

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of the Town Clerk

MINUTES OF THE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016

1 **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

2
3 The Underground Utilities Task Force meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 1,
4 2016, at 9:11 a.m., in the Town Council Chambers. On roll call, all Task Force Members
5 were found to be present.

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7 **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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9 Chair Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

10
11 **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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13 Motion was made by Task Force Member Gary, and seconded by Vice Chair Ross,
14 to approve the Agenda. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

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16 **IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – *None***

17
18 **V. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY NEW TASK FORCE MEMBER HARRY**
19 **WOLIN**

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21 Task Force Member Wolin provided his introductory remarks.

22
23 **VI. MINUTES**

24
25 A. UUTF Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2016

26
27 Motion was made by Task Force Member Bottorff, and seconded by Task Force
28 Member Gary, to approve the Underground Utility Task Force Meeting Minutes of
29 February 2, 2016. On roll call, the motion passed unanimously.

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31 **VII. UPDATE ON UNDERGROUND UTILITIES PUBLIC INFORMATION**
32 **PROGRAM**

33 *Rick Asnani, Cornerstone Solutions*
34

1 Communications Consultant Asnani provided an update on the Public Information
2 Program and spoke regarding absentee ballots and early voting.

3
4 Discussion ensued regarding how long the Undergrounding will take per block,
5 timeframes from the Everglades Island project, and the Palm Beach Country Club.

6
7 **It was the consensus of the Task Force to direct Communications Consultant Rick**
8 **Asnani to determine if the Palm Beach Country Club will allow the Town to share**
9 **information about the Country Club's undergrounding.**

10
11 **VIII. REVIEW OF FPL RESPONSE TO TOWN UNDERGROUND QUESTIONS BY**
12 **IN-HOUSE SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS**

13
14 A. PATRICIA STRAYER, P.E. SENIOR PROJECTS ENGINEER (WATER
15 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)

16
17 Town Manager Bradford provided an overview of the questions.

18
19 Senior Project Engineer Strayer provided explanations of FP&L's responses.

20
21 B. BILL BUCKLEW, BUILDING OFFICIAL (FLOOD PLAIN
22 ADMINISTRATOR)

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24 On behalf of Building Official Bucklew, Deputy Town Manager Boodheshwar
25 provided additional information regarding FP&L's responses relative to
26 emergency management.

27
28 **IX. TOWN HALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES PROJECT FORUM**

29 *Thomas G. Bradford, Town Manager*

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31 A. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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33 Town Manager Bradford provided his Underground Utilities Project Forum
34 presentation.

35
36 B. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH TASK FORCE AND MEMBERS
37 OF THE PUBLIC

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39 Leslie Shaw, 318 Seaspray Ave., spoke regarding property value, splitting project
40 costs between taxes and assessments, having multiple questions on the ballot,
41 transformer placement, and what happens if the referendum doesn't pass.

42
43 Unidentified Speaker, residing south of Sloan's Curve, spoke regarding removing
44 the South End from the project.

45
46 Alicia Grace, 247 Seaspray Ave., spoke regarding location and landscaping of the

transformers.

Howie Murray, 3475 S. Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding utility reliability and adding room for future conduits while the trenches are open.

Susan Collins, 125 Chilean Ave., spoke regarding phone calls she has been receiving regarding the Undergrounding Project, the need to consider alternatives, and businesses having to make changes to meet their commitments to customers.

Discussion ensued regarding the telephonic survey component of the Town's Public Information Program.

Task Force Member Parker requested that Communications Consultant Asnani remove Ms. Collins' phone number from the call list.

Discussion ensued regarding the "one Town" slogan not being just a marketing slogan, but rather the way the Town is run, problems with building in easements, returning rear easements to property owners, and the use of horizontal directional drilling.

Chris Milliken, 937 N. Lake Way, spoke regarding who will be performing the construction, project management, labor costs and cost of living adjustments, and contract costs for the various utility companies.

Joanne Warshaver, 223 Seminole Ave., spoke regarding the boxes to be installed by AT&T and Comcast and in opposition to a transformer being located on her property.

Stephen Weigert, 2760 S. Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding a 2013 article advising against Undergrounding and the State's survey on Undergrounding.

Discussion ensued regarding other cities that have buried their utilities and their experiences, fairness, and safety.

Zachary Shipley, 228 Seaspray Ave., Palm Beach Residents for Undergrounding Political Committee, spoke regarding above ground and underground utility outage and recovery time differences.

Discussion ensued regarding Undergrounding also improving internet connectivity, Undergrounding data from various sources, and voter education.

Marianne Beyl, 2840 S. Ocean Blvd., spoke regarding an article related to reliability and the results of the Undergrounding on Everglades Island, and stated that the South End assessments are disproportionate.

Discussion ensued regarding other cost apportionment methods reviewed by the

Task Force, the assessment methodology having already been adjusted twice, the research done by the Task Force, the chosen methodology having been upheld by the Courts and having been used by other municipalities, and the value of the Project, especially after hurricanes.

X. ANY OTHER MATTERS – *None*

XI. ADJOURNMENT

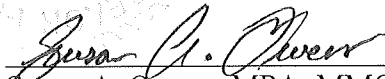
There being no further business, the Underground Utilities Task Force Meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 2016, was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

APPROVED:



Jeffery Smith
Chair

ATTEST:



Susan A. Owens, MPA, MMC
Town Clerk

5/19/16

Date