



**Town of Surfside
Regular Town Commission Meeting
MINUTES
April 9, 2024
7:00 PM**

Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

1. Opening

1A. Call to Order

Mayor Burkett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1B. 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 Interim Town Manager Marisol Vargas.

1C. Pledge of Allegiance

Interim Police Chief Dolce provided the pledge of allegiance.

1D. Mayor and Commission Remark - Mayor Charles W. Burkett

Mayor Burkett asked the Commission to provide their Commission remarks.

Vice Mayor Paul welcomed everyone and expressed how it feels great to be at the meeting. She shared how she looks forward to serving the Town in the next two years.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed he is excited to be at his first Commission meeting. He shared how he would like to have weekly office hours with residents at a local coffee shop. He continued to share information regarding two events he would like the public to attend.

Commissioner Velasquez shared how she is happy to see residents at the meeting. She spoke regarding controversial topics the Town might have but how there are solutions to everything. She stated the Town will move forward to a direction that will

benefit all residents. She welcomed the new Interim Town Attorney, Interim Town Manager, and Interim Police Chief.

Mayor Burkett expressed the roundtable session the Commission conducted was very effective and wishes to have another one. He thanked Vice Mayor Paul for the idea of the roundtable.

Vice Mayor Paul stated the roundtable meeting was a great time to learn from the former Town Manager regarding the Town's projects. She continued to thank former Town Manager Gomez for suggesting the roundtable.

Commissioner Coto expressed the roundtable was a great idea due to the Commission's overlapping individual ideas and visions.

Mayor Burkett asked the Town Clerk what community notes were.

Town Clerk McCready explained how community notes is a section where the Mayor and Commission can share announcements regarding community events or other community notes they wish the public to know.

Vice Mayor Paul shared announcements regarding Town events.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Vildostegui to move item 9M (Plans for the 3rd Anniversary of the Champlain Towers South Collapse and Memorial Design) to the beginning of Section 9 (Mayor, Commission and Staff Communications), followed by a new item (discussion on holding a special Commission meeting on April 30th, 2024 regarding the discussion items) in section 9 of tonight's agenda, and item 9H (Industrial Use of Single Family Homes in the Residential District), seconded by Vice Mayor Paul.

Mayor Burkett agreed with the idea of a special meeting and to discuss a date, since the meeting could be sooner than April 30th.

Vice Mayor Paul pulled the meeting minutes from March 12th regarding due to missing information at the end of the meeting.

The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

1F. Community Notes - Mayor Charles W. Burkett

1G. Appointment of Boards and Committee Members - Town Clerk Sandra N. McCready, MMC

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

The Town Commission appointed the following individuals to the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

Vice Mayor Paul appointed Sarah Rosenblum to the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Coto appointed Louisa Agresti to the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Vildostegui appointed Francisco Mallmann to the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

Mayor Burkett appointed Cynthia Callaway to the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Velasquez appointed Mary Santos to the Downtown Vision Advisory Committee.

The Town Commission appointed the following individuals to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Commissioner Coto appointed Frank MacBride to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Vice Mayor Paul appointed Oliver Sanchez to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mayor Burkett appointed Marina Sarabia to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Commissioner Velasquez appointed Joshua Epstein to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Commissioner Vildostegui appointed Shea Schneider to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Town Clerk McCready reminded the Commission the Pension Board only has two members at-large.

Commissioner Vildostegui asked Mayor Burkett if he could nominate another resident for the Parks and Recreation Committee due to Marina Sarabia being one of the two candidates for the Pension Board.

The Commission decided to hold the Pension Board appointments for next month's meeting until more applications have been received.

The Town Commission appointed the following individuals to the Personnel Appeals Board.

Commissioner Coto appointed Michelle Kligman to the Personnel Appeals Board.

The rest of the Commission Members decided to make their appointments at a later date due to not having enough submissions.

The Town Commission appointed the following individuals to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Town Clerk McCready reminded the Commission regarding the required qualifications for the Board.

Commissioner Coto appointed James McKenzie to the Planning and Zoning Board, as he is an architect.

Commissioner Vildostegui appointed Andrea Travani to the Planning and Zoning

Board, as he is an engineer.

Vice Mayor Paul appointed Lindsey Lecour to the Planning and Zoning Board, as she has the desired experience.

Mayor Burkett appointed Carlos Aparicio to the Planning and Zoning Board, as he is an architect.

Commissioner Velasquez appointed Adrian Chavez to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Town Clerk McCready reminded the Commission if they desire to appoint alternate Board members they would have to be at-large.

Vice Mayor Paul suggested Horace Henderson as first alternate Board Member and Regino Sanchez as second alternate Board member.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the alternate Board members (Horance Henderson as alternate number 1 and Regino Sanchez as alternate number 2), seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

The Commission agreed to appoint members to the Police Trust Fund at a later time due to lack of submissions.

The Town Commission appointed the following individuals to the Tourist Board.

Commissioner Coto appointed Eliana Salzhauer to the Tourist Board.

Commissioner Vildostegui appointed Jerold Blumstein to the Tourist Board.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the nepotism section on the Town's charter.

Commissioner Vildostegui changed his appointee and appointed Judy Martinez.

Vice Mayor Paul appointed Diana Gonzalez to the Tourist Board.

Mayor Burkett appointed Clara Diaz Leal to the Tourist Board, however, it was discussed that she did not submit an application to the Board but will be asked if she would like to accept.

Commissioner Velasquez appointed Freddy Giron to the Tourist Board.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the appointments made to the Tourist Board, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

The Commission agreed to appoint members to the Youth Council at the next Commission meeting due to applications being considered at the end of the academic year.

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.

Vice Mayor Paul inquired about a section of the March 12th minutes that was not included.

Town Clerk McCready stated she had reviewed the meeting video upon the inquiry of an elected official, and the meeting had adjourned when Commissioner Meischeid requested to speak. She stated that the Town Commission can amend the minutes by motion and majority vote.

Commissioner Vildostegui made a motion to approve consent with amending the minutes to state what former Commissioner Meischeid and former Mayor Danzinger stated at the end of the March 12, 2024 meeting.

The March 12 minutes were amended as follows:

"Commissioner Marianne Meischeid asked the Commission to speak. She directed to the public and stated the following: "I wish we could all follow the golden rule. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Thank you for your service for two years.

Mayor Danzinger answered to Commissioner Meischeid: "For the record, the golden rule is, he who has the gold makes the rule."

The motion received a second by Commissioner Velasquez and the motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

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

Approved on consent as amended.

[March 12, 2024 Town Commission Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

[March 21, 2024 Special Town Commission Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

[March 25, 2024 Special Town Commission Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

3B. Arbor Day Proclamation/Resolution Approval - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

For the Town Commission to proclaim April 23, 2023, Arbor Day and to adopt the resolution.

Approved on consent.

[Reso - Arbor Day 2024](#)

[Proclamation Certificate Coins and Key to the Town Request Form](#)

3C. Emergency Purchase of new Pool Heater - Hector Gomez, Town Manager

Town Administration is seeking Town Commission authorization to expend \$33,546.97 for the replacement of the main pool heater in the Community Center.

Approved on consent.

[Attachment A - Heater Corrosion](#)

[Attachment B - Proposal one](#)

[Attachment C - Proposal two](#)

[Reso - Community Center Pool Heater.docx](#)

4. Ordinances

Second Reading

First Reading

4B1. Amending Ordinance 2024-1768 Permit Fees - Mark Blumstein, Interim Town Attorney

For the Town Commission to discuss and adopt this ordinance on first reading.

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

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jeff Rose asked the Commission regarding the cost per viewing and if this was discussed. He asked regarding the price of the permit fees. He asked the Mayor regarding the financial implications this might cause.

A conversation between Mayor Burkett and Jeff Rose was conducted regarding this matter.

Eliana Salzhauer expressed how the former Commission waived fees and sent the money to other Town funds. She voiced how the former Commission had no fiscal responsibility. She thanked the Commission for valuing legacy residents and keeping condo owners to be able to afford living in the Town.

Commissioner Velasquez shared how the former Mayor advocated SB1526 bill.

Marianne Meischeid shared how she was thankful with the Commission regarding this ordinance.

Jerold Brunabend shared how in 2024 condos are required to do a more extensive capital projects study. He expressed how permit fees being waived is just a small problem regarding the condo buildings. He believes that if the Town Commission is going to waive fees, they should do it for everyone.

Greg Bitz spoke about the foundation of the different buildings; he expressed

something should be done before another catastrophe occurs.

Shlomo Danzinger spoke about the fact that this ordinance is not removing any of the assessment that the buildings currently have. He expressed how this ordinance is removing the permit fees; however, he voiced the Town will not have any funds in the enterprise fund.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor for public comments.

Commissioner Coto expressed how he would like to help single-family residents with lowering their permitting fees since it will promote more renovation and less new construction.

Commissioner Vildostegui spoke regarding the coordination problem condos have that single-family homes do not face with maintenance issues; however, he did mention for a possibility of helping single-family homes with the waiver of the permit fees. He stated how condos are under a unique predatory threat from developers. He shared how the former Commission was spending money on lobbying for SB1526 despite there not being a Commission vote on that matter. He expressed how if the enterprise fund was in some sort of danger, the transfer of funds from major developments are much more responsible for any difficulties in the enterprise fund than the waiving of the permit fees.

Mayor Burkett voiced how Commissioner Vildostegui spoke regarding an elected official in Florida who was a sponsor of the provision to be able to allow elected bodies to tear down older buildings. He shared how that individual said the former Mayor was the biggest proponent of this provision.

Vice Mayor Paul thanked the Commission for agreeing to waive the permit fees. She stated she asked the building official regarding permit fees being charged for new construction versus old construction and expressed how she did not agree with both situations to being charged the same. She shared how by doing this, it helps the older condos to stay up to date on their assessments and prevent condo owners from being pushed out of their homes.

Commissioner Velasquez shared how this particular ordinance is to help the condos. She stated how the Commission will be addressing the issues for the single-family zone at a later date. Commissioner Velasquez expressed this is the right decision for the Town.

Mayor Burkett stated this issue is directed for the condo owners of the Town. He stated how former elected officials have used policies to push residents out of their condo homes for developers to be able to buy out buildings that are too old.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Ordinance Amending Sec.14-29 - Permit Fees](#)

4B2. Ordinance 2024-1770 Amending Section 90-74 Temporary Signs - Mark

Blumstein, Interim Town Attorney

For the Town Commission to discuss and approve ordinance on first reading.

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

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jeff Rose asked the Commission about freedom of speech regarding the regulation of the content of the signs. He expressed the language of the ordinance should be changed to reflect how residents can display five signs of the same content rather than five individual signs with different content.

Eliana Salzhauer shared how there are different types of speech and the restrictions of them.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Vildostegui agreed with Mr. Rose regarding the political speech. He stated how if people wanted to have five signs of the same candidate it should be allowed. He stated he wanted to change the motion to reflect the ordinance without lines 27 and 28 that state the regulation of the sign's content.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coto to approve the ordinance on first reading as amended, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Ord Amend Sec. 90-74 Temporary Real Estate Signs v2](#)

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.

5A. Education and Sharing Day - Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui

For the commission to approve the resolution as submitted recognizing the importance of a moral and ethical education for our children.

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

Commissioner Vildostegui introduced the proclamation to the public. He believed this proclamation should be shared and brought back to the Town.

Vice Mayor Paul thanked Commissioner Vildostegui for bringing this issue forward.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer shared how she does not want religion to be included in politics and how she is not in favor of this proclamation.

Azriel Wasserman thanked Commissioner Vildostegui for bringing this issue forward. Mr. Wasserman continued to respond to Ms. Salzhauer's comment and said how this is not a matter of religion, but a matter of education.

Shlomo Danzinger shared how this proclamation is not a religious proclamation but highlights the importance of education.

Eliana Salzhauer clarified the proclamation is for the Rabbi's birthday.

Shlomo Danzinger clarified proclamations are used for non-governmental issues.

Moses Pinto shared he is in favor of the proclamation. He expressed it does bring issues like not honoring other matters.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed how there should be a continuity on the Commission's practice. He shared he is looking forward to speaking on the creation of the Community Relations Board; he stated he believes this Board will help to advise the Commission regarding what shows of respect are appropriate in a diverse community. He stated the proclamation is drafted in secular terms.

Vice Mayor Paul stated she agrees with the proclamation promoting education. She stated she supports honoring public figures that influenced people and had strong values.

Commissioner Coto expressed the proclamation is a good idea. He stated this is a way to move forward and heal the Town.

Commissioner Velasquez agreed with Commissioner Vildostegui regarding being diverse and inclusive with everyone. She agreed with the proclamation being about education.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Proclamation Request Form](#)

[Education Sharing Day - April 2024](#)

5B. Resolution Rescinding Resolution No. 2024 -3276 Related to the Bond Referendum for Abbott Avenue Stormwater Improvement - Mark Blumstein, Interim Town Attorney

For the Town Commission to discuss and approve.

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

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jarold Brunabend asked the Town Commission what will be the process to put this item on a ballot if approved tonight.

Jeff Rose asked Vice Mayor Paul how he agrees with the stormwater project being a great project, but he believes the Town does not have the funds to execute it.

Eliana Salzhauer stated how the Town just had a special election in November. She stated how the previous Commission did not add the stormwater improvement project on the ballot.

Greg Bitz stated how it would be more prudent to leave this matter as it is since there are other matters that the Town needs to focus on.

Shlomo Danzinger shared how the project was being priced out, which is why it was not on the ballot in the November special election. He asked for the Finance Director to speak on the stormwater project and the other issues shared tonight.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Velasquez stated how the undergrounding of the powerlines was a project introduced to the residents in November of 2021 approved to borrow \$40 million dollars. She stated how the money for the drainage project will be taken from the general fund plus another almost \$4 million dollars set aside. She expressed how there is no need to put the burden of the residents by borrowing money.

Commissioner Coto stated how there will be revenue for the Town with the new projects coming in. He shared how this resolution is a good idea.

Commissioner Vildostegui stated how the previous Commission did not put out a bid for this project back in November of 2023 during the special election, but that it was still foreseeable that the cost of the project was going to be high. He shared how he does not want this Commission to face the same problems and how he would like to use the Town's general fund. He shared how the Abbott Avenue project needs to be renamed as it not only benefits Abbott Avenue but the whole town. He stated he would like to place a borrowing question on the ballot for a future project. He stated he would like to leave this item for now and revisit it in May or June.

Vice Mayor Paul expressed how the opportunity to have a ballot question will not be lost since the deadline is July 26, 2024. She stated how the project can start due to the \$4 million dollars set aside while the Town waits on the bids. She shared how this project has been put off for too long. Vice Mayor Paul had questions for the former Town Manager regarding his report. She stated how there is no need to borrow \$10 million dollars for this project at this time.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein reminded the Commission the Town only has one question for the special election as of now.

Commissioner Vildostegui asked if there was a limit on questions.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein stated the Town needs to request more questions if desired.

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

Reso Rescinding Special Election Bond Referendum Abbott Ave
Stormwater Improvements

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

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to Good and Welfare with the following individuals from the public speaking.

Louisa Agresti shared her thoughts regarding former employees resigning.

Jeffrey Platt congratulated the Commission for their successful run for office. He hopes that they have a friendly administration for the next two years. He welcomed the Interim Chief of Police, the Interim Town Manager, and Interim Town Attorney who are doing a great job. He spoke about the decorum statement on the front of the agenda being removed and stated that the meeting was running in an orderly fashion.

Israel Wasserman shared his experience with the new roundabout on 88th street and his and his wife's negative experience with Mayor Burkett while driving through the area. He would appreciate it if they don't make assumptions of who voted for who based on a yamaka.

Mayor Burkett responded to Mr. Wasserman's comments and stated that he was very aggressive while they interacted regarding the 88th street roundabout.

Israel Wasserman stated he came to the meeting to discuss item 9M (Plans for the 3rd Anniversary of the Champlain Towers South Collapse and Memorial Design).

Mayor Burkett replied that he was not hostile and that he would like to move forward and build instead of divide.

Freddy Giron shared how religion should not be a topic in the town. He stated that the Town is an entity that should not have to deal with religions.

Eliana Salzhauer shared how it is important to heal and how it is equally important to look on what has happened and make sure that the rights that were violated for the last two years don't happen again. She further spoke about her son's arrest and the quite thorough investigation that took place. She spoke about all the baker acts that have happened and the inappropriate use of Town resources. She reported the theft of former Mayor Danzinger's Town cellphone, he stated that there are two years of public records that he is not turning in. She suggested putting the former Mayor under oath and seeing how fast he finds his phone.

Frank MacBride asked the Commission for their support in restriping the Hawthorne Tot Lot because there is a car parked at the entrance of the tot lot and he believes this might create an accident. He further asked for parking enforcement to be scheduled every other hour to check the area and instead of requesting to move their car, to cite them. He would like to see the Town create a welcome packet for new residents explaining how trash pickup works, water bills, and other important matters in Town.

Shlomo Danzinger shared his gratitude to the Town's workers for their unwavering dedication during the last two years. He told the residents of Surfside his gratitude for allowing him to serve as their Mayor. He further implores the new Commission to approach their responsibilities with humility and not allow pettiness to get in the way and to overcome the challenges that may lay ahead.

Ann Finley shared her gratitude to the Commission and their priorities on residents' safety. She stated that Dickens Avenue is now safer for the kids that play on the streets. She stated that the drivers that are cutting through are upset residents and encourage them to do the right thing for the benefit of the Town's children.

Officer Tammy Campbell introduced herself as the union president for the Surfside FOP Lodge 135. She asked the Commission for their support in reading statements from the Town union members. She stated that if time was a concern, there were other union members available to continue to read and finish the statement. The Town Commission was ok with Officer Campbell reading the full statement herself. Officer Campbell read the concerns of the union members regarding several comments made by Mayor Burkett and some other members of the Town Commission and how those comments reflect poorly and are disparagement to the police department and its officers. She further stated that they make arrests based on probable cause and in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, and they review arrests with the State Attorney's Office when necessary. She further spoke about a message written by Mr. Blumstein with the approval of Mr. Burkett but without the approval of the Town Manager or the Interim Town Chief was sent out relating to the arrest of Joshua Epstein. She said in her statement that the national climate of law enforcement is being targeted, it is disheartening to see their local leader villainizing their police department and their officers, and how they have experienced different comments from residents that are causing a division between the residents and the department. She spoke about Mayor Burkett's request to the new Interim Chief to remove the tinted windows from all patrol vehicles because they must lower their windows and wave to residents. She explained how tinted windows are important for the sun exposure of officers in a beachfront community. She also spoke about the 12-hour shifts that has been discussed by Mayor Burkett and how the Mayor has contacted officers directly to give them orders.

Moses Pinto shared his thoughts on the noise ordinance and there are a few deliveries that have been occurring. He believes it may be a street sweeper or one of the businesses. He spoke about the notice sent out related to the 95th street paving. He further stated that he is not in favor of the 88th street roundabout, he stated that he moved from a gated community, and it doesn't work unless you put a security guard.

Jerold Brunnabend shared his thoughts on job openings and staffing. He shared his thoughts on transparency regarding all the vacant positions and proper staffing for the Town. He asked on how come there was no discussion, and the community was not notified prior installing the changes on 88th street. He spoke on what's going on and how these changes will create an accident as people are making illegal turns and until Waze doesn't change the directional pattern on this circle, the Town will continue to have the

same issues. He asked who requested the removal of the 15-min parking spots. Juliana Velez shared her thoughts about the 88th street roundabout and the traffic it creates.

Greg Bitz shared how his car had been broken into and the neighborhood patrol had stopped since the Commission got elected. He shared his thoughts on transparency, and he shared his thoughts on the 15-min parking signs and how that affects residents that go to CVS and Starbucks.

Jeff Rose thanked the residents and Town staff for the last two years of his term as Vice Mayor. He shared how Mayor Burkett got elected thanks to Vice Mayor Paul, Commissioner Coto, and Commissioner Vildostegui's votes, and how they should hold him accountable.

Marianne Meisheid congratulated the Commission on their win. She stated that people are already happier and that they have already held successful workshops. She shared a comment regarding the workshop and how Town Manager Gomez brought all the projects taking place in the Town. She spoke about the Collins Avenue watermain replacement and how it should be looked at a little harder.

Gustavo Ortega introduced himself as a special needs teacher and how he is running for Miami-Dade School Board District 3. He has been teaching at Biscayne Beach Elementary for the last 15 years and he loves his profession. He spoke regarding his candidacy.

Pablo Langesfeld asked the commission to push back into the Surfside Collapse investigation. It has been almost three years, and they have no answers. He further asked for the Town of Surfside to do their own investigation because NIST is taking forever. Ann Findley shared her thoughts on the arrest of Joshua Epstein. She shared how she was moved by the police department's statement. She stated that the police department serves this community very well. She stated she is in full support of the police department and that this has been just a really bad time for this community.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Commissioner Coto shared his thoughts on residents Ann Findley's public comment and how he did agree with the hard work the police put into the Town. He addressed Gustavo Ortega in his comment as well and how teachers should be in the lead. He addressed Mr. Langesfeld and he knows is a very tough situation and we all need to know what happened. Regarding former Vice Mayor Rose comments, Commissioner Coto believes that he ended up with a lot of Mayor Burkett's votes and he appreciates his support. He believes they make a good team and get good things done. Regarding the traffic situation on 88th street, he believes it's tough but that they plan on doing something about it quickly. He addressed Mr. MacBride's comments regarding the Hawthorne Tot Lot issue and asked the Chief to look into the matter.

Vice Mayor Paul responded to the police departments statement and stated that the last

two years have been difficult and unfortunate things happened, but it was important to bring a new Chief and she looks forward to seeing him bring the department together. She believes that the Town has a great police department and that she supports them and hopes they can move pass this.

Commissioner Vildostegui addressed the police officer's statement; he shared his gratitude towards the police department, and he stated that they all showed up all together to the meeting, it makes an impression, and he wants them to know that he is listening. He further stated that he is grateful for the job they do. He shared his thoughts regarding what was said related to Mayor Burkett's comments about the police department and how he believes that those comments were not appropriate. He suggested that there has to be some room for democratic civilian management and that's the essence of democracy and if there are disagreements with policy there are normal mechanisms to deal with that and he hopes those are dealt through the proper channels. He further addressed the tinted windows issue and how there may be a possibility of having lighter tints and still have UV protection. He spoke about the proper channels and how the Commission has a role in setting policy, and he hopes they can find a way to work together and talk about what's best for the town. He shared his thoughts on the traffic and parking issues in the Town and how some changes will have a trial-and-error portion to it. Commissioner Vildostegui expressed his confusion regarding the removal of the 15 parking spaces.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the comments from Ms. Campbell and her interactions with her a couple of years ago with her husband. She feels that there is a better place to deal with situations like this. She suggested a sit-down meeting where they can all have a conversation and discuss the different situations that may be affecting them. She spoke on how the City of New York police vehicles do not have tinted windows, and how having tinted windows provides a disconnect between the police and the residents. She believes that residents should feel comfortable with the police. She further spoke about Joshua Epstein's arrest and how it was handled. Commissioner Velasquez spoke about another incident where a police officer told her that he was investigating some political signs being stolen and that she doesn't believe that we should be using taxpayers' dollars to investigate who stole \$3 signs and she doesn't find that ok. She stated that lying to an elected official is not ok. She further stated that if the Town needs more police officers, she would be ok with that and that maybe working 12 hours shifts may be the cause of issues because they are not getting sufficient rest and people should only work 8 hours a day.

Commissioner Velasquez further said that the police department was used as a weapon against residents for the las two years and she doesn't believe that's appropriate. She spoke about all the baker acts reports and encouraged the new Police Chief to investigate this issue. She further stated that if people are not happy with their jobs, they should look for a new one. Commissioner Velasquez agrees with Ms. Agresti that there should be a full investigation into what happened in the last two years, and an outside investigation

into what happened to Joshua because not all 7 witnesses were interviewed. She is in support of placing a gate on 88th street and providing Town residents with some type of fob to allow the residents to have access. She further stated that the speeding problem should be fixed. She spoke about restriping the Hawthorne Tot Lot area. She wants to ensure that all Town residents are safe.

Mayor Burkett addressed Officer Campbell who was sitting in the public. Officer Campbell responded to Mayor Burkett. This interaction was unable to be transcribed as Officer Campbell was not on the podium. Mayor Burkett spoke on how the police department used to be back in 2006 and how Chief David Allen was brought into town to fix the department and get it accredited. He further addressed some of the comments made by Officer Campbell, like the 12-hour shift. He believes that after 8 hours of work, everyone should go home. He believes that the police officers like the 12-hour shift because they work less days. He further spoke about his actions related to the speeders. He resented how some members of the police department were present at this meeting. He spoke about the police officer incident where he was saying hello and the police officer drove away without acknowledging him. Mayor Burkett spoke about the comment that was made saying that he wanted to defund the police and how he was never in favor of that. He spoke about the position that each one has, they do not want a political police department, he believes that there was a better process than trying to embarrass him in public. He stated that he sees officers that he has been friends with for years. Mayor Burkett stated that he does not want a division between him, and members of the police department, and that Officer Campbell did not accomplish anything as they will still look into the tinted windows, the 12-hours shift, and the traffic and speeders.

There was no support amongst the Town Commission for Officer Campbell to address the Town Commission.

Al Palacios, District 6 Director for the FOP addressed the Town Commission. He stated that the Mayor's comments in previous meetings are flagrant and dangerous, and it was in their opinion the reasons why residents and members of the public are addressing their members in a negative way. He further spoke on how they were talking about an open case and/or a case that just got closed out. The police officers have the power to speak up and say what they believe as the power of regress. He stated that it is illegal for the Mayor to stop a vehicle because they are speeding, and that is impersonating a police officer. There was an exchange between Mr. Palacios and Mayor Burkett. Mr. Palacios spoke about the body worn camera video that is on YouTube but he was not going to get into it.

Mayor Burkett stated that Mr. Palacios' role is to stand up and defend the police officers and that his message is that they are all getting dragged into something that is not good. Surfside has never had a union president standing and speaking against a Mayor.

Sergeant Diana Leon stated that she has been a police officer for the last 17 years and that they are not going to see eye to eye. She stated that they brought their concern forward to the Commission and the residents, that they are not calling for the Mayor to be ousted, but they are humans not robots that you can turn on and off with a switch.

Mayor Burkett stated that he would like to hear what everyone has to say and that is why he allowed Sergeant Leon to come forward and speak, because he cares but he doesn't believe this is healthy.

Sergeant Leon requested not to be interrupted so that she could speak. She suggested fixing what is wrong and moving forward, they are making them aware of their concerns. She encourages all members of the Town Commission to follow the City of Coral Gables Police Department's Instagram page. Two years ago, they brought forward their concerns to their elected officials and they are now 37 police officers down and in crisis. She stated that is what they are trying to prevent here because they love serving this Town but if they do something that makes them unhappy, they will move on.

Mayor Burkett stated that the police officers are unhappy with some of the things, and they showed up and stated their concerns but he believes this could have been handled differently.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that they have a Chief of Police and that they could have addressed their concerns through him, that the way this was done today was inappropriate that if they had an issue, they should have gone through their command officer which is their Chief of Police.

Interim Attorney Blumstein reminded the Town Commission that this portion of the meeting has gone a lot longer than the 45 minutes allowance by town code for Good and Welfare. If the will of the Commission is to continue, there should make a motion.

There was no interest in continuing with Good and Welfare.

7. Town Manager and Town Attorney Reports

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

Interim Town Manager Vargas stated how the report was prepared by the former Town Manager. She stated if the Commission had any questions, she could answer them via email or address them during the next Commission meeting.

Jeff Rose asked the Commission if there was going to be a public comment section for the Town Manager's report.

Mayor Burkett asked the Commission if they will be allowing questions on this

portion of the agenda.

The Commission did not agree to allow public comments.

Mr. Rose continued to give his public comment.

Mayor Burkett asked Interim Chief of Police Dolce to give Mr. Rose a time out outside of the Commission chambers for 15 minutes.

Jeff Rose asked the Mayor if he was going to remove a resident by having the Chief take him out.

Mayor Burkett stated that he was out of order and that he needed to sit down. He can return after 15 minutes and if he can learn how to be respectful and follow the Commission directions he can return and speak some more.

Vice Mayor Paul stated she had questions regarding the Town Manager's report, but that she will discuss them with the Interim Town Manager before the next meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the Town Manager's Report, seconded by Commissioner Vildostegui. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote. [2024 April Town Manager's Report.pdf](#)

7B. Town Attorney Report - Mark Blumstein, Interim Town Attorney

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein presented the Town Attorney report. He spoke about the 9250 Bay Drive case related to the lot splitting (page 108 of the agenda packet). He explained that this was an item addressed by the previous Town Commission and he had an opportunity to review the matter with the Miami-Dade Plat Committee. The sequencing of the event resulted in the issuance of the resolution that was approved by the previous town commission and certified on the day of the election which was March 19th. He subsequently learned that the matter resulted in the waiver of plat. He added that it came to his attention that there were some issues with the application with the Miami-Dade County code in the process and the County requirements for the plat approval and the sequence of event could allow the town to challenge if they so choose to. This process is outlined on section 28 of the Miami-Dade County code and to the extent that the Commission desires for the Town Attorney to file in accordance with Chapter 28 to challenge the decision and seek the striking of the County records of the finding of the plat as non in conformance with Miami-Dade County code.

Mayor Burkett asked if the Interim Town Attorney feels comfortable in arguing that it is not in conformance.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein responded that based on the facts and the records provided by Miami-Dade County Plat Committee there is an argument to be made as to at least one item that required to be before the Miami -Dade County Plat Committee before they approved it, and if you strictly apply the code exactly how it

was written, there is an argument to be made. He further stated that he can't say now if that will be well received by the County or the applicant, but it is an avenue. They will send a letter from the Town to the Miami-Dade County Plat Committee.

The mayor asked if there was a motion to do that.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to move forward and challenge the waiver of the plat, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein spoke about the matter that is open and pending on page 210 regarding Schnabel Engineer vs KCE that has led to an initiation in Virginia. He is seeking some direction from the Commission as to any authority he may have to resolve it for the Town as the Town's representative for those purposes and if they give him that authority, he will seek to resolve it as they are in mediation.

Commissioner Coto asked for the total cost of the matter and what his recommendation is.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein stated that he will look to resolve it for less than the claim. He further stated that there are claims known as nuisance claims and he hopes that he can resolve it.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that in light of everything that happened in the last two years she suggested an independent investigation on phones disappeared and records lost.

Mayor Burkett explained to Commissioner Velasquez that this is related to the Schnabel Engineering case.

Commissioner Vildostegui asked if the Interim Town Attorney saw it helpful to hold an executive session.

Interim Town Attorney responded negatively.

Vice Mayor Paul would like to discuss with the Interim Town Attorney her knowledge of what happened and fully support the Town Commission's direction.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul for the Interim Town Attorney to mediate this case, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the Interim Town Attorney report, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Town Attorney Report - April 9 2024](#)

8. Unfinished Business and New Business

9. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communications

9A. Miami-Dade County League of Cities Director and Alternate Director

Designation - Sandra N. McCready, MMC, Town Clerk

For the Town Commission to appoint a Director and an alternate Director to the Miami Dade County League of Cities Board.

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed his interest in serving as alternate director.

Vice Mayor Paul expressed her interest in serving as director.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to appoint Vice Mayor Paul as the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Director and Commissioner Vildostegui as the alternate director, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Attachment A - Miami-Dade League of Cities](#)

9B. Calvin Giordano & Associates (CGA) Continued IT Services Contract -

Commissioner Nelly Velasquez

For the Town Commission to cancel Calvin Giordano & Associates contract and consider hiring an in house IT employee.

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the need of the Town to have an in-house IT department instead of a contractor.

Vice Mayor Paul asked regarding the contract and the services being paid, as they are not clear on the contract.

Finance Director Collazo stated he does not know the exact number the IT contractor is being paid but gave a ballpark of about \$180,000.

Vice Mayor Paul asked regarding the maintenance of the website and what is being done by the contractor. She stated how the additional services were tech director, network manager, and police department services.

Finance Director Collazo clarified how those services were a separate line item, but that they were all provided by the same company.

Vice Mayor Paul listed all the services provided by the company. She asked regarding the broadcasting services and how the Town is charged by event. She asked if the Town paid for the January 31st meeting services. She stated how she supported Commissioner Velasquez's request. She spoke in regards to the time frame to have information turned over and conduct a search for an in-house IT department.

Commissioner Velasquez voiced how the Commission should give direction to the Interim Town Attorney and Interim Town Manager to bring back this item next month or to conduct a special meeting to discuss the contract and how to move forward.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein expressed how he will be waiting on the direction of the Town Commission regarding this matter.

Mayor Burkett asked Interim Town Manager Vargas to put together a memo that reflects how much the Town spent last year on IT services and to give cost estimates for an in-house IT department.

Vice Mayor Paul expressed how this job might require more than one person. She shared how a cost estimate of multiple employees for the IT department can be done or if other IT contracts would benefit the Town. She stated she would like to see which of the two options is more cost effective.

Commissioner Velasquez expressed her negative thoughts on the current IT contractor and how it is time to bring an in-house IT department.

Mayor Burkett spoke regarding the employee's pension.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein stated he will speak with the Interim Town Manager regarding the approach of this matter and discuss it during the next scheduled meeting.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer shared her thoughts regarding public records and the competency of the IT department.

Jeff Rose shared his thoughts regarding having an IT contractor and having an in-house IT department.

Louisa Agresti shared her thoughts regarding the current IT contractor and how they are not a competent provider.

Shlomo Danzinger thanked the current IT department for the many years of service. He shared his thoughts on how he believed how having an in-house IT department is more expensive than having a contractor.

Jerold Brunnabend spoke regarding how the Commission should not terminate a contract without having solutions.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein expressed he will bring this item back for the next Commission meeting.

[Attachment A - RESO 17-2421](#)

9C. Abbott Avenue Drainage Improvements Project - Commissioner Nelly Velasquez

For the Town Commission to discuss and provide direction to the Town Manager on next steps of how to proceed with the project.

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding the delay of this project. She voiced the urgency of fixing the flooding issues in the Town. She expressed how the Town has 3.5 million dollars for the project, but that it should be put out to bid in order to cast a wider net. She shared how fixing Abbott Avenue will help with the flooding in the rest of the Town.

Mayor Burkett spoke how the former Mayor had said the Town had two mobile pumps and how the Public Works Director said the Town did not own any mobile pumps. The Mayor expressed how the Town should purchase mobile pumps. He stated how the Town should rent the pumps to see if they are beneficial for the floodings.

Vice Mayor Paul asked regarding the design for this project made during 2021.

Public Works Director Stokes stated how the first design went out for bid for two pumps which came back for \$8.9 million dollars. The design was redesigned for one pump for \$100,000 cheaper.

A conversation between the Commission and Public Works Director Stokes was conducted.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jeff Rose spoke regarding the pump project. He agreed with the Mayor regarding the rental of the pumps.

Shlomo Danzinger expressed how he does not appreciate how the Mayor was speaking for him and how the statement of the Town having two pumps was inaccurate. He stated how there was one pump installed in Harding and Hawthorne area.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Mayor Burkett asked the Commission if they wanted to end the meeting at 11 p.m. or if they would like to address more items.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed how he would like to speak on items 9D (Authorize the Town Manager to Negotiate Driveway Access Relocation for 8801 Collins Avenue to Accommodate Additional Memorial Space) and 9E (Creation of a Community Relations Board).

Vice Mayor Paul shared she would like to address some concerns from the Town Manager's report.

Commissioner Velasquez expressed how she would like to discuss the parking fees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to move forward with the Abbott Avenue drainage project with the rental of the temporary two pumps, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Abbott Avenue ITB](#)

9D. Authorize the Town Manager to Negotiate Driveway Access Relocation for 8801 Collins Avenue to Accommodate Additional Memorial Space -

Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed how the memorial for the Champlain Towers victims should be the whole 88th street block from Collins Avenue to the beach. In order to execute this matter, he proposed the idea to negotiate with the property owner on 8801 Collins building which has a small driveway access onto the side street, he also spoke regarding the possibility of moving a fire hydrant.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to extend the meeting until items 9D (Authorize the Town Manager to Negotiate Driveway Access Relocation for 8801 Collins Avenue to Accommodate Additional Memorial Space), 9E (Creation of a Community Relations Board), 9G (Discussion on Parking Fees), 9H (Industrial Use of Single Family Homes in the Residential District), Vice Mayor Paul's questions regarding the Town Manager's report, and the lift gate on 88th street were discussed, seconded by Commissioner Vildostegui. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed he would like the Town Manager to discuss with the 8801 building regarding the cost of this initiative.

Mayor Burkett suggested to Commissioner Vildostegui to personally reach out to the Building to express to them the Commission's ideas on this project.

Eliana Salzhuer spoke regarding moving other objects, like electrical, from across the street as well since the whole block needs to be cleared out.

Ms. Salzhuer was reminded her comment was not part of the discussed item, but that will be addressed in another item in the future.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul for the Town Manager to negotiate with the 8801 building to consider moving their driveway for the Champlain Memorial, seconded by Commissioner Vildostegui. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

9E. Creation of a Community Relations Board - Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui

Commissioner Vildostegui introduced the item. He stated how he would like to create a new Committee of residents who are focused on improving the feeling of community in the Town and overall improve the neighbor relations. He suggested on reviewing the Miami-Dade County version of their Community Relations Board with the Interim Town Attorney and come back next month with a better idea to the Commission. He suggested for each Commissioner to appoint one member and have those members appoint two other members. He expressed the Commission should appoint members during the May Commission meeting.

Vice Mayor Paul agreed with the Town Commission to appoint one member each and those members will appoint two more members. She furthered stated that the section 2-208 duties and function of the Miami- Dade County ordinance should be used to create our resolution since the language contains the essence of what they want to accomplish. Vice Mayor Paul spoke about the possibility of reinstating the Budget Committee and Sustainability Committee.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jerold Brunnabend stated that this was something that was discussed during the debate and he agrees with it. He believes that one topic that is appropriate to speak about is Gay Pride month as it is an important topic and the Commission needs to add this to the agenda to discuss next month.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vildostegui to create the Community Relations Board with language to adopt the Board, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Town Clerk McCready asked Mayor Burkett if Liaisons for the Boards were going to be appointed.

Mayor Burkett asked the Town Commission which Board would they like to be Liaisons for.

Commissioner Coto expressed he would like to be the Liaison for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Commissioner Vildostegui expressed he would like to be the Liaison for the Planning and Zoning Board.

Vice Mayor Paul expressed she would like to be the Liaison for the Tourist Board.

[community-relations-board-ordinance.pdf](#)

9F. Amending Ordinance 21-1716 to Amend Section 90-48 - Setback Requirements and Considerations for Retroactive Implementation - Vice Mayor Tina Paul

Item was not discussed.

9G. Discussion on Parking Fees - Mayor Charles W. Burkett

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and proposed his suggestions as to how much the parking fees should be raised.

There was discussion on how much Bal Harbour chargers.

Interim Town Attorney spoke about the parking tickets.

The Town Commission consensus was for the Interim Town Attorney to work with the Interim Town Manager and bring back suggestions related to this matter.

Vice Mayor Paul believes that the Town should keep the \$ 4 per hour and have a 3-hour maximum time limit seven days a week and allow the residents to use the overnight parking. She believes that if the price is too high, no one will come to Town. She stated the Town needs to tackle the 3 hour limit and be on top of it.

Commissioner Velasquez believes that it should be raised to \$10.00 with a maximum of three hours and either towed or boot the vehicle after three hours.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that whatever they do have to work with the businesses as they already suffer enough. She would like to try different options at peak hours. She further stated that the dedicated spots are helpful to business owners. Also to allow residents to park overnight between 9pm-7am.

Mayor Burkett suggested overnight decals for those residents that use it.

Mayor Burkett stated that something has to be done and suggested a round table if one is needed. He further believes in raising their fees.

Vice Mayor Paul suggested \$4.00 per hour and 7 days a week, with at three hours maximum time.

Commissioner Vildostegui believes that this subject deserves a roundtable discussion. He doesn't believe in graduated parking rates. He believes it should be an even rate across the board.

He spoke about the possibility of creating a resident system or code within the pay by phone app. He would like to workshop this further as he believes that any decision tonight feels rush.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that she will not be in support of any changes tonight.

Commissioner Coto believes that this should be discussed further and requested three different options.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer spoke and advised the Commission not to move forward with taking a decision as of yet. She stated that the way to do it is by having a community workshop.

Shlomo Danzinger spoke against raising the fees and spoke about the maximum of a parking ticket to be \$36.00.

Jason Nevader thanked the Commission for putting the 15-minute signs back on. He stated that he sees beachgoers parking and not Bal Harbour people. He suggested incrementing the fees slowly by \$0.50 cents and 7 days a week.

Jeff Rose spoke about the possibility of the Town of Surfside valet and parking visitor in the Bal Harbour shops by working with them.

Louisa Agresti spoke about Mr. Rose's ideas and maybe have the restaurants hire employees to valet the visitor's vehicles in the Bal Harbour shops or even hotels in town and provide that service to their clients.

Jerold Brunnabend stated that no one in this Commission is a parking expert and his concerns with the Interim Town Attorney acting as the Town Manager.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

Mayor Burkett would like for them to do something about it and possibly changing the rates tomorrow. He would like to raise and see who the complainants are. He further stated that if they raise them and it doesn't work, they can always change them back.

Commissioner Vildostegui believes that this is something that it is definitely for experts, and he is trying to stay away from raising it to \$10.00.

Commissioner Velasquez would like to go to \$4.00 every day, seven days a week and schedule a workshop where the Town Manager and Town Attorney can provide feedback.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to amend resolution 2022-2900 to change the hourly parking fees to \$5.00 across the board in all municipal lots, 7 days a week with a maximum of three hours, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Vice Mayor Paul asked regarding the Town Manager's report stating how the field will be Turf.

Commissioner Velasquez clarified there is natural grass on the field.
Item was not discussed.

[Resolution No. 2022-2900-Off-Street Variable Parkins Rates and Time Limitation.pdf](#)

9H. Industrial Use of Single Family Homes in the Residential District - Mayor

Charles W, Burkett

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and asked for the Interim Town Attorney to look into the code regarding the industrial use of single-family homes in the residential district.

Interim Town Attorney stated that there were problematic sites that were in front of the Special Magistrate and there were fines assessed to those in violation.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke about an ordinance that can be used in order to obtain compliance with those sites.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein stated that sometimes it comes to enforcement and staff availability.

Mayor Burkett directed the Interim Town Attorney to look into this to make sure these things are no longer allowed.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Eliana Salzhauer spoke on this item and the people that make their sites a dump and thanked the Commission for addressing this matter.

Commissioner Velasquez spoke regarding what is not allowed in New York and an ordinance from Coral Gables relating to commercial parking.

Shlomo Danzinger stated that this item is to target the former Vice Mayor's business. He urged the Town Commission to have in mind that there are many residents that have companies, and this may affect those as well.

Jeff Rose spoke on the item and stated that the house in question has an active permit.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez for the Town Manager to put together a proposal and bring it back to the Commission, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Town Code Section 34-66 Definitions.pdf](#)

[Town Code Section 34-67 Penalty for Violation.pdf](#) [Town Code Section 34-68](#)

[Assessment of Cost.pdf](#)

[Town Code Section 34-69 Unsightly Accumulations on Improved](#)

[Property.pdf](#) [Town Code Section 34-70 Vegetation.pdf](#) [Town Code Section](#)

[34-71 Vacant Lots.pdf](#)

91. Discussion on the Planning Department, Planning Approval Process and Planning and Zoning Board - Mayor Charles W. Burkett

Item was not discussed.

9J. Community Center Concession - Vice Mayor Tina Paul

Item was not discussed.

9K. Reverse Resolution No. 2023-Z-3209 Site Plan Approval of 8777 Collins Avenue - Vice Mayor Tina Paul

Item was not discussed.

9L. Discussion regarding Historic Structures - Vice Mayor Tina Paul

Item was not discussed.

9M. Plans for the 3rd Anniversary of the Champlain Towers South Collapse and Memorial Design - Vice Mayor Tina Paul

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Vice Mayor Paul expressed how the purpose of placing this item on the agenda is because of the three-year anniversary of the Champlain Towers Collapse is approaching. She stated how she would like to give the Town Manager direction to work with the Memorial Committee.

Commissioner Velasquez asked regarding the change of name for the memorial.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Martin Langesfeld shared how he lost his sister and her husband nearly three years ago in the collapse. He expressed how the previous Memorial Committee had different opinions. He stated how the Committee, and the family members of the victims should get together and decide on a name. He advised for the new Interim Town Manager to be informed and up to date with what has been done in the Committee. He expressed the importance of continuing the investigation on the collapse.

Mayor Burkett expressed his concerns on making sure the Memorial is properly made and named. He expressed how the memorial is to remember the people, not the politicians.

Azriel Wasserman stated how he thinks his wife is the only victim family member that lives in surfside. Mr. Wasserman said he will ask his wife regarding her opinion on the memorial's name. He shared how he would like to put together the Committee.

Vice Mayor Paul stated they will reinstate the former Memorial Committee and add another two members to it. One is David Rodan, a family member and architect, and survivor Yady Santos.

Mr. Wasserman expressed how his wife would object and to take actions sensitively.

Shlomo Danzinger shared his thoughts on why the Town Manager is running the Committee. He expressed how the name of the memorial came from the feedback of the former memorial committee, due to them not wanting to hear the words Champlain Towers.

Eliana Salzhauer expressed how the last two years have been filled with delays regarding the memorial and the Town's projects.

Mayor Burkett closed the floor to public comments.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to direct the Interim Town Manager to work with the Memorial Committee and Town staff for the memorial anniversary and move forward with the Memorial plans, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

9N. Police Enforcement and Presence throughout Town - Commissioner Ruben A. Coto

Item was not discussed.

9O. Discuss Ordinance Changing the Mixed Use for Religious Exemptions - Commissioner Nelly Velasquez

Item was not discussed.

9P. Discussion on Lot Splitting and Lot Coverage - Commissioner Ruben A. Coto

Item was not discussed.

9Q. Dock Sizes - Commissioner Ruben A. Coto

Item was not discussed.

Lift Gate on 88th Street - Commissioner Velasquez

Commissioner Velasquez introduced the item and believes that this is a great idea and would like to see if the Town Commission would like to provide direction to the Town Manager and Interim Town Attorney to look into placing an arm there and providing residents and emergency vehicles a fob to allow access.

Commissioner Vildostegui voiced how he doesn't believe such a thing exists anywhere in Miami-Dade County, he doesn't believe that the Town will be able to accomplish this if it is a county road. However, he is in favor of the Interim Town Attorney looking into this.

Mayor Burkett opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Jeff Rose spoke about this item and stated that there was a Town Workshop and most of the Town residents in attendance like the idea of placing some of these arms on some streets in Town.

Shlomo Danzinger spoke on the item and asked Mayor Burkett if the issue on 88th street was an order and/or if the Town obtained approval from the County. He stated that the County will make them take this down. He suggested that they should focus on the speed limit which is not enforceable.

Eliana Salzhauer stated that this was discussed in the Town Workshop where only 10 people attended. She further stated that there were things done in the past without the County's approval. She believes that everything this Commission is discussing is to benefit their residents.

Interim Town Attorney Blumstein stated that the Town of Surfside streets do not belong to the County.

Jared Brunnabend stated that the Town should contact Google and Waze in order to change the pattern so that they don't come through the new circle created. He also recommended for the Town Commission to visit gated communities to see how those work.

Mayor Burkett asked the Town Commission if they will entertain this idea as a pilot program.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that in the meantime there needs to be enforcement there.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to direct the Interim Town Manager to put together a proposal and bring it back to the Town Commission, seconded by Commissioner Coto.

Commissioner Vildostegui would like to know more about what is legally allowed in that area.

Mayor Burkett stated that there is no more traffic in that area.

Commissioner Vildostegui expects that this idea doesn't come at the expense of the traffic solutions that they have been talking about. He believes that traffic calming is a different issue from cut through. He expressed how he is worried with over promising with the gate idea.

Further discussion took place related to possible pros and cons of this idea.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to place the lift gate and bring it back to the Commission for final approval, seconded by Commissioner Coto. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting at 12:28am, seconded by Vice Mayor Paul. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this 14th day of May, 2024.



Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra N. McCready, MMC, MPA
Town Clerk