



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

Official Minutes for the March 26, 2020
Special Town Council Meeting Conference Call called for 5:00 P.M.

Call in instructions: Call 305.728.4106 Code: 5410830 #

THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE AT GOOD AND WELFARE; PLEASE HOLD ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS UNTIL THEN!

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmember's Present: Mayor Glenn Singer, Vice Mayor Bernard Einstein, Councilmember Judy Lusskin, Councilmember Jaime Mendal, Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein

Staff Present: Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Steve Helfman, Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho, Police Chief Rudy Herbelo, Resident Services Director Michael Glidden, Public Works Director Kirk McKoy, Building & Zoning Director Linda Epperson, Facilities & Maintenance Director Ken Jones, Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk Sallam "Destiny" Abu Jarour.

Mayor Singer stated that this is an informative meeting and turned the meeting over to the Town Attorney.

C. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

Governors Order and Mayor's Powers

Sunshine law requires that all meetings be in person where the public can participate. Governor issued an emergency order waiving the in-person requirements for public meetings during the coronavirus, allowing governments to meet virtually or telephonically. Wanted to explain how it is that we are governed by emergency powers in the Town. Charter stipulates that when in the circumstance when there is an emergency and the council cannot make decisions as a body, the charter provides that the Mayor of the Town is vested with all of the emergency powers of the government. And those emergency powers are set out in the Florida statutes. Those emergency powers range from purchasing powers to setting a curfew.

D. MAYOR'S REPORT

Emergency Declaration and Stay At Home Order

First wanted to wish all of the residents and staff to stay safe and healthy. This is a serious crisis and unless we start treating it as such, it'll never go away. Residents are frustrated, concerned and nervous. I want to ensure all residents that Golden Beach will do everything necessary to keep our residents and staff safe and healthy. As Mayor, I

had to make some tough decisions. Golden Beach is a small community. Every city is different and dealing with this differently. On March 24th, I issued a Safer at Home declaration. I urge you all to read the order, which is online on the Town's website. Our beaches, parks, and constructions sites are 100% closed. Emergency repairs may be made with prior approval from the Town Manager. House help and aid can continue to work, but please be careful. After this emergency has past, Golden Beach will do what they can to assist with the construction delays. Every day there are more and more cases and the death rate keeps climbing. South Florida is one of the most rapidly effected areas of the Country. Want to thank the Town Manager, Police Chief and his staff for doing an amazing job during this situation. I ask all residents, when they come across these officers to show their thanks. We will get through this, but we all have to make sacrifices today for there to be a better tomorrow. We cannot be selfish. Please understand, comply, and work with us.

E. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Operations and Affairs of the Town

After the emergency declaration, the Town took decisive action to protect our residents and staff. As it relates to Town Hall, it is closed and will continue to be closed. Police are doing checkpoints and they are in the water making sure that no one is entering our community. They are on staggered shifts, so if you need something please call the substation. Public Works crews have been coming in on Mondays and Thursdays and special crews have been coming in to do spot checks. We are using several vehicles to communicate:

1. constant contact, if you are not on the constant contact list, please call the substation to be added to the list
2. our website, www.goldenbeach.us
3. our code red system

Our last update was on March 21st and it is still available on our website. We are allowing for external pesticide treatment, emergency repairs, and simple landscape services. The Town's staff is available 24 hours a day, every day and can be reached by calling the substation 305-935-0940. The Department of Health is the lead whenever someone is found to have the COVID-19 virus. We do not manage the cases. We are informed when someone has the case, but the Department of Health is the lead. Can confirm that there are two cases of COVID-19 in Golden Beach. So keep your distance, wash your hands often, and do not get in groups. As it relates to our Police staff, they are limiting their interactions with residents and keeping their distance. Tomorrow at noon, the staff will be meeting to decipher how we will move forward next week. Our next coronavirus update will go out later in the afternoon.

F. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

G. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Einstein

Hope everyone is safe and their families are safe, these are daunting times. Thanked the Manager, Mayor and staff for all of the hard work they are doing during this time. Stating that most of the landscaping staff are doing a great job of maintaining their distance, but today there was a landscape worker who did not maintain his distance when his wife went for a walk.

Councilmember Mendal

Thanked all of the employees for all of the work they are doing. Yes, we are being overly cautious, but our number one job is to keep residents and employees safe and to try to mitigate the spread as much as we can. Feels that the moratoriums on construction are justified and Town will work with developers when this is over. To all the walkers and bikers please be careful when you are walking across the street.

Councilmember Bernstein

Mayor and Town Manager have continuously spent so much time getting information out. Have to have some faith and trust that the Mayor and Council are doing what is best for this community. Echoed what everyone said about social distancing. Wants to thank everyone again and appreciates everyone's patience in the community.

Councilmember Lusskin

Shares the sentiments of the entire council. Would like to thank the residents. They have been so close and asking if they need anything and shows the bond between all of us. Would like to thank all of the doctors that live in Golden Beach. With a special shout out to Julie Friedman who is the medical director at quest diagnostics and working hard and inundated with work.

H. GOOD AND WELFARE

Madison Berndt, 274 South Island Drive

Appreciate your leadership on this issue. Your proactive work has kept everyone safe, especially our older population. Thanked the first responders and the police officers working in Town.

Vice Mayor Einstein his understanding is that the Governor of Florida still has not really shut down the state of Florida. Have any of the municipalities voiced their desire to shut down.

Mayor Singer stated that from his conversation, his reasoning is that most of the cases are in South Florida not in the panhandle. However, he thinks that his choice is going to change.

Vice Mayor Einstein

New York is oversaturated already and the whole country needs to shut down for two weeks to get a hold of this.

Town Manager reminded all residents that coming Monday the staff will be calling all residents to update our resident database. All of the rules that are being past by the county, those will all be covered by our update tomorrow afternoon in our COVID-19 update of March 27th. Reiterated that his phone number is 786-236-4211, just a text message away. Thanked the staff for all of the hard work they have been doing on behalf of the Town.

Mayor Singer thanked everyone for attending. Reminded residents that they can always reach him. His cell phone number is 305-778-5499.

I. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Mendal asked if the Town Manager could clarify if the Town has a curfew in place.

Town Manager stated that the Town has a soft curfew in place from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. where police will stop you and ask you where you are going. We ask all residents to not be out during those hours.

A motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Mayor Singer seconded by Councilmember Einstein.

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Perez
Lissette Perez
Town Clerk