



**Town of Surfside**  
**Special Town Commission Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 31, 2020**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Surfside, FL 33154

**1. Opening**

**A. Call to Order**

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

**B. Roll Call of Members**

Town Clerk Novoa called the roll with the following members present:

Present: Mayor Charles Burkett, Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, and Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer.

Absent: Commissioner Charles Kesl

Also present were Town Manager Guillermo Olmedillo and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

**2. Discussion Items**

**A. COVID-19 Task Force Update – Commissioner Charles Kesl**

Sustainability and Resiliency Officer/COVID-19 Task Force Coordinator Stein gave an update. She spoke regarding risk assessment, finances, unemployment, seniors, staffing and will present those findings at a later meeting. She also stated that she will have a resource map and do an overview of those risk assessments.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the work being done and the importance of this task force. She also requested something be done for the residents.

Police Chief Yero addressed comments made by the Commission and the need of staying at home in compliance with the COVID-19 order.

Mayor Burkett asked if there is anyone at Town Hall to speak to regarding updates on COVID 19.

Sustainability and Resiliency Officer/COVID-19 Task Force Coordinator Stein answered Mayor Burkett's question and stated that there is someone that can speak to the public. She also stated that there is someone at the police department and all information is available on the Town's website.

Commissioner Salzhauer suggested having some of the employee's schedule changed in order to have someone present at Town Hall.

Vice Mayor Paul commented regarding residents with special needs and provided preventive care information.

**B. Communications Crisis Management & Outreach During COVID-19 Crisis – Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer**

Commissioner Salzhauer introduced the item and spoke regarding fixing the email issue and the robo call issue. She stated that the website needs work and needs to be more user friendly.

The following individual from the public spoke on the item:  
Victor May

Vice Mayor Paul commented on channel 663 and keeping the channel updated. She suggested streamlining the communication to be sure the same communication is being sent out.

**C. Additional Resident Resources Related to Corona (update on call center, Local COVID-19 testing options, securing Surf/Bal/Bay from outside visitors if necessary) - Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer**

Commissioner Salzhauer. Introduced the item and spoke regarding the call center being staffed on the weekends. Commissioner Salzhauer asked Town Manager Olmedillo and Police Chief Yero if they are working with neighboring cities in keeping individuals from other cities coming into Surfside.

Town Manager Olmedillo stated that they prepared another executive order similar to Miami Beach and Bal Harbor and they are working on those issues.

Town Attorney Arango clarified and explained the executive order and the mandatory quarantine time.

Discussion among the Commission took place regarding the penalties involved if anyone violates the order.

Police Chief Yero stated that they will need cooperation from the condominiums and their managers. They have communicated with those condominiums and they were advised that they must advise the Police Department if they are not quarantining themselves appropriately.

Commissioner Salzhauer spoke regarding ways for the public to participate.

**D. The relationship between the Covid-19 health crisis and Climate Change for discussion on Uses of the Resiliency Reserves – Vice Mayor Tina Paul**

Vice Mayor Paul introduced the item and stated that she did some research on the COVID 19 and climate change in the environment. Vice Mayor Paul stated that they are related and believes that they can use the resiliency fund for this issue. Vice Mayor Paul would like to expand on this and include these risks.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on using the funds from the Resiliency Fund.

Mayor Burkett stated that he spoke with Town Attorney Arango on using the resiliency fund for these services. He stated that they would need a new resolution. He asked the Commission if they would like to provide additional language at the next meeting.

Vice Mayor Paul asked Town Attorney Arango if they could look at the resiliency requirements the prior Commission had and if they can amend the resolution of the usage of the fund to include public health.

Mayor Burkett stated that he heard that some of the funds from this was to purchase homes in Surfside.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that language was removed.

Mayor Burkett asked if she would be willing for Town Manager Olmedillo to come up with language for the amendment at the next meeting.

Commissioner Velasquez agreed with the revision of the resolution for use by the families for better programs.

Further discussion continued regarding the changes on this document and policies.

The following individuals spoke on the item:

Ben Aquario

Clara Diaz Leal

Shlomo Danzinger

William Burkett, from Spain, spoke about the conditions in Spain regarding the COVID-19.

Ben Jacobsen

Kim Allard-Pro  
Jorge Cortes  
George Kousoulas  
Manuel Lecour  
Debbie Cimadevilla

Commissioner Velasquez addressed the comments made by the public speakers.  
Commissioner Salzhauer addressed the comments made by the public speakers.  
Vice Mayor Paul addressed the comments made by the public speakers.  
Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by the public speakers.

Police Chief Yero spoke regarding the issue with the public walking out onto the seawalls, kayak launches, one's personal responsibilities and the officers stuck in between with enforcing the orders.

Further discussion took place among the Commission on the item and approaching the Governor for assistance.

**E. Sustainability and Resiliency Committee and Resiliency Reserve –  
Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Heard in conjunction with item D.

**F. CGA Contract – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Mayor Burkett addressed the item and the amount of money being spent on consultants and contracts.

Mayor Burkett asked to hear Item N at 8:36 pm.

Mayor Burkett asked Town Manager Olmedillo for an overview of the CGA Contracts.

Town Manager Olmedillo gave an overview of all the CGA contracts the Town has.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if the Finance Director could give them a breakdown of what gets paid to CGA. She asked regarding the retainers paid to CGA and the work CGA did for the number of hours they got paid for.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the cost of CGA and the work they provide. She stated that she would like a list of who works for CGA and how much they get paid. She stated to look into which services they want to keep with CGA and which ones to keep inhouse.

Mayor Burkett commented on the item and what can the Town afford in comparison to the services being received. He asked the Finance Director to give an entire breakdown to the Commission of what is being paid to CGA and services that were received.

Vice Mayor Paul commented on the contracts including Planning and Engineering and spoke regarding the noncompetitive bidding. She stated that the frustration that residents feel is the amount of projects that are going on and if all those projects were needed.

Further discussion took place regarding the contracts, retainers and what services they provide by the Commission, Staff and Town Attorney Arango.

The following individuals from the public spoke on the item:

Chris Giordano from Calvin Giordano and Associates spoke regarding their contract.

Lindsay Lecour

George Kousoulas

Tricia Fowley

Commissioner Velasquez asked for clarification on what groups are doing when it comes to the website.

Mayor Burkett asked for an update by Town Manager Olmedillo on what is being paid a month on the expenditures in the last 2 years with the scope of the work.

Mayor Burkett asked Town Manager Olmedillo and the Finance Director to come back in 30 days with the information requested of the work provided with the retainer that is paid.

**G. Weiss Serota Contract – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Mayor Burkett introduced the item.

Town Manager Olmedillo gave an overview of the Weiss Serota Contract.

Mayor Burkett commented on the item and the conversation he had with Town Attorney Arango. He stated that Town Attorney Arango is a professional, nice person who is very smart. He stated that they are in good hands with Town Attorney Arango and the reason why its on the agenda is because it's a big number and the Commission needs to understand what they are paying for.

Mayor Burkett stated that Weiss Serota is a fine firm and could not be happier with the performance that they have shown in the work that they have done.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that Town Attorney Arango is very knowledgeable and they need people that have all the knowledge of all items but feels that they need to look into how much retainer money is being used on a monthly basis.

*Joe Arango  
personally.*

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the item and would like advocates for the residents.

Vice Mayor Paul stated that what you have is the expertise with the firm and that is invaluable.

Town Attorney Arango spoke regarding Weiss Serota's retainer agreement with the Town of Surfside in 2017 and the cost and what is included in their rate.

Mayor Burkett addressed the comments made by the Commission and Town Attorney. He also requested the numbers paid to Weiss Serota for calendar year January 2018 to December 2019.

Town Attorney Arango explained what is covered and not covered by the Florida League and they try to save the Town money on their litigation costs.

Commissioner Velasquez asked if there are any pending litigations.

Town Attorney Arango mentioned the litigations pending that are not covered by their League Defense Policy and Weiss Serota is defending the Town.

#### **H. Jacober Contract – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and stated that he received information that in 2019 the Town paid the firm over \$340,000. He also discussed other periods.

Town Manager Olmedillo and Finance Director Greene gave an overview of the Jacober Contract.

Discussion continued among Mayor Burkett and Finance Director Greene regarding retainers.

Tourist Board Director Trigueros gave an explanation of the contract with Jacober.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the Jacober contract and the monthly payments being made to Jacober.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the item, the plans on Jacober's contract and is happy that everyone is looking at it.

The following individual spoke regarding the item:  
Luisa Jimenez, Director of Marketing, Jacober Creative

Further discussion took place among the Commission regarding the Jacober contract.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke regarding the Tourism Director and that he is working well and hard and thinks there needs to be more trimming on the outsourcing.

The following individual spoke on the item:  
George Kousoulas

**I. Iron Mountain Agreement (IT Backups) – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and practices that they should be focused on with ransomware.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that they are looking into moving in the right direction and putting forward in motion cancelling these contracts and deciding what will be needed.

Further discussion took place among the Commission on the monies being spent on promotion instead of putting it into areas that are needed more.

The following individual spoke on the item:  
Ben Aquario

Commissioner Velasquez asked Town Attorney Arango what position this puts the Town in.

Town Attorney Arango stated that she does not know which contracts besides Jacober in regards to the Tourist Bureau.

Tourist Bureau Director Trigueros stated their only active contract is with Jacober.

Town Attorney Arango stated that she has to see if stopping payments will breach the contract and will cost the Town money.

A motion was made by Commissioner Salzhauer to freeze tourism expenses until they reactivate spending, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. All voted in favor with Commissioner Kesl absent.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked Tourist Bureau Director Trigueros to have the information that is on the Tourist website integrated into the Town website.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Paul to extend the meeting 5 minutes at 11:23 pm, seconded by Commissioner Velasquez. All voted in favor with Charles Kesl absent.

**J. Brightview Agreement (FKA Luke's Landscape)– Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Mayor Burkett introduced the item and the cost of the contract and believes that it is expensive and to improve the arrangement. He requested to place it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Velasquez believes the Town can hire landscapers as employees.

Commissioner Salzhauer commented on the cost of this contract.

Vice Mayor Paul spoke on the item and the cost of the contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to have Town Manager Olmedillo look at options with respect to landscape including how much money it would cost to have our own staff perform the work, seconded by Commissioner Salzhauer. All voted in favor with Commissioner Kesl absent.

Mayor Burkett read the public comments into the record.

Mayor Burkett requested to have on the next agenda to discuss enforcement of short-term rentals and long-term rentals.

Mayor Burkett requested to have on the next agenda the possibility of the Town suspending the Water & Solid Waste bills that are charged to the Downtown non-essential Businesses that were forced to close until further notice.

Town Manager Olmedillo addressed the comments made by the public.

Mayor Burkett addressed comments made by the public.

Further discussion took place among the Commission and staff regarding comments sent via email from residents.

**K. Community Center Second Floor – Mayor Charles W. Burkett-**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**L. Pool Deck Lighting for Extended Winter Hours- Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**M. Commission Meeting Starting Time at 6:00pm – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**



Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**N. Construction on Single Family Homes – Commissioner Nelly Velasquez**

Commissioner Velasquez introduced the item and does not think that banning construction on single family homes should continue.

Commissioner Velasquez suggested some solutions to the situation.

The following individual spoke on the item;

Irina Kamyshnikov

George Kousoulas

Lindsay Lecour

Steven Dunn

Tricia Fowley

Debbie Cimadevilla

Jeff Rose

Iris Herssein's email was read into the record by Mayor Burkett.

Nathan Lebwohl

Members of the Town Commission addressed comments made by the public and further discussion took place regarding this item.

Commissioner Salzhauer asked if there are certain functions that can be done online.

Town Manager Olmedillo answered Commissioner Salzhauer's question and stated that there are ways we can obtain records sent by applicants electronically but we are not at the level that Miami-Dade County is.

Mayor Burkett thanked Town Manager Olmedillo for his hard work and his assistance in having Town Hall available for our residents.

Commissioner Velasquez requested Building Official Prieto's cellular phone number and for him to be available to the residents in order for the residents to be able to contact him.

**O. Discussion Regarding Assistant Town Manager position and Action - Commissioner Nelly Velasquez**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**P. Downtown Lighting RFP – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

- Q. Photovoltaic RFP - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- R. Stormwater Masterplan - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- S. Facilities Review - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- T. Kayak Launch - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- U. Downtown Surfside Sidewalk Beautification - Plans and Studies - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- V. 92<sup>nd</sup> St Beach-end Improvements - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- W. Sidewalk on N 95<sup>th</sup> St between Abbott and Byron - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- X. Rope Fencing & Posts-Beachwalk/Hardpack - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- Y. Develop Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- Z. 10 Year Water Supply Plan - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

- AA. Beach Raking - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- BB. Community Digital Signs – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- CC. Government Academy - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- DD. Various Tourism Related Events, Initiatives, and Destination Marketing - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- EE. Various Parks & Recreation Related Events and Initiatives – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- FF. Building Department File Digitization – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- GG. Classification and Compensation Study – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- HH. Pinzur Communication – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- II. Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing – Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.
- JJ. Undergrounding of Power Lines - Mayor Charles W. Burkett**  
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**3. Thirty (30) Day Staff Report – Pending Items from March 24, 2020  
Special Town Commission Meeting**

**A. Preservation of Eden Project located at 9300 Collins Avenue.**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**B. Speeding on Collins and Harding**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**C. Undergrounding power lines**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**D. Additional lighting in the residential area**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**E. Lowering property taxes and water bills**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**F. Flooding**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**G. Appointments to boards**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**H. Reinstatement of the Design Review Board**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**I. Revising the ordinance put in place by the last Commission that  
reduced residents right to speak at meetings.**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**J. Homeless contribution by the Town of Surfside of \$100,000.**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**K. Reversion back to our prior zoning code**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**L. Free (hassle-free) downtown parking for residents.**

Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.

**M. Charter Amendments to affirm the limit of pay for elected officials to a maximum of \$1 per year, term limits for elected officials of 3 consecutive terms for both Mayor & Commissioners, a prohibition on the sale or leasing of any Town property without a referendum & a prohibition against any loan or borrowing, which would put the Town into debt for more than 10% of its annual property tax revenue and which could not be fully amortized within a total of 5 years.**

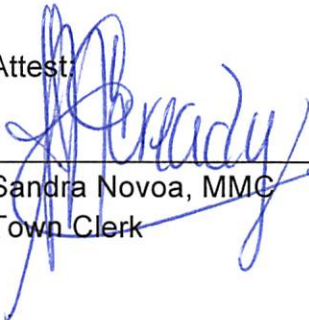
Deferred to the April 7, 2020 Special Commission Meeting Agenda.


**3. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to adjourn the meeting without objection at 11:40 p.m. The motion received a second from Vice Mayor Paul. All voted in favor with Commissioner Kesl absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Novoa, MMC  
Town Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles W. Burkett, Mayor