



Town of Surfside
Town Commission Workshop
MINUTES
March 21, 2023
5:30 PM
Commission Chambers

1. Opening

1.A Call to Order

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

1.B Roll Call of Members

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

Present: Mayor Shlomo Danzinger, Vice Mayor Jeff Rose, and Commissioner Marianne Meisheid,

Absent: Commissioner Nelly Velasquez and Commissioner Fred Landsman.

Also Present: Acting Town Manager Hector Gomez and Town Attorney Daniela Cimo.

1.C Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Healy provided the pledge of allegiance.

2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication

2.A Commission Direction Budget Workshop, Discussion and Direction for the FY 2024 Budget - Acting Town Manager Hector Gomez

The goal of the workshop is to receive direction on those items the Town Commission would like to see addressed next fiscal year.

Acting Town Manager Gomez introduced the item and staff that will be assisting with the process and workshop. He provided dates that have to do with the budget process which they also have to take into account coordinating with Miami Dade County and the Miami Dade School Board dates. He stated the meetings will start at 5:00 p.m. The key dates are as follows: March 21, 2023 they will go over the goals and objectives and the vision of the Commission; June 13, 2023 this meeting will be putting together their data with the Town as a budget workshop; July 11, 2023 will be

a Town Commission Special Meeting which will be presenting the budget to the Commission with the Town's proposal; then the official public hearings will be the first public hearing on September 12, 2023 and then the second public hearing will take place September 19, 2023. He spoke regarding the different projects and having those projects funded in order to have these projects at their finished final stage.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

The following individual from the public spoke:

George Kousoulas spoke regarding the Freebee Car Service, and it should be something they should consider as one of their priorities.

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comments.

Acting Town Manager Gomez provided a point of clarification and stated that for final approval of the budget they need majority of the governing body which would be 3 of the 5 votes of the Commission and approve the dates provided for the budget meetings.

Consensus was reached with the Commission present to approve the dates for the budget meetings.

Mayor Danzinger encouraged staff to check with the two commissioners absent.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that he will contact them, but there is not a lot of wiggle room on the dates.

Mayor Danzinger reviewed some of the projects that were approved last year and are currently funded like the 96th Street Park, the new Tot-Lot resurfacing, online permitting for the Building Department, the updating of the Design Review Guidelines for the Planning and Zoning Board, a full-time Town Planner which is in-house and the beach chairs. He also spoke regarding the 2022 projects that are in process and will require additional funding like the new Tennis Center on 88th Street, Downtown business district widening/redesign, beach path safety lighting and redoing the beach walking path/dune restoration.

Acting Town Manager Gomez provided updates on some of the projects the Mayor addressed.

Commissioner Meischeid stated she brought this up at a previous meeting and it is in regards to the Freebee Car Service. She stated that they had some discussion previously and it is the same amount of money as the shuttle and understands it would have to be one or the other. She stated it would be between \$150,000 to \$160,000 per year and the shuttle costs \$151,000 a year. She provided some statistics on the usage of the shuttle.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that the numbers vary and fluctuate depending on the season and it is currently funded through the CITT and that is what currently funds the shuttle service. He stated that they can only do one or the other.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that they can create the grid and age requirements as well. She stated that her understanding was that the shuttle was being used to go to Publix.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that there is a certain demographics that use it and it does take them to different places.

Commissioner Meischeid stated the Freebee is a new innovative form of public transportation.

Vice Mayor Rose asked if this is only going to be going to Surfside and asked what is the shuttle's current route.

Commissioner Meischeid stated that she understands that it does go through Surfside.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that the shuttle is used in a mapped route that services not only Surfside and does go to Bal Harbor and Miami Beach and a few stops in residential areas. He spoke regarding the geo grid that Freebee uses.

Vice Mayor Rose spoke regarding some Surfside residents using the shuttle will have a problem with the technology of the Freebee.

Commissioner Meischeid addressed the comments made by Vice Mayor Rose.

Vice Mayor Rose stated he likes the idea but does not want to alienate residents that will have an issue with technology.

Vice Mayor Rose suggested someone going on the shuttle to see how it works.

Mayor Danzinger asked if they received any statistics of the Freebee from Bal Harbour.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that they have not received those statistics yet but they are working on obtaining them.

Mayor Danzinger addressed his concerns as it relates to the number of riders and the pros and cons which includes the Freebee not being ADA compliant. He stated that they could keep it on the agenda for the June meeting but would like more information and the numbers.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that they will bring back some statistics. He spoke regarding the two municipalities that paid for the services and asked if there is an opportunity to work with those municipalities to extend to Surfside, then perhaps they could split the cost if they can cover Harding Avenue and Collins Avenue.

Mayor Danzinger stated that Bay and Bal Harbour might not want to partner with Surfside for the Freebee. He also asked Commissioner Meischeid what exactly were the residents wanting that reached out to her.

Vice Mayor Rose asked regarding possibly doing a hybrid of the shuttle bus and the Freebee and partnering with Bal and Bay Harbor and come up with a schedule.

Mayor Danzinger asked the Acting Town Manager Gomez to work on obtaining more information on the Freebee Service.

Vice Mayor Rose spoke regarding the Downtown business, Pickleball Court, Tennis Center, and Seaweed cleaner. He stated that maybe something they can look into is possibly having Bal Harbor assist with the funding of the seaweed cleaning. He also stated that another important item is taking care of Town staff and bringing their salaries to market value and it will keep staff. He wanted to make sure Town staff knows that this is something that is important to this Commission. He also spoke regarding expanding the service to the Town and County with the beach raker.

Acting Town Manager Gomez asked if he is looking at bringing the beach raking services inhouse.

Vice Mayor Rose stated they could look into that but also seeing if Miami Dade County and neighboring municipalities would assist in the funding.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated he will look into that and bring back some numbers.

Mayor Danzinger asked if this is something they could work with Bal Harbor.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated he will discuss with Bal Harbor, Miami Dade County and the City of Miami Beach and he will report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Meischeid asked how often they rake the beach.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated about 3 times a week and when they do not do it then the County does it. So there is only 2 days that are not covered a week. He stated that they spoke with their beach raking company and will get additional information.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding safety surveillance cameras in Town and this is something that will help the Police Department. He stated that some municipalities have given out ring cameras to residents for safety and the idea is to make the Town more secure. If the Commission is for it then they can come up with some numbers on the cost.

Consensus was reached to come back with some numbers on the cost for ring cameras.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that they can come back with a program modification to address this request.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding the new Tennis Center.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated the amounts being allocated for that project and

the amount still needed to complete the project.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding Downtown District.

Acting Town Manager Gomez spoke regarding the amount allocated for that project.

Commissioner Meisheid asked if some of that funding can come from Tourist Fund since it is in the Downtown District.

Acting Town Manager Gomez stated that yes, but you have to see if you have enough funding in that account due to the events and other budgeted items being done through the Tourist Board which includes a public service aide.

Mayor Danzinger spoke regarding the other current projects and programs that Acting Town Manager Gomez will continue to work on.

Acting Town Manager Gomez thanked the Commission and emphasized that there are a lot of capital projects, and they will be bringing some back and will go through each one and bring back to the Commission.

[2024 Budget Preparation Calendar.pdf](#)

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss before the Commission, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Meisheid. The motion carried with a 3-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:

Sandra N. McCready, MPA, MMC
Town Clerk