

Did You Know?

IT'S TIME FOR RESIDENTS TO TAKE CHARGE! HERE ARE THE NOV. 4TH BALLOT QUESTIONS.

1) *Do you want powerlines...or more trees & landscaping?*



2) *Do you want politicians, like the last Commission, that nearly gave away our downtown, to maintain the power to sell Town property? - or do YOU want that power?*

3) *Do you want politicians, like the last Commission, that put us 10's of Millions in debt, without our approval, to maintain the power to do it again? - or do YOU want that power?*

THANKS TO COMMISSIONER VELASQUEZ WHO FOUGHT HARD TO ENSURE RESIDENTS COULD VOTE ON THE POWERLINES.

This entire 8 page newsletter has not been funded in any way, or been produced with any help from the Town of Surfside. The comments by Mayor Burkett contained herein are the opinions of the Mayor and the publication of said comments may not represent or reflect the opinions or policies of the Town of Surfside nor do they imply endorsement of, or agreement by, the other members of the Town Commission.

Did You Know?

SURFSIDE HAS CHOSEN A NEW TOWN MANAGER

Last night, the Surfside Town Commission voted to hire Andrew Hyatt as our new Town manager.

Over the past several months, we've reviewed dozens of applicants for the position and had narrowed it down to four candidates for final consideration.

Prior to our meeting, one dropped out so the Commission had three excellent candidates left to choose from.

I'd like to congratulate all the candidates for their fine showing and professionalism.

Three, James Gleason, William Lawrence and Andrew Hyatt made it into the final round.

In the end, Mr. Hyatt received the most votes and given same, was our first choice for the job.

Mr. Lawrence received the next highest number of votes and was the runner-up.

Now that the selection has been made, the Commission will negotiate with Mr. Hyatt and hopefully arrive at a win-win contract arrangement. It's likely that we will have our new Town manager in place in 30 days or less.

Last but certainly not least, very special thanks go to Jason Greene, who filled in as acting Town manager and did a tremendous job for the Town and our residents.



'Defund Surfside Police' Comments by a Surfside Commissioner

RECENTLY COMMISSIONER ELIANA SALZHAUER MADE SUPPORTIVE STATEMENTS REGARDING A MOTION TO 'DEFUND THE SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT' BY 15% - 20%, REDUCING POLICE STAFF FROM 32 TO 25.

SHE SAID:

"I AGREE WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING"

"THIS IS A GOOD FIRST STEP"

"THIS IS NOTHING PERSONAL"

"I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE TOUGH"

"THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS"

MOST SURFSIDE RESIDENTS, EXCEPTING MAYBE CERTAIN TOWN POLITICIANS, KNOW THAT POLICE ARE THE ONLY BARRIER BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND ANARCHY.

RESIDENTS KNOW THAT THE CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING OUR POLICE ALWAYS NEED TO BE MADE JUDICIOUSLY.

RESIDENTS DON'T WANT NATIONAL POLITICS INJECTED INTO OUR SMALL TOWN'S BUSINESS. IT MUST BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED TO POLITICIANS, WHO WOULD CONSIDER, OR EVEN ENTER INTO A CONVERSATION REGARDING BRINGING IDEOLOGIES, SUCH AS THE DANGEROUS, 'DEFUND POLICE' AND THE UN-AMERICAN 'CANCEL CULTURE' MOVEMENTS INTO OUR TOWN, THAT SAME ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE VISION OUR RESIDENTS HAVE FOR SURFSIDE.



More info & video at
www.surfside2020.com
Updated Often

Residents get their Beach back!



New 'Beach Chair Ordinance' passes by a unanimous vote.

It took (10) ten hours, but it's done. Surfside has a new beach chair ordinance.

Here are the details of the final vote.

Mayor Burkett crafted and made the motion to move forward, and Commissioner Velazquez seconded it.

Notably, the motion made by Mayor Burkett included ending 'commercialization of the beach', the practice of letting non-oceanfront, for-profit concession companies, place masses of chairs on our beaches, crowding out our residents and the oceanfront property owners.

Mayor Burkett's 'residents first' vision for the beach was included in his motion which contained the following provisions:

- 1) Each oceanfront property is treated equally with an allowance of 3 chairs for every 10 feet of ocean frontage.
- 2) Each property may stage (store on the beach during the day) up to 10 chairs and 5 umbrellas.
- 3) Each property may preset 5 chairs and 3 umbrellas on the beach.
- 4) Chairs and umbrellas to remain 20 feet from the high tide water line.
- 5) Chairs and umbrellas to remain 15 feet from the dune.
- 6) Chairs and umbrellas to remain no closer than 10 feet from the north and south property line extending down to the water.
- 7) Should any property have an urgent need to more chairs, that property owner must make an official request to the Town Manager.

Of all the comments, Commissioner Salzhauer's were most notable.

"I thought I could negotiate with terrorists" [regarding condominium boards and others who wished to voice their opinions in the discussion]

"I'm happy to do whatever we need to do to protect our beaches, even if it [the ordinance] says no one can be on the beach"
"Or we can just get rid of and nobody gets chairs"

"I feel like I'm negotiating with my teenager - nothing is ever enough" [regarding participants in the discussion]
[Condo owners] "have gotten this sense of entitlement that it's their beach - and it's not"

Ms. Salzhauer closes with her habit of insulting Town employees, saying:

"Whoever buys the [Town] Manager lunch gets more chairs" [rudely intimating the Town Manager may corruptly trade favors for those wishing to have more chairs behind their property]

[Re: Ms. Salzhauer's decision to vote for the ordinance & use of rude language at meetings] "I'm going to vote for this because you know what, it's better than the... Sh&* that we have going on right now... on the beach"



Modest Property Tax Reduction Push by Mayor is Killed

At a recent Commission meeting, Mayor Burkett offered a motion to reduce the property tax burden on Surfside's residents, many of whom have been put out of work by the Covid-19 crisis.

The motion would have cut Surfside's property taxes by almost 10%.

While 10% is not a huge decrease, it was proposed out of respect for the fact that residents pay for government, residents have been hurt and had to cut back - and government must do the same. On an average home in Surfside assessed at \$600,000, the tax savings would have been equal to only about \$250.

Leading the charge to kill that modest reduction was Commissioner Salzhauer.

Meanwhile, the Town recently added \$4,000,000 to its now-whopping \$13,000,000 savings account! And that does not include our \$2,000,000 hurricane emergency reserve fund or millions set aside for our new 96th St. Park.

Knowing this, Ms. Salzhauer during the vote to defeat my motion to reduce \$1,200,000 in taxes, quipped "I was not elected to play Robin Hood, I'm looking out for the Town's future."

Ms. Salzhauer is forgetting that our residents are the Town and are our future!

Finally Ms. Salzhauer didn't stop there in her zeal to ensure that residents continue to pay some of the highest property taxes in the area.

She went on to make a comment that was notable, exposing her sense of entitlement that many politicians display when it comes to taxpayers' money.

She said, "It's easy to give away money that isn't yours", or in other words, Ms. Salzhauer considers giving taxpayers their money back, by way of a property tax refund, ...a giveaway!

Let that sink in for a minute the next time you write a big check for your property taxes - taxes which are significantly higher than many of your neighboring communities...

Reduced water bills torpedoed by Majority of Commission!

At a recent budget meeting, my plan to rebate a large portion of Surfside residents water bills and drastically cut costs for both homeowners and condos was voted down! Commissioner Salzhauer even went so far as to say that condo owners don't pay for water in her effort to justify her vote against giving residents relief!

Needless to say, I was extremely disappointed.

The good news is that I'm not going to give up on reducing the crazy water bills. Tell your elected officials that there is NO reason why our residents should be paying outrageous water bills to subsidize millions in debt a former Commission hung around the necks of our residents.

**At the last meeting Commissioner Valasquez said the water bills must be reduced - good for her!

WHY WE WON'T HAVE TERM LIMITS IN SURFSIDE ANYTIME SOON

Recently, I proposed that residents have the opportunity to vote on five important issues that they said they wanted addressed.

One of those issues was Term Limits for politicians.

On July 9th, I called a special meeting to address those five important questions - this article deals with one.

During that meeting I proposed ballot language for each issue. Here was the language I proposed to address the Term Limit issue:

"Shall the Charter be amended so that all elected officials be term-limited to 3 consecutive terms in office, or any part thereof, and following the aforementioned 3 consecutive terms in office, not be eligible to run for any elected office in Surfside for at least one two-year period?"

The question above is short, simple, easy to understand and should have been placed on the ballot - but because of comments, like the ones you're about to read, residents WON'T get a chance to vote on the issue.

For instance; when voicing her opinion on the issue, Ms. Salzhauer said the following about Term Limits:

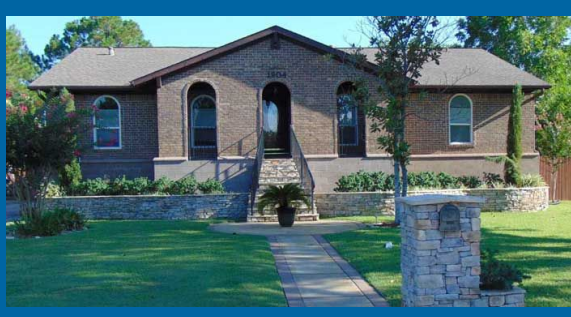
- 1) [The ballot question is] "not necessary".
- 2) "It's [The ballot question] too complicated".
- 3) "They've tried to do it before and failed". [Not true, residents have never been given the opportunity to enact Term Limits]
- 4) "This [The effort to let residents decide whether they want Term Limits, or not] is not important".
- 5) "This [Being an elected official in Surfside] pays \$1 per year, no one is sticking around - I already want out".
- 6) [Regarding the Term Limit discussion] "Let's get this over with".



Note Water Easily Breaching the Seawall Below

This is Hawthorne Ave at high tide

The rising tide is Real & bigger drain pipes will NOT fix it. Feckless politicians have chattered about fixing Surfside's flooding problems for years - with zero results. Given the water is rising, and pumping it out would be futile, the only sustainable & resilient solution is to RAISE our homes. All new homes in Town ARE raised. The good news is that we can affordably raise our existing homes. See the Mayor's plan at www.surfside2020.com.



1. Houses can be moved or raised

2. Once raised, columns are enclosed

3. Finished/elevated home, safe from floods

My goal as Mayor is to keep our residents informed, be transparent and act honorably.

Since our election, our Commission has been (administratively) battered by Covid-19. Instead of focusing on the quality of life issues – we’ve been mostly only focusing on life and death issues.

I’m proud to be a part of this Surfside’s leadership team as we navigate this crisis. In spite of it, we’ve also managed to make good progress on campaign promises, like speeding, our new 96th Street park, cutting the fat out of our non-police budget, building new street ends, addressing beach chair commercialization & much more! Vice Mayor Paul and Commissioners Velasquez and Kesl have been steady and & valuable allies in these efforts. While we’ve not always agreed, we’ve handled those disagreements with respect and tact. That can’t be said for Ms. Salzhauer who has been anything but respectful or tactful (see picture at right).

Not only has Ms. Salzhauer subjected our Commission & residents to constant interruptions, loud haranguing, personal insults, disrespectful facial expressions & offensive language, but she’s made herself internationally famous – for all the wrong reasons. Our meetings are far less productive because of the antics, but it’s worse than that. As a result of Ms. Salzhauer’s habit of rude and disrespectful comments, we’ve lost – and continue to lose Town staff. Ms. Salzhauer’s comments at meetings are often cringeworthy, but her latest quip, aimed at our Town’s residents, is beyond redemption. In a recent email complaining to the ethics board. she wrote that the Town of Surfside “is full of nutty right-wing supporters with alcohol issues and easy access to firearms”. The good news is, despite the foregoing, the business of Surfside will go on, we will make the campaign promises we made a reality, residents will be informed & have quick & easy access to their government, and life will stay great in Surfside – and continue to get better. Please check my Mayor’s website often for updates, www.Surfside2020.com, or follow me on Facebook or Twitter at @SurfsideMayor.

I can always be reached at my Town email, Mayor@TownofSurfsidefl.gov or my office, 305.517.1175.

Take care and stay safe.

Charles



Commissioner Eliana Salzhauer during a Surfside Commission meeting

There is a difference



Mayor Charles W. Burkett