



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

**Official Minutes for the April 21, 2008
Special Town Council Meeting called for 7:30 P.M. &
Capital Improvement Plan Workshop**

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer Called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

B. ROLL CALL

The Town Clerk called the roll.

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Singer, Vice Mayor Rojas, Councilmember Bernstein, Councilmember Lusskin.

Councilmembers Absent: Councilmember Einstein.

Staff Present: Town Manager – Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney – Stephen Helfman, Police Chief – James Skinner, Finance Director – Maria Camacho, Town Clerk – Elizabeth Sewell.

C. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

The Town Council led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA

ADDITIONS/ DELETIONS/ REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT
AGENDA/ AND CHANGES TO AGENDA

None

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP

Mayor Singer explained that the purpose of this Special Town Council Meeting was to reconsider the vote that the Town Council took at the March 31, 2008 Special Town Council Meeting and Capital Improvement Project Workshop, giving direction to the Town Manager and the Capital Improvement Project design consultant for the design and alignment of Golden Beach Drive. He stated that the current design dimensions are; seven (7) foot sidewalks, five (5)

foot greenway, two (2) foot curbs on the east and west side of Golden Beach Drive and two traveling lanes of ten (10) feet each. He also explained that in order to reconsider the Council action taken on March 31, 2008, a motion to reconsider and a vote is required by the Town Council.

The Town Attorney explained that this Special Town Council Meeting was called by a Councilmember asking the Town Council to reconsider their vote on the design and alignment of Golden Beach Drive. If the Town Council vote to reconsider their vote on March 31, 2009 by a majority, then the Town Council will vacate their prior decision, and the matter will be open again for discussion and any further action they would want to take.

Ramon Castella of C3TS stated that originally, the consultants recommended a seven (7) foot sidewalk, and after all, of the discussion they are still recommending a seven (7) foot sidewalk. He also stated that they could make the sidewalk as small as five (5) feet, that would still meet the ADA requirements, but the landscape buffer between the road and sidewalk would make it very tight. Therefore, he suggested that if the Town Council decided to make the sidewalk five (5) feet, then they would have to remove the shrubbery line to make the sidewalk functional.

A Motion to reconsider the Council's vote on March 31, 2008 for the design and alignment for Golden Beach Drive was made by Vice Mayor Rojas, seconded by Councilmember Lusskin.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Singer - Aye, Vice Mayor Rojas - Aye, Councilmember Bernstein-Nay, Councilmember Einstein - Absent, Councilmember Lusskin - Aye.

F. DIRECTION TO STAFF PERTAINING TO CIP

Paul Abbott, the Capital Improvement Project Owner's Representative stated that there were two major discussions in the last meeting that were equally important. One discussion was about the balance of the streetscape, whether or not the hedge on one side made the street out of balance. The other discussion would be the centerline alignment of the street.

Vice Mayor Rojas stated that the 7-foot sidewalk is too large for this community and it would not be aesthetically pleasing, it will look massive. She is in favor of the 5-foot sidewalk without the buffer and hedges.

Mayor Singer stated that he would consider the five (5) foot sidewalk with the five (5) foot buffer without hedges.

Ramon Castella stated explained that there would be a five (5) foot sidewalk with grassy area, no hedges with palm trees on both sides of the street, with 18' from the center line on one side of the street and 16' on the other side.

Councilmember Lusskin stated that she would like to hear what the public has to say regarding this matter before she makes a decision. She stated that the balance of the street, the beauty of the community and the quality of life here is what is important to her. Therefore, she would like to look at the entire picture before making a decision.

Councilmember Bernstein stated that in order for the sidewalk to be functional it would have to be seven (7) feet otherwise, the residents will not use it. He stated that he has observed other communities where they made a mistake and built sidewalks that were too short and they were not functional. He stated that the town has young families that need seven-foot functional sidewalks.

Sheldon Willis – 371 Golden Beach Drive asked if it was legal to ride bicycles on the sidewalk.

Bettina Hollo – 668 North Island Drive stated that she was in favor of the seven (7) foot sidewalk, because if the sidewalk is not large enough it would not be used by the residents.

Robert Smoley – 390 Golden Beach Drive stated that the Town Council voted unanimously at the March 31, 2008 Special Town Council Meeting and that was the right thing decision for this community.

Dr. Geduld – 126 Golden Beach Drive stated that he was in favor of the five (5) foot sidewalk because this is a residential community.

Hilary Kates – 437 Golden Beach Drive stated that seven (7) foot sidewalks were more functional.

Dr. Stanley Feinman – 475 Ocean Boulevard stated that the County recommended that the concrete sidewalks should be placed on pilings.

Sebastien Scemla – 172 Golden Beach Drive stated that the seven (7) foot sidewalk would be more functional.

Neil Leff – 48 Terracina Avenue stated that for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town he agreed that the seven (7) foot sidewalk would be necessary.

A Motion was made to approve the seven (7) foot sidewalk, five (5) foot buffer, two (2) foot curb and two traveling lanes of ten (10) feet by Mayor Singer, seconded by Councilmember Bernstein.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Singer – Aye, Vice Mayor Rojas – Aye, Councilmember Bernstein – Aye,
Councilmember Einstein – Absent, Councilmember Lusskin – No.
The motion carried.

G. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Glenn Singer:
None Requested

Vice Mayor Amy Rojas:
None Requested

Councilmember Ken Bernstein:
None Requested

Councilmember Ben Einstein:
None Requested

Councilmember Judy Lusskin:
None Requested

Town Manager Alexander Diaz:
None Requested

H. ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion to adjourn the Special Town Council Meeting and Capital Improvement Plan Workshop by Mayor Singer, seconded by Councilmember Bernstein. Consensus vote 4 Ayes 0 Nays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sewell

Elizabeth Sewell,
Town Clerk