

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-053**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS TO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA; PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR SOLID WASTE SERVICES ASSESSMENTS; PROVIDING PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FINDINGS; INCORPORATING THE SOLID WASTE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY REPORT; DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR A 50% EXEMPTION FOR VETERAN'S SERVICE-CONNECTED TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY; AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE THEREOF; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council has adopted a Solid Waste Service Assessment Ordinance, Ordinance Number 2002-8 (the "Ordinance") on final reading at the Town Council meeting of June 24, 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of solid waste assessment rates resulting from the Town Council's policy direction requires the annual adoption of a Preliminary Assessment Resolution and the annual adoption of a Final Assessment Resolution, as required under the Ordinance as well as under the Uniform Method of Collection provided under Florida Statutes Chapter 197.3632;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council, during the Fiscal Year 2018, made an initial policy decision, regarding legally recognized disabled veterans who live on homesteaded properties titled in their name in the Town, and who have received a Disabled Veterans ad valorem tax exemption providing them with a 50% exemption for Solid Waste and Bulk Waste Assessments pursuant to R-2017-058 approved on September 13, 2017, via unanimous vote and wish to provide for such exemption for the Fiscal Year 2025.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

**Section 1. Authority.** This resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 2002-8 as codified and as may have been amended, sections 166.021 and 166.041, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

**Section 2. Purpose and Definitions.** This resolution constitutes the Preliminary Assessment Resolution as defined in the Ordinance (codified as Sections 16-108 through 16-173 in the Town of Southwest Ranches Code of Ordinances, hereinafter "Code"). All capitalized words and terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Ordinance. Unless the context indicates otherwise, words imparting the

singular number include the plural number, and vice versa. As used in this resolution, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context hereof otherwise requires:

**"Assessed Parcel"** means those parcels with one or more Dwelling Units which are specially benefitted by the provision of solid waste collection and disposal services, and which are subject to the Solid Waste Assessments authorized by this Initial Resolution.

**"Bulk Waste"** means materials including yard trash, white goods, and clean debris, as such terms are defined in §16-108 of the Code, as may be amended, generated from residential activities and those materials generally outlined in §16-19 of the Code as acceptable for bulk trash pickup.

**"Commercial Property" or "Non-residential Property"** means collectively those Parcels with DOR Codes, Use Codes or Usage indicating more than just single-family residential uses and that may have no Dwelling Units present on the parcel. Commercial Property or Non-residential Property, for the purposes of this Resolution, includes commercial, institutional, industrial, vacant/agricultural and other all uses, except for Residential Property as defined in this Initial Resolution. As Non-residential Properties are billed directly for services by the Town's Solid Waste Provider, such parcels are not subject to the Assessments authorized by this Initial Resolution. Combination Commercial or Non-residential uses with single-family residential uses are subject to the Assessments authorized by this Initial Resolution in addition they shall be billed directly for services by the Town's Solid Waste Provider.

**"DOR Code"** means a property land use code established in Rule 12D-8.008, Florida Administrative Code, assigned by the Property Appraiser to Parcels within the Town. Additionally, the Broward County Property Appraiser assigns property Use Codes to parcels and structures. DOR Codes and associated Use Code descriptions are used in the development of the Solid Waste Assessments set forth in this Resolution and in preparation of the Assessment Roll. Where the use of a parcel indicates a use different from the DOR Code assigned to the parcel, the Town has the authority to impose a rate based on the use regardless of the DOR Code assigned to the parcel.

**"Dwelling Unit"** means (1) a building, or portion thereof, available to be used for residential purposes, consisting of one or more rooms arranged, designed, used, or intended to be used as living quarters for one family only, or (2) the use of land in which lots or spaces are offered for rent or lease for the placement of mobile homes or the like for residential purposes. A mobile home is an individual Dwelling Unit. For the purposes of this Resolution and imposition of the Solid Waste Assessment, a Dwelling Unit, as defined herein, may be located on parcels other than residential property under the Town's zoning and development regulations.

**"Estimated Solid Waste Assessment Rate Schedule"** means that rate schedule as specified in the Report set forth in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, specifying the Solid Waste Assessed Costs and the estimated Solid Waste Assessments.

**"Household Waste"** means and includes garbage, rubbish, and recovered materials, as those terms are defined in §16-108 of the Code, as may be amended, and recyclable materials as defined in §16-24 of the Code, as may be amended, generated from residential activities and excluding Bulk Waste.

**"Report"** or **"Town of Southwest Ranches Solid Waste Assessment Report"** means the report detailing the development of the Solid Waste Assessment Rates by New Community Strategies amended and revised per Council action dated September 12, 2011.

**"Residential Property"** means those Assessed Parcels with a DOR Code number on the following list or range: 1 - 9, 63 used as residential, 66 - 69 used as residential, 71 used as residential, or otherwise designated as residential property under the DOR Codes and Use Codes. Residential Property includes single family/duplex as well as single family developed property with multiple dwelling units. Residential Property, for the purposes of this Resolution and imposition of Solid Waste Assessments, shall include all parcels with one or more Dwelling Units present on the parcel regardless of the DOR Code number or Use Code assigned to the parcel. All Residential Property shall be assessed based on the number of Dwelling Units for Household Waste and based on parcel size for Bulk Waste according to the rate schedule in the Report, by New Community Strategies amended and revised per Council action dated September 12, 2011, as may be modified in the Final Resolution adopted after the September 12, 2013, Public Hearing. Combination Commercial or Non-residential uses with single family residential uses are subject to the Assessments authorized by this Initial Resolution in addition they shall be billed directly for services by the Town's Solid Waste Provider.

**"Vacant/Agricultural Property"** means those Assessed Parcels designated as vacant or agricultural in the Property Appraiser's Data Base and that have no dwelling units on the parcel. For the purposes of this Resolution, Vacant/Agricultural Property is treated as Commercial or Non-residential Property. As such, Commercial or Non-residential Properties shall be billed directly for services by the Town's Solid Waste Provider, such parcels are not subject to the Assessments authorized by this Initial Resolution.

### **Section 3. Provision and Funding of Solid Waste Services.**

Upon the imposition of a Solid Waste Assessment for solid waste collection and disposal services, facilities, or programs against Assessed Property located within the Town, solid waste collection and disposal services shall be provided to such Assessed Property. It is the Town's intent to fully fund residential solid waste services, facilities, or programs from proceeds of the Solid Waste Assessments. Any costs not funded by the Solid Waste Assessments or costs related to Property on which Solid Waste Assessments are not collected, for example due to the difficulties of collection from property owned by governmental entities or pursuant to a policy decision of the Town Council, shall be paid by the Town from lawfully available funds of the Town and shall not be paid out of Solid Waste Assessment revenues.

It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that each parcel of Assessed Property located within the Town will be benefitted by the Town's provision of solid waste services, facilities, and programs in an amount not less than the Solid Waste Assessment imposed against such parcel, computed in the manner set forth in this Initial Assessment Resolution.

### **Section 4. Imposition and Computation of Solid Waste Assessments.**

Solid Waste Assessments shall be imposed against all Assessed Parcels according to the applicable property size rate classification. Solid Waste Assessments shall be computed and imposed in the manner set forth in this Preliminary Assessment Resolution, more specifically as presented in the Report by New Community Strategies amended and revised per Council action dated September 12, 2011.

**Section 5. Legislative Determination of Special Benefit and Fair Apportionment.** It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that the solid waste services to be funded by the Solid Waste Assessments provide special benefit to the Assessed Property based upon the following legislative determinations.

Upon the adoption of this Initial Assessment Resolution determining the Solid Waste Assessed Costs and identifying the Assessed Property to be included in the Assessment Roll, the legislative determinations of special benefit ascertained and declared in Sections 16-109 and 16-110 of the Code are hereby ratified and confirmed.

It is fair and reasonable to use the DOR Codes, Use Codes, number of Dwelling Units, and parcel size data maintained by the Property Appraiser in the apportionment methodology because: (1) the Tax Roll database employing the use of such property use codes is the most comprehensive, accurate, and reliable information readily available to determine the property use and acreage for property within the Town, and (2) the Tax Roll database employing the use of such property use codes is maintained by the Property Appraiser and is thus consistent with parcel designations on the Tax Roll. This compatibility permits the development of an Assessment Roll in conformity with the requirements of the Uniform Method of Collection.

Where data available from the Property Appraiser was insufficient, the Town has verified and/or supplemented such data as needed for use in the determination of the Cost Apportionment and the Parcel Apportionment. It is fair and reasonable to use such additional data provided by the Town because such data provides a more accurate and complete record of property use and the structures on property.

Apportioning Solid Waste Assessed Costs among residential property based upon studies of demand for service and waste generation quantities by type of waste stream and by service areas within the Town is fair and reasonable and proportional to the special benefit received.

The value of Residential Property does not determine the scope of the required solid waste collection and disposal services. The Town has determined that the special benefit to Assessed Parcels and the demand for solid waste services varies by the type of waste stream. Household Waste has been determined to relate primarily to the number of Dwelling Units on Assessed Parcels. Bulk Waste has been determined to relate primarily to the size of the parcel. Based upon studies conducted for the Town, the relative potential demand for solid waste services to residential properties is driven by the number of dwelling units for Household Waste and the size of the assessed parcel for Bulk Waste.

A Solid Waste Services Assessment Report (SWSAR) by New Community Strategies amended and revised per Council action dated September 12, 2011, analyzed waste generation by type of waste and incorporates findings of several studies of waste generation in the Town. Based on such studies, it has been determined that nearly half of the Town's waste stream results from Bulk Waste, which primarily consists of vegetative debris. Given the high rate of Bulk Waste generation in the Town, it is fair and reasonable to separately analyze the costs of and demand for solid waste services by the following types of waste: Household Waste and Bulk Waste.

Household Waste is generated relatively consistently on a per dwelling unit basis. Therefore, it is fair and reasonable to assess for costs related to Household Waste based on the number of Dwelling Units on each Assessed Parcel. Such per dwelling unit rates for Household Waste are fair and reasonable and do not exceed the special benefit to Assessed Parcels.

Bulk Waste, including but not limited to vegetative debris and solely residential livestock waste, generation rates are generally proportionate to the size of the parcel. Waste generation studies have concluded that areas of the town with larger lots generate substantially greater tonnage of Bulk Waste per parcel than areas of the Town with smaller parcels.

It is fair and reasonable to create assessment rate classes for Bulk Waste based on lot square footage ranges identified through analysis of solid waste generation and collection studies performed for the Town. It is fair and reasonable to allocate Bulk Waste assessed costs to each rate class in a manner that increases the share of costs on the assessed parcel as the parcel size increases. Therefore, the proposed Bulk Waste services assessment rates presented in the SWSAR Report are fair and reasonable and do not exceed the special benefit to Assessed Parcels.

**Section 6. Determination of Solid Waste Assessed Costs; Establishment of Initial Solid Waste Assessment Rates.**

A. The Solid Waste Assessed Costs to be assessed and apportioned among benefitted parcels for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 commencing October 1, 2024, is the amount determined in the Solid Waste Assessment worksheet, attached as Exhibit "A" to this Resolution. The approval of the Estimated Solid Waste Assessment Rate Schedule by the adoption of this Preliminary Assessment Resolution determines the amount of the Solid Waste Assessed Costs. The remainder, if any, of such Fiscal Year budget for solid waste services, facilities, and programs shall be funded from available Town revenue other than Solid Waste Assessment proceeds.

B. The estimated Solid Waste Assessments specified in the Estimated Solid Waste Assessment Rate worksheet are hereby established to fund the specified Solid Waste Assessed Costs determined to be assessed in Fiscal Year 2024-2025 commencing on October 1, 2024.

C. The estimated Solid Waste Assessments established in this Preliminary Assessment Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 shall be the estimated assessment rates applied by the Town Administrator in the preparation of the preliminary Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2025, as provided in Section 7 of this Preliminary Assessment Resolution.

**Section 7. Preliminary Assessment Roll.** The Town Administrator is hereby directed to prepare, or cause to be prepared, a Preliminary Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2024, in the manner provided in the Code. The Assessment Roll shall include all Residential Assessed Parcels within the Assessment Rate Categories. The Town Administrator shall apportion the estimated Solid Waste Assessed Cost to be recovered through Solid Waste Assessments in the manner set forth in this Initial Assessment Resolution and the Report.

A. A copy of this Preliminary Assessment Resolution, documentation related to the estimated amount of the Solid Waste Assessed Cost to be recovered through the imposition of Solid Waste Assessments, and the Preliminary Assessment Roll shall be maintained on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and open to public inspection. The foregoing shall not be construed to require that the Preliminary Assessment Roll be

in printed form if the amount of the Solid Waste Assessment for each parcel of property can be determined by the use of a computer terminal available to Town staff.

B. It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that the method of determining the Solid Waste Assessments for residential solid waste services as set forth in this Preliminary Assessment Resolution and the SWSAR report is represented in Exhibit "A" and is a fair and reasonable method of apportioning the Solid Waste Assessed Cost among parcels of Assessed Property located within the Town.

**Section 8. Recognized Disabled Veterans Exemption.** Legally recognized Disabled Veterans, who live on homesteaded properties titled in their name within the Town, who have received a veteran's service-connected total and permanent disability ad valorem tax exemption, shall be partially exempt from the collection of the Solid Waste Assessments. The Town shall buy down this 50% exemption with non-assessment funds.

**Section 9. Authorization of Public Hearing.** There is hereby established a public hearing to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in the Council Chambers in Southwest Ranches Town Hall, 13400 Griffin Road, Southwest Ranches, Florida, at which time the Town Council will receive and consider any comments on the Solid Waste Assessments from the public and affected property owners and consider imposing Solid Waste Assessments and collecting such assessments on the same bill as ad valorem taxes.

**Section 10. Notice by Publication.** The Town Administrator shall publish a notice of the public hearing authorized by Section 8 hereof in the manner and time provided in Section 16-143 of the Code. The notice shall be published no later than Monday, August 24, 2024.

**Section 11. Notice by Mail.** The Town Administrator shall also provide notice by first class mail to the Owner of each parcel of Assessed Property, as required by Section 16-144 of the Code. Such notices shall be mailed no later than Monday, August 24, 2024. The Town Administrator may direct that such notices be combined with the TRIM notices prepared and mailed by the Property Appraiser.

**Section 12. Severability.** If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or section of this resolution is for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of any remaining portions of this Resolution.

**Section 13. Application of Assessment Proceeds.** Proceeds derived by the Town from the Solid Waste Assessments shall be deposited into the Solid Waste Assessment Fund and used for the provision of solid waste services, facilities, and programs. In the event there is any fund balance remaining at the end of the Fiscal Year, such balance shall be carried forward and used only to fund Townwide solid waste services, facilities, and programs.

**Section 14: Conflicts.** All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

**Section 15: Severability.** If any clause, section, or other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

**Section 16.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**[Signatures on Following Page]**



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

Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 25th day of July, 2024, on a motion by

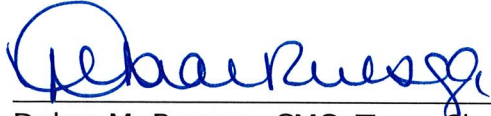
Chm. Allbritton and seconded by V/m Kuczynski.

Breitkreuz	<u>yes</u>
Kuczynski	<u>yes</u>
Allbritton	<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>

  
Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:

  
Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney  
1001.042.2024