



TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

Official Minutes for the November 20, 2018
Regular Town Council Meeting called for 7:00 p.m.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Singer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmember's Present: Mayor Glenn Singer, Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal, Councilmember Judy Lusskin

Councilmember's Not Present: Councilmember Amy Isackson-Rojas, Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein

Staff Present: Town Manager Alexander Diaz, Town Attorney Brett Schneider (in for Steve Helfman), Town Clerk Lissette Perez, Finance Director Maria D. Camacho, Police Chief Rudy Herbello, Building Director Linda Epperson, Lt. Yovany Diaz

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chief Herbello 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 requested to pull the minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting. They are not ready yet. Also, reminded the residents if they would like to make a remark on any topic, they must come to the podium to speak into a microphone. He also stated that about every 20 minutes, the screen will go black and not to freak out we are having issues with the adapter that is sending the signal to Comcast. You can still hear everything but the screen is black.

Consensus vote 3 Ayes 0 Nays

F. GOOD AND WELFARE

Mrs. Barbara Shaheen, 416 Golden Beach Drive

Stated that she has lived in Golden Beach since the early 1940s and what has happened to her in this Town and how the residents' tax dollars are being spent should concern every resident. Mrs. Shaheen spoke on her hardship with the Town. She believes that the Town has spent over \$200,000 of resident tax dollars for her case, and she has spent more, for a situation the Town created. She stated not to take her word for it and for residents to look up the case online- case #2017-010672-CA-01. The facts speak for themselves, and she believes that they will be as outraged as she is.

Al & Dagmara Paruas, 645 Golden Beach

Submitted a letter to be read into the record concerning holiday lighting that was read into the record by Town Clerk Perez.

G. MAYOR'S REPORT

Spoke on the Halloween event and what a great job the staff and police did. Also stated that next year they will try to put more constraints on the event because there were complaints that there were too many people. Spoke on the Veterans Day event and thanked Councilmember Lusskin for her hard work and apologized for not being able to attend. Next year we will do a better job announcing it. By the end of the first quarter of 2019, the Town Manager and him will bring a proposal for a bid package on the new Town Hall before the residents. In regards to the holiday lights, he thought that they chose blue and white to keep it neutral but it was not intended to offend anyone and will look into it. Wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday and stated that this is a time to give thanks. Living in Golden Beach is extremely special and every morning when I wake up I am thankful that I am here and not in another neighborhood. Whether it be because of the Halloween event or any other event the Town puts on it is just a great community. Urged everyone to be careful driving through Town as the kids start to get off school now. Especially at night we need to be extra careful, urged residents to please obey stop signs and the speed limit.

H. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Mendal

Very excited about the New Town Hall and looking forward to it. Thinks that it is something that the Town really wants and needs. The Town is looking good. The lights are looking good. Slowly progressing. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Lusskin

Lights are looking good, noticed that some lights are still out but FPL is here, and working on them. Veterans Day was well attended but the beach was closed that day. And even though the beach was closed that day, still had great attendance. Thanked Carol Larson for her great work. Stated that the Tea Party is doing great.

I. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Gave an update on the street lighting project in Town. Of the 168 new lights, 167 have been installed, 105 are currently operational, and there are 60 that are not. There are 47 old poles that need to be removed and 75 more boring locations that still need to be bored. When the project was first intended we were going to hand dig each hole location but had to switch to boring because they kept on hitting gas and water lines, in

addition the two hurricanes added to the delay of the project. As you have noticed over the last couple of weeks, a lot more lights are coming on board and our community is becoming more lit. In the interim from back in July to today, we have had extra police on duty to ensure the safety of our residents. We have more patrols on the south side because the south side is a little darker than the north side. Stated that the Chief is here if you have any questions, he knows we have had a couple of incidents where we have had unsavory people trying to walk in to the community at night. We have them on camera and are investigating when those incidents occurred. Over the holidays for the past 11 years, we go to an even higher level of patrolling with plain clothes officers walking the streets. You would not know that they are police there walking around at night with a dog or stroller and you do not know who they are to provide that extra set of eyes. Our detached officers come and help us. Stated that if you are going away for the holiday please register with the Town at no cost. We go by your house at least twice a shift, we check every door and every window and make sure no one has gone on to your property.

Stated that many residents have had concerns with the amount of beach closures we have had this year and he wanted to address that. The reason we are seeing more closures is because last year this administration made the decision to test our own waters. We were relying on the county to test the waters and the county was testing them every couple of months. We are now doing a weekly testing of the water, and when the water conditions on our ocean are not better than a moderate reading, we have to close our beaches. What was happening before is we did not have moderate levels and our residents were swimming in waters they should not have been swimming in. Therefore, because we test every Monday and get the result on Wednesdays we know when we need to close our beach. Stated that he knows that it seems a little bit uncomfortable and even excessive but we are erring on the side of healthy living versus having residents who can possibly be exposed to a non-healthy swimming environment. As it relates to the holiday lights, we try to be as neutral as possible to try and satisfy all 12 religious beliefs, but for next year we will try to come up with something more accommodating for all residents. In addition to that, the Council decided to switch the Town's fleet to a black fleet to give it a more aggressive look and feel. We took the delivery of two vehicles this week and are expecting seven more this month and will continue to switch out the remainder of the fleet. The manager stated that it is in our newsletters as well as the Town website and Town channel that the election packets are ready for pickup. This is an election year, and the qualifying period for the council is the first week of January. If you have not picked up a packet and you are interested in running please see the Town Clerk. In addition to that, he thanked the police for all the work during the Halloween party. He also announced that from December 22, 2018 to January 6, 2019 the Building Department will be closed, so even though Town Hall will be open the Building Department will be closed. This year Town Hall will be closed December 24, 25, 31, and January 1st. Also recognized Building Director Linda Epperson for her 20 years of service.

J. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

None

K. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

None

L. ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

None

M. QUASI JUDICIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving A Variance Request for the Property Located at 555 Ocean Boulevard.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 555 OCEAN BOULEVARD, GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33160 TO PERMIT AN ELEVATOR TOWER TO BE AT 24' IN OVERALL HEIGHT AND CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE SIDE SETBACK OF AN EXISTING HOME AT 9.72' IN LIEU OF A 14' SETBCK AS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN'S CODE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 1
Resolution No. 2584.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2584.18

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Luskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Amy Isackson-Rojas	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Judy Luskin	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Town Manager spoke on the item. Stated that it is a Mediterranean style home that is being remodeled on Ocean. The way the home was originally built it does not provide a space for an elevator. We felt that the design for this elevator was very well put together, it is tasteful, blends well with the home and a home on the ocean deserves an elevator. We support the variance and have no objection to it.

2. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving A Variance Request for the Property Located at 555 Ocean Boulevard.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A VARIANCE

REQUEST FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 555 OCEAN BOULEVARD, GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33160 TO PERMIT EXISTING AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT TO BE REPLACED AT THE EXISTING SETBACK OF 5.0' IN LIEU OF THE CURRENT SETBACK REQUIREMENT OF 10' BY THE TOWN'S CODE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 2
Resolution No. 2585.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2585.18

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Glenn Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Amy Isackson-Rojas	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Mayor Singer stated that this variance was passed by the advisory board two to one, the same resident at 577 Golden Beach Drive objected to it.

Town Manager stated that this also applies to the first variance as well that it is stipulated that the staff recommendations be put into the record without objections as part of the official proceedings. The reason we have to do a variance although they are just replacing the equipment in the same location is because our code does not allow for us to grant that administratively. It would be a hardship for this home to carve out an edge to have them meet the ten-foot set back the code requires now. When this house was built, the equipment was allowed in the five-foot setback. All they are doing is taking the old equipment out and putting new equipment in. Not changing their home.

Town Manager stated the BRAB members requested that they become more aggressive in looking up solutions to allow these types of homes to be encouraged to be built. Our goal would be that by the end of the second quarter we can bring to you some allowances and reliefs in our code to allow for more Mediterranean or non-square houses to be built. We are asking any member in our community that has any suggestions to just let us know and speak to the BRAB members.

N. CONSENT AGENDA

3. Official Minutes of the September 27, 2018 Final Budget Hearing & Special Town Council Meeting

4. **Official Minutes of the October 30, 2018 Special Town Council Meeting & Local Planning Agency Meeting – *item pulled***
5. **A Resolution of the Town Council Approving the Agreement between the Office of the State Attorney and the Town.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA AND THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 5
Resolution No. 2586.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2586.18

6. **A Resolution of the Town Council Approving An Agreement with David T. Caserta Government Relations, Inc.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, RETROACTIVELY APPROVING A NEW AGREEMENT WITH DAVID T. CASERTA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, INC. FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2018 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 6
Resolution No. 2587.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2587.18

7. **A Resolution of the Town Council Approving the Payment of \$2,000.00 to Achieve Miami.**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF \$2,000.00 TO ACHIEVE MIAMI; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 7

Resolution No. 2588.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2588.18

Consensus vote 3 Ayes, 0 Nays. Items N3 and N5-N7 passed.

O. TOWN RESOLUTIONS

8. A Resolution of the Town Council Approving an Agreement with the City of Sunny Isles Beach.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT COMPUTERS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 8
Resolution No. 2589.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2589.18

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Isackson-Rojas	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Town Manager stated that in order for the Town to have its own OSSI software, it would cost thousands of dollars. What we do is buy a licensing agreement through the City of Sunny Isles; it allows us to use their software system. We are independent of their system, all of our information is kept separately. What they do is manage not only the software but also all of our laptops; all of the police cars have laptops with a secured connection. Because the contract amount exceeds the manager's purchasing authority it requires the council's action.

Councilmember Lusskin commented that we have been using it for years and it works well

Vice Mayor Mendal asked why the costs increase annually for the software.

Town Manager stated that the same way we provide cost of living increases annually; this is not just for licensing they also provide staff to handle our licensing so this is for their IT specialist. The Town has looked in the past to hire our own IT staff but they are extremely expensive.

9. A Resolution of the Town Council Authorizing Work by Craig A. Smith & Associates, Inc. Related to Stormwater Improvements.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING WORK BY CRAIG A. SMITH & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 9
Resolution No. 2581.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2581.18

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Luskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Isackson-Rojas	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Judy Luskin	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Town Manager spoke on the item stating that Center Island has the lowest elevation of all of the Town's Islands. It has negative readings, which means it goes below sea level. During wet weather, summer, and winter seasons Center Island has ground water that seeps through the island and floods the Town's streets. Over the last couple of years the flooding has been moderate we have only had one year that it was severe and this year was low to moderate. Because the island does not have a pump system, whenever there is a high tide and a rain event the streets become flooded and the salt water from the flooding damages vehicles and homes. Over the last couple of years, Craig A. Smith and I have been looking to find a solution. The most important question we need to answer first is what type of solution we would live with, zero water rain and high tide always is an almost 3 million dollar project. Or rain and flooding in the streets but within

12 minutes the streets are cleared, that is what he is proposing for Center Island, the same level of flood service control as we have on Golden Beach Drive and that is about a \$700,000 pump station project. It is a dual pump, we are required to have two in case one fails, and it gives us the same level of service and rate as Golden Beach Drive. We are not proposing one on North Island or South Island because North Island has zero flooding and South Island has isolated flooding on the south side of the south cul de sac only because the elevation there is an issue. On the North side of south Island we do have flooding but not as frequent as the south side. Because the depth level of flooding that goes to both locations on South Island does not cover the road and have very little damage to vehicles right now we do not recommended placing a pump there, may explore this program down the road. What we are proposing after negotiating with the residents on the island is to co-locate this pump station exactly where we have the police boat dock. Going to propose to put the pump station equipment in the parking bay area and in the cul de sac. Engineers have assured us 100% that by installing the equipment in the vicinity of the boat dock that there is very little consequences that will come of it. This system will be paid for by the Town's stormwater fees and we are not proposing a change to the stormwater fee. We have enough capacity in the stormwater fees that we can take on an additional SRF loan. The next step will be the design of the pump station. The contract with Craig A. Smith authorizes us to select what we want, or need as we move forward. Once it is designed, we will submit an application to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the funding. Still have not decided whether we want to do a refinancing of our current obligation. We have about \$1.1 million in our SRF loan or we might just take out a new loan, but we have not determined that yet. Another item will come before the Council for the Town to go out to bid for the project. The lowest most responsible bidder will be selected to construct the pump station, this contract allows us to choose Craig A. Smith to help manage the construction and inspection services of the pump station while it is being constructed. That is important because in order to certify the pump station at the end the engineer of record needs to be part of construction management or the state will not certify it. This pump station will achieve the same objectives as what we have on Golden Beach Drive. This does not mean that the Town will not flood, but the flooding will subside within a few minutes. The only other solution to this matter for Center Island is to raise Center Island, which we explored. However, if you want to see a complete failure of a city that raised their streets to solve flooding go to Sunset Harbor and see what happens to every single business that is adjacent to that street because the streets drain in to the business. This is not the absolute best scenario it provides us with enough comfort level as in we are providing the same level of service as we do to our main barrier island residents.

Councilmember Lusskin stated that before the CIP project the flooding was much worse in Town. Now the streets do flood shortly, but drain within a few minutes

Town Manager stated that the Town is still waiting for FEMA dollars to be released back to us so we can automate are pump stations in North and Center Island. This pump station will also have a transfer switch and it will not have a permanent generator, it is what we call a horse back generator which is the one we pull behind a trailer. Therefore, once we have a storm we will pull a generator there and we currently have one of those generators. We are still waiting for FEMA to get back to us for the automation of our current pump stations in Tweddle Park, South Park and North park.

Councilmember Lusskin asked if once the pump is installed in the parking bays, could it still be used for parking.

Town Manager said yes.

Councilmember Lusskin asked about the impact to the infrastructure at the cul de sac once the pump is installed.

Town Manager said because we have not started the design he cannot answer that question, but he hopes to have minimal impact to anything that's already existing

Vice Mayor Mendal asked about the financing of the SRF loan. And if refinancing the loan will affect our current percentage rate.

Town Manager stated that there have been conversations with the DEP Secretary to reopen our loan and taking out the amount that was originally approved and allow the Town to draw down again on that loan.

Vice Mayor Mendal asked if we can get a portion on that loan.

Town Manger stated that last year all of that water money was dried up. This year's state budget is going to be a lot less than what projections have been. The president of the senate addressed infrastructure programs and wants the state to reinvest.

10. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting a Stormwater Facilities Improvement Plan.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A STORMWATER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR A STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 10
Resolution No. 2582.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2582.18

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Isackson-Rojas	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Town Manager stated into the record that in 2007 when the Town adopted our stormwater master plan for our CIP project, they did not anticipate the need for a pump station on Center Island. Because the state requires that a stormwater master plan have a provision of the project in it, we have to amend our masterplan to include the Center Island Pump station. The only way we can apply for an SRF loan is by doing this so this is needed.

11. A Resolution of the Town Council Adopting the Town’s New Employee Manual.

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TOWN’S NEW EMPLOYEE MANUAL AS PRESENTED; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Exhibit: Agenda Report No. 11
Resolution No. 2590.18

Sponsor: Town Administration

Recommendation: Motion to Approve Resolution No. 2590.18

A motion to approve was made by Councilmember Lusskin, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

On roll call, the following vote ensued:

Mayor Singer	<u>Aye</u>
Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal	<u>Aye</u>
Councilmember Bernstein	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Isackson-Rojas	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Judy Lusskin	<u>Aye</u>

The motion passed.

Town Manager spoke on the manual. Stated that this is what helps protect us from lawsuits and encourages our employees to follow our rules and regulations.

Also stated it has been ten years since we took a hard look at it. We hired an HR consultant to help us bring our plan to meet the deficiencies we had; our attorneys look at it and really digested it as well. The one thing we have not been able to answer is how the new Florida medical marijuana rules apply to employees and the employee manual. As you know, we are a drug free work place and we get a discount in our liability insurance. So we put in a call to our liability insurance carrier to find out how we need to manage those employees that have medical marijuana licensing and how that effects our drug free work place and any conflicts in that area. Right now, it is silent in the manual – our attorney, HR consultant, and we are still waiting on our insurance

carrier to see how we want to address it in order to not lose that discount. We do not have a position on it today and we might have to come back to you with that. One other new provision we have in here that he has to put into record is that things such as vacation are guaranteed but other things like tuition reimbursement are not. We have strong language that tells us if an employee is not in good standing those additional benefits that are not guaranteed to you can be pulled and removed from your offering until they are in good standing. This does not take away the personnel appeal board, our charter requires a personnel appeal board if an employee is terminated or disciplined they can appeal that to the council and that provision is still guaranteed here.

Councilmember Lusskin asked if we are allowed to tell employees how long to have their hair or whether or not it can be in a ponytail

Town Manager responded yes we could have a stander hygiene and appearance for your staff

P. DISCUSSION & DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Glenn Singer:

- Electric versus Gas Powered Blowers

Mayor Singer stated that it has been brought to our attention to look into changing our ordinance to change from gas-powered blowers to electric powered blowers. On the surface, it sounds good it is environmentally friendly and less noise. However, it is a lot more expensive and all our landscapers have gas-powered blowers and if we do this our landscapers would not be allowed to use their gas-powered blowers and they would have to change them. It is a very expensive change and after speaking to a few landscape companies, they said they would not change it because it is too expensive. It sounds good in theory but in reality in his opinion at this time, it really does not work.

Town Manager stated that the Town Clerk would read the email into record and this is important for residents to understand because we frequently get calls from residents demanding that we change things. We do not rule by a single resident we have a democratically elected council who makes decisions on behalf of the community. This Administration cannot make an opinion one-way or another as to whether we are going to change regulations. So, when we have residents that are concerned about an issue such as this we bring it to the Council and the Council deliberates and then decide how we are to governor ourselves moving forward.

Town Clerk read an email into the record from resident Gabriel Eilemberg.

Vice Mayor Mendal stated that he agrees with the Mayor – we are not putting landscape companies out of business for this. Maybe he is not sure what the Town’s situation is but if we have gas-powered blowers we can transition to electric powered after doing a cost analysis.

Town Manager stated that even if we change all our gas-powered blowers to electric powered, unless we change the nature of all landscapers in Town, then we have spent money purchasing equipment that there was no need to replace because it would not make a difference. His professional recommendation is that unless there is an ordinance that changes or bans gas-powered blowers, then it does not make sense.

That does not mean that as our equipment ages and needs to be replaced we will not consider buying electric powered but does not make sense to rush out and replace all of our equipment.

Mayor Singer stated that the landscape companies have stated and made it clear that they cannot afford to change their blowers to electric ones.

Town Manager stated that to add to the Mayors point it may not be too expensive to go and buy a \$400 blower, but it is the number of batteries they need to carry on their truck to do a full day's work. The Village of Key Biscayne passed this ordinance and it was a complete disaster.

Resident Tania Murciano, 405 Center Island Drive stated that maybe the Town could restrict the use of the blowers on the weekends due to noise.

Mayor Singer stated that the problem with that is that several residents do their own yards, they can only cut them on the weekend, and that is a valid complaint

Town Manager stated that they do restrict the times you can landscape during the weekend.

- Moving January 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting Date

Mayor Singer requested to move the January meeting to the following Tuesday, January 22nd. The Council agreed.

Town Manager reminded the Council that on the dais is the Welcome Home Guide for them to take home to review and give their feedback to Michael Glidden Resident Services Director. Also reminded residents that the election packets are available and the qualifying period ends on January 8, 2019.

Vice Mayor Jaime Mendal:
None Requested

Councilmember Kenneth Bernstein:
None Requested

Councilmember Amy Isackson-Rojas:
None Requested

Councilmember Judy Lusskin:
None Requested

Town Manager Alexander Diaz:
None Requested

Q. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the Council Meeting was made by Mayor Singer, seconded by Vice Mayor Mendal.

Consensus vote 3 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Perez
Lissette Perez
Town Clerk