



**Town of Surfside**  
**Special Town Commission Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 22, 2023**  
**5:00 PM**  
Commission Chambers

**1. Opening**

**1.A Call to Order**

Mayor Danzinger called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**1.B Roll Call of Members**

Deputy Town Clerk Herbello 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 Attorney Lillian Arango, Town Attorney Tony Recio, Town Attorney Roger Pou, Town Attorney Daniela Cimo and Town Manager Hector Gomez.

**1.C Pledge of Allegiance**

Chief Healy provided the pledge of allegiance.

**2. Mayor, Commission and Staff Communication**

Mayor Danzinger read the decorum statement and reminded the public and the commission regarding decorum and having a productive meeting.

**2.A Charter Amendment - Establishing Four-Year Staggered Terms for the Mayor and Commissioners Commencing with the 2024 Town Election - Town Attorney**

For the Town Commission to consider the adoption of the Resolution calling a special election on the proposed Charter amendment.

Deputy Town Clerk Herbello read the title of the resolution into the record.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

The following individuals from the public spoke:

Gerardo Vildostegui

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comments.

Town Attorney Arango provided an overview of the charter amendment question.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution as written removing the hyphen, seconded by Commissioner Meischeid.

Discussion among the commission and staff took place regarding the amendment and the different options for staggered terms and the selection of a vice mayor.

Vice Mayor Rose and Commissioner Meischeid rescinded their motions.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to table this item until the end of the meeting in order to provide the Town Attorneys time to revise the language of the resolution, ballot question, text amendment, as well as adding a process for the selection of a vice mayor, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Discussion took place among the commission and staff regarding different alternatives for the selection of a vice mayor and a decision was made to table the item in order to give the attorneys time to come up with the proper language and revisit later in the meeting after item 2E (Charter Amendment-Removing Limitations on Indebtedness for Emergency and/or Infrastructure Projects Not Exceeding \$10 Million Dollars).

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to remove from the table this item, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose for purposes of discussion, seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Discussion continued among the commission and staff regarding the staggered terms and selection of a vice mayor.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to take a 5 minute recess at 6:30 p.m., seconded by Mayor Danzinger. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Meeting reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

After a lengthy discussion among the commission and staff with the language provided by the Town Attorney, the following motion was made.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor rose to approve the resolution as a whole and with the following amendment: "for the Vice Mayor to be the Commissioner receiving the highest number of votes between the last two general elections beginning with the 2026 General Election", seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Velasquez and Commissioner Meischeid voting in opposition.

[Resolution Calling Special Election Charter Amendment - Four-Year Staggered Terms.DOCX](#)

**2.B Charter Amendment - Requiring 50% Plus 1 Majority Vote for Mayor and Providing for Run-Off Election - Town Attorney**

For the Town Commission to consider the adoption of the Resolution calling a special election on the proposed Charter amendment.

Deputy Town Clerk Herbello read the title of the resolution into the record.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

The following individual from the public spoke:  
Gerardo Vildostegui

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comments.

Town Attorney Arango provided an overview of the charter amendment question.

There was no discussion on the item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Landsman to approve the resolution as written, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Charter Amendment-Requiring 50% plus 1 Majority Vote for Mayor and Providing for Run-Off Election.DOCX](#)

**2.C Charter Amendment - Creating a Procedure for Determination of Qualifications and/or Permanent Residency of Commissioners - Town Attorney**

For the Town Commission to consider the adoption of the Resolution calling a special election on the proposed Charter amendment.

Deputy Town Clerk Herbello read the title of the resolution into the record.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

The following individual from the public spoke:  
Deborah Cimadevilla  
Gerardo Vildostegui

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comments.

Town Attorney Arango provided an overview of the charter amendment question.

Discussion among the commission and staff took place regarding the mechanism to have in place and procedure for elected officials to provide proof of permanent residency.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution with the amendment of 10% of electorate signatures instead of 3% and it be effective November 7, 2023, seconded by Mayor Danzinger. The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Velasquez and Commissioner Meischeid voting in opposition.

[Resolution Calling Special Election Charter Amendment - Public Hearing Procedure for Qualifications-Residency Determination](#)

## **2.D Charter Amendment - Allowing the Town Clerk to File an Appeal with the Personnel Appeals Board - Town Attorney**

For the Town Commission to consider the adoption of the Resolution calling a special election on the proposed Charter amendment.

Deputy Town Clerk Herbello read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Attorney Arango provided an overview of the charter amendment question.

Mayor Danzinger asked the Town Attorney if the other positions that are mentioned like the Town Judge and Town Prosecutor will also be cleaned up and removed.

Town Attorney Arango addressed the question being asked and explained and stated in some municipalities the City Clerk is a charter officer but not in this instance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meischeid to approve the resolution as written, seconded by Vice Mayor Rose. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

[Resolution Calling Special Election Charter Amendment - Personnel Appeals Board.DOCX](#)

## **2.E Charter Amendment - Removing Limitations on Indebtedness for Emergency and/or Infrastructure Projects Not Exceeding \$10 Million Dollars - Town Attorney**

For the Town Commission to consider the adoption of the Resolution calling a special election on the proposed Charter amendment.

Deputy Town Clerk Herbello read the title of the resolution into the record.

Town Attorney Arango provided an overview of the charter amendment question.

Mayor Danzinger opened the floor to public comments.

The following individual from the public spoke:  
Gerardo Vildostegui

Mayor Danzinger closed the floor to public comments.

Discussion among the Commission, Town Attorney and Town Manager took place regarding the item and possible removal of "emergency" from the ordinance as well

as the 15% and the \$10 million dollars which removes the limitation on certain indebtedness.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve as written, seconded by Commissioner Meisheid.

Commissioner Meisheid stated she would like to remove emergency and asked for clarification.

Discussion took place among the commission regarding the comments made by Commissioner Meisheid regarding her recommendation.

Vice Mayor Rose and Commissioner Meisheid rescinded their motion.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the language in the ordinance, Commissioner Meisheid's recommended language and alternate language.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Rose to approve the resolution as amended to read "shall the Charter be amended to remove limitations on indebtedness for debt issued by the Town for emergency and/or infrastructure projects not exceeding \$10 million dollars only when the debt is repayable from such infrastructure project revenues , without any increase in ad valorem or property taxes", seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Meisheid and Commissioner Velasquez voting in opposition.

[Resolution Charter Amendment - Removing Limitations on Indebtedness for Emergency and/or Infrastructure Projects Not Exceeding \\$10 Million Dollars.DOCX](#)

### 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 6:53 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Landsman. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Accepted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Shlomo Danzinger, Mayor

Attest:

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Sandra N. McCreedy, MPA, MMC  
Town Clerk