

MINUTES
Sunshine Meeting
October 27, 2021
2:00 PM
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. Call to Order:

Meeting began at 2:15 PM

The following councilmembers were present: Councilmember Tony Fernandez, Councilmember Marilyn Ruano and Councilmember Josh Dieguez. Vice Mayor Luis E. Collazo and Councilmember Jeffrey Rodriguez were presented via Zoom.

The following elected officials were present: Florida Senator Manny Diaz, Jr., Florida State Representative Alex Rizo and Florida State Representative Tom Fabricio.

The following Town Staff members were present: Town Manager Ed Pidermann, Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez, Public Works Director Carlos Acosta. Capital Improvement Project Manager Anaily Padron, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo and Deputy Town Clerk Ashley Shepple.

The following individuals from the public attended: Mr. Robert Alonso, Ms. Claudia Lucas, Ms. Mirta Mendez, Mr. Frank Mingo and Mr. Wayne Rinehart.

2. Public Comments:

Mr. Robert Alonso expressed his concerns with the street conditions in Loch Lomond and tree trimming routine maintenance. He also mentioned his concerns about borrowing 15.5 million dollars for the Town's stormwater project and requesting state funding for a Senior Center.

Ms. Mirta Mendez expressed her concerns about borrowing 15.5 million dollars for the Town's stormwater project and the potential bond for Miami Lakes Optimist Park.

Mr. Frank Mingo expressed his concerns about borrowing 15.5 million dollars for the Town's stormwater project and the potential bond for Miami Lakes Optimist Park.

3. Items Discussed:

• To Discuss Stormwater Bonds:

Notes on the meeting:

The Public Works Director, Mr. Carlos Acosta, explained all fourteen projects for the bond program and their goal of completing them in three years. Councilmember Tony Fernandez explained the

stormwater master plan and identified these projects mainly in the West Lakes and Royal Oaks areas.

Councilmember Fernandez explained that the strategy in the past has been to work with the State Legislature for funding for these projects in securing appropriations. He mentioned that the problem with this strategy is that there is never enough money given to finish the project. The range the legislature would give is \$500,000 to \$600,000, but these projects cost millions of dollars to complete.

Councilmember Ruano explained that the Town Council was told that the Governor's position on stormwater issues was that it was a local issue and would not be inclined to fund these projects. Therefore, the Town Council was left with the options of raising the millage rate, the stormwater fee, or the bond.

Florida Representative Tom Fabricio stated that the Town Stormwater Plan should be brought to the attention of the South Florida Water Management District. To create efficiency, the agency may be willing to provide solutions that could help Miami Lakes. Vice Mayor Collazo stated he could not thank Florida Representative Tom Fabricio enough for discussing partnering with other agencies to accomplish these specific projects.

Town Manager Ed Pidermann explained South Florida Water Management District managed the specific aspects of this stormwater process. Particularly redirected the excess water off the street and canal drainage. Mr. Pidermann explained that he had not heard of this agency going into neighborhoods to work on the infrastructure such as the French drains, catch basins, piping, etc. Florida Representative Tom Fabricio stated during Tropical Storm Eda, the South Florida Water Management District locks did not lower the canal water, which would have helped with the flooding. He noted that the Town's upgraded engineering system needs to make sure to account for this possibility. Senator Diaz suggested that the Town should be focused on asking the state legislature for funding to resolve the Town's infrastructure issues.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she was under the impression the Town had to diversify their state legislature priorities. She explained the Town Council has stressed that infrastructure is what the Council wants to tackle the most to the Town's legislature team.

Councilmember Fernandez started a recap of the discussion and stated that stormwater projects can be completed promptly, if the funding sources are diversified. Councilmember Fernandez then stated why he was such a proponent for going forward with the stormwater bond.

Florida Representative Alex Rizo asked for clarification on the dollar amount of the projects that are not funded. The Public Works Director, Mr. Carlos Acosta, stated that \$19 million is the total of what is not supported. Town Manager Pidermann explained that the Town is continuing to search for funding. Florida Representative Alex Rizo asked why the bond is not covering all the projects. Town Manager Pidermann stated there is a timeline and milestones, and he would be sharing this with Florida Representative Alex Rizo, who asked for the information.

Senator Diaz asked if there had been delay in construction material and Mr. Pidermann responded in the affirmative; that so far, there was a three-week delay in receiving materials.

Florida Representative Rizo asked if there have been temporary solutions for the stormwater issues with the Town. Town Manager Pidermann explained the Town has street sweeping, and it was mentioned that Town Staff was given authorization to obtain an extra stormwater vacuum truck as

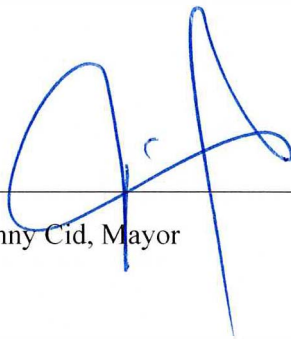
the current one was not operational. Florida Representative Rizo suggested that the Town should install temporary pumps and investigate solutions to pump the water elsewhere.

Councilmember Fernandez stated some of the private roads are experiencing flooding issues. Senator Diaz suggested to work with South Florida Water District to pump out the water.

Mr. Pidermann asked if having a roundtable discussion like this meeting before the legislative session is valuable. All the representatives concurred that this type of roundtable discussion helps tremendously.

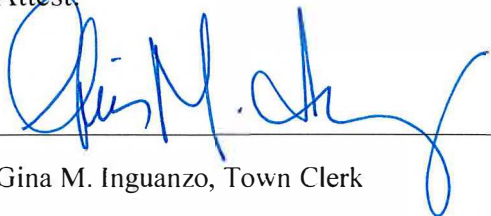
Adjournment:

This meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk