



**TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR CHRIS VINCENT

Mayor Chris Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Edmund Malkoon, Commissioner Alfred “Buz” Oldaker, Commissioner Theo Pouloupoulos, Commissioner Randy Strauss, Town Manager Linda Connors, Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen, Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director Ken Rubach, Assistant to the Town Manager Courtney Easley, Director of Budget and Finance Lucila Lang, Development Services Director Jhanelle Campbell, Special Events and Marketing Manager Debbie Hime, Special Events and Marketing Coordinator Katie Anderson, and Town Clerk Katrina Adler.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. INVOCATION

Pauline Brooks McGuinness gave the Invocation.

4. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, DEFERRALS OF AGENDA ITEMS

None.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a. Christmas-By-The-Sea Recap

Special Events and Marketing Manager Debbie Hime showed a video of the Town’s Christmas-By-The-Sea event, which was held on December 7, 2022. She thanked all who participated in making this annual event a success. Sponsors provided a total of \$20,500, which represents a 63% increase.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment.

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Bob Harrington, resident, expressed concern with traffic passing through crosswalks while pedestrians are using them. He asked if there could be an enforcement solution to this issue, or perhaps a change in the timing of the lights.

Howard Goldberg, resident, shared the official Chamber of Commerce Visitors Center Guide with the Commission. He also requested support from the Town in holding a Health Fair in conjunction with Imperial Point Hospital on February 4, 2023, noting that signage will be important in making sure the community is aware of this event.

Mr. Goldberg added that the Town's Downtown businesses are supportive of the Town Manager's efforts to bring Circuit transportation service to Lauderdale-By-The-Sea. He concluded that the Chamber of Commerce is in favor of bringing back Friday night music events Downtown.

Peter Dudley, resident, expressed concern with the damage to the Pier following recent storms. He suggested that the structure could be stabilized in its current form in order to serve as an artificial reef attraction for swimmers.

Kristen Hernandez, journalist, requested information on golf carts driving on A1A, pointing out that these vehicles are not permitted to travel above a certain speed limit and can hold up other traffic. She also requested more information regarding the Town's canal dredging project.

Town Clerk Katrina Adler also read a public comment from resident Ann Marchetti into the record. Ms. Marchetti spoke in favor of the return of Friday night music events Downtown, and thanked the Town Manager and Staff for proposing to organize and fund this recurring event using Parking Fund revenue. She was not in favor of asking the restaurants to contribute to this event, as the return on investment is not yet known.

With no other individuals wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Vincent closed public comment.

Mayor Vincent recommended that Ms. Hernandez speak with Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Captain Tom Palmer regarding concerns about speed limits on A1A, and with Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director Ken Rubach regarding canal dredging. He also addressed Mr. Dudley's comments regarding the Pier, stating that while the Pier will continue to be part of the Town in the future, swimming or diving within 300 ft. of the

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structure is currently prohibited due to public safety concerns. He requested that all swimmers and divers help to spread this message.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY DISCUSSION

Mayor Vincent requested that BSO Captain Tom Palmer provide an update on the crosswalk concerns expressed by Mr. Harrington during public comment. Captain Palmer advised that over the past year, BSO has increased its traffic enforcement, focusing on pedestrian and bicycle safety. BSO was awarded a portion of grant funds to focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety in certain areas of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, including the Commercial Boulevard/A1A corridor. He encouraged patience while BSO seeks to address these issues through enforcement.

Captain Palmer continued that with respect to signalization, BSO will need to verify the timing of crosswalk and traffic signalization in specific locations of concern to determine whether a conflict exists. He pointed out that crosswalk signals are on-demand, while light cycles are not.

Mayor Vincent commented that there are also issues with cyclists traveling in the wrong directions on A1A, and suggested that there be educational outreach to some of the hotels along that corridor, as their guests may not be aware of bicycle safety regulations. Captain Palmer replied that BSO has contacts through the Town's businesses and Chamber of Commerce, and can place this information in hotels.

Captain Palmer reminded all present that a "shred-a-thon" and Operation Medicine Cabinet will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023 in the parking lot of Assumption Catholic Church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring up to two boxes of documents to be shredded on-site and dispose of any unused prescription medications (sharps not included).

Mayor Vincent also requested an update on the County's e-911 system. Captain Palmer replied that he did not have full information on this issue at present but will provide an update in the future.

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

a. Town Manager Report for January 10, 2023

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Town Manager Linda Connors advised that there is consideration of changing the salary range for the Town's Public Works Staff, as the Town's range is below what other municipalities may be paying.

Town Clerk Adler is currently seeking a new vendor for the Town's Agenda management service, as Staff is not satisfied with the current provider.

The Visitors Center is now open on Saturdays.

A contract will be brought forward for microtransit services through Circuit, which serves other Broward communities. Users may call for service through a mobile app, and a small vehicle roughly the size of a golf cart can bring them Downtown through door-to-door service.

Town Manager Connors announced the coming retirement of Horace Jones, who has worked with the Town's Public Works Department for 20 years. She thanked Mr. Jones for his longtime service.

A special Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the potential purchase of a property. This will precede the regular Commission meeting at 6:30. It has also been suggested that a special Commission meeting be held for a Downtown discussion. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to schedule this second special meeting for Wednesday, January 25 at 5:00 p.m.

Development Services Director Jhanelle Campbell has continued to work with the Sea Lord Hotel's architect, builder, and legal counsel on the submittal of applications necessary to amend their Site Plan. There will be a citizen participation meeting in relation to this project, followed by an appearance before the Planning and Zoning Board, once all necessary information has been provided.

9. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

None.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approval of Minutes – 12-13-22 Regular Town Commission Meeting Minutes

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Commissioner Poulopoulos made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Resolution 2023-01 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, SETTING TOWN COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR

b. 2023 Parking Permits for Turtle Monitoring Organizations

Motion by Vice Mayor Malkoon, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

12. OLD BUSINESS

a. Resolution 2023-02 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH R.T.R. FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. FOR DEBT COLLECTION SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment, which he closed upon receiving no input.

Assistant to the Town Manager Courtney Easley explained that the Town currently uses R.T.R. Financial Services, Inc. to collect unpaid parking citations. Thus far, they have collected \$4300 since May 2020. The Town would like to amend their contract with R.T.R. to add the collection of unpaid garbage, sidewalk café, and cost recovery fees. The current contract is set to expire in July 2024 and provides for a contractor's fee of 15% added to the amount of the debt collected.

Commissioner Strauss made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

13. NEW BUSINESS

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a. Friday Night Music Events

Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime recalled that for over 15 years, Village Grille and 101 Ocean held Friday night music events from mid-November through May. The cost of these events was prohibitive during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the events were discontinued. Recently, a number of businesses, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, have raised the possibility of bringing back these events. It has been recommended that there would be four music events, one each in February, March, April, and May. Staff has estimated that the cost may be \$10,000 or lower.

As the events were not in the Town's budget for this year, \$50,000 was transferred from auction proceeds to Special Events to cover costs. The setup will be between the two restaurants and will not obstruct traffic in the circle or the north alleyway. Approval is needed for the loss of the 14 parking spots and their revenue from Commercial Boulevard to the alleyway, and cars will need to park on the inside median of the southbound traffic lane. Other costs include three BSO Special Officers, as well as a professional stage, sound, and light crew. Staff requests direction regarding the proposed event.

Vice Mayor Malkoon requested additional information regarding insurance costs, and asked if the Town's current policy covers events of this nature. Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime recalled that this has not been discussed in two to three years. The participating businesses will need to have liquor liability and an additional liquor license as well as an additional certificate of insurance. The Town's policy would cover the events in a similar manner to Christmas-By-The-Sea.

Vice Mayor Malkoon commented that he was in favor of the proposal as a pilot project to determine if it will increase business for the restaurants and other Downtown businesses. If they wish to continue the event on a long-term basis, he suggested that an additional sidewalk café calculation could be determined so businesses can share in the cost of the event. This could be considered as part of the Town's next budget.

Mayor Vincent addressed the Town's insurance, asking if the proposed events would be covered by the Town's current policy. Town Attorney Susan Trevarthen replied that the Town has liability insurance, and can discuss coverage of Downtown events further with their insurance broker. The same risks are assumed for all Town events and additional Town insurance is not necessary.

Commissioner Oldaker asked if the Friday night music events, like other Town events, could eventually be funded by sponsors. Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime

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confirmed this, although she noted it has not been discussed in depth. The intent is to advertise all four planned events at the same time.

Commissioner Pouloupoulos asked if there has been outreach to all Downtown businesses to determine whether they are all in agreement regarding the events. He expressed concern that a large group congregating in front of one to two businesses could negatively affect other businesses. He also pointed out the significant steps taken by the Town to support businesses since the beginning of the pandemic, and concluded that there should be some compromise in the future. He agreed with Vice Mayor Malkoon's suggestion of a pilot program with sponsorships.

Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime advised that most attendees of Friday night music in the past do not congregate directly in front of the band, but to move around the street. She further clarified that the businesses will not have outside bars, and alcohol must be purchased inside the restaurants.

Commissioner Strauss asked how the increase in business to Downtown restaurants would be measured during the proposed events. He expressed concern that there had been a comment that there had not been a significant financial benefit to the restaurants from Friday night music events prior to the pandemic. He also felt the restaurants should be asked to contribute toward funding the events.

Mayor Vincent suggested that there may also be an opportunity for the Town to benefit from increased parking revenue generated by the proposed events. He continued that the amount of revenue generated by the events was not a concern for him, as the businesses will communicate to the Commission whether or not the events are successful for them. He also noted that the Town will cover the costs of the event in the beginning, with the possibility of cost-sharing by the businesses at a later time.

Vice Mayor Malkoon asked why the Pavilion would not be used for Friday night events. Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime explained that there is not sufficient electricity in the Pavilion to power the event. Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director Rubach added that lighting the Pavilion would also create conflict during turtle season.

Commissioner Pouloupoulos commented that the Town should request feedback from residents as well as businesses to ensure the events are successful for all parties. He emphasized the importance of making sure residents are happy with bringing back these events, particularly as they will be funded by Town dollars.

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Town Manager Connors concluded that Staff's proposal is to use auction money to fund the Friday night music events in the current fiscal year. By the time the Town is preparing the fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 budget, they will know whether or not the events were a success as well as whether or not sponsors are available. The Commission would be asked to decide where these events fall within their budget priorities for the next year.

Motion made by Commissioner Pouloupoulos, seconded by Vice Mayor Malkoon, to fund Friday night music events in February, March, April, and May 2023 as a pilot program, with the condition that the Town will actively seek sponsorships for the first four events.

Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime advised that there may not be sufficient time to secure sponsors in advance of all four events, but she would work toward this goal as the pilot program continues.

Motion carried 5-0.

b. Resolution 2023-03 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BROWARD COUNTY FOR THE BROWARD COUNTY SEGMENT II SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At this time Mayor Vincent opened public comment, which he closed upon receiving no input.

Deputy Town Manager/Public Works Director Rubach recalled that in 2015, Broward County passed an interlocal agreement for this project. The Town Commission approved the agreement, although there are currently no copies of it. The funds for this program have been a line item in the Town's budget for several years. The Town Attorney and the Broward County Attorney have reworked the agreement, with its payment terms remaining the same. The first payment will be due in 2023, with payments to follow in 2024 and 2025 for a total not to exceed \$350,000. Should the County secure additional money from the federal government, there may be an additional \$147,540.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Strauss, to approve. Motion carried 5-0.

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14. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Poulopoulos thanked Town Staff, the Volunteer Fire Department, and all other participants in the recent Epiphany ceremony held Downtown. The event was a great success, with over 350 participants, including many visitors to the Town.

Commissioner Strauss thanked Special Events and Marketing Manager Hime for the Christmas-By-The-Sea recap presentation.

15. ORDINANCES 1ST READING

None.

16. ORDINANCES 2ND READING

None.

17. RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC COMMENTS

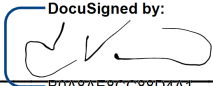
None.

18. QUASI JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Mayor Chris Vincent

ATTEST:

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Katrina Adler

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2/21/2023

Town Clerk

Date