

**MINUTES**  
**Special Call Minutes**  
**July 20, 2021**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Luis E. Collazo and Mayor Manny Cid. Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez and Councilmember Marilyn Ruano were absent.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Mr. Danny Angel, Building Department Director, led the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. ORDER OF BUSINESS (DEFERRALS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS):**

Councilmember Rodriguez motioned to approve the Order of Business and was seconded by Mayor Cid. The motion passed and all were in favor. Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez joined the meeting at 7:21pm. Councilmember Marilyn Ruano was absent.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

There being no one in Council Chambers wanting to participate in the in-person Public Comments section of the Agenda, and no one on line to participate in public comments, the Town Clerk proceeded to read the names of the written public comments.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez, Mr. Albert Aguiar, and Ms. Esperanza “Hope” Reynolds all participated in written public comments regarding the millage rate at 2.3127. They all asked for the Town Council to roll back the rate to 2.2168.

The Town Manager Edward Pidermann participated on the Special Call meeting via zoom.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

None

## **8. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

July 15, 2021 Sunshine Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to approve the minutes and Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor. Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez and Councilmember Marilyn Ruano were absent.

## **9. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, DECLARING, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE TOWN'S PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE, ROLLED- BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO 200.065(1), FLORIDA STATUTES, AND THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE AT WHICH PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO CHANGE BUDGET HEARING DATES IF NEEDED; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO SERVE THIS RESOLUTION ON THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the resolution into the record.

Deputy Town Manager, Dr. Tony Lopez presented this item and explained this resolution is to set the tentative millage rate and budget hearing dates and times. The proposed preliminary budget was provided with no increase to the millage rate from the previous year. The proposed millage rate is 2.3127 mills, which has also been the same rate for the previous three years. This rate remains as one of the lowest in Miami-Dade County. He also stated that the roll back rate is 2.2168 mills. He emphasized that this resolution is not to

approve the budget presented but to set the tentative millage rate as the maximum millage rate for the resident Trim notifications

Dr. Lopez then recommended the first budget hearing to be Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM and the second budget hearing to be Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM. During these meetings Mr. Lopez mentioned Council will be able to approve the budget and millage rate. Dr. Lopez also stated the planning of a Sunshine Meeting to be held on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to discuss all other funds. All meetings will be held at Town Hall.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the proposed millage rate and Councilmember Fernandez seconded.

Councilmember Dieguez pointed out the millage rate is the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest in Miami-Dade County and it is in the Town's historic low. He mentioned expenses are only increasing and this proposed millage rate is being set as the maximum and could go lower at a later meeting.

Vice Mayor Collazo asked Ms. Melissa Hernandez, the Budget Officer, what is the amount equivalent to the roll back rate being requested by the public and Ms. Hernandez replied it would generate about \$343,000 less in ad valorem revenue. Then, they both discussed the difference for the police rate and how it takes up a large part of the increase in rate. Vice Mayor Collazo added he is in support of the current rate because there is no way to make up the difference with a new rate.

Mayor Cid explained the Police Department gets a lot of funding because the vast majority of our residents want us to fully fund our Police Department – to add more patrols and more security. He explained that the entire ad valorem goes to pay our Police Department.

Mayor Cid also stated that there are 36 households in the town that are long term residents that have the senior exemption, then he stated that there are 321 low-income senior households, and he is requesting the Deputy Town Manager to bring back to the Town Council before the First Budget Hearing, the total amount each household pays the town in ad valorem to possibly help them. The Deputy Town Manager acknowledge the request and stated that he will provide the data.

Councilmember Fernandez also asked the Deputy Town Manager that he would like to look into the possibility of exempting seniors that qualify based on the MLOP bond.

Councilmember Alvarez added he is in support of the millage rate remaining the same and is looks forward to future discussion about keeping and increasing the level of service.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Ruano was absent.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Montrose and Fairway Crosswalks (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained these crosswalks are a public safety issue. He believes it is immoral to for these existing crosswalks on Montrose and on Fairway to be held up for so long. He asked the Town Attorneys to reach out to Miami-Dade County and

then he made a motion to direct Town Staff to move forward with the procurement aspect of this project and Vice Mayor Collazo seconded.

Vice Mayor Collazo then made a friendly amendment to Mayor Cid's motion, to move in tandem with this project and add political pressure with the county commissioner and mayor's offices in order to find a solution to the issue and that we are doing this in the name of public safety. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the amendment; all were in favor and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Ruano was absent.

Back to the main motion as amended, Councilmember Dieguez asked Deputy Town Manager, Dr. Lopez, what approval is being sought from the county and Dr. Lopez replied that it is a traffic engineering approval. Town Attorney Gastesi added that traffic engineering is more in terms of maintenance. Mayor Cid and Town Attorney Gastesi then discussed the rights the Town has in terms of maintaining existing infrastructure without county's approval.

Councilmember Alvarez then asked if an existing crosswalk needed to be enhanced why does it need the traffic engineering study when nothing is being added and Town Attorney Gastesi stated that he will send a letter to the County regarding this matter and if they do not respond, then the Town will proceed and take care of the enhancement. If the County responds by saying no, then the Town Attorney Gastesi said we need to figure out why and that he would take care of the matter.

Councilmember Alvarez then asked Town Attorney Gastesi for the legal team to draft the letter and to send it out. Town Attorney Gastesi agreed to do so. All were in favor and the motion passed. Councilmember Ruano was absent.

## 11. REPORTS:

None

## 12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk