

MINUTES
1st Budget Hearing
September 7th, 2021
7:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:41 pm.

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

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, led the prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

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

Councilmember Fernandez deferred Item 11C to the September 14, Regular Council Meeting. Vice Mayor Collazo made a Point of Order and asked if deferring Item 11C would impact the proposed budget as presented, because the proposed budget takes into consideration the 6% of the FPL Franchise Fee. Councilmember Fernandez responded that the proposed budget is being discussed in first reading and that he understands that all the other aspects of the budget could be discussed tonight, then the FPL Franchise Fee could be discussed in the next council meeting and then in second reading during the 2nd Budget Hearing. Councilmember Dieguez clarified that there would be no impact because the FPL Franchise Fee Ordinance would be discussed before the 2nd Budget Hearing.

Mayor Cid then pulled Item 10B from the Consent Calendar to have more clarification. Councilmember Dieguez moved to adopt the Order of Business as amended and Vice Mayor

Collazo seconded the motion. The motion passed and all were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez 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 were no participants for public comments.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

None.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor and the motion passed. Councilmember Alvarez absent.

A. Approval of Minutes

- June 21, 2021 Special Call Minutes
- August 18, 2021 Sunshine Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on Consent Calendar.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR SECURITY FENCING FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO EQUILIBRIUM47 CORP IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$54,968; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Cid pulled this item for discussion and clarification. He asked for an actual timeframe for installation. Town Manager Pidermann replied with once awarded tonight, the vendor that is being recommended, will be ready to apply for permits. Town Manager Pidermann responded that the Procurement Department, the Facilities staff and the vendor are all aware that this project will be expected to start by the end of this month.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to approve the item and Councilmember Dieguez seconded.

Councilmember Ruano had a question regarding the aesthetics of the fence and Town Manager Pidermann stated the fence would be black solid aluminum, similar to the apartment entry gates in Main Street near Town Hall.

Councilmember Dieguez then asked for clarification purposes, if the previous vendor couldn't do the electrical work for the project. Town Manager Pidermann replied that the previous vendor couldn't do the electrical work and for that reason town staff decided to only have one vendor be responsible for the entire project -including the electrical work. Procurement Manager, Ms. Nathalie Garcia confirmed what Town Manager Pidermann stated, which provided clarity to Councilmember Dieguez.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Alvarez absent.

11. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO TAX COLLECTOR; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Town Manager Edward Pidermann read a budget statement into the record.

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, read into the record the following statement: the proposed millage rate for Fiscal year 2021-22 is 2.3127 the same rate as the current fiscal year. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is three billion, seven hundred and sixty-seven million, three hundred and seventy-one thousand, and five hundred sixty-six dollars (\$3,767,371,566). The proposed millage rate will generate 8 million, two hundred seventy-seven thousand, one hundred and sixty dollars (\$8,277,160) in Ad Valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate. The proposed millage rate of 2.3127 is 4.33% above the roll back rate of 2.2168.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the ordinance in first reading and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the ordinance in first reading for purposes of discussion and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Councilmember Dieguez posed a few questions relating to the budget. The questions asked were relating to how much is budgeted for unassigned fund balances; Town Manager Pidermann responded that it is 2.893,672 million dollars and he stated that it is at 15.4% and .14% is held back in reserves, which is \$26, 232. Then, Councilmember Dieguez proceeded to ask about the franchise fee surplus and he asked what specific projects would the surplus allocated for road improvements and repairs would be geared to. Councilmember Dieguez asked the projects that it would be geared to. Town Manager Pidermann responded that that list of projects was compiled by the Public Works Director and that he would send it out to the Town Council.

Councilmember Dieguez also posed questions about the cost-of-living adjustment and grants. For the cost-of-living adjustment he wanted to compare the salaries of our town with those of similar towns and requested for that information to be sent to him before the 2nd budget hearing. Councilmember Dieguez also questioned why the amount of grant money goes down each year. Town Manager Pidermann explained that there have been certain grants that the Town has applied for without designating a town match and that harms our position, our grant application. He acknowledged that he would look into this to provide a better understanding of the reasons for the downturn in grants. Another question asked by Councilmember Dieguez was related to the streetlights project and Town Manager Pidermann provided a detailed explanation on where those funds were allocated. He also explained that since the last budget workshop, the State of Florida made some revenue projection adjustments, which ended up giving the Town of Miami Lakes an additional 212,000 in added revenue. The Town Manager allocate \$137,000 of the added revenue towards the streetlights project, \$50,000 towards new sidewalk replacement and \$26,000 towards additional road maintenance.

Councilmember Fernandez then proceeded to state that the low-income senior exemption is not located in the proposed budget and the Town Manager stated action was not taken by the Town Council to include but that the numbers were provided and that he can include it in the budget if that is the will of the Town Council.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion to amend the ordinance, for it to include the low-income senior exemption rebate and for the fund coming from the park reservation system. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and it passed 6-0, with Councilmember Alvarez absent.

Vice Mayor Collazo suggested that when Councilmember Dieguez meets with the Town Manager, to discuss about performance-based bonuses, is to look into the reasons given when town staff resigns – to look into the reasons given upon exit, how many employees are leaving because they are being paid better salaries elsewhere.

Mayor Cid then explained that he will not support the COLA increase because it is not enough for those that go above and beyond. He stated that he does believe in performance-based bonuses. Mayor Cid then made a motion to move the entire \$124,000 from COLA into the performance-based bonus program. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

There was discussion amongst councilmembers and the Town Manager Pidermann about the COLA and bonuses. Town Manager felt that the hybrid idea of both a COLA and performance-based bonus would be most beneficial to town staff. Councilmember Ruano agreed with the Town Manager and explained the hybrid idea is best to level the playing field. However, she believes the evaluation sheet for the performance-based bonus needs to be altered. Mayor Cid then stated he is going to research this issue in depth to bring light to this matter and that he was as going to do research on the ordinance that creates the performance-based budget.

Vice Mayor Collazo then made an amendment to Mayor Cid's motion, to take the totality of the money and split it 50/50 to COLA and bonuses to see how it will reflect in the budget; of taking the totality of the money, splitting it half in COLA and half in performance-based bonuses, so we have two options and see what that would look like reflected in the budget. Councilmember Dieguez supported the idea of bringing back multiple options.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to defer the original motion presented by Mayor Cid -which was to allocate all the money from COLA toward the merit retention of program – in order to go ahead and allow us to get more information so we can make a decision about the money and make a decision about how to structure the program. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion made by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed 5-1 with Mayor Cid in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

Mayor Cid then made a motion that if the Town Manager was to create any new positions, it would have to go to the Town Council for budgetary approval, before advertising it. Councilmember Fernandez seconded. Mayor Cid mentioned that going forward, he would like Town staff, to go thru the exercise and analyze going out for contracts, whenever there is a vacancy, in order to save money and to bring this exercise back to the Town Council. Councilmember Ruano posed questions regarding any new positions in this budget cycle, about positions in the Building Department and asked the Town Manager the reason why Town Staff did not go thru the independent contract route for the CIP Manager position. Town Manager Pidermann answered the questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Collazo mentioned that he does not support this motion as it doesn't instill confidence in the Town Manager in making his own judgement calls. The motion passed 5-1 with Vice Mayor Collazo voting in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading as amended, passed 5-1 with Councilmember Ruano in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

C. AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT 3 COMPANY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, AN ELECTRIC FRANCHISE, IMPOSING PROVISIONS AND CONDITIONS RELATING THERETO, PROVIDING FOR MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

During the New Order of Business, Councilmember Fernandez moved to defer this item to the next Regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Dieguez moved to adopt the Order of Business as amended and Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. The motion passed and all were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

12. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING:

None.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

None.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

None.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

None.

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Town Attorney Gastesi reported that the current Town of Miami Lakes sign code would not pass constitutional muster and that the Town Council cannot continue to use the current one. Town Attorney Gastesi mentioned that the previous Town Council did not have appetite to amend the sign code but that he recommends the Town Council should act on this issue now.

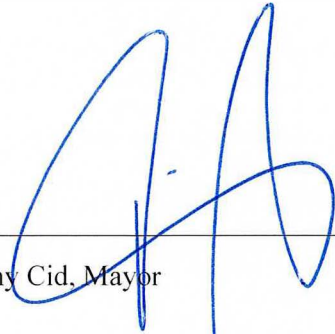
Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to have a temporary moratorium placed for up to 3 months on any enforcement action related to political signs and symbols, in order to give the Town Attorney enough time to finalize the new sign code and put them on hold, while they finalize this new sign code. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid instructed the Town Attorneys that in the future, if there are items that they believe are unconstitutional or if there is an issue with something, to please circulate these items, based on your opinions, to the Town Manager, to the Town Clerk, to your colleagues and to the Town

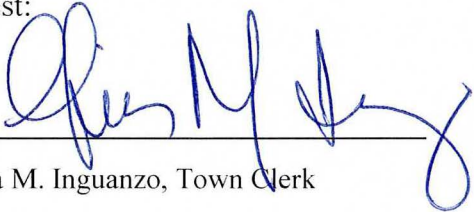
Council, so that these things get addressed immediately. Councilmember Dieguez' motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:


Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk