

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Southwest Ranches, Florida**

Thursday 7:00 PM

April 23, 2020

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Doug McKay

Andrew Berns, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Denise Schroeder

Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Council Member Delsa Amundson

Martin D. Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Bob Hartmann

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Council Member Gary Jablonski

Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held virtually via the ZOOM Platform. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor McKay at 7:04 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**3. Public Comment**

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: David Kuczenski and Anna Koldys. David Kuczenski submitted for the record in writing, comments he made at the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Council Meeting (Exhibit A).

**4. Board Reports**

Debbie Green of the Schools and Education Advisory Board addressed the Council to remind everyone to submit their applications pertaining to the Town Scholarship. She also mentioned if any students still need volunteer hours to contact Deputy Town Clerk Debra Ruesga at Town Hall and she will contact the Board to help the students find projects to fulfill the volunteer hour requirement.

**5. Council Member Comments**

Council Member Hartmann thanked the public for attending the Virtual Town Council Meetings. He also advised the public where they can access all the updated information about COVID-19 which is located on the homepage at [www.southwesteranches.org](http://www.southwesteranches.org) as well as posting on its Facebook and Twitter pages. Lastly, he spoke on the \$1 Million surplus and he is worried about the Town's fiscal future. He would like to see that surplus kept in reserves and he suggested to Town Administrator Andy Berns to please consider his request.

Council Member Jablonski agreed with Council Member Hartmann regarding the Town's fiscal future. He is worried about the next 18 months as COVID-19 has completely changed future revenues. Going forward he would like the Town to cut back on spending and purchase only what is necessary. Lastly, he wished for everybody to be safe.

Vice Mayor Schroeder agreed as well to tighten up the Town's spending. She stated she can't wait to come back, but her concern is for the residents to please stay safe, stay in, don't travel if they don't have to.

Council Member Amundson stated as well; the Town's spending should be on "needs not wants". She also wished the residents to stay safe.

Mayor McKay agreed with the Council on the Town's spending; however, he mentioned the Town is extremely frugal anyway and commended Town Financial Administrator Sherwood on the job he does keeping the Town in good financial health. He also mentioned all the phone calls he is receiving about the gate on 190<sup>th</sup> at Griffin 345. The gate is being worked on, the software is being updated along with the remotes and keypads.

## **6. Legal Comments**

Town Attorney Poliakoff spoke on the electronic medium regulation which allows Council Meetings to be conducted virtually. He stated unless the Governor extends the electronic meeting regulation, the next meeting will be at Town Hall as a matter of law; however, we are waiting to see if he extends his order to allow the municipalities to operate by electronic medium and advised the Town to keep the residents informed.

## **7. Administrative Comments**

Town Administrator Berns recognized the times right now are very tough and are only going to get tougher. The Town and its employees are working together to keep the high standard of service to its residents as best they can, but at the same time, he recognized that we have all been impacted some way by the virus. As a result, the Town Staff has been directed to eliminate all non-essential spending for the current fiscal year, as well as keeping in mind next fiscal year's budget. Town Administrator Berns spoke to the fact that even though the Advisory Boards are not meeting during this time, the Town still needs to move forward with the Fire Assessment Methodology. He, along with the Assistant Town Administrator/City Clerk and the Town Financial Administrator worked with the consultant and have devised a survey that was sent out to the Fire Assessment Board Members. This allowed the Board members to be heard and provide their input. The Town is collecting the input which will be disseminated and shared with the Town Council.

## **Resolutions**

**8. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE SUBMISSION OF THE TRANSPORTATION SURFACE DRAINAGE AND ONGOING REHABILITATION (TSDOR) PROJECT TO BROWARD COUNTY AS A MUNICIPAL REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE SURTAX PROJECT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CYCLE ONE FUNDING; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY TO HELP EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski and seconded by Council Member Hartmann and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Amundson, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Schroeder and Mayor McKay voting yes.

**MOTION: TO REMOVE THE RESOLUTION FROM THE APRIL 23, 2020 AGENDA.**

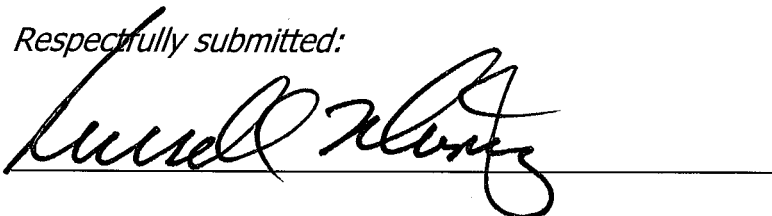
9. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE 2020 AMENDMENTS TO THE TWO (2) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS WITH BROWARD COUNTY PROVIDING FOR THE DIVISION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE BROWARD COUNTY FIFTH-CENT LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX AND THE ADDITIONAL THIRD-CENT LOCAL OPTION GAS TAX; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski and seconded by Vice Mayor Schroeder and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Amundson, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Schroeder and Mayor McKay voting yes.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.**

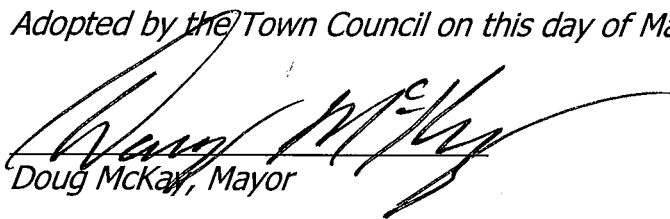
10. **Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

*Respectfully submitted:*



*Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk*

*Adopted by the Town Council on this day of May 28, 2020*



*Doug McKay, Mayor*

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.

# EXHIBIT A

During the public comment period of the April 9 meeting, I spoke of Mr. & Mrs. Calis' plight regarding the berm between his property and the property to their north. Check the recording, I did not mention anything more than the insufficient berm. Unfortunately, the format denied my opportunity to make the record clear.

As an attorney, I am well aware of the protections afforded under the Right to Farm Act, and the subject property next door rightfully protected under that statute.

The Right to Farm Act is an essential element of our Town, and I just want to make sure the record correctly reflects what took place.

David S Kuczenski, Esq.,

6411 Holatee Trail