



Town of Surfside
Special Town Commission Meeting
MINUTES
May 17, 2023
2:00 PM
Commission Chambers

1. Opening

1.A Call to Order

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 2:07 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, Commissioner Fred Landsman, Commissioner Marianne Meisheid and Commissioner Nelly Velasquez.

Also Present: Town Manager Hector Gomez and Town Attorney Lillian Arango.

1.C Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Healy provided the pledge of allegiance.

2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication

2.A Resolution Approving Employment Agreement between the Town of Surfside and Town Manager Hector Gomez - Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

It is recommended that the Town Commission approves the attached employment agreement in the form attached to the resolution as Exhibit "A".

Town Clerk McCready read the title of the resolution into the record.

Mayor Danzinger stated that at the April meeting they discussed bringing before the Commission an employment agreement and explained the process that took place.

Mayor Danzinger reminded the commission and the public of the decorum statement and stated that he will not be fighting throughout the meeting.

Mayor Danzinger stated it would be nice to make a motion to pass this but knows there is input from the commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Velasquez to approve the resolution with a modification to the salary from \$220,000 to \$185,000 a year for the Town Manager and there should be an increase limit from 3 to 5% every time there is a review. The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution with the salary as indicated in the contract of \$220,000, seconded by Mayor Danzinger.

Vice Mayor Rose stated that the Town conducted an extensive research and that it is not correct for a commissioner to come and make a change at the last minute on the starting salary. He spoke regarding the salary range. He stated that the terms are similar to what the previous town manager had, and we deserve to take care of our town manager and that is why he believes it should be approved as is since it was negotiated in good faith.

Commissioner Landsman asked Town Attorney Arango since at the meeting they discussed a range that was included and published with a minimum salary at \$220,000 and interviews were done, if they are legally obligated to offer the minimum salary of \$220,000 as posted.

Town Attorney Arango stated the salary range and recruitment process was discussed and the commission approved it at a subsequent meeting. She stated that they did publish the position with that salary range. She further explained the previous process and what has been done. She stated that they are not legally bound to abide by the salary range and if they choose to change the salary range it would be at the discretion of the commission.

Commissioner Landsman stated he is on the record for having expressed his concern for posting the position at that range with this being a potential outcome and he was outvoted. He stated that Mr. Gomez is doing a great job and is currently at \$185,000. He stated that in his experience seeing they posted the position at that salary range and accepting the position, in his experience they must accept the salary range. That is how they advertised it and for now to come and change that and saying that you are below the salary range we published is not correct. He believes they are obligated to stay with the minimum of \$220,000.

Commissioner Meisheid also believes that Mr. Gomez is doing a great job and also believes that since they advertised from \$220,000 to \$265,000, they are obligated to stay with the minimum range. She stated that after speaking with the Town Attorney, they are not handcuffed, and they could go based on experienced and come in at a lower salary range. She stated her recommendation would be \$185,000 with a cost-of-living raise.

Commissioner Velasquez stated that Mr. Gomez does not have the experience as a town manager like the other candidates and spoke regarding his experience. She stated that is why she believes that his salary should be \$185,000 and is fine with the cost-of-living increases.

Mayor Danzinger stated that regardless if it is legal or not, it is not ethical. They put

out an advertisement for a certain amount and you should honor that even if it is with another candidate. He spoke regarding Mr. Gomez' experience and all the projects he is working hard on. He stated this is not a charity case and it is what Mr. Gomez can offer the Town. He stated that he beat out 140 candidates. He stated that they should act in good faith and stick to the amount that was published.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Ben Jacobson stated he is shocked with some of the comments made by this Commission and has never seen this happen when they publish one amount and now, they want to give an amount below what was being advertised. He spoke regarding what happened with Mr. Hyatt when he did not get the increase he wanted his work product went down. He is against bringing down the salary below what is being advertised of \$220,000. He stated anything that is brought up with an issue in Town, Mr. Gomez takes care of it immediately.

Mayor Danzinger closed public comments.

The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Meischeid and Commissioner Velasquez voting in opposition.

[Hector Gomez - Town Manager Agreement - Redacted.pdf](#)

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:

Sandra N. McCreedy, MPA, MMC
Town Clerk