

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24-296

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO REVOKE AND RESCIND EMERGENCY TEMPORARY PLACEMENT PERMITS AS PROVIDED AND AUTHORIZED IN SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE 24-4 OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, WHICH CLARIFIED ORDINANCE 23-05 RELATED TO TEMPORARY PLACEMENT PERMITS, IN FURTHERANCE AND IN SATISFACTION OF DIRECTION CONTAINED IN A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2024 FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (“FEMA”) MANDATING REMOVAL OF NONCOMPLIANT STRUCTURES THAT WERE INCORRECTLY PERMITTED IN THE SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA, IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH MINIMUM FLOODPLAIN STANDARDS AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 2 of the State Constitution and Chapter 166 of the Florida Statutes provide that municipalities shall have the governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services, and exercise any power for municipal purposes, except when expressly prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, Article X of the Town Charter empowers the Town Council to adopt, amend, or repeal such ordinances and resolutions as may be required for the proper governing of the Town; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall north of the Town causing historical property damage and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognized that recovery from a devastating natural disaster such as Hurricane Ian, created an immediate need for temporary housing, governmental services, and commercial uses for the Town’s residents and adopted Ordinance 23-05 on May 15, 2023 to provide a temporary relief and the placement of certain structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2024 the Town Council adopted Ordinance 24-04 amending and restating Ordinance 23-05 to clarify its intent at the time of adoption and to continue to provide temporary assistance to residents and to aid in the Town’s redevelopment efforts by the emergency temporary placement of structures governmental, residential (manufactured homes, mobile homes, motor homes, recreational vehicles, or other temporary residential dwellings) or moveable commercial use; and

WHEREAS, both ordinances provided that permits issued under either Ordinance would be issued in increments of 6 months and would not exceed 18 months without demonstration of a hardship to the Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Ordinance 24-04 further clarified that the Town Council intended permitted uses to be temporary in nature, and thereby subject to revocation and rescission at a future date under certain circumstances. More specifically, Paragraph 2 of Ordinance 24-04 identified several circumstances in which these temporary permitted uses required removal:

Unless otherwise provided in this Ordinance or in a Resolution that is adopted hereinafter by the town council, any governmental, residential (manufactured home, mobile home, motor home, recreational vehicle, or other temporary residential dwelling) or moveable commercial use shall be removed from the site 1) no later than 30 (days) after issuance of a certificate of occupancy or certificate of use associated with an approved permit; 2) at the time of the expiration of the ETPP as provided herein or as provided in a resolution; or 3) at the time of expiration of any local or state declaration of emergency or law, whichever is earlier. (Emphasis added).

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Ordinance 24-04(xi) also provided that the issued permit could be revoked for “noncompliance with applicable federal law/regulation, state law and town code”; and

WHEREAS, the number of outstanding temporary permits approved by the Town has decreased as a result of additional hurricanes impacting the Town subsequent to Hurricane Ian, the permitted rebuilding of destroyed properties; and the voluntary removal of the temporary permitted uses; and

WHEREAS, on July 19, 2024 and September 3, 2024, the Town was notified by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (“FEMA”) that the Town would be placed on permanent probation from participation in the National Flood Insurance Program if it allowed structures needed for these temporary uses to continue subsequent to November 18, 2024 in the Special Flood Hazard Area; and

WHEREAS, Section 6-494 of the Town of Fort Myers Beach Land Development Code defines the Special Flood Hazard Area as “[a]n area in the floodplain subject to a one- percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Special flood hazard areas are shown on FIRMs as Zone A, AO, A1-A30, AE, A99, AH, V1-V30, VE or V. [Also defined in FBC, B Section 202.]”, which in effect encompasses the entirety of the Town; and

WHEREAS, despite efforts by the Town Council to extend the November 18, 2024 FEMA deadline, the Town was notified by letter on November 21, 2024, that the Town was placed on probation with the National Flood Insurance Program effective November 18, 2024 in part due to its failure to “[r]emove noncompliant structures that were incorrectly permitted and should not have been placed in the Special Flood Hazard Area”; and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with minimum floodplain standards and the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, the Town must now revoke and rescind emergency temporary placement permits which allow noncompliant structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area; and

WHEREAS, the definition of a “structure” for floodplain management purposes pursuant to 44 CFR Part 59.1 includes “any walled and roofed building, manufactured home or travel trailer without wheels,” and

WHEREAS, the definition of a “manufactured home” for floodplain management purposes pursuant to 44 CFR 59.1 is “a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term “manufactured home” does not include a “recreational vehicle”; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Resolution is in the best interest of the residents of the Town as a step towards removal of its probationary status in the National Flood Insurance Program and compliance with its floodplain regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct, are the legislative and administrative findings of the Town Council and are made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. All emergency temporary placement permits for “noncompliant structures that were incorrectly permitted and should not have been placed in the Special Flood Hazard Area” are hereby revoked and rescinded.

Section 3. The Town Manager is directed and authorized to immediately take the following actions to implement this Resolution:

1. Provide formal Notice to holders of any emergency temporary placement permit by certified mail, posting on the property and any other known method for notification that:
 - a) the permit is revoked and rescinded as of December 16, 2024; and
 - b) the permit holder may appeal this revocation action pursuant to Section 34-86 of the Code of Ordinances as stated in Section 4 of Ordinance 24-04, or by any other lawful means; and
 - c) the contact information for a member of the Town staff, who can answer questions and provide more information.

The Notice shall also include a copy of this Resolution and FEMA's letter of November 21, 2204

2. Initiate or continue any needed code enforcement action against permit holders who fail to immediately begin removal of noncompliant structures.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was adopted by the Town Council upon motion by Mayor Allers and seconded by Vice Mayor Atterholt, and upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

Dan Allers, Mayor	Aye
Jim Atterholt, Vice Mayor	Aye
Karen Woodson, Council Member	Aye
John R. King, Council Member	Absent
Scott Safford, Council Member	Aye

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of December 2024, by the Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH



Dan Allers, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amy Baker, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH ONLY:



Vose Law Firm, LLP, Town Attorney

This Resolution was filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on this 16th day of December 2024.