

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

October 16, 2024

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Steve Breitkreuz

Russell Muñiz, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor David S. Kuczenski

Debra Ruesga, Town Clerk

Council Member Jim Allbritton

Emil C. Lopez, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Bob Hartmann

Richard Dewitt, Assistant Town Attorney

Council Member Gary Jablonski

A Regular Meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held at 13400 Griffin Road in the Southwest Ranches Council Chambers. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor Breitkreuz at 7:01 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations

3. Proclamation - Hindu Heritage Month and Festival of Diwali

Item was pulled at request of staff.

4. Proclamation - National Hispanic Heritage Month

The Town presented a proclamation that recognized September 15th, 2024 through October 15th, 2024 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

5. Public Comment

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Jim Laskey and John Steven Garate.

6. Board Reports

There were no Board Reports.

7. Council Member Comments

Council Member Jablonski spoke about upcoming events within the Town such as the Holiday Lights Contest submissions being due December 5th, the Halloween at the Barn event on October 20th, and the Town's 25th Anniversary event on June 7th, 2025, at the Rolling Oaks Barn. He talked about Water Matters Day scheduled for March 8th, 2025 and the Country Fair and Carnival happening January 16th-20th, 2025. He stated the DMV Flow event would not be happening at the Town because the DMV was assisting in areas affected by the recent hurricanes. He discussed the issue of animals being run over in the Rolling Oaks area and stated that he would like to work with the Town and the Rolling Oaks HOA to resolve the matter by possibly placing additional signage in the area or with rumble strips.

Council Member Allbritton stated that he has received many pothole complaints for his district and around the Town and asked Town Administrator Muñiz to address the issue and explain the policy and procedures for fixing potholes in the Town.

Town Administrator Muñiz discussed the process in place to address potholes in the Town. He spoke about the recent weather conditions, including Hurricane Milton, and other factors that have made it complicated to repair the potholes around the Town. He stated that he and Public Works Director Rody Ley have spoken to the contractor hired to fix the potholes to make sure they are responsive to the letter of the contract. He talked about how areas of the Town are going to be prioritized over others due to their condition, including parts of Stirling Road that were being fixed immediately. He said the Town may also use different contractors to get a quicker response on the issue.

Council Member Allbritton thanked Town Administrator Muñiz and told residents that the issue of potholes is being addressed but stated that it does take time to have them fixed.

Mayor Breitzkreuz suggested that Administration research a method of setting a schedule of going out to fix potholes once a week during the rainy season, twice a month during the dry season, and plan for big repairs once a month. He added that the budget should be reviewed to see if we have the funds for creating the schedule or if funds needed to be added.

Council Member Hartmann asked Town Administrator Muñiz if the Town of Davie Police Department could be used to report potholes around Town during their patrols. Town Administrator Muñiz responded that Town staff report potholes as they drive around Town and residents report them as well, but the main issue was trying to repair them in a timely manner and not the actual reporting.

Council Member Allbritton discussed the Rural Public Arts and Design Board Halloween Decorating Contest.

Vice Mayor Kuczenski spoke about the Rural Public Arts and Design Board Halloween Decorating Contest and stated the deadline to enter was October 18th, judging on October 21st, and the awards given out October 25th. He spoke about the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System. He stated that the Town received a Class 7 Rating, and said that with a Class 7 Rating, residents receive a 15% discount on their flood insurance. He thanked Public Works Director Ley and Public Works staff for their hard work and efforts on helping the Town with receiving that rating.

Council Member Hartmann discussed the Rural Public Arts and Design Board Town Calendar and encouraged everyone to purchase one for \$5.00 at Town Hall.

Mayor Breitzkreuz reminded residents that early voting starts on October 21st and encouraged residents to vote. He spoke about the Mayor's Chess Challenge that involves multiple municipalities around the county and that the Town would be hosting the event at Town Hall on Saturday, October 19th. He asked members of the public to come out and participate.

8. Legal Comments

Assistant Town Attorney Dewitt had no legal comments.

9. Administration Comments

Town Administrator Muñiz spoke about the issue of Town residents not being charged the fees for their additional trash carts for Fiscal Year 2024. He stated that due to an oversight, residents with additional carts were not charged the fee for their additional cart but they would be charged for the upcoming year. He said they would not be charged for the prior year but would receive a letter explaining the situation and an invoice for \$312 for Fiscal Year 2025. He clarified that the fees were charged from October to September and that if residents wanted to return their additional carts they could at no charge. He said that if residents had questions, they could contact Town Hall to speak to Town Financial Administrator Lopez or himself. He spoke about a discussion item he planned on having on the October 24th Regular Town Council meeting, regarding AARPA funded projects that would ensure all AARPA funds would be spent.

Ordinances – 1st Reading

10. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO CREATE A NEW SECTION OF THE TOWN CODE ENTITLED "MERITLESS CODE COMPLIANCE CALLS"; PROVIDING FOR A SERVICE CHARGE AS A PENALTY FOR MORE THAN THREE MERITLESS CODE COMPLIANCE CALLS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDED PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. {Second Reading Scheduled for October 24, 2024}

The following motion was made by Council Member Jablonski, seconded by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ON 1st READING BY AMENDING THE LANGUAGE "IN A CALENDAR YEAR" TO READ "WITHIN 12 MONTHS".

Resolutions

11. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY PROVIDING WATER SERVICES TO 6541 MELALEUCA ROAD, REAL PROPERTY LYING WITHIN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA; PROVIDING THAT NO FURTHER EXPANSION OF SERVICE SHALL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO BE FURNISHED TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, seconded by Council Member Hartmann, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitkreuz voting yes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

12. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, CONSENTING TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY PROVIDING WATER SERVICES TO 13100 LURAY ROAD, REAL PROPERTY LYING WITHIN THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA; PROVIDING THAT NO FURTHER EXPANSION OF SERVICE SHALL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO BE FURNISHED TO THE CITY OF COOPER CITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, seconded by Council Member Hartmann, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitzkreuz voting yes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

13. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A PURCHASE ORDER TO BRINDLEE MOUNTAIN FIRE APPARATUS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$228,319.00) BY PIGGYBACKING OFF OF THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT #120921-BLE; TO PURCHASE A NEW ATTACK TRUCK FOR THE SOUTHWEST RANCHES VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following motion was made by Council Member Allbritton, seconded by Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and passed by a 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Allbritton, Hartmann, Jablonski, Vice Mayor Kuczenski, and Mayor Breitzkreuz voting yes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Debra M. Ruesga, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted by the Town Council on this 23rd day of January, 2025.

Steve Breitzkreuz, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.