

RESOLUTION 2018 – 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHORE, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND EXPORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING.

- WHEREAS,** the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and
- WHEREAS,** seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and
- WHEREAS,** seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and
- WHEREAS,** exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resouces pose a significant risk of an oils spill and chronic leakage; and
- WHEREAS,** eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and
- WHEREAS,** offshore drilling activites pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida’s Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recereational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurrricanes; and
- WHEREAS,** the Town of Belleair Shore, Florida recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belleair Shore, Florida endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Belleair Shore, Florida recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHORE, FLORIDA, DOES HEREBY RESOLVE THAT:

Section 1. Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Section 2. The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson; U.S. Representative Charlie Crist; State Senator Jeff Brandes; State Representative Larry Ahern; U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and any other interested parties.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption in the manner provided by law.

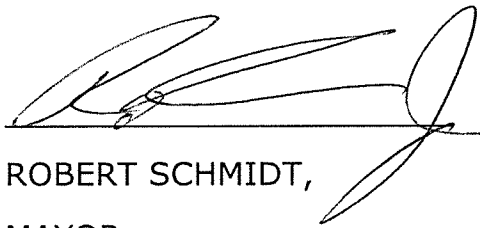
The above and foregoing Resolution, upon Motion by Comm. Niewiarowski and seconded by Vice Mayor Roseman, was duly approved and adopted at a regular Commission meeting held on the 20th day of March, 2018.

Voting in favor of the Resolution: Comm. Niewiarowski
Vice Mayor Roseman
Mayor Schmidt

Voting in opposition to the Resolution: None

Absent:

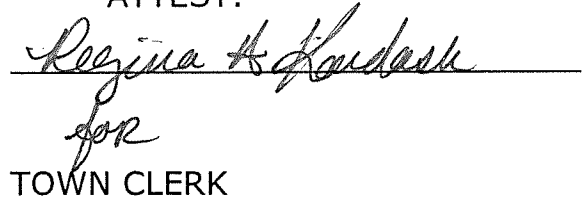
Abstaining:



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ROBERT SCHMIDT,
MAYOR

ATTEST:



A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, simpler script.

TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form:



A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, positioned above a horizontal line.

Regina A. Kardash, Esq. B.C.S.

Town Attorney