

MINUTES
Special Call Minutes
March 2, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

3. ROLL CALL:

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

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, led the prayer.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Collazo motioned to approve the Order of Business and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Special Call in Council Chambers and participated in in-person public comments. She stated that she would like the opportunity for the Town Council to reopen public comments after their discussion in case there are any questions from the public regarding the bridges.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came to the Special Call in Council Chambers and participated in in-person public comments. She began her comments by thanking those on the Town Council that spoke at the Commissioners meeting and fought on behalf of the Town. Ms. Cintron stated she came to the meeting because her son was unable to attend, and she reminded the Town Council of his sketches regarding the bridges. The sketches involve ramps for both NW 154th and NW 170th.

8. APPOINTMENTS:

None

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

None.

11. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

None.

12. ORDINANCES - SECOND READING:

None.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS

A. Special Call Meeting (Cid)

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi presented a report on the NW 170th bridge litigation. He went on to explain the Road Transfer Agreement between Miami-Dade County and the Town of Miami Lakes which transferred responsibility of NW 170th to Miami Lakes. The Interlocal Agreement with the City of Hialeah, Road Transfer Agreement, second amended complaint, third DCA opinion, and Miami-Dade County Ordinance were also discussed during this presentation. Town Attorney Gastesi highlighted these points in his PowerPoint presentation to give more information to the public regarding the ongoing bridges litigation.

Councilmember Ruano quoted the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, pertaining to the 170th Bridge lawsuit. She emphasized and wanted to make it clear, that the Town is not suing the County again; she emphasized that it is simply the same lawsuit being appealed to be heard.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to waive conflict resolution procedures as to NW 170th Street bridge with respect to amending the lawsuit to add a challenge to the county ordinance 2-103.1 and to include FDOT as an indispensable party in accordance with the Third District Court of Opinion. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo explained that FDOT has expressed no interest in getting involved with this issue and he then asked if that would change once they are named a party to this issue. Town Attorney Gastesi stated he cannot guarantee they will; however, to continue with the lawsuit, the Third District Court of Appeals determined that they are an indispensable party and must be sued. He explained that if they are not added, then the lawsuit gets thrown out.

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella then called Councilmember Alvarez on the phone so he can cast his vote on the motion. The motion was then repeated by Councilmember Dieguez and the Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Fernandez was absent.

B. I-75 Bridge Openings at NW 154th Street and NW 170th Street Traffic Study (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo stated that in 2018 the Town commissioned a traffic study regarding the bridge openings, and he noticed a lot of the alternatives have changed. With that being said, he would like to see if the traffic study can be reopened to amend the data to include other alternatives that are current.

Councilmember Collazo then made a motion to revisit the Lochner study to look at different options as an alternative to opening the NW 170th and NW 154th bridges. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid amended the motion to coordinate with the MPO regarding their study of slips to I-75 and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the amendment. All were in favor and the amendment passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

Back onto the main motion as amended, all were in favor and the motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

C. Light Up Town Hall (Dieguez)

Mayor Cid made a motion to the waive Item 7.3 of the Special Rules of Order and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez expressed that with everything going on in Ukraine, he would like to light up Town Hall in the colors of the Ukrainian flag to show solidarity. He stated the only expense would be to get the yellow lights to go along with the blue ones the Town already has.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to light up Town Hall for two weeks in the colors of the Ukrainian flag to show solidarity and Mayor Cid seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

15. REPORTS:

None.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

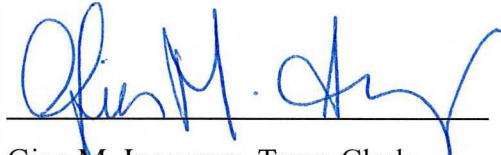
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Approved this 12th day of April 2022.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk