

RESOLUTION 2021 - 003

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2019-061, AND ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL RULES AND POLICIES FOR CIVILITY AND DECORUM DURING TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS, TOWN BOARD MEETINGS, AND DURING PUBLIC COMMENT AT TOWN COUNCIL AND BOARD MEETINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2019, pursuant to Resolution No. 2019-061, the Town Council adopted the Town Council Meeting Decorum Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to amend its policy and to add additional regulations in order to efficiently and effectively complete Town business during the meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes that establishing reasonable rules and policies for civility and decorum during Town Council and Town Board meetings is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The recitals above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Town Council hereby amends Resolution No. 2019-061, to add additional rules and policies for civility and decorum during Town Council Meetings, Town Board Meetings, and during public comment, as further set forth herein.

Section 3. The Town Council hereby amends Resolution 2019-061 as follows:

A. Balance of Rights and Decorum. The Town is afforded the means to insure that the individual's right to participate in a public meeting is balanced with maintaining decorum during that meeting. The Town will always err on the side of allowing the individual to express his or her thoughts.

B. Addressing the Town Council.

All remarks shall be addressed to the Town Council as a body and not to any individual member thereof. No personal attacks shall be tolerated.

Each person is limited to speak once during public comment and once on each agenda item in accordance with the Town's public participation regulations.

The Mayor/Chair may grant additional time of no more than two minutes, unless agreed upon by a majority of the Council.

There shall be no response to public comments until public participation is formally closed.

C. Decorum – Town Council.

While the Town Council is in session, the members thereof shall preserve order and decorum and shall not, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings nor the peace of the Council and shall obey all orders of the Council or its Mayor/Chair, except as otherwise provided.

Every Councilmember desiring to speak shall address the Mayor/Chair and, upon recognition by the Mayor/Chair, shall confine themselves to the question under debate and shall avoid all personal attacks and inappropriate language.

Generally, a Councilmember having an administrative inquiry shall address his/her question to the Town Administrator, who may answer or designate a member of the Town Staff to answer.

A Councilmember once recognized, shall not be interrupted while speaking unless called to order by the Mayor/Chair, and unless a point of order is raised by another member or unless the speaker chooses to yield to questions from another member. All members of the Council shall demonstrate the utmost courtesy to each other, to Town employees, and to public members appearing before the Town Council and shall refrain at all times from rude and derogatory remarks, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments, and statements as to motives and personalities. Councilmembers shall confine their remarks to the issues before the Town Council.

D. Decorum – Public.

The Mayor/Chair shall preserve decorum and order and decide all questions of order, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, subject to a Councilmember's appeal to the Town Attorney who shall confirm if questions of order are being properly followed.

The public shall be respectful of others' opinions, and refrain from making personal attacks. Any person who becomes disorderly or who fails to confine remarks to the identified subject or business at hand shall be cautioned by the Mayor/Chair and given

the opportunity to conclude remarks on the subject in a decorous manner and with the designated time limit. Any person failing to comply as cautioned may be barred from making any additional comments during the meeting by the Mayor/Chair. If the Mayor/Chair refuses to caution such conduct, such caution and prohibition from making any additional comments during the meeting can be made by a majority of the Council.

If the Mayor/Chair or the Town Council declares an individual out of order, he or she may be requested to relinquish the podium. If the person does not do so, he or she may be subject to removal from the Town Council Chambers or other meeting room.

Clapping, applauding, heckling or verbal outburst in support or opposition to a speaker or his or her remarks shall be discouraged.

Persons exiting the Council Chambers shall do so quietly.

F. Town Council Code of Conduct.

1. Inappropriate Behavior.

Councilmembers shall refrain from insulting or making personal attacks, including attacks on family members, on fellow Councilmembers, and shall refrain from belittling or attacking staff members.

2. Campaign Free Zones.

A Councilmember shall not use a Town meeting to further or deter the candidacy of any candidate for Town office. Councilmembers shall refrain from making comments about candidates for Town office at Town meetings, workshops and/or forums. While at Town meetings, Councilmembers shall refrain from engaging in campaign speech or conduct, including wearing clothing or items in support or opposition of any candidate running for Town office. While at Town meetings, Councilmembers shall refrain from publicly endorsing anyone running for Town office, except for simple announcement as to who they may be supporting in an upcoming election. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, at a Town meeting a Councilmember may publicly announce that they are running for public office, and they may wear clothing in support of their own candidacy.

3. Removal from Council Meetings in the Town, Town Council Public Meetings, Meetings of Boards or Committees, collectively "Meetings."

All persons, including members of the Council, after warning, are subject to removal pursuant to the provisions of Decorum if an egregious infraction continues to occur.

Section 4. The rules and policies adopted herein shall be effective until modified, or repealed by the Town Council.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

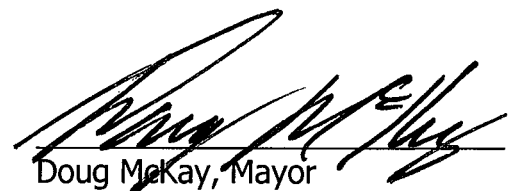
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest

Ranches, Florida, this 8th day of October 2020 on a motion by

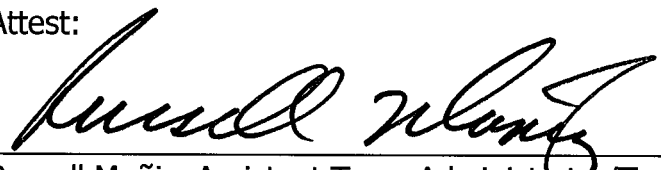
Council Member Jablonski and seconded by Council Member Hartmann.

McKay	<u>Yes</u>
Schroeder	<u>Yes</u>
Amundson	<u>Yes</u>
Hartmann	<u>Yes</u>
Jablonski	<u>Yes</u>

Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Abstaining	<u>0</u>

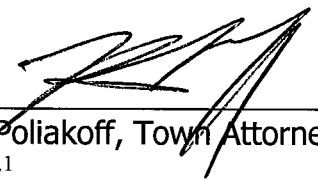

Doug McKay, Mayor

Attest:



Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney
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