



Meeting Name: Town Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 22, 2024

Prepared By: L. Rubin, Town Attorney

Item Title: **Ordinance No. 788 – 1st Reading** – Electronic Publication of Legal Notices and Advertisements on Palm Beach County’s Website

DISCUSSION:

During its 2022 session, the Florida Legislature adopted Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, allowing municipalities to publish advertisements and public notices on the county’s publicly accessible website in lieu of publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

The Town has executed the necessary agreements with Palm Beach County to utilize its website for the publication of legal notices. Additionally, as required by Section 50.0311(6), Florida Statutes, the Town has published a notice in a newspaper of general circulation indicating that property owners and residents may receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the Town by first-class mail or e-mail upon registering their name and address or e-mail address with the Town. The Town is required to maintain a registry of such names and addresses, as well as publish the required notice in a newspaper of general circulation at least once per year. A link to the advertisements and public notices must be “conspicuously placed” on the Town’s website.

A number of Town Code provisions require publication in a newspaper of general circulation, such as publication of election notices and publication of hearing notices for zoning text amendments and Board of Adjustment hearings. The attached Ordinance amends Chapter 1, “General Provisions,” of the Town Code by adopting a new Section 1-13 to read as follows:

Sec. 1-13. Electronic publication of notices.

Wherever this code, including the provisions of chapter 34, requires publication of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation, the publication requirement shall be satisfied by posting such notice on the county’s publicly accessible website in accordance with the requirements of F.S. §50.0311.

The adoption of this Ordinance allows the Town to publish notices on the County’s website in lieu of the newspaper, resulting in a significant cost savings to the Town. Residents may still request that they be provided a copy of the notice by first-class mail or e-mail.

RECOMMENDATION: Town Staff requests Town Council consideration and approval of Ordinance No. 788 on first reading.