

**MINUTES**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing**  
**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

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

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Councilmember Marilyn Ruano led the prayer.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Deputy Town Clerk, Ashley Shepple.

**5. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

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

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing and participated via in-person public comments. She would like one of the councilmembers to remove the franchise fee and she would like a roll back. Ms. Mendez spoke about the rise in Ad Valorem and the millage rate and stated she does not want to see another increase; she wants a roll back rate.

Ms. Claudia Luces came to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing and participated via in-person public comments. She stated that the increase in different maintenance fees, particularly for the parks, caught her eye because it is the taxpayers funding such expensive increases. She also mentioned some parts of the budget are not necessary and the Town Council should be mindful of the residents.

Ms. Nikki Shane came to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing and participated via Remote Public Comments. She represents a group of people that wish to see more budget allocations for the parks, specifically at K-9 Cove for small repairs. She also stated she has a petition to obtain more benches for the park. She believes now is a great time to address and fund maintenance issues at the park as it is a safe outdoor place for children to play.

## **8. APPOINTMENTS:**

None.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None.

## **10. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the Consent Calendar. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- A. Approval of Minutes
- September 7, 2021 First Budget Hearing

This item was approved on Consent Calendar.

## **11. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:**

None.

## 12. ORDINANCES – SECOND 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.

Mayor Cid read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager, Ed 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.

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to move the current millage rate and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in second reading passed 7-0.

- 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.

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, presented the item and explained that the proposed budget is the result of what came out of the First Budget Hearing, as directed by the Town Council.

Town Manager Pidermann mentioned that this proposed budget reflects the Senior Citizen Rebate of \$72,000 and he explained the reallocation of funds to make that happen. Town Manager Pidermann also explained that based on the fact that at the last Regular Council Meeting, the FPL Franchise Fee Ordinance on first reading was voted down and because the actual approval of the budget was done with the FPL Franchise Fee as a companion item,

he asked the Town Council to make a motion to amend this proposed budget and to remove the FPL Franchise Fee of \$900,000 from both the revenue and from the expense side. Town Manager Pidermann also emphasized that in the proposed budget, regarding Town staff wages – he recommended a 2.8% increase of COLA for all Town Staff with a 0 to 1.5% increase average lump sum bonus based on evaluations. Town Manager Pidermann also presented different options for the Town Council' consideration.

Councilmember Dieguez made a main motion to adopt the budget and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Vice Mayor Collazo made an amendment to the motion to remove the \$900,000 from the budget that is associated with the Franchise Fee at 6%. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

Then, Councilmember Alvarez made an amendment to the main motion, to amend the Town staff pay increase based on performance-merit. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid.

After discussion, Councilmember Fernandez made an amendment to Councilmember Alvarez' motion, to adopt 1.9% COLA and up to a 1.9% bonus structure for the employees above the median wage and a 2.8% COLA and up to a 1.0% bonus structure for the employees below the median income and also to incorporate the changes of prorating the increases based on partial years of service and removing the 33% of the bonus for satisfactory performance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. (It was clarified that the proration on partial years would apply only to the employees with less than 1 year service).

After further discussion, Councilmember Rodriguez made an amendment to Councilmember Fernandez' motion, to not have the bonus portion of his structure capped at 1.9% and to stick with the bonus range concept. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez.

Councilmember Rodriguez explained his amendment to be that for employees that make above the median, the formula would be a COLA of 1.9% and a bonus range from 0% to 2.87%; and an above average employee that makes above the median, would get a 1.9% and an exceptional employee above the median, would get the full 2.87%. It was also emphasized that the total cost would be capped at \$171,213. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dieguez explained that the Neighborhood Improvement Committee, had an event that due to the weather had to be postponed and as a result, the NIC is requesting to carry forward \$2,250 to the 2022 fiscal year. So, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to carry forward \$2,250 from this year's current budget and to move it to the 2022 fiscal year budget, to cover the cost of the police escort for the bike ride. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion and the motion passed and all were in favor.

Chairwoman Nancy Rogers came to the Town Council and expressed her desire that her committee, the Public Safety Committee, to get more funds allocated to the budget.

Ms. Clarisell de Cardenas, Communications & Community Affairs Director, answered questions posed by Councilmember Ruano regarding the Town Website and conversion of documents. Ms. De Cardenas also explained in detail what the Town Branding meant. The

Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo and Ms. De Cardenas both provide information as to the conversion of documents into ADA compliant.

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to eliminate the (1) Council Travel and Per Diem of \$12,000, (2) the Council Education & Training of \$6,500, (3) Council/Administrative Health Wellness of \$5,000 and the (4) New Town Website of \$88,000. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and stated that he is in favor of eliminating (1), (2) and (3) but not so much the Town Website. Councilmember Ruano added that she was in support of eliminating the above (1), (2), (3) and (4), as motioned by Vice Mayor Collazo, but she added that she would like to amend said list by eliminating the Town Branding of \$6,000.

After some clarification provided by Town Manager Pidermann regarding the (1) Council Travel and Per Diem line item, Vice Mayor Collazo stated that by eliminating the (1) Council Travel and Per Diem of \$12,000, he meant only to eliminate the travel for the councilmembers and that he excludes the mayor from this.

After further discussion regarding the Town Website, Vice Mayor Collazo amended his motion to withdraw the \$88,000 for the Town Website from his amended motion, and to add to his motion the \$6,000 of the Town Branding, as identified by Councilmember Ruano. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. After further discussion, the motion made by Vice Mayor Collazo, to eliminate (1) Council Travel and Per Diem, (2) Council Education & Training, (3) Administrative Health Wellness and Town Branding, and to put the Town Website back in the table, passed 6-1; Councilmember Alvarez voting in opposition.

Mr. Larry Borman respectfully requested the Town Council to consider increasing the budget of the Veterans Committee.

Vice Mayor Collazo then moved to make a motion to add \$10,000 to the Veterans Committee from the money that we removed from the budget and to allocate \$2,000 to the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and the motion passed and all were in favor.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Collazo stated that he wanted to reconsider the Town Branding efforts and he made a motion to bring back the Town Branding efforts to the proposed budget by reducing it to \$3,000. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano then commended the Communications Department and the individual that is producing the videos and she made an amendment to Vice Mayor Collazo's motion, to reintroduce all the \$6,000 of the Town Branding into the proposed budget. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the amendment. The motion passed and all were in favor of the strike all amendment.

Mayor Cid also spoke about Canine Cove and that it needs repairs. The Parks Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council. Then, Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move \$2,100 to Canine Cove, for three additional benches to be added to the park. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. The motion passed and all were in favor.

The Building Director, Mr. Danny Angel, answered questions posed by Mayor Cid.

Councilmember Alvarez then made a motion for the Town Manager to consider increasing the salary of the Town Clerk to be equivalent to Sunny Isle Beach, which is the second lowest of the report that Councilmember Dieguez had requested. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. After discussion, Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion for the Town Manager to go ahead and give \$9,400 to the Town Clerk. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Councilmember Dieguez made an all-strike amendment, for the Town Manager to allocate the \$9,400 that is remaining into the Town Clerk's department with instructions for the Town Manager to consider allocating that money toward an increase for the Town Clerk's salary. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed and all were in favor.

Councilmember Dieguez asked questions for clarity purposes, regarding the senior rebate and about paid interns. Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by Councilmember Dieguez.

Councilmember Fernandez recommended that for next budget cycle, for the Town Manager to have the performance evaluations done before the budget process. Town Manager Pidermann agreed and stated that he will have them done by mid-summer.

Mayor Cid thanked the entire Finance team -Ismael, Kay, Melissa, Ruth and Sara- for their great job done during the budget and the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their work regarding the second budget hearing.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll on Councilmember Dieguez' made a main motion to adopt the budget, as amended, and the Ordinance in second reading passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dieguez thanked all the Department Heads and the Finance Department in particular. Then, he stated that he was going to make a motion, as was requested by the Town Attorneys. He motioned that for in this year's budget, to go ahead and move \$40,000 from the litigation reserves from the current year budget to the pay certain litigation expenses related to the 170<sup>th</sup> Avenue litigation and related to the appeal process that we are undergoing. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion and the motion passed all were in favor. The Town Attorneys explained that this money is to pay for the work done in the last couple of weeks regarding the appeals case. Town Attorney Cobiella added that the \$40,000 takes care of the bills from September and should take them into the next fiscal year, at the suggestion of Finance Department.

### **13. RESOLUTIONS:**

None.

**14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A. The Year of the Infrastructure (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and made a motion to have Town Staff research all sources of funding throughout the nation to see how to address current and long-term infrastructure repairs and maintenance. Councilmember Fernandez seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

None.

**16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

None.

**17. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

None.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 pm.

  
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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk