

MINUTES
Attorney-Client Executive Session
February 17, 2022
9:00 A.M.
Council Chambers
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Cid called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Deputy Town Clerk, Ashley Shepple, called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo, Councilmember Tony Fernandez, Councilmember Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez and Mayor Manny Cid.

Councilmember Josh Dieguez arrived at 9:11 am and Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez was absent.

Present as well were: The Town Manager, Ed Pidermann, Town Attorneys, Raul Gastesi and Lorenzo Cobiella from Gastesi, Lopez and Mestre, PLLC; Deputy Town Clerk, Ashley Shepple and Victoria Martinez; and the Certified Court Reporter.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Victoria Martinez led the pledge of allegiance.

4. INVOCATION:

Mr. Bryan Morera led the invocation.

5. Public Comments:

Mr. Bryan Morera came to the Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. He explained he started a petition without realizing the Town Council had motioned to start one as well. He stated his petition resembles what the Town Council voted to do during the Council Meeting regarding the bridges. He did not ask the Town Council to adopt his petition

because he feels it is more efficient to be citizen led rather than government led. However, he did ask the Town Council to fund itself through its social media and email list which contains the link to his petition. Mr. Morera then asked if the Town Council would amend their motion to no longer create a petition and simply promote his petition link. He also asked the Town Council to promote attendance by residents at the Board of County Commissioners Meeting on March 1st, 2022, seeing as he feels, the resolution will be on the agenda that day. Lastly, he asked the Town Council to set up an organizational meeting before the March 1st meeting to get everyone on the same page.

Mayor Manny Cid then made a motion for the Town to start sharing Mr. Morera's petition effective today, February 17th, as well as organizing a meeting in Town Hall next week. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

6. Approval of Minutes

6.1. Tuesday, February 15, 2022 Sunshine Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Alvarez absent.

7. New Business Items

7.1. Fishing with America's Finest and Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Event (Collazo; co-sponsored by Ruano)

Councilmember Collazo stated that on February 15th they met with an organization called Fishing with America's Finest. This organization received some funds from the Veterans Committee, and they requested to bring back an event to Miami Lakes that highlights fishing and the Vietnam War 50th anniversary. Members from the Veterans Committee and American Legion Post met with the organization and are asking for the event to be held tentatively on April 2nd.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to direct the Veterans Committee to work with the Fishing with America's Finest organization to coordinate an event tentatively scheduled for April 2nd in Miami Lakes. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano stated this is a wonderful organization and feels as though it is a luxury they have chosen Miami Lakes to host a commemorative event for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. In addition to Councilmember Collazo's motion, she would like to use the Town's social media to promote the event as well as assisting with public safety at the park and a crosswalk.

The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

7.2. 154th Street Bridge Opening Resolution - Approve Language (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez moved to defer Items 7.2 and 7.3 to after the Closed Executive Session so the Town Attorneys can provide the text to both resolutions.

Councilmember Dieguez explained this resolution is in respect to the 154th Street bridge opening. He stated that there are some minor changes he would like to make to the language of the resolution.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to approve the text of the resolution with the two changes he would like to make. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Alvarez and Mayor Cid being absent.

7.3. Gas Tax Relief Resolution - Approve Language (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez moved to defer Items 7.2 and 7.3 to after the Closed Executive Session so the Attorneys can provide the text to both resolutions.

Councilmember Dieguez explained this resolution is in respect to the Gas Tax Holiday that Governor Ron DeSantis proposed. He would like this resolution passed and sent to the State Legislatures requesting they try to support the Governors proposal to get it into this year's budget or future budgets.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the resolution as written and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Alvarez and Mayor Cid being absent.

8. Open Session of Attorney-Client Executive Session

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES V. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, ET AL [19-29261 CA 01]

Mayor Cid read into the record the following statement:

“In attendance at this meeting will be: Mayor Manny Cid, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez and Councilmembers Carlos O. Alvarez who is absent, Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, and Marilyn Ruano; Town Manager Ed Pidermann, Town Attorneys Raul Gastesi, Esq., and Lorenzo Cobiella Esq. of Gastesi, Lopez & Mestre, PLLC; and a Certified Court Reporter. When the open session is finished, the Town Council will go into a closed session pursuant to Section 286.011 (8), Florida Statutes. The closed executive session will last approximately 1 hour. The closed executive session is not open to the public. The Certified Court Reporter shall record the time and termination of the executive session, all discussions and proceedings that occur, the names of all persons present at any time during the discussion, and the names of all persons speaking. The transcript shall be made a part of the public records upon conclusion of the litigation.”

The names of those individuals attending today’s attorney-client session are:

1. Town Councilmembers Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez, and Mayor Manny Cid;
2. Town Manager Edward Pidermann;
3. Town Attorneys Raul Gastesi, Jr., Esq., and Lorenzo Cobiella Esq., from Gastesi, Lopez & Mestre, PLLC;
4. A Certified Court Reporter.

The individuals named above, were the only individuals allowed to stay at the Council Chambers to conduct and participate at the private attorney-client session. Once the attorney-client session is done, the Town Council will once again meet at the open public meeting, to adjourn.

At approximately at 9:19 AM, the Town Council closed the open session and convened in the Council Chambers to start the private session.

Once the private session was done, Vice Mayor Rodriguez welcomed everyone back to Council Chambers and re-opened the public meeting at approximately 10:47 AM. This portion of the meeting was livestreamed again.

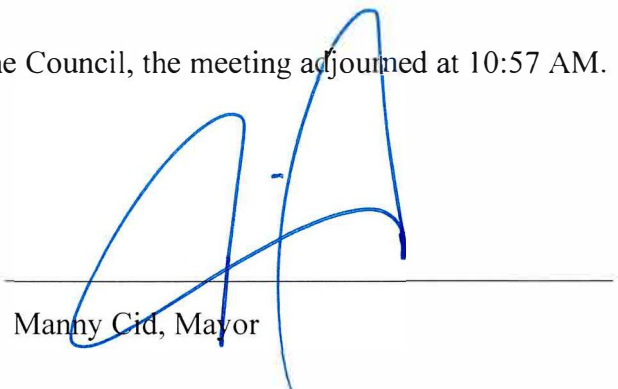
Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to request a follow-up Executive Session on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 9:00 am. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Alvarez and Mayor Cid being absent.

After the discussion of Items 7.2 and 7.3, Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella asked for a moment of personal privilege to address that this is the last meeting Ashley Shepple will sit in as Deputy Town Clerk. The Town Council then thanked Ms. Shepple for her work.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

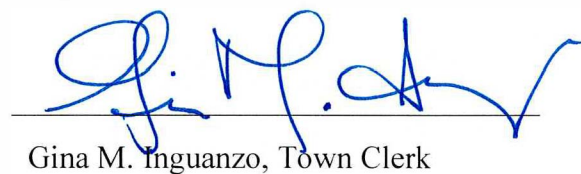
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Approved this 8th day of March 2022.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk