



**Town of Surfside**  
**Special Town Commission Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 9, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**  
Commission Chambers

**1. Opening**

**1.A Call to Order**

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**1.B Roll Call of Members**

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

Present: Mayor Charles W. Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Ruben Coto, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez and Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui.

Also Present: Interim Town Attorney Mark Blumstein and Town Manager Hector Gomez.

**1.C Pledge of Allegiance**

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein provided the pledge of allegiance.

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

**2.A Resignation of Town Manager and Appointment of Interim Town Manager - Mark Blumstein, Interim Town Attorney**

The Town Manager issued his resignation letter dated March 27, 2024, giving the Town two-weeks notice of his resignation from March 26, 2024. The Commission should consider action on his notice and determine how to proceed in filling his position, on an interim and/or permanent basis.

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if former elected officials had returned their items.

Town Manager Gomez stated how all items were returned except for a phone reported stolen. He stated he found out regarding the lost phone this week.

Mayor Burkett asked the Town Manager who's phone was stolen.

Town Manager Gomez stated the lost phone was the former Mayor's.

Mayor Burkett shared his experience working with Town Manager Gomez. He stated Town Manager Gomez did good things, but a lot of people felt let down. He thanked Town Manager Gomez for his service.

Vice Mayor Paul shared how it saddens her to see the Town Manager leave, but that she understands the circumstances.

Commissioner Coto expressed he appreciates the work Town Manager Gomez had put into the Town.

Commissioner Velasquez thanked the Town Manager for coming forward and accepting it was time to leave the Town. She continued to share her experience working with the Town Manager. She stated how overall the Manager had done a good job.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed it saddens him to see the Town Manager go. He thanked Mr. Gomez for his service and for offering his services with the transition.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jeff Rose thanked Town Manager Gomez and the Town staff for their service. He stated how there is a mass resignation of staff. Mr. Rose proceeded to ask the Mayor regarding the Interim Town Manager. He asked if it was appropriate for him to start meeting with a female interim town manager at his home alone given his track record.

Shlomo Dazninger thanked Town Manager Gomez for his service to the Town, he spoke regarding Mr. Gomez's levels of honesty and transparency.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to accept the Town Manager's resignation, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Mayor Burkett asked if there was a motion to appoint a new Interim Town Manager.

Vice Mayor Paul made a motion to appoint an Interim Town Manager.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein shared the candidate chosen for Interim Town Manager. He shared how the candidate has been working with the Town for over 20 years and is qualified for this position. He announced Marisol Vargas as candidate for the position.

Marisol Vargas addressed the Commission. She continued to give a brief introduction of herself and her history working with the Town.

Mayor Burkett addressed Ms. Vargas regarding her qualities as a Town employee.

Ms. Vargas addressed former Town Manager Gomez and thanked him for his service. She continued to share her gratitude to be appointed as Interim Town Manager and for the opportunity to work with Town staff and residents.

Commissioner Coto shared his experience knowing Ms. Vargas and how he looks forward to working with her.

Vice Mayor Paul shared her happiness to have Ms. Vargas as an Interim Town Manager. She shared her experience knowing and working with Ms. Vargas.

Commissioner Vildostegui shared how he is pleased to have Ms. Vargas stepping in as Interim Town Manager. He expressed how this is history for the Town as Ms. Vargas will be the first female Town Manager in Surfside.

Commissioner Velasquez stated how the Commission fully supports the appointment of Ms. Vargas. She continued to thank Ms. Vargas for stepping in as Interim Town Manager.

An amended motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to appoint Marisol Vargas as Interim Town Manager, the amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution No. 2023-2996 Employment Agreement with Hector Gomez-Town Manager.pdf](#)

## **2.B Resolution of Town Commission Approving Agreement with Interim Town Attorney - Mark Blumstein, Interim Town Attorney**

The Town Commission should consider formalizing the services of the Interim Town Attorney and the establishment of an in-house legal department within the Town, and empower the Interim Town Attorney to engage other professionals, as deemed necessary and within the budget authorized by the Commission.

Town Clerk Sandra McCready read the resolution into the record.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jared Brunnabend asked the Commission regarding the Interim Town Attorney's contract. He asked the Commission regarding the terms of the contract, as he does not agree with some of the terms. He asked the Commission if Mr. Blumstein will be speaking on social media as a Town resident or the Town's attorney.

Jeff Rose asked the Commission regarding the terms of the Interim Town Attorney's contract. He stated how Mr. Blumstein does not have the qualifications to be an Interim Town Attorney.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Coto shared how he trusts Mr. Blumstein's judgement to correct him if he is doing something wrong.

Vice Mayor Paul thanked Mr. Blumstein for wanting to work with the Town. She shared her concerns regarding the terms of the Interim Town Manager's contract.

Commissioner Velasquez thanked Mr. Blumstein for his services to the Town. She stated how she is confident in the Interim Town Attorney's judgement.

Mayor Burkett expressed he is very excited to have Mr. Blumstein as Interim Town Attorney. He stated how the Interim Town Attorney used previous Town Attorney's contracts as template for his own. He addressed the issue regarding why Town employees are resigning and why he thought it was happening. He addressed the issue regarding the former Mayor's lost phone. He stated how the Town is going through a new circle.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Vildostegui. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.


[Reso - Town Attorney - April 2024](#)

[Interim Town Attorney - Agreement](#)

### 3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Vildostegui. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this 14 day of May, 2024.



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Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



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Sandra N. McCready, MMC, MPA  
Town Clerk