



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

Official Minutes for the January 15, 2013
Regular Town Council Meeting called for 7:00 P.M.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmember's Present: Mayor Glenn Singer, Vice Mayor Amy Isackson-Rojas, Councilmember Judy Luskin, Councilmember Bernard Einstein, Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein

Staff Present: Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Police Chief Don De Lucca, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho, Town Attorney Michael Popok (in for Steve Helfman)

C. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Police Chief Led the Pledge of Allegiance

D. PRESENTATIONS / TOWN PROCLAMATIONS

None

E. MOTION TO SET THE AGENDA

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

Town Manager asked that a discussion of Tweddle Park be added to the discussion and direction to Town Manager section.

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passed.

F. TOWN BOARD/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Beach Committee – None
Beautification Committee – None
Comprehensive Planning Board – None
Recreation Committee – None

Security/Public Safety Committee – None
Youth Leadership Committee – None

G. GOOD AND WELFARE

None

H. MAYOR'S REPORT

Welcomed everyone back, residents and staff. Commended the Town for all of the town events in 2012, New Year's Eve being the most recent and well received. Hats off to the staff and police department for controlling public safety that evening. Over 250 RSVP'd for that event, the most that have attended a town event, and it was top notch. He said that he was excited about 2013. The Town has a bunch of projects that it is working on that will hopefully come to completion, one of them being the bridge projects. Redoing the entrance to Golden Beach, looking at changes for the beach area, and Tweddle Park.

I. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Rojas

Commented on the New Year's Eve party, stating that she received several calls from residents who RSVP'ed late and were not allowed to come to the party because they RSVP'ed so late. Inquired as to whether the Town could limit the amount of guests residents could bring to the parties so that more residents can attend.

Councilmember Einstein

Wished everyone a happy new year. Commended the Town on the professionalism of the website. Also stated that the areas where the CIP workers are stationed, the landscaping looks very dried out, and wanted to mention this for the sprinklers to be looked at, in case they are not working in those areas of Golden Beach Drive.

Councilmember Lusskin

Commented on the common areas of landscaping around Town has looked really superb, especially during the holidays. Asked Town Manager if in his report he could update the Council on the FP&L lines and when everyone will be energized underground. Mentioned that she's received compliments on the bridge work, in regard to it being quiet in the weekends. Lastly she promised Gregg Friedman, who lives at 190 Golden Beach Drive, that she would mention this story about what happened to him at the meeting. Gregg left Golden Beach Saturday to get gas on his boat and on the way back there were about 20 police officers in North Miami Beach in Eastern Shores started to flag him over to the dock he was near, asking him to come closer and closer to pin a guy down that was trying to escape police on charges of first degree murder. Later that night, North Miami Beach police came back to his home and cleaned his boat for him.

Councilmember Bernstein

Unfortunately missed the New Year's Eve party this year and feels that everyone should be able to attend the New Year's Eve party regardless of RSVP'ing for the party or not. Had the same comment about the landscaping in Town as Councilman Einstein, seems

a bit spotty and someone should do a check of it. Wants to continue with talks concerning the beach pavilion, and thinks the Town should enlist some help from residents with coming up with ideas for the beach and helping with it.

J. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Reminded residents and Council that Mayor Singer was unopposed for his run for the Mayoral seat, as were Councilmember's Luskin and Einstein. The Inauguration Swearing-In event is tentatively scheduled for February 24th, a Sunday, at the beach pavilion at 11 a.m. As it relates to the New Year's Eve event, it is a challenge that the Town struggles with each year. In the end, no one was turned away from the event, the Town simply encourages people to RSVP because we need to provide food, drinks and glassware. Publicly thanked Michael Glidden for putting the event together, and puts together all of the Town's events, and the rest of the staff that is involved with Town events.

Councilmember Einstein inquired as to what the costs of the event are exactly. Mr. Diaz advised him and the Council that the costs to the Town are significant.

Councilmember Luskin added that opening up the east parking lot allowed for a more open flow of people throughout the evening, where they could have taken more people in should they have needed to.

Town Manager advised that as it relates to beautification projects, there is a lot of grass in Town that is brown. The Town will probably start replacing sod soon. Hopes that the Council and residents have enjoyed what has been done at The Strand with the four canary palms. The Town is going to proceed slowly in phases with the balance of the Strand, as additional resources are acquired. At beach pavilion, the Town has gone out to meet with 4 different vendors to undertake that project, but the costs are a lot higher than expected, and the Town did not budget for those types of resources to fund that project. In the meantime, Mayor Singer has authorized that the Town purchase additional beach chairs to get us through the season. The Town is looking at the beach pavilion as the main project next year, when the budget process begins again.

CIP project update – The Administration was hoping that the FP&L poles would have been down by the end of the year, but several events have taken FP&L out of Town for the last 3 months. Still have not received a single FP&L crew to come back with us. All of the homes on A1A, and with the exception of 5 homes on Golden Beach Drive are already connected. He advised that he will be meeting with FP&L tomorrow morning, because FP&L is now changing their rhetoric as it relates to their poles coming down. FP&L has asked that the Town consider not taking down the poles until the islands are connected, which was never a discussion that the Town had with them. South Island is moving forward, commencing connection in February. The goal is to get FP&L in and out of here by the end of the first quarter of this year. And in June, the Town will be milling A1A as part of FDOT project, that project is still moving forward.

As it relates to the bridges, the Town has replaced the superintendent of the bridges. The quality of the concrete work was not meeting the Town's expectations and that is why the superintendent was replaced. The bridges are on scheduled to be finished by

August of this year, even though contractually they have until December. Will hopefully start using the south lane of both bridges by the end of February, to begin demolition of the north lanes. We had our first FDOT audit and the Town passed with flying colors. Mayor and Manager have been working aggressively the last few weeks with Senator Margolis and Representative Gibbons to try and acquire additional state resources to assist the Town with it's share for the bridges. Also congratulated Chief De Lucca for receiving the endorsement from the International Police Chief's Association for his candidacy as Vice President of the association.

Councilmember Einstein asked about the Regalia project and if something can be done about the lane closures. Mayor Singer advised that there is nothing the Town can do about it. Town Manager stated the same. He Stated that resident Fred Chouinard facilitated a lunch with the City Manager from Sunny Isles and him to try and facilitate some kind of understanding, however the Manager from Sunny Isles basically said that he will continue to manage his community and the Manager should continue to manage his.

K. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

None

L. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

None

M. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

None

N. QUASI JUDICIAL RESOLUTIONS

None

O. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the November 20, 2012 Regular Town Council Meeting**
- 2. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving a Contract between Miami-Dade County and the Town for a Records Improvement Project.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING A CONTRACT BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH FOR A RECORDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TOWN MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAID CONTRACT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 2
Resolution No. 2281.13

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2281.13

3. A Resolution of the Town Council Authorizing the Auction of One Surplus Police Vehicle and Two Police Bicycles from the Town's Vehicle Fleet.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE AUCTION OF ONE SURPLUS POLICE VEHICLE AND TWO POLICE BICYCLES FROM THE TOWN'S VEHICLE FLEET; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 3
Resolution No. 2282.13

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2282.13

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Items O1 – O3 pass.

P. TOWN RESOLUTIONS

None

Q. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Glenn Singer:

*Committee Meeting Restructuring & Future Meeting Dates

The Mayor stated that the Town has six different committees that have been scheduled to meet on a monthly basis. However due to inactivity, the Town feels that these committees do not need to meet on a monthly basis, but instead can meet on a quarterly basis (except the building regulatory board, which will continue to meet monthly). Committees are recommendations and suggestions from the residents, ultimately the Council has the ultimate decision on what is approved or not approved. They are an integral part of Golden Beach's projects, every one of the committees have had tremendous impact on what we've done in the past several years. The issue is that several people that have signed up for these committees are not showing up for the meetings.

Mayor went through each committee, stating what the committees do.

He stated that essentially, what the Town is doing is cleaning the slate and giving residents an opportunity to join whatever committee they'd like to be a part of.

Councilmember Bernstein interjected regarding the Beach Committee stating that that is the one he is asking be changed to meet more frequently to continue the work that was began to beautify the beach.

Mayor recommended the Town start with meetings for that Committee on a quarterly basis, and increase the meeting schedule once work on that project commenced again, which would not be for another 12 months.

Councilmember Bernstein stated that he did not understand why the project was not going to be done for another year without even a discussion about it.

Mayor Singer advised that the Town does not have the money in the budget for the project. He also stated that the Town Manager and he met with vendors to get proposals for the project. Those came in at \$225,000, which is something the Town cannot afford right now.

Councilmember Bernstein stated that if the Town could come up with the money for the Strand, when those expenses were not originally budgeted, than why couldn't it come up with the money for the beach?

Councilmember Lusskin interjected that the Council had a wish list at the end of last year's budget, and there are some things on that wish list that she feels should take priority over others. Vice Mayor Rojas seconded that opinion.

Councilmember Bernstein stated that the beach was an area that he wanted looked at when the wish lists were put together, and for the Mayor and Town Manager to just arbitrarily decide that the beach is not important is dismissive and inconsistent with how the Town has acted in the past.

Town Manager Diaz advised that he never acts in an arbitrary manner. The Council enacts all legislation and directs the staff on what to do. When you say that the landscaping wasn't budgeted, that is not a factual statement. New resources were allocated for landscaping because the Council decided that landscaping was a priority.

Councilmember Einstein interjected stated that he remembered that there was a design presented for The Strand, bids came in too high, so remedial work was performed. He stated that he does agree with Councilmember Bernstein, in the sense that it does seem that when the Mayor or Town Manager want a project to be addressed, it is pushed to the forefront. He asked what are the Town's present capital projects that the Town has an obligation to pay, to get an understanding of those items.

Town Manager stated that the Administration pushes forward items and projects that the Council directs the staff to do so. By your action, at the September budget hearing meetings, the Council enacts a capital project and you enact projects the staff is to work on, on your behalf. So this year, as part of the budget process, the Council dedicated

resources for landscaping. As part of Councilman Bernstein's wish, he asked that funding be put in for the longterm capital projects for the beach pavilion, Councilwoman Lusskin has been fighting for years for capital dollars for a north wall at the north end of Town, Vice Mayor Rojas, one of her priorities is dredging of our waterways, and the Mayor wanted to put seed money for the future milling and resurfacing of Golden Beach Drive. This year, the projects that the Town's working on, on your behalf, is the bridges project, seed money for landscaping throughout the community, improving the street lights as they currently stand today, recurring maintenance of all of our facilities, the marine patrol boat dock, and the CCTV project and maintenance of it.

Councilmember Bernstein came back and stated that his issue is not that he thinks this is the year to do these projects, but for the Town to arbitrarily decide that we can't afford it is frustrating for him. The only thing he is asking of the Town Manager is for him to come back to the Council stating what the projects the Town has, and let them decide what they want the Administration to focus on.

Town Manager stated that the Council needs to be fair to the Administration. When the Council came to the Administration and asked that the beach project be looked into, within four weeks the Administration got an architect, got designs, had a plan, made a proposal, and allocating dollars that weren't in the budget – presenting the Council a basis with which to start with, but the numbers came in at \$225,000.

Councilmember Bernstein asked to join the Beach Committee.

The Mayor reminded residents that anyone interested in participating in joining a committee needs to contact town hall.

Town Manager asked if the Council is in agreement to make this change to the committee meeting schedules, and change the structure, so that the Administration can bring a resolution before them in February for these changes.

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays

Vice Mayor Amy Isackson-Rojas:
None Requested

Councilmember Judy Lusskin:
None Requested

Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein:
None Requested

Councilmember Bernard Einstein:
None Requested

Town Manager Alexander Diaz
*Tweddle Park

He stated that the condition of the park has decayed over the years. Playground equipment is rusted and broken loose, rubbery foam is damaged. Although the Town has spent some dollars in improving Tweddle Park, there are some residents who feel that the Council should take a look at it. The Administration has received some proposals to redo the surface area of Tweddle Park, and those have come in at about \$25,000. He stated that there are \$25,000 in this year's budget that can be used for other things like Tweddle Park. The Council just needs to direct the Administration on what it needs to do.

Mayor Singer suggested that maybe a way to raise additional money for that park is for the Town to sell dedication benches to the residents and that may raise the funds needed for the park.

Councilmember Bernstein asked if there are any safety issues with the park with things rusting.

Town Manager said that he has three great concerns. The rubber material underneath the swing sets has depleted, and now there is raw concrete there, so that needs to be addressed immediately. Tripping hazards are prevalent around the park, and there are two pieces of equipment that broke and need to be replaced.

Councilmember Einstein stated that the Town has done a lot to redesign that park in the past and already resurfaced that park years ago for \$60,000. To resurface that park with the same materials as before would be a very expensive endeavor. Can appreciate the residents' complaints about the situation, but in terms of the Town's priorities and what it can do, the Town Manager has already done an amazing job with that park and the surrounding area.

Lee Benayoun, 615 Golden Beach Drive stated that she understands and appreciates the costs, but very concerned with child safety. Her son fell on one of those rocks, and the overgrown root is her main concern. Another concern is that her son has handed her bottle caps from beers that he has found around the park. Stated that she came in and spoke with Mr. Diaz, Ms. Perez and Mrs. Epperson about all of her concerns. Stated that there are two or three benches that are broken. The picnic table has been destroyed by sun and salt. Requested that if a few things could be replaced, that would be appreciated. Happy to spearhead this issue if the Council would like her to. She has explored the Hawthorne Park in Surfside, which is a great park with sand. She had an idea for a victory/vegetable garden in the park, as an activity for the youth in Town. Top three requests are: safety, replacing the dinosaur, and replacing the little picnic table. Also there are a lot of cigarette butts in the park area.

Councilmember Bernstein asked that the Administration go in and see how much redoing the park would actually cost, and see if someone will donate the equipment. And recommended that Mrs. Benayoun be on these committees, because as a parent with small children she can provide a lot of insight to what is needed.

Councilmember Einstein stated that maybe they can do a tree or leaf plaque donations, where people can buy a leaf for \$100 or something else reasonable like that.

Mayor Singer asked that the Town Manager come back at the next meeting with some suggestions.

Town Manager asked if the consensus seems to be more repair than replace, and the Council agreed.

R. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Councilmember Bernstein, seconded by Councilmember Lusskin.

Consensus vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisette Perez
Lisette Perez
Town Clerk