



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

Official Minutes for the February 27, 2024
Special Town Council Meeting called for 6:00 P.M.

Zoom Room Meeting ID: 844 3630 8149 Password: 305818

For Dial In Only: Call 305.224.1968 Meeting ID: 844 3630 8149

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 BY 2:00 P.M. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmember's Present: Mayor Glenn Singer, Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein, Councilmember Judy Lusskin, Councilmember Bernard Einstein, *Councilmember Jaime Mendal (arrived during presentations)*

Staff Present: Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Steve Helfman, Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson, Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Police Chief Rudy Herbello, Police Captain Yovany Diaz, Police Lieutenant Leila Perez, CIP Director Lissett Rovira, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho (via zoom), Resident Services Director Michael Glidden (via zoom), Office Assistant Eric Garcia, HR Generalist and Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk Elena Cheung

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Rudy Herbello led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. PRESENTATIONS / TOWN PROCLAMATIONS

PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING MARCH 2024 AS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – SPECIAL GUEST COMMISSIONER MICHAEL STERN WAS PRESENT TO ACCEPT THE PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION OF OFFICER LAY RIVACOBIA AND OFFICER STEVEN GONZALEZ

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

This past month was a sad month for the Town as we lost several people close to our hearts. We lost Alfred and Sydell Herrick. They have been in the Town for 30 years. Sue Honowitz, a long-time resident for 25 years. Captain Diaz lost his mother-in-law. Town Manager Diaz lost his mother, Maritza. And longtime resident Anna German also passed away. Our thoughts and our prayers go out to everyone.

On a better note, the Town Manager, Lobbyist Dave Caserta and I went to Tallahassee to meet with the senators and congress members to secure a million dollars' worth of funding to the future Wellness site. The Senate recognized Alex and I during a meeting and commented that Golden Beach was one of the top five cities in the country to live in. It was a real nice recognition for both Alex, the Town of Golden Beach and I. I wanted to thank our Town Lobbyist Dave Caserta because he set everything up. The Valentine's event was very nice and I wanted to thank the Golden Beach staff for all of their efforts and work. Once again, I want to thank the Town Administration for putting it on and doing a great job. I also want to thank the Assistant Town Manager Linda Epperson, Town Clerk Lissette Perez and Police Chief Rudy Herbello for picking up the slack this month. There were many people out and a lot of things happen. Today, I walked the Town Hall again and it's very frustrating; it's the definition of Groundhog Day. It's almost done, but it's not. The one thing I can say is, it looks beautiful. When it's all done and everyone is moved in and working there, we're going to forget how long it took to get it done and what a headache it was.

H. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Bernstein

I want to echo the sentiments of the Mayor concerning all of the people lost.

Councilmember Einstein

The Herricks really epitomized the good feelings of the Town. Always said to be positive. Anna German and Sue Honowitz; very sad. And of course Town Manager, I know how close you were to your mom and you honored her every day and it was a privilege to know her.

Referenced the incident that occurred this weekend. Two kids dug a hole and it collapsed on them; the girl was underneath. I always see kids digging holes and burying themselves in the sand. I would like us to be vigilant; however we want to do it. I don't know if we can stress a little more for helmets on kids on bicycles and scooters, etc. I don't know how to do it but I'd like to see a little more of it. Colorectal cancer screening, everyone should do it. I had 10-15 people who don't live in the community, who went by Town Hall and said how magnificent a structure it was. We have something special here.

Councilmember Mendal

Wish the family of the Town Manager all of our thoughts and prayers. Got to meet Maritza a few times, a lovely lady. Got to meet the very large family and they are all very lovely. Our thoughts are with you.

Councilmember Lusskin

We can't thank the police enough. Received a phone call from Monica Mesa who lives in the Ocean to let her know that they had a minor emergency and the police responded right away. Ellen Block call me today and said her house started to flood. She was panicked; she didn't know what to do. Carlos Balasino came and really helped her out and saved a huge flood in her house. I can't thank the police enough, they are always there for us and very appreciative of it. Alex, there's not much else I can say. We all knew your mother and you're family to us. And this hit us all very, very hard.

Vice Mayor Bernstein wanted to just say a few words about Anne German. They were lovely neighbors. Anne has been sick for a very long time. They were a beautiful couple who were very much in love. They were wonderful people.

I. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

The Valentine's Day event was well attended. I was very fortunate to attend that event before heading to see my mom for the last time. We like to put on events like that; we like to see more participation from our residents at our town events. We also had an event this past Saturday at North Park, the Police football event. The attendance was poor; we only had ten residents show up to the event. We're going to be analyzing whether or not we should continue to put on events that just don't generate enough participation because they are costly. We will be providing the Council a list of recommended events that are going to be scaled down in order to maximize our spending power when it comes to town events. Our Black History Luncheon will be held this Thursday at Tweddle Park pavilion. We received our pension evaluation report. Next year's contribution did not increase, so we are doing well. It is performing as expected.

Last month there was a lot of WhatsApp chats about crime in town. There were two incidents last month where a son of a resident was going in and out of houses and we did make an arrest there. Know that sometime we don't communicate via WhatsApp group to try to keep the gossip down. We did have two scooter-related incidents. Both cases were taken to the hospital; one was in critical condition. I implore all drivers that come through our community to be aware of their surroundings.

I'd like to take a minute of personal privilege. The last couple of days have been extremely difficult for me and my family. My mom was very proud of the work I did here at Golden Beach and very thankful for the great friend and bosses that I have. This council took a risk on a 27-year old kid who lives a very different life and walks to his own beat. And my mom was always proud that this community accepted me for who I am and accepted our family for who we are. She felt part of the extended family. You have my commitment, the only way I can honor my mom is to become a better city manager, brother, friend. Thank you for being a family and a friend.

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 a Variance Request for the Property Located at 212 Golden Beach Drive Concerning the First Floor Finished Elevation.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 212 GOLDEN BEACH DRIVE, GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33160 TO PERMIT THE FIRST FLOOR FINISHED ELEVATION TO BE AT 7.44' NAVD 88, INSTEAD OF THE

REQUIRED 9' NAVD 88 ELEVATION AS STIPULATED IN THE CODE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 1
Resolution No. 2924.24

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2924.24

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Luskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Bernstein, and on roll call the following vote ensued:

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

The motion passed.

Town Manager spoke on the item. The surveyor in this case used a wrong monument marker to determine the elevation and built the house at an 8 NAVD. We would not be recommending approval of this variance if this would be affecting our FEMA rating. We have proposed a 9 NAVD just to be ahead of the curve. We would never recommend exempting them from the FEMA ratings because then that would put the whole community at risk.

Mayor Singer asked how do we prevent this from happening again.

Town Manager stated that the town is under no obligation to survey any properties or elevations. We take as a matter of fact signed and sealed surveys for what they are. The only time we ask for an independent survey is when two neighbors have conflicting surveys.

Attorney Helfman stated that the contractor must have been using the wrong marker from the beginning since he poured it.

Town Manager stated that the surveyor relied on a monument marker that gave him the wrong reading. The monument marker that they used caused everything to be read wrong. To answer the Mayor's question, the Town relies on certified licensed professionals to submit to us adequate readings. Are there one-offs, errors that occur? Yes. This is the first time in my seventeen years here that I've seen something like this. All retaining walls are now required to go in before the foundation goes in.

N. TOWN MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT/UPDATE

- Civic Center Construction Update
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Update
- Re-Imagined Tweddle Park Update
- Pump Station #1 Replacement RFP
- Wellness Center Project Update

Town Manager spoke on the projects update. Civic Center has moved at a snail's pace as we approach completion. Both elevators failed inspection and both elevators needed new motherboards. The ceiling that we purchased as part of the Perkins & Will upgrade, there are few providers that will actually install that ceiling to apply the acoustical material needed. Although the chamber's dais and floor is in we can't move on until that part is in. The other problem we are facing is with the front of the building. As you know we had to wait for Mastec, TECO, and Hotwire to all move their utilities so we can start the landscape installation. Most of that work has been done. Some of the plant material has started to go in. The Mayor is correct, it is beyond frustrating. What is left to be done does not require a lot, but it's the detailed little items that are taking time. I have re-engaged Paul Abott to assist us in trying to bring these projects to closure along with Tweddle Park project. Paul and I will be meeting tomorrow with Sean Compel. I'm hoping and expecting to be operating out of the building by March 15th and that we will have our March Council meeting there. But it is frustrating. Since I returned in January I have been coming to work at 3 and 4 in the morning to push the project along. Just today the Mayor and I have agreed and asked the contractor to provide a price to install carpet in all of the building. The glass railings are here. All the stucco work is complete. Once our building is complete it will be the envy of all municipal buildings in the Southeast of Miami-Dade County. Mayor, we did receive the keys to the first elevator.

Councilmember Einstein asked if we owe the contractor a big amount. Why is he not motivated to finish?

Town Manager stated that it's a cash flow issue.

Mayor Where are we at with the A/V company?

Town Manager The ladder and A/V closet is ready. We cannot begin to install A/V in the chambers when we're doing five spray coats of the ceiling. The TVs/monitors in the other offices are in.

CCTV project – we have been able to get all but two of the intracoastal properties to sign their service agreements. Hotwire will be in town next week to finalize the path for Ocean Boulevard. Facing a small slight setback with FDOT as it relates to the license plate readers on Ocean Boulevard. Access controls – we are replacing all of the gate arms in Town.

Reimagined Tweddle Park – two weeks ago I signed off on the final plans for retaining walls. Next week you will start to see all of the conduit being run. Paul Abbott and Sean Compel have been tasked with making sure that we reduce costs and expedite delivery of Tweddle Park. We will see that the park is going to be moving at a more rapid pace.

Pump Station #1 is out to bid. We had two respondents at the pre-bid meeting. The bid opening is Thursday.

Wellness Center – Nomadas Design and the Dempsey Design are the two that made it to the final phase. However, we do not believe that they can be built for the five million all in. Both have until March 25th to bring back estimates based on true contractor estimates for the five million dollars.

Starting this Thursday the Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department will be making sewer lateral improvements throughout Town. There are 12 locations throughout town. You will see a lot of patchwork being done. Not asking them to do a full road replacement at this time.

Also, I was beside myself at the Valentine's Day event with the stage of our chickee huts. They will be re-thatched within the next two weeks. We do keep shoring available at the lifeguard stand.

O. CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. Official Minutes of the December 27, 2023 Special Town Council Meeting**
- 3. Official Minutes of the January 16, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting**
- 4. A Resolution of the Town Council Amending An Agreement with David T. Caserta Government Relations, Inc.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE AGREEMENT WITH DAVID T. CASERTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, INC. FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2023 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2024; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 4
Resolution No. 2925.24

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2925.24

Consensus vote 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. **Items O7-O8 pass.**

P. TOWN RESOLUTIONS

- 5. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving A Third Amendment to the Agreement with Mainguy Environmental Care, Inc.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MAINGUY ENVIRONMENTAL CARE, INC.; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 5
Resolution No. 2926.24

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2926.24

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

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Aye</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 this is our mow and blow agreement. Also granting the Mayor and I authority to accept materials prices that is consistent with neighboring cities. This includes all of the work that we did on A1A.

Q. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Glenn Singer:
None Requested

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
None Requested

Town Manager stated that usually council assignments are done at this meeting. With the re-organization and the new silos, we are going to bring it before council at the March meeting. The audit will also be done at that meeting. As of tonight, at the end of the meeting Councilmember Einstein will become the new Vice Mayor.

Mayor Singer asked about the BOD assignment for the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. Council agreed to have Vice Mayor Einstein assigned and Councilmember Bernstein assigned as the alternate.

Councilmember Lusskin wanted to make a few comments that she left out from her council comments. I want to thank Nicki Mesa for doing the diaper drive. I want to talk about the Golden Beach Youth Leadership Group because I want to get them involved in the 95th Anniversary. It has not been successful because of big turnover of

kids. I'd like Michael Glidden and I to put a big push towards the Golden Beach Youth Leadership Group. I think it's important for kids to meet other kids in town; it helps families meet other families and I think it helps with the attendance of certain events. It's a different community and it's important that we all come together. I would like to do a few more bagels on the beach to bring residents together. There's a lot of residents that don't know each other.

Town Manager stated that the grand opening of the civic center will be held on Thursday, May 23rd as part of our 95th Anniversary celebrations. This will be the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the civic center. Wanted to have co-events to reduce the amount of money being spent.

R. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Perez

Lissette Perez
Town Clerk