



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Town Clerk's Office

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

Clerk's Note: This was a virtual meeting where Council Members and public participants attended by phone.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Special Town Council Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, all elected officials were found to be present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Moore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following modifications were made to the Agenda:

The order of item nos. IX, X and XI were changed and item no. XII. SHELTER IN PLACE - SAFER AT HOME was added before ANY OTHER MATTERS.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Council Member Araskog and was seconded by Council Member Lindsay to approve the Agenda as amended. On roll call, the Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Note: This item was read into the record before the Town Manager provided his update to the Town's Response on Covid-19 Outbreak.

V. CONSIDERATION OF SCHEDULING AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020, IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 360 SOUTH COUNTY ROAD, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING MATTER:

100 EMERALD BEACH WAY LC, V. TOWN OF PALM BEACH,
CASE NO. 9:19-CV-80645-SMITH/MATTHWMAN,
pending in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION ATTENDEES: MAYOR GAIL L. CONIGLIO; TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT DANIELLE H. MOORE; TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARGARET A. ZEIDMAN; TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS JULIE ARASKOG, LEWIS S. W. CRAMPTON, BOBBIE LINDSAY; TOWN MANAGER KIRK BLOUIN; TOWN ATTORNEYS JOHN C. RANDOLPH AND JOANNE M. O'CONNOR, AND PLEASANTON, GREENHILL, MEEK & MARSAA COURT REPORTERS.

President Moore read this item into the record. Council Member Lindsay recused herself from this item based upon her previous recusal. Town Attorney Randolph announced into the record that advice is needed in regards to the case that was announced.

Motion was made by Council President Pro-Tem Zeidman and was seconded by Council Member Araskog to hold the closed-door session immediately following the Special Town Council Meeting. On roll call, the Motion passed 4-0 with Council Member Lindsay recused.

Motion was made by Council Member Araskog and was seconded by Council Member Crampton to approve the instructions given to the Town's Attorneys regarding this matter. On roll call, the Motion passed 4-0 with Council Member Lindsay recused.

VI. UPDATE ON TOWN'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Town Manager Blouin reported that he did not have a formal update regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. He explained that he would provide information related to each item that would be discussed before the Council goes into executive session.

VII. COMMENTS OF MAYOR GAIL L. CONIGLIO

Mayor Coniglio cautioned the Council and the public to reserve comments for items on the agenda to wait until the agenda item is discussed. She expressed that all the decisions made today will be made with the health, safety and welfare of the community in mind.

VIII. COMMENTS OF TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Araskog commented with regards to the loss of a resident due to COVID-19 by sending her thoughts and prayers to the family. She reminded residents about social distancing requirements in the community due to comments from citizens about young adults not adhering to the rules.

Council Member Crampton had no comments.

Council Member Lindsay had no comments.

Council President Moore echoed Council Member Araskog's comments and concerns.

Council President Pro-Tem Zeidman expressed thanks to the Palm Beach Daily News and the Palm Beach Civic Association for assisting the Town with sharing the day-to-day news from the Town and thanked the Town Manager for his daily updates on the COVID-19 pandemic.

IX. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – 3 MINUTE LIMIT PLEASE
(Comments received via email will be read into the record at this time.)**

Carolyn Stone, Director of Business Development and Operations read the following citizen comments into the record:

Anne Pepper, 333 Seaspray Avenue
Jane Glucksman,
Silvia Hirschmann,
Lyle Howland
Chad Hoeft
John David Corey, Palm Beach Walks
William Mikus,
Michael Scharf, 225 Dunbar Road
Susan Gray, 266 Monterey Road

The following citizens called in their comments:

Molly Osten
Allison, 354 Chilean Avenue
Tatiana George, 259 Everglade Avenue
Rene Silvin, Australian Avenue
Sandra Brady, 252 Cherry Lane
Jack McDonald, 44 Coconut Row

All comments read into the record and given by citizens were regarding the Lake Trail restrictions currently in place and safety concerns. The comments included suggestions for time adjustments regarding bikers and walkers, only allowing the trail to be for residents, additional policing due to pedestrians not following the new rules, additional signage, safety while using the trail, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) six-foot requirements and compliments to staff.

X. DISCUSSION REGARDING TEMPORARY REGULATIONS FOR THE LAKE TRAIL

Town Manager Blouin reported staff's concerns regarding the Lake Trail which included high usage due to closures, crowding and not enough social distancing. He also reviewed several suggestions provided to staff for changes with the current restrictions in place. He recommended that Council provide staff direction from one of the following suggestions, create new regulations for the Lake Trail, return to the old regulations, keep the current regulations in place or close the Lake Trail, if the public will not follow the regulations set forth.

Discussion ensued regarding making adjustments to the current regulations in place which included, closing the Lake Trail until further notice, hiring a vendor to police the Lake Trail, closing a street to allow bikes to use a different area of Town, have a center line drawn down the path, and leaving the decision up to Town Manager Blouin and Chief Caristo's discretion.

Public Comment:

Draguana Connington, suggested splitting the trail, such as the north end for bikers and the south end for walkers.

Jeff Marcus, thanked the Mayor, Town Council and staff for their efforts and explained that the width of the Lake Trail was not wide enough to maintain safe social distancing. Therefore, Council should close the trail.

Molly Osten, requested a modification of the times to allow children to use the Lake Trail with their family.

Sophia Amador, thanked the Council for their efforts and asked that the Police Department investigate parking regulations due to the "day trippers" that visit the Lake Trail to ride on bikes.

Executive Session:

Discussion ensued regarding the regulations for the Lake Trail after hearing additional public comments.

It was a consensus of the Town Council to leave the decision of making changes to the temporary regulations for the Lake Trail with the Town Manager and the Chief of Police during the current State of Emergency.

XI. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL ORDER TO PROHIBIT NEW RESERVATIONS AT HOTELS AND SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS

Town Manager Blouin reported this agenda item was to discuss prohibiting new reservations at hotels and short-term vacation rentals, but as of today, Governor DeSantis already issued an Emergency Order 20-87 in this regard. The Town's hotels have mostly closed, or they have very limited rooms available. The Police Department is following up in order to monitor the situation.

There was no discussion regarding this item as the Emergency Order 20-87 given by the Governor supersedes any order by a municipality.

It was the consensus of the Council to abide by the Emergency Order 20-87 provided by the Governor in this regard.

XII. SHELTER IN PLACE - SAFER AT HOME

Town Manager Blouin provided an overview of the "Shelter in Place" orders from other municipalities, the guidelines the Town was already currently practicing, a brief review of the Emergency Orders draft and requested consideration of putting the Emergency Order in place.

Discussion ensued regarding the legal language in the draft Emergency Order to "Shelter in Place", suggestions to follow suit with Palm Beach County and praise to Town Manager Blouin for being ahead of the curve.

It was the consensus of the Council to direct Town Manager Blouin and staff to move forward with the Emergency Order "Shelter in Place - Safer at Home" for the Town of Palm Beach.

XIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

1. Social Distancing at Publix

Council member Araskog commented on customers not being responsible while inside Publix and persuaded Publix to do a better job of putting precautions in place for the health and safety of our community.

Town Manager Blouin explained that the Town is working closely with Publix but, are only able to provide guidelines as they are a private company.

2. Reminder - Issues Happening in the Community

Town Manager Blouin reminded the community if there is an issue to contact the Police Department during the time it is taking place, allowing the Police Department to react accordingly. He also provided the non-emergency phone number, 561-838-5454.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Special Town Council Meeting of Friday, March 27, 2020, was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Danielle H. Moore, Town Council President

Prepared By:

Antonette Fabrizi

ATTEST:

Patricia Gayle-Gordon, Acting Town Clerk

Date