



# TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive  
Golden Beach, FL 33160

---

Official Minutes for the April 18, 2023  
Regular Town Council Meeting called for 6:00 P.M.

---

**Zoom Room Meeting ID: 854 4379 6166 Password: 137654**

**For Dial In Only: Call 929.205.6099 Meeting ID: 854 4379 6166**

THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE AT GOOD AND WELFARE; PLEASE HOLD ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS UNTIL THEN! THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT ALL COMMENTS VIA EMAIL TO [LPEREZ@GOLDENBEACH.US](mailto:LPEREZ@GOLDENBEACH.US) BY 2:00 P.M. TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023.

## A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

## B. ROLL CALL

**Councilmember's Present:** Mayor Glenn Singer, Councilmember Jaime Mendal, Councilmember Judy Lusskin, Councilmember Bernard Einstein

**Councilmember's Not Present:** Vice Mayor Bernstein

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Steve Helfman, Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Police Lt. Yovany Diaz, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho, CIP Director, Lissett Rovira, Resident Services Director Michael Glidden (via zoom), Office Assistant Gabriella McKoy, Lt. Leila Perez, Office Assistant Kaitlyn Dziedzic

## C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lt. Yovany Diaz led the Pledge of Allegiance

## D. PRESENTATIONS / TOWN PROCLAMATIONS

## E. MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS/ REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA/ AND CHANGES TO AGENDA

## F. GOOD AND WELFARE

NONE

## G. MAYOR'S REPORT

Will be discussing later tonight the possibility of supporting adding a crosswalk and light by Golden Gate. Won't discuss too much of it until we get to the discussion item. Commended the Police Department for doing a phenomenal job lately. The efforts we have been taking recently to tackle these crimes is working, but that does not mean we

should relax about it. Congratulations, your plan has been well executed. Still urge residents to lock all of the doors, take your keys, and close your gate. Considering the amount of rain we have had recently, the Town had very little- almost no flooding. Done exceptionally. Did not hear any complaints. Heard several praises that what we have been doing is working. Tonight on the agenda, we will approve the purchase of three (3) additional pumps that will be going to South Island, North Island, and Singer Park, which will alleviate the flooding that happens over there. Hats off to Public Works and to the Administration for a great job. Walked the new Town Hall yesterday with the Town Manager and I know it looks like from the outside that it's progressing slowly, but trust me it looks amazing. The project manager, Alex promised that by June we should start moving in. Very optimistically pleased on the progress that we have made. Not just the progress, but also the details. By taking our time and doing it right, you can really see it in the building. Very excited for the rest of the Council to see it when it's finished, because you can see that we took our time in designing it and making the changes and what a difference that will make. Our Town Hall is going to stand out throughout the state. Know everyone is excited to get the new building open, just have to be a little patient. Also the Town Manager and I have been working hard in finalizing the design and plans of Tweddle Park. Also looking at our options for the new Wellness Center. Just appreciate everyone being patient. The patience will definitely pay off.

## **H. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

### **Councilmember Mendal**

No comments

### **Councilmember Einstein**

Echoed the sentiments about the lack of flooding in town – just amazing. How we did during that, is incredible how we handled it. The Town is being totally transparent with the events going on. Things move pretty incredibly fast in this town. The important thing is that we do it right the first time. It is going to be amazing. It is just one of those things that add to the worth of Golden Beach overall.

### **Councilmember Lusskin**

Spoke about next month's Memorial Day event. Newsletter came out and it was confusing about the date. Wanted to make it clear to everybody that it is going to be Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup>. This Memorial Day is going to be a special one. In Town Hall, there is a box for donations of honorable flags that have been retired. We are actually going to burn the flags. When first hearing about it, I thought it was so disrespectful. After reading deeply into it, it happens to be a very honorable way to dispose of flags that are of no use anymore since they cannot be flown. That evening will be followed by a barbeque. It will be a magnificent ceremony. Sgt. Massie, will help her drop the flags in. Think it will really be an extremely wonderful event. Asking all residents or residents of neighboring communities that have any flags that can no longer be flown, to donate in the box in Town Hall which will be burnt that night in a very emotional ceremony.

## **I. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Our Stormwater system has paid off. Did have slight isolated flooding during high tide, but we were able to see those waters come out as soon as possible.

We will receive three portable pumps for the areas that we cannot install permanent pumps. We are looking at retrofitting some of our Stormwater drains so we could create a solution for South Island, North Island, and in Singer Park and those items will be brought to you for consideration at a later time.

Wanted to recognize Maria Camacho, for the Town receiving the Distinguished Budget Award for 2022 for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Not every city in South Florida receives this

award. It is a living document, serves as not only your finance tool but also your business plan. We also received notice last week, that we are an alternate for the national All America City award.

Also wanted to inform the community that our Facilities Manager Mr. Ken Jones has been in the hospital for the last fourteen (14) days. Today we were able to get him moved to an assisted living facility.

Our safety measures seem to have been working. Authorized the hiring of an additional full-time officer who is currently going through the background process. That position has been created to serve the afternoon and midnight shift.

In the state budget, the legislature is currently in session, we are in both the house and the senate budget. We currently have \$300,000 allocated for parks in the Senate budget and \$850,000 allocated to the Wellness Center in the House budget. If we go through congress and the Governor does not veto it, those dollars should be awarded to the community.

Looking at making improvements to the beach pavilion. We are working to modernize and make our beach even nicer for our residents.

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 P.M. at the Beach Pavilion is the Memorial Day event and the Mayor and Council will be participating. It is going to be a beautiful event and we invite our residents to participate.

We also have two other drives in Town – there is a drive to collect items for flood victims and we are collecting shoes for the homeless.

**Councilmember Lusskin** mentioned that if anyone is having problems with cell service provider AT&T if they could call the Town Clerk and voice those concerns as she has been having problems with her phone for some time.

## **J. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT**

None

## **K. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING**

None

## **L. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING**

None

## **M. QUASI JUDICIAL RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving Variance Request for 254 and 260 Ocean Boulevard to Permit Approval of the Subvision of Lots.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 254 AND 260 OCEAN BOULEVARD, GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33160, TO PERMIT APPROVAL OF TWO LOTS OF LESS THAN 11,250 SQUARE FEET EACH AS REQUIRED IN THE CODE TO; 1) LOT A - 260 OCEAN BOULEVARD AT 11,238 SQ. FT., AND 2). LOT B, 254 OCEAN BOULEVARD, AT 11,216 SQ. FT.; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 1  
Resolution No. 2864.23

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2864.23

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Councilmember Mendal, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

**Town Manager** spoke on the item. What we have here is a homeowner that has two lots and what he is doing is trying to split them up into lots that are 75-foot lots equally. We feel that having two 75-foot lots on the west side of ocean is the best way to move forward. BRAB unanimously approved this waiver.

**Town Manager** thanked Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson for all of her assistance and hard work with this item.

#### **N. TOWN MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT/UPDATE**

- Civic Center Construction Update
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Update
- Re-Imagined Tweddle Park Update

**Town Manager** stated that the Civic Center project is moving at a comfortable pace. We do not want to rush the project. Wanted to share with the Council and the community where we are with major milestones. The contractor is confident that he will be able to deliver the project by September 4<sup>th</sup> this year. There are no project delays, we are on target. However, we always try to deliver projects ahead of time. Even though we know that the building will be completed in June, the audiovisual will not be installed until sometime in August. We do not anticipate holding meetings in the building until the budget process at the end of the summer.

There have been a series of owner-driven change orders that the Mayor and I have identified that will make the building better. For example, there is a transformer in the middle of the plaza. It is a \$50,000 move, but it has to be moved. There are certain things on the ground level. We are adding an additional wall and window in order to protect the elevators from the elements. There have been significant changes in order to make the building more grander, resilient, and sustainable.

I strongly feel between credits and debits we may be able to absorb most of these within the contract price. The goal is that we trust the Mayor and the Manager to do what is best for the building at this time. Know that we are doing very well financially. Just this past quarter we made \$100,000 in the GO Bond that we have invested. We feel comfortable financially that some of these changes that we are making to the building

are in the best interest in the long term for the building, and we can easily accommodate without sacrificing any other projects.

As you know we currently are in Phase One of the Reimagined Tweddle Park. Part of Phase One is to raise the site for the elevation of the tennis courts. We have already had two (2) meetings with two (2) different contractors. David Gerrits from Gerrits Construction is working on getting us those change orders. We may be bringing a substitute for the artificial turf. There are some really cool creative things happening in the tennis community, we are looking at those things.

Hope to bring you something in your June meeting about the Phase One award.

Phase Two of that project is the award of the stormwater retrofit of pump station #1. Met with Craig A. Smith last week and with their timeline to deliver their bid documents, we can go out to bid for the retrofit of the pump station. We were able to receive grant dollars for this project. We hope that by June, there will be a contract to approve, and then we will go bidding during the Summer Recess, so by your August or September meeting you will award a contract for design.

The Town Attorney, Mayor, Lissett Rovira, and Hotwire have been working on the contract negotiations. We are almost there. In working with the Mayor, and him allowing me to come up with a reasonable solution and approach for a big-ticket item, I feel very comfortable to bring to the Council something at the May meeting for the installation and purchase of posts in Town. We will be responsible for the posts on the interior of Town and Hotwire will be responsible for the installation of the difficult ones on the Intracoastal and the Ocean. Also have asked Hotwire to advance the camera purchasing for A1A project. A1A is a priority.

**Councilmember Einstein** spoke on the contracts that the residents have gotten with hotwire concerning the addition of cable service.

**Town Manager** stated that what the Councilmember is referring to is when the Town negotiated the Wi-Fi internet and cable service, the Mayor and him and the attorney negotiated that if a certain percentage of the residents elected to have cable and streaming service they would get a discount from published retail rates. We did not even come close to meet that goal. Hotwire is so good at being flexible, because there are still over one hundred homes that have not signed up for service. They have kept that window open, but we are nowhere near or close to that number. What happened is that your agreement is up, it has been over a year and now you are seeing your prices go back to the regular retail market value not the discounted one. The good news is that if enough residents sign up for streaming service, Hotwire will come back and honor that commitment and provide the discount.

**Councilmember Einstein** asked what is the primary reason people have not gotten the streaming service.

**Town Manager** stated that the way we watch TV has evolved and the residents are probably using other platforms for video viewing. Most TVs today come with a streaming service included. As long as you have Wi-Fi, you will be able to find something on your TV to watch.

## **O. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **2. Official Minutes of the March 21, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting**

**Consensus vote 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.** Item O2 passes.

**P. TOWN RESOLUTIONS**

**3. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving An Application for Waiver of Plat for 254 and 260 Ocean Boulevard.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF PLAT FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 254 AND 260 OCEAN BOULEVARD; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 3  
Resolution No. 2865.23

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2865.23

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Councilmember Mendal, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

**Councilmember Einstein** asked if there is a property that met all of the criteria, are there some items that do not have to come to the Council.

**Town Manager** stated that he used to approve all of the waivers without Council approval. Not sure why but now we bring it all to the Council.

**Assistant Town Manager** stated that when they have to go to the County level, the County now requires a resolution from the Council approving the waiver.

**4. A Resolution of the Town Council Authorizing the Purchase of Three Portable Pumps to Alleviate Flooding in Town.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE AGREEMENT FOR AND PURCHASE OF THREE (3) PORTABLE PUMPS From MWI PUMPS TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING IN THE TOWN; FINDING THAT THE PURCHASE IS EXEMPT FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-275 OF THE TOWN CODE; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Exhibit:** Agenda Report No. 4

Resolution No. 2866.23

**Sponsor:** Town Administration

**Recommendation:** Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2866.23

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Councilmember Mendal, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Bernard Einstein	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

**Town Manager** stated that the Town applied for a grant provided by the State and was awarded the grant. The reason we are waiving competitive bidding is because the State has allowed us, because of the time period to purchase the equipment, and has agreed that we can use the proposal from the manufacturer. We are purchasing three (3) brand new pumps from NWI with the specifications from the engineers. We are waiving the competitive bid process because we are considering this a sole source from NWI and the State has agreed through its agreement that allows us to do so.

**Councilmember Lusskin** stated that she is amazed at how well the pumps work.

**Town Manager** stated that the pumps are noisy. So we do recognize that there is some noise pollution, but it is not for a long time. We will put them on floats to help with this. They have an automatic shutoff when there is no more water in the basin. We have done that to alleviate the noise pollution to the immediate property owners.

#### **Q. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER**

Mayor Glenn Singer:

- Crosswalk and Traffic Light at Terracina Avenue

It was introduced to him by Sunny Isles. They have been pushing for a crosswalk and a traffic light on Terracina Avenue.

**Mr. Jerry Joseph, Vice Mayor of Sunny Isles** spoke on the item. Have been in communication with FDOT and will meet on Thursday to urge DOT to do their traffic study and they need to know that the community is desirous to have this passed.

**Mayor Singer** stated that there are pros and cons to it. When you leave town hall from Terracina Avenue there is no way to go north. You have to go down three blocks and make a U-turn. That is the positive for it. The negative is that traffic is so bad already and the density in Sunny Isles is ridiculous. The traffic is unbelievable and this is the light time of the year. By adding that traffic light, it is going to slow down traffic even further. It is close to the next traffic light and that is probably one of their reasons to reject it.

**Town Manager** stated that we have gone through this exercise before on three (3) different occasions. Each time that the Town has gone it alone, DOT's response is that

it is too close to the other light. However, it seems that because of pedestrian safety on the state highways, there is an interest from the state to explore this. My recommendation to the community and the Council is that we ask for the study as one of the conditions that we must make should the state provide a traffic light. I would be opposed to the light being a pedestrian light. If it is a pedestrian only cross walk, I think that we should be against it as a community.

My recommendation is that we support the traffic study and state that the light must be a synchronized light. Miami-Dade County for the past twenty years has been pushing to synchronize all major highways in South Florida as part of the traffic synchronization program. It would make sense that if a traffic light were to be installed that it allow with northbound turning and synchronized with the other three lights here.

**Mayor Singer** asked for Lt. Diaz's opinion.

**Lt. Diaz** stated that he thinks it is a good idea because we have a lot of pedestrians crossing there, especially during the holidays. It is a matter of time before something bad happens and I would rather not have that happen.

**Town Manager** stated that two weeks ago, he met with the President and Past President of Golden Gates Estates and they are looking for our support for the light. Regalia is also asking for this. Their residents have a very difficult time leaving their property. They are looking for our support and I think that we as a community it makes good pedestrian safety sense and ease of traffic. Town Manager spoke on Vice Mayor Bernstein's behalf who stated to him that he is excited for this study. The Mayor has spoken to the Secretary of the District who is also supportive of the study. We should be in favor of the study, it needs to be a steadfast and traffic controlled device for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and finally it must be synchronized.

**Vice Mayor of Sunny Isles Joseph** spoke about there being a pedestrian crosswalk on A1A right before the William Lehman Causeway, but now it is a full stop.

**Town Manager** stated that it is appropriate for the Mayor and Council to make a motion to draft a resolution supporting this endeavor.

**Mayor Singer** made the motion for the resolution to be drafted with the stipulations they have stated, **Councilmember Mendal** seconded the motion.

**Consensus vote 4 ayes, 0 nays.**

**Town Manager** stated that our easement will have a turning area to come in and out of the building.

Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein:  
None Requested

Councilmember Bernard Einstein:  
None Requested

Councilmember Judy Lusskin:  
None Requested

Councilmember Jaime Mendal:



None Requested

Town Manager Alexander Diaz

- Wellness Center

Wanted to remind the community that we did get a \$7-million GO Bond approved for a variety of projects for the community, the most important of which is the Wellness Center. We are currently anticipating a budget of \$5.5 Million for the Wellness Center. Given that budget, it forces us to work backwards to create a facility that meets the expectations of our community. What we are struggling with is how do we want to move the project forward.

We know that the building may come in around 8900 square feet. We want to be careful that if we do a design to build that someone not design a building that you fall in love with that we cannot build or afford. We built the Civic Center using a design build process that yielded excellent results. Over the next month or two, the Attorney and I will be looking at the state code about going out to bid for architectural services, but have not made any final decisions.

Have a defined amount of money allocated for the project and a defined scope and allow the Attorney, Mayor and I to bring you the best and most responsible way to move forward with this project. We do not have anything beyond the \$5.5 Million. During the summer we will be bringing you a variety of floor plans and facility planning so you can bring to us what you are envisioning for the facility. We do not anticipate any Wellness Center award until the end of the year. Right now, our priority is delivering you the Civic Center, phase one of Tweddle Park, delivering the Pump Station and then after the summer break coming to you with a recommendation in terms of how you wish to proceed with this project. We wanted to keep the conversation open, and that is where we are today with our thought project.

**Mayor Singer** reminded everyone that the next meeting is on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

## **R. ADJOURNMENT:**

---

A motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Mendal seconded by Councilmember Lusskin.

Consensus vote 4 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lissette Perez*

Lissette Perez  
Town Clerk