanks to the amazing police work being done he recuperated his vehicle.

Eliana Salzhauer spoke against the item. She believes that the Town needs more police patrolling. She stated that the fire trucks may not even be able to go through the subject area. She stated that putting more concrete on the streets is not the solution.

Jordan Wachtel spoke in favor as he believes that putting these traffic calming devices will bring down speeders. He believe that roundabouts should be place on every street.

Deborah Weckselman spoke in favor and believes that some kind of traffic calming device has to be placed as you are unable to see when you are curving. She thinks that Biscaya is a very dangerous street.

Jonathan Horn spoke in favor of the item and believes this traffic calming device will help all the residents in Biscaya.

Commissioner Landsman agreed that the item should have not been on consent, and he is glad that it was pulled to discuss it. He stated that the County at some point will require the Town to remove the illegal stop signs in place. He asked the Town manager if Miami-Dade Rescue or emergency vehicles will be able to use the intersection if this traffic calming device is installed.

Town Manager Gomez responded affirmatively, and he further stated that even our

sanitation vehicles which are bigger will be able to use the intersection and the installation will be in accordance with Miami-Dade County standards.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that several residents brought this item to her attention and it concerns her that the Biscaya resident had a meeting about this item and no Hawthorne neighbor was included in the meeting. She believes that they need a more comprehensive work and collect data before they spent \$40,000. She stated that 88th street is a narrow street and she is concerned that more work needs to be completed. She further stated that she is not inclined to vote for this item.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she is a big supporter of roundabouts and would love to have them all over Town. However, a traffic study has not been completed and the traffic situation is all over Town. Commissioner Velasquez inquire about the Town wide traffic study.

Town Manager Gomez stated that the study is completed but that they are still finalizing details within the report and working with some diagrams that they want to be properly referenced.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she would have liked to see that study prior to discussing this item and believes this item should be deferred to the incoming Commission.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that since all the illegal stop signs have to come out, the Town will have to place some type of roundabout or other traffic calming devices. He would like to see one-way streets, streets painted white to encourage walkability. He would love to soft gate the Town. He believes that this is an option and the first roundabout of many that could be installed in the Town. He supports the Public Works staff completing this project. He believes that this is a very dangerous area as there is a blind spot.

Mayor Danzinger asked some technical questions of the Town Manager related to the proposed area. He stated that the Town Commission does not have anything to do with the placement of the items. He further explained that the Town Commission receives the agendas at the same time as the public and he did not believe that it was fair for the members of the public to blame the Town Commission for the item being placed on the consent agenda. He further stated that this item is in line with this Commission's initiatives of improving walkability, our cut through traffic, improving pedestrian safety and placing LPR and different mitigating devices throughout town.

The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Meischeid and Commissioner Velasquez voting in opposition.

[Attachment A - Schematic](#)

[Resolution - Authorizing Expenditure of Funds - 88th and Hawthorne Security and Safety Project](#)

[Attachment A - Estimate of Probable Cost](#)

3D. Town Hall and Police Department Improvement Project - Hector Gomez, Town

Manager

Town Administration is seeking Town Commission approval to expend a not to exceed total of \$165,000 towards renovation improvements within the Town Commission Chambers and respective public areas as well as within the Town Police Department and authorizing the Town Manager to contract for said services with Di OBRA Development Group.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item to the Town Commission.

Vice Mayor Rose made a motion to approve. The motion received a second from Commissioner Landsman.

The following members of the public spoke on the item:

Eliana Salzhauer was called but not present.

Mark Blumstein spoke about the upgrades to the Chambers and that this project was not competitively bid and that the lower bidder had a company that went bankrupt and maybe a better choice is to have another company to complete the work.

Geraldo Vildostegui echoed Mr. Blumstein's comments and added that makes sense to split the project and take care of what really needs to be changed. The Chambers looks ok to him and he did not see a specific design and believes that the chambers is an iconic space.

George Kousoulas spoke about the qualification of the lowest bidder and the idea of bifurcating the project. He asked who was the designer for the renovation of the Chambers, as he has not seen any renderings or design for the upgrades.

Mandyf Davanpour stated that the Chambers can use some new tiles and paint as the Chambers looks a lot like the 1970's.

This item was placed on hold to take on Good and Welfare required to be heard at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Landsman supports the item if the Town Manager believes to be a need for renovations in Town Hall.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that she would like to see the design of the Commission Chambers prior to approving the work. She is concerned about the lowest bidder having filed for bankruptcy in the past.

Town Manager Gomez addressed some of Commissioner Meischeid's concerns related to the lowest bidder. He further spoke about the administration's intentions and left it to the Town Commission if they want to change the proposed upgrades.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she had an opportunity to walk Town Hall and

she does believe the Police Department needs renovations. She does not support changing the Dais but does support changing the carpet because it looks very unpleasant. She would support the item without the Dais remodel portion of it.

Town Manager Gomez explained that they would like to add an interview room to the police department so that residents can feel more comfortable when meeting with a police officer which now occurs in the lobby in front of the bathrooms and it is not professional.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that the dais should be renovated. Something that the renovation would do is to allow the Clerk to access the upper portion of the dais instead of going around and through the back every time she needs to access the Dais.

Mayor Danzinger spoke about the reasons why this item was in consent and it is because this item was already discussed previously. This item is on the agenda just to approve the expenditures.

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Meischeid voting in opposition. Commissioner Velasquez was absent from the Dais.

[Attachment A - Lunacon Construction Group Proposal](#)

[Attachment B - Di Obra Proposal](#)

[Attachment C - ANC Builders, Inc. Proposal](#)

[Resolution Approving Contract and Expenditure for Town Hall and Police Department Improvement Project](#)

[Exhibit A - Construction Contract - Di Obra Development Group Corp - Town Hall and Police Department Improvements](#)

3E. Ratification, Approval and Acceptance of Grant Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for the Town of Surfside Dune Restoration Project - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

The Town Administration recommends Town Commission to ratify the acceptance and approval of a grant agreement with FDEP for the Town of Surfside Dune Restoration Project.

Approved on Consent.

[Attachment A - FDEP Beach Funding Grant Agreement](#)

[Resolution Ratifying Acceptance of FDEP Grant For Dune Restoration Project](#)

4. Ordinances

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to move item 4A4 before 4A1. Commissioner Landsman seconded the motion and carried 4-0 with Commissioner Velasquez absent from the Dais.

Second Reading

4A1. Code Amendment for Outdoor Lighting in the Single-Family Residential

Districts - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration recommends that the Town Commission review the second reading ordinance pertaining to outdoor lighting in the single-family residential area and adopt with any further policy direction agreed upon.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments.

Eliana Salzhauer spoke in favor of the item. She suggested to add some language to encourage people to turn lights off during the day.

George Kousoulas spoke in favor of the item and about LED lighting.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Danzinger closed the public hearing portion of this item.

Commissioner Landsman stated that he supports this item.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that she is not really clear on what's being amended but would like this ordinance to be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Velasquez asked for some clarifications regarding the color of the lights.

There was some discussion related to permanent or temporary lighting.

Mayor Danzinger would like to have line 87 added back into the ordinance. Vice Mayor Rose and Commissioner Meischeid are ok with the amendment.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Ordinance Amending Section 90-62 Outdoor Lighting for Single-Family Dwellings](#)

4A2. Permit Fees for Condominium Recertification and Special Assessments -
Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town administration recommends adopting the proposed Code change of Section 14-29 and adopting subsection (k).

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the ordinance on second

reading, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Charles Burkett stated that they should waive the fees.

George Kousoulas recommended a 50% reduction.

Eliana Salzhauer stated that these are the favors to be delivered to residents.

Tina Paul spoke in favor of the item and believes that they should approve the most reduction possible in the permit fees.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Danzinger closed the public hearing portion of this item.

Commissioner Landsman believes that if the reduction can be higher, he is open to it. He proposed a 30% reduction.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that the Town already waives permit fees for bigger developments. The Town should have an interest in not displacing the condominium residents. She further recommended a 50% reduction.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she believes it should be a 50% reduction of the permit fee and pleaded Commissioner Landsman to vote in favor of this reduction.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that you are unable to use Tourism funds towards permit fees. He further stated that 20% is the most fiscally responsible percentage. He encouraged everyone to watch the condo forum held by the Mayor and Senator Pizzo.

Mayor Danzinger echoed the Vice Mayor statement. He stated that they have to be fiscally responsible and that the administration recommended a 20% as the 5-year forecast has not been completed. He suggested to revisit this item again after the 5-year forecast has been concluded.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that there will be a lot of monies coming into the Town from all the new developments and she stands by her proposed 50%.

Commissioner Landsman asked the motion maker to consider a 30% reduction and revisit this item at a later time.

Town Manager Gomez gave a brief explanation to the Town Commission related to the proposed percentage.

Building Official McGuinness stated that he supports a 30% reduction.

Vice Mayor Rose amended his motion to increase the reduction to 30%. Commissioner Meischeid seconded the amendment to the motion and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Ordinance - Permit Fees for Condominium - Business Impact Estimate](#)
[Ordinance Amending Sec.14-29 Permit Fees for Building Recertification](#)

4A3. Stormwater Retention and Drainage in H30A and H30B - Hector Gomez,
Town Manager

Town Administration recommends the implementation of explicit requirements for on-site stormwater retention through drainage planning and retaining wall structures when appropriate.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item and explained the recommendation made by the Planning and Zoning Board.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the ordinance with the recommendation to measure the height from the front of the curb. The motion received a second from Commissioner Landsman.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer spoke on the item.

George Kousoulas spoke of the limit that there is currently in place and what is allowed.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Danzinger closed the public hearing portion of this item.

Commissioner Landsman stated that it was intended to keep water within one's property. He believes that they should start somewhere.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that currently you are allowed a six-foot wall and new homeowners are raising their homes/yard and are affecting their neighbors. She believes that the ordinance needs more work.

Commissioner Velasquez stated why homeowners are raising their homes. She doesn't believe this is the right way to regulate the problem. She stated that she doesn't support the item the way it's written.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that this came due to an ambiguity in the Town Code and provided a background as to how this item got on the agenda.

The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Meischeid and Commissioner Velasquez voting in opposition.

[Ordinance On-Site Retention of Stormwater and Retention Wall Standards](#)

4A4. Code Amendment for Submerged Lands and Pointe Lake Development -
Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration recommends approval of this ordinance in order to clarify the prohibitions on development in Point Lake and Biscayne Bay for the protection of adjacent properties, the general public and marine life.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to approve the ordinance on second reading, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Kevin Seknigi spoke in favor of adopting the ordinance.

Saul Rossen asked the Town Commission to vote no on any development on Pointe Lake.

Mel Schlessler stated that no development should take place on Pointe Lake and wishes for a 5-0 vote.

Charles Burkett supports the item and no development should take place.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Danzinger closed the public hearing portion of this item.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she has always supported Pointe Lake and she fully supports this item.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that he fully supports this item.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that she also supports this item.

Commissioner Landsman spoke about the submerged land that it is owned by a private citizen. He stated that he also supports the item.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

The commission took a 5 minute break at 9:33 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:50 p.m.

[Ordinance No Development on Point Lake](#)

First Reading

4B1. Amending Section 90-74. - "Temporary Signs" - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration recommends that the Town Commission discuss the proposed changes and to approve with changes (if any) to move forward for second reading.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Landsman.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments.

No one wishing to speak, Mayor Danzinger closed the public hearing portion of this item.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Ord Amend Sec. 90-74 Temporary Real Estate Signs](#)

4B2. Roof Replacement Materials in the Single-Family Residential Area - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration recommends approval of this ordinance to allow homeowners to re-roof with their existing roofing material.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to approve the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments.

No one else wishing to speak, Mayor Danzinger closed the public hearing portion of this item.

Building Official McGuiness addressed a question from Commissioner Velasquez related to the flat roof slope requirements per the Florida Building Code.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Ord Amend 14-31 and 90-50.1 of Code Re-Roof Replacement with Same Materials](#)

5. Resolutions and Proclamations

If the public wishes to speak on any matters in this section of the agenda, they must inform the Town Clerk by completing a speaker card and they will be recognized to speak at the beginning of this section.

Vice Mayor Rose made a motion to extend the meeting one hour at 11:00pm. The motion received a second from Commissioner Landsman and all voted in favor.

Mayor Danzinger opened up the floor to public comments for this section of the agenda.

The following members of the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer spoke about an installed sidewalk in Town and how the Town Manager does not have the expenditure authority. She also spoke about item 5H (Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022). She explained public records law to the Town Commission and how she has requested the records related to his Dubai trip. She stated that the fact that he met with someone and talked about town business makes it a public record.

George Kousoulas spoke about the concrete sidewalks and believes that they should see a sample. He also spoke about item 5H (Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022) related to the mayor's trip to Dubai and how he has to provide records. He added that he was asked to make the connection and how the "fixer" got involved. He was not involved passed a couple of text messages.

Vice Mayor Rose asked for a point of information and asked Mr. Kousoulas if he was a lobbyist.

Mr. Kousoulas replied "No".

Vice Mayor Rose stated that he was asked by the Town previously to register as a lobbyist and he did not register.

Mr. Kousoulas stated that he had the check with him and that he will pay it right now. However, he asked who his client is because he does not have a client.

Tina Paul spoke about item 5H (Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022), she stated that the public has the right to know about any and all town business conducted in another country and that this may be why the Town Code was misinterpreted in a letter dated August 24, 2021 when Town Planner Walter Keller verified the land use and zoning prior to its purchase. She also spoke about the 10% and 10 feet setbacks related to the Champlain Towers South.

Gerardo Vildostegui spoke about the Champlain Towers and how it is hallowed ground and there are still unfound human remains there and how everything related to the property is under a cloud due to the Mayor's refusal to make clear his conversation with Dubai representatives. He stated that if Ben Jacobson was part of the meeting, the commission has the right to know. He further spoke about Florida Statutes 119 in regards to public records.

Joshua Epstein spoke about item 5H (Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip

to Dubai in October 2022), and asked the Mayor to state if he will release the records of his trip in the next 48 hours.

David Karp spoke about item 5C (Ratification, Approval and Acceptance of Grant Agreement with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the Completion of the Surfside Champlain Towers South (CTS) Investigation) and 5H (Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022) and how some items are being twisted for political reasons.

Ben Jacobson spoke about item 5H (Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022) and stated that Dubai is a beautiful City, with beautiful people and great camel rides and stated that maybe everyone should go and investigate everyone's personal lives.

5A. PUBLIC HEARING

Affordable Housing - Section 166.0451, Florida Statutes

- Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration recommends that the Town Commission adopt a resolution which acknowledges the Town of Surfside has no Town owned inventory that would be appropriate for affordable housing and as required in Section 166.0451, Florida Statutes.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

Vice Mayor Rose opened the public hearing and the following members of the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer spoke on the item and stated that there are missing properties. George Kousoulas believes that the report is incomplete.

No one else wishing to speak, Vice Mayor Rose closed the public hearing portion of this item.

Town Manager Gomez spoke and clarified concerns from the public speakers related to the list provided.

Town Attorney Recio addressed some questions posed by Commissioner Velasquez related to properties mentioned by the public speakers. He further stated that Section 166.0451, Florida Statutes has to do with surplus land program. He further stated that the resolution clearly states that the Town does not have any surplus land that it is suitable for affordable housing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Confirming Town Property Affordable Housing List](#)

[Attachment A - Live Local Town Inventory
Affordable Housing Letter](#)

5B. Interlocal Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Town of Surfside for the Design of the Surfside Memorial Park - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Staff recommends a motion to approve a resolution to authorize the Interlocal Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Town of Surfside for the acceptance of \$250,000 in funds towards the design of the Surfside Memorial and Memorial artwork.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Approving MDC ILA for Surfside Memorial Park Project - Miami-Dade Rescue Plan Funds](#)

[Exhibit A - Interlocal Agreement between MDC and TS for Design of Memorial.pdf](#)

5C. Ratification, Approval and Acceptance of Grant Agreement with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the Completion of the Surfside Champlain Towers South (CTS) Investigation - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

The Town Administration recommends Town Commission to ratify the acceptance and approval of a grant agreement with FDEM for funding pertaining to the Surfside Champlain Towers South investigation.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Ratifying FDEM Grant for Completion of Champlain Towers South \(CTS\) Investigation](#)

[Attachment A - FDEM Grant Agreement for CTS Investigation](#)

5D. Concrete Sidewalk Specifications within the Town of Surfside Boundaries - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration is seeking the Town Commission adopt the sidewalk specification to be incorporated into the Public Works Manual.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Landsman.

Commissioner Landsman stated that he really likes the design.

Commissioner Meischeid asked if the color will continue to fade.

Town Manager Gomez stated that the sidewalk will fade some more but it will not be completely gray.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that she is confused as to what the Town Manager is looking for.

Town Manager Gomez stated that he would like to apply this design as the standard.

Maoyr Danzinger thanked the Town Manager for this initiative and for thinking outside the box.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Adopting Concrete Sidewalk Specifications Surfside Sand](#)

[Exhibit A - Surfside Sand](#)

[Exhibit B - Specifications](#)

5E. Zambelli Fireworks, 4th of July Firework Show Selection and Expenditure Approval - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration is seeking recommendation from Town Commission for the selection of the 4th of July Firework Show for year 2024.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item to the Town Commission. He requested Parks and Recreation Director Milian to come up to the podium and speak about the different options.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution without a barge, seconded by Commissioner Landsman.

Some discussion took place amongst the members of the commission related to the different options.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to extend the meeting for an hour, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Approving Zambelli Fireworks Display For July 4 2024](#)

[Attachment A - Zambelli 4th of July firework with barge proposal](#)

[Attachment B - Zambelli 4th of July firework without barge proposal](#)

5F. Establishment of the Surfside Youth Council - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town administration is recommending the Town Commission approve a resolution that creates the Surfside Youth Counsel as a Town Manager Committee.

This item was heard after item 2 (Quasi-Judicial Hearings).

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Lucia Lecour spoke and presented the item and thanked Mayor Danzinger, Commissioner Meischeid, Parks and Recreation Director Milian and Town Manager Gomez for all their help and stated she is looking forward to continue her work in the upcoming months.

Commissioner Landsman thanked Ms. Lecour for stepping up to take on this responsibility.

Commissioner Meischeid also thanked Ms. Lecour for bringing this to her attention.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that this is a great initiative and wonderful to involve the youth in government and thanked Ms. Lecour for her efforts.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that this will be fun as an introduction to politics.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Establishing Youth Council Committee \(Fact-Finding\)](#)

5G. 96th Street Park Sidewalk Extension Using Municipal Transportation Fund (CITT) - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

The Town Administration recommends that the Town Commission approve a budget not-to-exceed \$40,000 with Sariol Redero, Inc. for Phase One of sidewalk improvements on Bay Drive, from 96th Street to 95th Street.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to extend the meeting 1 hour at 12:00 a.m. (February 14, 2024), seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to ratify Phase I, move forward with Phase II (purple area not to exceed \$50,000). He also stated that he would like to implement a resident's gate for Phase III, seconded by Mayor Danzinger.

Town Manager Gomez addressed questions posed by members of the Town Commission.

The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Meisheid and Commissioner Velasquez voting in opposition.

[Attachment A - Drawing](#)

[Attachment B - Proposals](#)

[Reso Approving Quote and Construction Contract - Sariol Redero - Bay Drive Sidewalk Project](#)

[Exhibit A - Contractor's Quote](#)

[Construction Contract - Sariol Redero - Ph 1 Bay Drive 95th 96th Street Project](#)

5H. Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022.

- Commissioner Marianne Meisheid

For the Town Commission to find that this resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the Town and its residents.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Meisheid introduced the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meisheid to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez.

Commissioner Landsman stated that he does not believe it is their duty as a Commission to compel the Mayor and it is up to the State or the County if they want to follow up after all the complaints.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that the Mayor has answered the question but has not provided the records. She further stated that he should provide records/receipts of who paid for the trip. She believes it is incorrect for him to go and speak to a developer months prior of the approval of a project.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that Commissioner Meisheid reads George Kousoulas' notes and that she votes in favor if he is a paid consultant, she votes for it and if he is not, she will not vote for it. He said that Commissioner Meisheid has been seen at dinners with Mr. Kousoulas who is a consultant and there is public information and private information. He believes that Commissioner Meisheid should provide her records.

Commissioner Meisheid called a point of order.

Mayor Danzinger overruled Commissioner Meisheid's request and stated that Vice Mayor Rose is speaking on the item.

Commissioner Meisheid requested an answer from the Town Attorney and stated that Vice Mayor Rose is off point. She stated that this item is about the Mayor and note her. Commissioner Meisheid asked him that if he wishes to bring a resolution for her receipts to bring it forward next meeting.

There was some conversation that was unable to be transcribed as the members of

the Town Commission were talking over each other and all the microphones were not on.

Town Attorney Arango stated that she is unable to address the Town Commission with all the screaming. She further stated that it is impossible to transact business or give advice under these circumstances.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that the Town Attorney never answers and never provides advice.

Town Attorney Arango responded that she answered the question ten times but Commissioner Velasquez just does not like her answer and it is crystal clear.

Town Attorney Arango asked the Mayor for the floor and stated that Commissioner Meisheid intended to make a Call to Order not a Point of Order. She further explained that the Mayor ruled on the Point of Order and she can appeal to the Town Commission to override the Mayor and it will be done by a majority vote.

Town Attorney Arango provided the rule to Commissioner Velasquez for her review.

Mayor Danzinger spoke about all the efforts that were taken after being elected into office related to the Champlain Towers South. He spoke about what this commission did and their priorities. Mayor Danzinger stated that when he took office, there was no plan for the first anniversary event for the loss of the 98 lives just three months prior to it. He worked nights and weekends to coordinate a week long of events for the families, friends, first responders and everyone affected by this catastrophe. He stated that he has filed all gift disclosures required and expenses in accordance with the law and has provided every document related to the public portion of the trip. He further stated that this resolution comes forward 16 months after the trip but just 6 weeks prior to an election and it is clear what this is about.

Mayor Danzinger proposed an amendment to the resolution to reflect that they are entitled to all public records in accordance with Florida Statutes 119. Commissioner Meisheid did not accept the amendment proposed by Mayor Danzinger.

Commissioner Meisheid stated that the language was part of the resolution.

Mayor Danzinger responded that it was not specific and that the way it was written, she was asking for personal records.

Commissioner Meisheid first agreed and immediately declined the amendment.

The motion failed with a 2-3 vote with Commissioner Landsman, Vice Mayor Rose and Mayor Danzinger voting in opposition.

[Resolution - Request for Information on Mayor Danzinger's Trip to Dubai in October 2022.](#)

5I. FPL Underground Electric Facility to Service 96th Street Park and Easement Authorization - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration is seeking Town Commission approval to expend \$107,733 for the materials and installation of three phase wiring and pad-mounted transformer for 96th Street Park. Additionally, Town Administration is seeking authorization to grant FPL an Easement for accessibility to the transformer.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Velasquez left the meeting at 12:36 a.m. (February 14, 2024).

[Attachment A - Picture of Work](#)

[Attachment B - Scope of Work and Correspondence with FPL](#)

[Resolution - Authorizing Expenditure of Funds - FPL Electrical Facilities and Easement 96th St Park](#)

[Attachment A - FPL Invoice](#)

[Attachment B - Easement Information](#)

5J. Abandonment and Vacation of a Portion of Right-of-Way Known as "Bay Drive Bend" Between Harding Avenue and Collins Avenue - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration is seeking Town Commission approval to formally recognize the vacating of municipal roadway Bay Drive Bend between Harding Avenue and Collins Avenue to property address 8750 Collins Avenue.

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item and requested deferral of this item to the March 12, 2024 Town Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Danzinger. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote with Commissioner Velasquez and Vice Mayor Rose absent.

[Attachment A - 8750 Collins Avenue Appraiser Summary Report](#)

[Resolution - Confirming Vacation of Right-of- Way Bay Drive Bend](#)

[Attachment A - Vacate Sketch \(Non Surveyor\)](#)

6. Good and Welfare (Set for approximately 8:15 p.m.)
Public comments for subjects or items not on the agenda.

The following members of the public spoke on the item:

George Kousoulas spoke about cleaning the language related to the 10 feet, 10% related to setbacks. He also spoke about the expenditures of the Tourist Board and how they have expended one million dollars on special events this year versus about \$300,000 last

year.

Eliana Salzhauer spoke about her mailbox and the mailers she is receiving in her mailbox from "One Surfside". She further spoke about the PAC, how it was started and how is he is paying for the flyers supporting Mayor Danzinger, Jeff Rose, Fred Landsman, David Forbes and Jared Brunnabend.

Gerardo Vildostegui would like to know about the state of the negotiations to acquire the driveway access onto the block of 88th Steet between Collins and the Ocean (8801 Collins Avenue). He further spoke about the Live Local Act and his opinion of what State Representative Basabe stated earlier. He believes that the excuse given by him is unacceptable and that someone has to call him out on it. He not only voted for the bill, but he was one of the co-introducers of the bill and he needs to understand how the bill he co-introduced will affect the Town he stated he loves so much.

Joshua Epstein asked if the Town Mayor would release his Dubai records.

Mayor Danzinger explained that the item is on the agenda and this portion of the meeting is for items not on the agenda.

Mr. Epstein continued and persisted asking the Mayor for his records to be released.

Mayor Danzinger continued to state that the item is on the agenda and that this portion is for items not listed on the official agenda.

Jeffrey Platt spoke about the lounge chairs behind the community center on the beach. He further stated that if there is another beach renourishment, the Town needs to be careful as to how they will access the beach as 88th street is now closed. He further spoke about antisemitism and extremist.

Charles Burkett spoke about the police and what happened with a previous speaker. He spoke about an incident that happened while he was campaigning earlier this week with Commissioner Velasquez and pulled by a police officer in a police car with very dark tints. The police officer stated that he/she didn't see them. He believes that the police need to drive around more often, and that having police cars with dark tints should not be allowed in Surfside as it sends out the wrong message. He further spoke about the Mayor saying something to that same police officer.

Jeff Zomper asked the question he submitted to the Women League of Voter to ask the candidates. He read the following question into the record " Having attended the recent town webinar on undergrounding of utilities, it is apparent that the cost of this project will be significantly higher than originally projected and significantly higher than the \$40 million

bond issue approved by referendum. If the actual cost, before interest payments, is \$60 million, which I believe is a conservative estimate, will you: 1) vote to go forward with the project, without raising the bond amount, even if that drains the town of reserves 2) vote to not go forward with the project 3) vote for a town-wide referendum vote on whether to proceed with the project. If #3 above, what would your recommendation be to the voters as to proceed with the project or not?"

Ben Jacobson spoke about the Commission forum that took place and what some of the candidates stated related to the possibility or the desire to shutting down the Community Center.

Mandyf Davanpour thanked the Commission for the Family fun Day event. She stated that the Commission has done a good job and to stay focused. She further spoke about the statement that people are saying of closing the Community Center for a couple of years and that is not a good idea for families with young children.

Deborah Cimadevilla thanked Commissioner Velasquez and everything she has done. She also spoke about how she feels about Mayor Danzinger and Vice Mayor Rose.

Randi MacBride spoke about the attention to detail that should be taken related to items when they are placed on the agenda. She further spoke about the minutes and what happened during the last meeting related to Commissioner Meischeid and her being antisemitic. She spoke about an email that she received from the Mayor and his response when she emailed him.

Mark Blumstein spoke about the comments that were made related to the Community Center. He stated that the foundation of the Community Center was built to hold more than what is currently holding. It was meant to hold at least 2 stories but the Town couldn't afford to construct two stories because it wasn't fiscally responsible at the time.

David Karp commended the Mayor for abiding to the rules of decorum for not only the residents but also for the Commission. He commended the Town Commission members for the time served.

Gila Unger stated that she does not hear enough about the work that elected officials do for their community. She stated that she appreciates the work that they do for \$1 a year. She further spoke about the need for democracy in Town.

The members of the Town Commission addressed the comments made by the residents.

7. Town Manager and Town Attorney Reports

7A. Town Manager's Report - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item and provided an overview of the Town Manager's Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to approve the Town Manager's Report, seconded by Commissioner Meisheid. The motion carried with a 3-0 with Commissioner Velasquez and Vice Mayor absent.

[2024 February Town Manager's Report](#)

7B. Town Attorney's Report - Lilian Arango, Town Attorney

Town Attorney Arango introduced the item and provided an overview of the Town Attorney's Report and pending litigations.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the Town Attorney's Report, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 4-0 with Commissioner Velasquez absent.

[Town Attorney's Report](#)

8. Unfinished Business and New Business

9. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communications

9A. Investigation Report Findings - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

For the Town Commission to discuss and recommend.

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

The following members of the public spoke on this item:

George Kousoulas stated that the report came back substantially vindicating Commissioner Velasquez. He further stated that the main complaints were unsubstantiated. The only substantiated claim was the one where Commissioner Velasquez revealed the identity of the complainant.

Eliana Salzhauer believes that it is important that everyone reads the reports and that the findings are that Commissioner Velasquez did nothing wrong. She spoke about how the two female members of the Town Commission are treated on the dais and how they succeeded because Commissioner Meisheid is not running for re-election. That this investigation showed that Commissioner Velasquez did exactly what she is supposed to do which is to stand for herself.

Mayor Danzinger spoke about the process and how the Town lost two great employees. The report found that she did violate ethics and found to be insulting to staff.

A motion was made by Mayor Danzinger to recommend sensitivity training paid by her own dollars and till such time, all interaction with Town Staff should be directed through the Town Manager as he sees fit. Also for the Town to forward the report to

the Miami-Dade County Ethics and the State of Florida Ethics Commission, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose.

Commissioner Landsman stated that there are guidelines and it is not for them to dictate punishment and believes it is appropriate to forward the report to the County and State. He believes sensitivity training is appropriate and it is the right steps.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that there has been a vendetta since the beginning of her term. She spoke about the findings of the report. She stated that it is time to put this behind them and move forward. She added that it is her understanding that the Chief of Police left for health reasons and not because of Commissioner Velasquez.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that he wished this item was never discussed but it was brought to them. He believes that the motion for sensitivity training and forwarding the report is appropriate. He further stated that town employees need to know that if anything like this happens they need to know that they will be investigated.

The motion carried with a 3-1 with Commissioner Meischeid voting in opposition and Commissioner Velasquez absent.

9B. Update - Abbott Avenue Town Stormwater Improvements - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Manager to provide an update on Abbott Avenue Stormwater Improvements project. Refer to Attachment "A" - Memo from Keith regarding the Project.

Items 9B (Update-Abbott Avenue Town Stormwater Improvements) and 9C (Stormwater Masterplan and Abbott Avenue Drainage) were linked.

Town Manager Gomez introduced the item to the Town Commission and explained the process that the Town Administration has been through related to the two solicitation regarding to Abbott Avenue.

Matthew Brooks, Project Manager from Keith Engineering provided an update.

The following members of the public spoke on this item:

George Kousoulas believes that this item is premature and believes that it should be pushed to a later date.

Eliana Salzhauer was called but was not present.

Deborah Cimadevilla spoke about the devastating flooding on Abbott Avenue and the entire Town. She stated that the Mayor and the Vice Mayor never wanted to complete this project because the previous Commission was the one that initiated it.

Commissioner Landsman agrees that this has been going on for years and years. He stated that the Town is a barrier island, and it will always flood, you may be able to mitigate it, but it will flood. The problem that they are encountering is funding. He

spoke about the possibility of going to the residents and putting a referendum on the ballot to pay for this project, borrow the funds from the reserves as construction never comes under budget.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that in the last two years they have worked on this but believes this item should be deferred to the next commission.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that they have been here for a long time trying to get this done. She spoke about the timeline of the RFP process. She also spoke about the different other projects the Town is involved in. She believes that instead of a tennis center, town hall remodeling or other projects, they should be thinking about fixing this problem at any cost. She spoke about the ballot question that was put in the November election and stated that it was probably to build a parking garage and not to fix this flooding problem.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that he is in support of this project and believes that this should be put out as a revenue bond referendum and ask the residents. He believes that it is fiscally irresponsible to empty the Towns bank account to pay for this because it will be almost half of the reserve fund.

Mayor Danzinger provided a history of the timeline related to this project. He stated that there are appropriation requests in Tallahassee for this project. It is not fiscally responsible to deplete the General Fund.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to bring to the voters a revenue bond referendum for up to \$10 million in November 2024 to pay for this project.

Commissioner Landsman asked the motion maker if it is possible to ask the Finance Director to do an analysis to determine the feasibility of borrowing from the reserve fund to make up the difference and get this project started.

Finance Director Collazo spoke on the item and offered to do an in-depth analysis if the Town Commission wishes and bring it back to them.

Members of the Town Commission posted different questions that were addressed by the Finance Director accordingly.

Commissioner Landsman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Velasquez asked questions related to the reserve funds and the total funds that went into that fund this year.

Commissioner Meischeid asked questions related to the payment in lieu of building permit fees.

Building Official McGuinness stated that generally the permit fees are 2% of the building evaluation (value of construction value to build it). He further stated that the last project (new building) value was approximately \$300,000,000.

Commissioner Velasquez asked questions related to the unrestricted funds and if

those funds can be unrestricted to use for this project.

Finance Director Collazo walked the Town Commission through the different funds.

Town Clerk McCready requested that the motion be amended to reflect that the approval is contingent of the approval of the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Election to hold a special election on November 2024.

The motion maker and seconder were in agreement.

The motion carried with a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Meischeid voting in opposition.

[Attachment A - Memo from Keith](#)

9C. Stormwater Masterplan and Abbott Avenue Drainage - Vice Mayor Rose

For the Town Commission to bring a referendum to the residents for a revenue bond to borrow \$8 to \$10 million for the Town to be able to fund this much needed infrastructure project.

This item was linked to item 9B (Update-Abbott Avenue Town Stormwater Improvements) and heard under said item.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 a.m. (February 14, 2024), seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Velasquez absent.

Accepted this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor Shlomo Danzinger

Attest:

Sandra N. McCready, MMC
Town Clerk