

**MINUTES**  
**Attorney-Client Executive Session**  
**June 22, 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 9:05 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Councilmember Josh Dieguez joined the meeting at approximately 9:35 am.

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

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo led the pledge of allegiance.

**4. INVOCATION:**

Town Manager, Edward Pidermann led the invocation.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Angelo Garcia Cuadra came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. He expressed disappointment with some of the members of the Town Council.

Mr. Frank Mingo came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. He spoke about Item 6.1 the reconsideration of ballot language and stated there was no

proper information in the body of the item other than the requirement to waive section 7.3 of the Special Rules of Order. He then explained the waiver's requirements state the item must be an emergency with five affirmative votes to be discussed. He also added that if this were to be reconsidered, to bring it back the right way with transparency and proper notice.

Dr. Dave Bennett came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. He spoke about Item 6.1 and stated the item is not an emergency. He suggested it gets brought back at the next meeting in the correct way as there is time before the election.

Ms. Esther Colon came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. She expressed disappointment to find out about the last-minute addition of Item 6.1. She stated there must be 48-hour notice unless the item affects life, health, property, or public peace and Item 6.1 does none of the following. She asked the Council to table the item and reconsider it the right way.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. She echoed Ms. Colon's comments about the Town Attorney and explained adding Item 6.1 is a Charter violation as it is not an emergency and there was no 48-hour notice to the public.

Ms. Claudia Luces came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. She recapped the outcome of the June 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and explained that the ballot language has already been revisited twice. She also stated that the expert explained how the structure of the bond ballot question is important in order to get a favorable outcome. Ms. Luces then stated that the expert proceeded to suggest having the purpose of the project before the \$25 million price tag and some members of the Town Council agreed. Ms. Luces finds the suggested order of the question to be disingenuous to the voters.

Mr. William Perez came to the Attorney-Client Executive Session and participated in-person public comments. He asked the Council to consider the economic impact the project will have on regular Miami Lakers if passed as the ad valorem tax will affect everyone. He stated we are living in a tough economic time with inflation and high rent that is driving people out of Miami Lakes. He stated since the bond issue is being taken to the public by a vote, the language should be left the way it passed at the June Council Meeting.

#### Online Public Comments:

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in public comments via zoom. He stated bringing back the ballot language is a tactic to change the language and it is incredible to resort to this. He asked this be held with the 48-hour notice at a time that is reasonable for the public to attend and participate in. He also asked the Council to reconsider bringing Item 6.1 up. He then thanked Councilmember Collazo and Councilmember Ruano for sticking up for what is right.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds participated in public comments via zoom. She expressed concerns with statements made at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and went on to explain that Item 6.1 requires the

waiver of 7.3 of the Special Rules of Order however she states there is no emergency to waive the rule. She also states that there was no 48-hour notice given to the public regarding Item 6.1. She feels as though there should be enhanced public participation for this issue and this meeting does not allow that.

Mr. Robert Meador participated in public comments via zoom. He stated that it is not only the duty of the Mayor to call out for decorum, but the entire Town Council is responsible to do so. He added that the Council can agree to disagree but in a civil matter. He then thanked the Town Council for their service and for trying to make Miami Lakes a better place to live, work, and play.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### **6.1. Reconsideration of Ballot Language (Rodriguez)**

Vice Mayor Rodriguez explained that he was advised that we needed to have three meetings to have this item reconsidered. He emphasized that he was not doing this to sneak anything by. He then stated that he will be bringing back this item at the July Regular Council Meeting, with proper notice, and the ordinance will be ready to be re-considered in 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

He explained that in July, he will have a new business item and the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Ordinance ready, voted on and then made a motion to have a Special Call Meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading before the cut-off date of July 28<sup>th</sup>; sometime between the July 12<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition and Councilmember Fernandez was absent.

Councilmember Ruano asked for a moment of personal privilege, to read into the record, Mrs. Luces public comments and to apologize to Mrs. Luces on behalf of the Town Council. Councilmember Ruano stated that this Town Council does not exhibit proper decorum; that on many occasions, this Town Council waives the rules, and those residents should be given the courtesy to speak, especially in meetings like this one. Councilmember Ruano then read into the record the remaining public comments of Mrs. Luces.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez then stated that he was advised by the Town Attorneys to make a motion to table the item. So, Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to table the item, as suggested by legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Fernandez absent.

Mayor Cid spoke about increasing voter turnout and to focus on all residents, including renters.

## **7. OPEN SESSION OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 9:46 am, Mayor Cid then read the following section into the record: I would like to announce that we are about to conduct an attorney client session pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, to discuss strategy related to litigation expenditures and/or settlement negotiations in the following case:

**Town of Miami Lakes v. TSC Investments, Inc., Eminent Domain., 2021  
006842 CA 01**

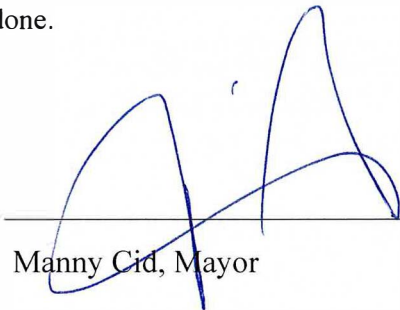
Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes provides an exemption from the public meetings law in order to allow the Town Council to conduct a closed session to discuss strategy related to litigation expenditures and/or settlement negotiations in a pending lawsuit. This is what the Town Council will be doing today. This session will be recorded by a court reporter. The transcript will be filed with the Town Clerk and it will remain sealed until the conclusion of the litigation. When the litigation has concluded, the transcript becomes public record and can be requested by anyone. This attorney-client session is estimated to last two hours. The names of those individuals attending today's attorney-client session are:

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

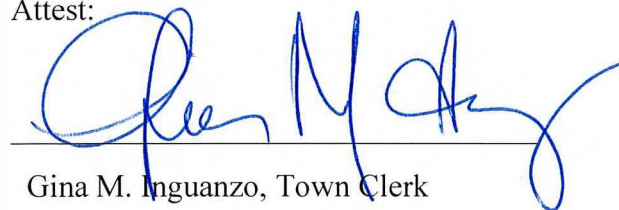
The individuals I have just named will go to the Community Conference Room of the Government Center to conduct the private attorney-client session. Once the attorney-client session is done, the public may return to the Council Chambers and the Council will adjourn. At approximately at 9:50 am, the Town Council closed the open session and convened in the Community Conference Room to start the private session.

At approximately 10:50 am. The private session was done.

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

  
Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

  
Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk