

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
July 12, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:38 pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Carlos O. Alvarez, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez and Mayor Manny Cid. Councilmember Luis E. Collazo was present via Zoom.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Pastor Juan Sancho from Metro Praise International Miami led the prayer.

Mr. Ariel Fernandez from Better You Minute, led a moment of mediation via YouTube.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez.

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

Vice Mayor Rodriguez moved up Item 14A to be discussed before Item 11A. Mayor Cid asked that Item 9 be moved up to right after the Order of Business.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the Order of Business and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Angelo Garcia came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. He shared his thoughts about the bond ballot. Mr. Garcia urged the Town Council to explore alternate ways to obtain the money for the renovation of MLOP and asked he asked them to think of the residents and to do the right thing.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. Ms. Mendez offered her 3 minutes to the Town Council, so they could apologize for behavior from previous meetings.

Ms. Vivian Levy came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. Ms. Levy voiced her support for resolution 13A. She also expressed her gratitude to the Town council for the resolution and she stated that this is truly an issue in the community and that she is grateful that the Town is addressing it.

Mr. Steven Herzburg came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. Mr. Herzburg pushed for increased voter education and asked for unbiased voter education material. He expressed that he would like to give the residents unbiased facts and let them make a proper, educated decision.

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in virtual public comments via Zoom. Mr. Fernandez praised the Town Manager and spoke in support of the Town Manager's proposed budget as well as increasing salaries for town employees. He raised concerns on the ethicality of changing the bond ballot language with regards to the hiring of services of a specialist to assist with the crafting of the language and stated that an opinion from the Ethics Commission should be requested; he disapproved of the use of funds to change the language. He also stated that spending a \$100,000 to sell the \$25 million bond could have gone to pay for one more police officer or for dugouts for the Optimist Park or for a swing set for our physically challenged children. Finally, Mr. Fernandez called for a rollback on the millage.

Mrs. Claudia Luces participated in virtual public comments via Zoom. She stated that there have been many instances with this Town Council that makes her question whether this Town Council is representing the people's will, such as the gateway entry cards for Miami Lakes Section 1. She stated that the cost per entry card is \$3.22 and that the Town charges residents \$25 per card and mentioned that it is an outrageous markup and asked the Town Council to stop creating problems for residents. She also mentioned her disapproval for the changing of the bond ballot language again – that the \$25 million should be left at the beginning of the question. Mrs. Luces mentioned that the \$25 million re-development project is unnecessary project that will burden the Miami Lakes taxpayers with the cost- while ignoring other ongoing issues. Mrs. Luces also thanked Councilmembers Ruano and Councilmember Collazo, for their willingness to allow her to speak beyond her three minutes at the June 22nd meeting, as well as the police officers for their support and help during council meetings and she emphasized the importance of following rules and enforcing them for everyone.

Mr. Francisco Ojeda came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. Mr. Ojeda came in to ask for help about the boat and watercraft ordinance. Mr. Ojeda

asked the Town Council to find some medium ground on this matter. He mentioned that he took out his boat for a weekend, had to go to the hospital due to an emergency, could not do any strenuous physical activity and then he was fined. He asked the Town Council wanted to alter the law to allow for more leeway, perhaps allow residents to keep them for one week. Mayor Cid advised him to return on August 2nd because Planning and Zoning is having a hearing about the boat ordinance.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Cid closed Public Comments.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Cid made a motion to waive Section 11 of the Committee Rules regarding the two-meeting requirement for the appointments of Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Collazo. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez, and all were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Alain Sanchez to the Youth Activities Task Force by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Mr. Manuel Perez to the Economic Development Committee by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Mr. Luis Rodriguez to the Neighborhood Service District – Royal Oaks by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Mr. Brandon Diaz to the Public Safety Committee by Councilmember Luis Collazo.

Mr. Marcelino Sotolongo to the Neighborhood Service District – Lakes by Mayor Manny Cid.

Ms. Esther Colon to the Blasting Advisory Board by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Ms. Brenda Escobar to the Elderly Affairs Committee by Councilmember Josh Dieguez.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the appointments and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Cultural Affairs Committee

Chairman Neill Robinson presented this report and began by asking the Town Council for the authorization to reallocate \$1,500 from this year's CAC budget to the Main Street Players in the Town of Miami Lakes. Chairman Robinson then gave a brief history of the Main Street Players Theater. He added that the CAC collaborates with the Main Street Players for many cultural events in the Town and these funds would further assist the theater.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to approve the request by the Cultural Affairs Committee and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Education Advisory Board

Chairman Mario Pinera presented this report and began by requesting the Town Council's approval to host a School Board Candidate Forum on August 3rd, 2022, at 7:00PM in Town Hall's Council Chambers.

Mayor Cid made a motion to approve the request and Councilmember Alvarez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dieguez did ask for a moment of personal privilege and stated that the Town of Miami Lakes has a long history with giving a platform for candidates. He reiterated that there are two members of the EAB that have personal interest in that race, and he emphasized that they need to be isolated from the planning process, so that it is more effective and to remove any potential allegations of there being a stain.

C. Veterans Committee

Chairman Michael Coote presented this report and began by asking for authorization to transfer \$10,000 from the VC's Military Banner Campaign line item to the Veterans Dedication Ceremony and Memorial line item. He explained that this would allow for the purchase and installation of a bronze Battlefield Cross monument to be placed at Veterans Park. The Battlefield Cross pays tributes to the sacrifice made by men and women who have died in support of freedom for the United States of America.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the request and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Human Resources Specialist, Mrs. Cynthia Alejo introduced the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Summer Youth Interns and explained the purpose of the program. She shared that there are three students from Barbara Goleman Senior High School that will be working in the Town of Miami Lakes. She introduced Ms. Hailie Prieto who is working with the Communications and Community Affairs Department and Mr. Leonardo Ladeira who is working with the Office of the Clerk.

Ms. Prieto and Mr. Ladeira then thanked the Town for the opportunity to work within their respective departments and that they look forward to learning more about government.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The motion passed 7-0.

A. Approval of Minutes

- June 14, 2022 Regular Council Meeting
- June 16, 2022 Sunshine Meeting on Working Budget for Committees
- June 22, 2022 Attorney-Client Executive Session

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GENERAL LAWS AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CHARTER, FOR THE HOLDING OF A BOND REFERENDUM ELECTION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022, TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TOWN SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$25,000,000, PAYABLE FROM UNLIMITED AD VALOREM TAXATION, BEARING INTEREST AT RATES DETERMINED AT THE TIME OF SALE THEREOF, NOT EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM LEGAL INTEREST RATE AT SUCH TIME, TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PUBLIC GREEN SPACE BY RENOVATING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AT MIAMI LAKES OPTIMIST PARK, AS DESCRIBED HEREIN, AND TO PAY COSTS OF ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Mayor Cid opened the public comments section.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez addressed the Town Council and participated in-person public comments. She stated that the Town spent \$25,000 on a consultant. She then asked then to move the \$25 million and that it would make 4 elected officials very happy and that the people then would vote for the bond.

There being no one else wanting to speak on the item, the public comments section was closed.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez presented the item and presented the revised ordinance prepared by the Town Attorney. He then made a motion to approve the ballot language to read as set forth in the revised ordinance. Vice Mayor Rodriguez then read into the record, the ordinance with the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The proposed language read into the record was the following:

“To improve community health and public green space by renovating recreational facilities at Miami Lakes Optimist Park including athletic fields, walking trails and exercise stations, basketball and tennis/pickleball courts, LED lighting, restroom and parking facilities and improve field and amenity accessibility, shall the Town of Miami Lakes issue general obligation bonds, not exceeding \$25 million, payable from ad valorem taxes, bearing interest at legally permissible market rates maturing within 30 years of their issuance?”

During the discussion of the item, Councilmember Ruano stated that this ordinance had been already approved twice and now, in an effort to persuade the voters to entice them with the first sentence, and hopefully have them not realize that it is a \$25 million dollar price tag. She also stated that the Manager’s Memo is misleading because it continues to say that it will cost the

average resident \$5.98 per month. She emphasized that this is misleading because we don't know what the interest rates are. She mentioned that it should be removed from the information that we provide our residents. She also stated that we should revert to the language that we were going to originally put on the ballot, for the residents to read the price tag first.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, let the Town Council know that Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia and Mr. Abel Fernandez wanted to speak on this item.

Councilmember Ruano moved to re-open public comments and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. Town Clerk called the roll and the motion to re-open public comments passed 6-1; Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

Mayor Cid re-opened the public comments section of the public hearing.

Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia addressed the Town Council and participated in-person public comments. He stated that he believes it will cost \$3,000 per character, per word.

Mr. Abel Fernandez addressed the Town Council and participated on-line public comments. He stated that the Bond Ballot ordinance already passed the two readings and to let it go, as it already passed. He spoke about the wording of the bond and the ethicality of the wording-, that the consultant's testimony expressed that she crafted the words so that it would have a favorable outcome. He advised the Town Council to speak to the County Ethics Commission regarding the changing of the ballot language. He also voiced his concern that the Town Council voted to spend \$100,000 of taxpayer to promote this. He pointed out that at no single year, has money been allocated to restore this park to better level.

There being no one wanting to speak on the item, the public comments section of the public hearing was closed.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, asked for a moment of personal privilege. He stated that the language of this ordinance was prepared by Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella, by Town Manager Ed Pidermann, by Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun and by Mr. Albert Del Castillo. He stated that the \$25,000 paid to Ms. Hanrahan was not used towards the language of this ordinance. Town Manager Pidermann confirmed and added that Ms. Hanrahan is a representative of the Trust for Public Lands and that she did not devise the language, that she looked at it and gave us advice on the entire process.

Councilmember Dieguez stated that shortly after he was elected, he presented an item to ensure that with certain bond referendums, a voter education campaign be done. Unfortunately, he explained that the money that was going to be used towards implementing the voter education campaign, the state legislature has prevented municipalities from being able to engage in these activities. Thus, he explained that the Town will not be doing a voter education campaign, because state law preempts us from being able to engage in voter education campaigns. He also acknowledged that the Optimist Park needs work, that there were four different options presented to the Town Council and that the Town Council voted to advance with option three, with a price tag at the time of \$18 million dollars. That due to inflation and supply chain disruptions, the cost has gone up. He stated that he voted yes for option three but has been

voting no for this ordinance, because the cost of the project has gone too far from what he was willing to explore. He then proceeded to state the reasons why he is not supporting the item.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated that the Optimist Park is insufficient and inadequate to support a valid baseball program and he stated that is why our kids go to play in Pembroke Pines, Weston and in Miramar. He added that the longer we wait, the more expensive it will be. He concluded by saying that improvements regarding the design, the drainage and the parking situation are the biggest problems and he emphasized that until they are addressed, that park will be inadequate and that the ballot question should be out to the voters. He also emphasized that as a proponent of the park improvements, he would like for the ballot question to be casted to the voters in a successful way, such as other successful ballots have been put out to the voters in the past.

Councilmember Fernandez asked the Town Manager to explain the difference between the initial language that was presented to the Town Council, which was developed by the Town Manager and Deputy Town Attorney from what is being proposed tonight. Town Manager Pidermann responded that its essentially the same thing but added that now, the language reads “athletic fields”, instead of “baseball fields” and that restroom and parking facilities have been added to the language. Councilmember Fernandez stated for the record his thoughts and the importance of the testimony of the expert, which made him understand the importance of wanting to change back to the originally proposed language. He explained that this reconsideration of the ballot is allowing them to go back to where they started and that he is in support of this ordinance in 1st reading. He then asked for a moment of personal privileged and stated that during his campaign, he always expressed his intention to support this park. He stated that he is very passionate about this issue and that in the past meeting he used some words out of context and that to those he offended, he apologized.

Councilmember Collazo accepted and appreciated the apology from Councilmember Fernandez and stated that no offense was taken. Regarding the order of the language of the ballot, he explained his reasons on his votes and stated that for him, when he heard the testimony given by the expert, and how she explained that this item was most likely to be placed further down on the ballot and that voters may experience some fatigue and that they might not get to the end of the item and that it might pass more favorable because they might never get to read the price tag. Councilmember Collazo stated that he wants the voters to opine on this item, but that he wants the voters to have all the facts -all the information and what it would cost; that he wanted the educational campaign to be transparent and for the Town Council to be unbiased; so that residents could vote their pocketbooks and that we would execute their desire. He emphasized that his vote has never been to make the ballot language more favorable, just to give people information in a manner that helps them decide. He concluded by stating that for him, the language reads easier the other way and he stated that he supports the ballot language as it was when they originally voted on it and not as read during reconsideration.

Councilmember Alvarez stated that the children of the Town of Miami Lakes should not settle to play in other municipalities; that our golf course should be renovaded and that an emergency room should be available to our residents and not have to travel to other municipalities. He stated that our residents should have dining options and amenities in the town. He stated that before putting out the price tag in the question, residents should be educated on what they are going to get and what the children are going to have access to. He stated that he is in support

of the reconsidered proposed language because when he buys something, he likes to first know what he is buying.

Mayor Cid stated that this item is important to him because it is finally coming to fruition and that for him, residents should decide. That this has been included in all the Strategic Plans and that it should come to fruition now. He mentioned that back in 2003, the residents were asked if they wanted to borrow money to improve Royal Oaks Park and it was done with no information. So, the residents voted no to this ballot question. He stated that residents should be empowered and put this item to rest. He emphasized that residents need to be educated and perhaps information-facts- should be put in the Town Website. He wants voters to get educated and for voter participation be a high number.

Councilmember Ruano addressed Councilmember Fernandez and stated that there was no need for him to apologize, that she appreciated his apology but that this is a contact sport and that it was not necessary. She then mentioned that she also wants to improve the MLOP but at a lower price tag. She stated that she wants to give this ballot question a fair opportunity but that when she requested to change the order of the question, she was not being nefarious. She emphasized that for her, price is important and for her, putting the price tag first is important because it tells the residents what the project costs. She likes to be careful and cautious, and she stated that we are living one of the most difficult economic times of our generation.

Councilmember Ruano then made a motion to amend the wording “\$25 million” on the ballot to read “\$25,000,000”. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Ruano, Councilmember Collazo, and Councilmember Dieguez voted in opposition.

12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 21-285, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 22-292, AMENDING THE TOWN’S FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Alvarez made a motion to approve the ordinance and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Fernandez was absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 13-1606, TITLED “BOATS AND WATERCRAFT” OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE OF ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the ordinance and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Councilmember Fernandez was absent.

- C. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA APPROVING, ADOPTING, A NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE DISTRICTS; APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RATES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE DISTRICTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURITY GUARD AND MULTIPURPOSE MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the ordinance and it was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez.

Councilmember Collazo asked questions regarding the situation of the price of the clicker for Miami Lakes Section 1. The Town Manager provided an explanation regarding the cost of the clicker and the cost of the programming of the clicker. The Town Manager explained the NSD voted for two clickers to be provided to each household and that anything extra would be charged at the \$25 rate per clicker.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, URGING THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COLLEGE TO AMEND AGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS TO PUBLICLY FUNDED EDUCATION FOR ADULTS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER OVER THE AGE OF TWENTY ONE (21); PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE HOPE FOR AUTISM LETTER TO GOVERNOR DESANTIS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TOWN CLERK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the resolution into the record.

Councilmember Alvarez made a motion to approve the resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION OF ROYAL OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the resolution into the record.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to approve the resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA DECLARING AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE TOWN'S PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE, ROLLED-BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO 200.065(1), FLORIDA STATUTES, AND THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE AT WHICH PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO CHANGE BUDGET HEARING DATES IF NEEDED; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO SERVE THIS RESOLUTION ON THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the resolution into the record.

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to move it and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid opened discussion and offered an amendment to the motion. He stated that the only way he would vote to keep the millage flat is if we prioritize public safety; he explained that we haven't hired many officers recently, that we should hire more police officers. Then he made a motion that the number one priority going forward for these funds, going forward for any surplus funds in our budget has to go into hiring more police officers. He continued to explain and made a motion to amend 13C, to prioritize hiring more police officers and for this to be the number one priority; that if any funds come in, we need to hire more police officers. He stated that Town Staff has been taken care of two years in a row but that now we need more police officers especially as night life is growing. He stated that he gets calls every night of people breaking into cars. He emphasized that the main priority is to hire more officers. Mayor Cid motioned again to make it a priority, that before anything else, that before any dollar gets allocated, we need to hire new police officers. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the amendment.

During discussion, all councilmembers expressed their opinions. Councilmember Alvarez reinforced the belief that public safety should be a priority as well as an increase in police officers. Councilmember Fernandez mentioned that all ad valorem tax has been used for police in the past and he believes that there should be a continued emphasis on public safety in the town. Councilmember Ruano also supported public safety but inquired as to whether the police department is in need of increased officers or increased overtime. It was mentioned that there is no minimum staffing requirement nor not enough overtime to give to the officers. It was also discussed that more emphasis should be given on night officers. Mayor Cid said that he was open to adding another \$350,000 to overtime but that it should be tied with minimum staffing standards like the minimum staffing standards that the City of Palmetto Bay has in place. During discussion, Vice Mayor Rodriguez emphasized that officers are not always available to respond to calls for overtime because they are with their families, so more bodies and more presence is needed.

Councilmember Collazo stated that he agreed with Councilmember Ruano's suggestions and asked for Major Ruiz to come back with a plan; that he would like to see more bodies but that he would like to hear back from Major Ruiz first. Town Manager said that this is just the resolution to set the cap on the millage. That this will be discussed during the budget hearings.

Mayor Cid then concluded by stating that there is enough direction from the entire Town Council to prioritize safety; that this Town Council has done a great job taking care of employees for 2 years in a row; that whatever is left over, then we can talk about Town staff. Again, he stated that minimum staffing standards must be set up, that at least 5 people on midnights. Mayor Cid clarified that when budget is crafted, public safety will be prioritized like in strategic plan. Perhaps adding \$350,000 to overtime. The amendment passed with all in favor.

Councilmember Ruano brought up the discussion on the rollback rate. Councilmember Ruano, stated that there was an \$800,000 increase in ad valorem taxes and thought it could have gone a long way, but then saw that the police contract had also increased \$800,000, for the same services and the same officers that we have today. Councilmember Ruano stated that just like that, our increase ad valorem was lost. She stated that she usually has an appetite for a rollback rate but that unfortunately, this year due to inflation and increase in police contracts, this is not possible.

Councilmember Dieguez ended the discussion by stating that public safety has always been number #1, and that it comes with a higher cost. That statistically, our crime rates are going down. That when population increases, we need to have better coverage to maintain the same level of service and coverage, but that we have to be careful about the hiring decisions and how it impacts residents. That we need to make sure that we are not hiring for the sake of hiring. He stated that the Town of Miami Lakes is the 5th municipality with the lowest millage rate in the entire Miami-Dade County, out of 34 cities. He emphasized that this shows the excellent work of Town Staff.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the main motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Cid then took a moment of personal privilege to mention that Mr. Ismael Diaz is leaving his post and that he has done a great job in the Town of Miami Lakes and has set the bar high.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Reconsideration of Ballot Language (Rodriguez)

Vice Mayor Rodriguez presented this item and explained that this item was tabled from the June 22, 2022 Attorney-Client Executive Session. Vice Mayor Rodriguez then explained that the motion was for Item 11A to be put in the Agenda, an ordinance in first reading, in reconsideration of the bond ballot language. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 5-2. Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

B. Use of Town Facilities by Home School Facilities (Ruano)

Councilmember Ruano presented this item and explained there has been a group of parents that home school their children in the Town that have reached out to use town facilities once a month to host activities that the children do as a group. Councilmember Ruano then wanted to put the Education Advisory Board in contact with the homeschool group so they can be assisted.

Councilmember Ruano then made a motion to direct staff to work with the homeschool group and allow them to use town facilities once a month. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez suggested contacting the School Board member and ask if their facilities can also be used for educational purposes to the homeschooled group. Councilmember Alvarez then stated he likes the idea of looking into using school board facilities however he knows the process can be lengthy and would like to see the homeschooled group use town facilities currently while Town Staff works with the school board to possibly use their facilities as well. Vice Mayor Rodriguez then spoke about the liability factor and stated he is in favor of starting this before August.

Councilmember Ruano then added that the homeschooled children are already using Veterans Park as their congregational park for outdoor activities, and they love the park.

All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Jakey Duque Park (Cid)

Mayor Cid made a motion to Waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order for all items requiring the waiver. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Alvarez absent.

Mayor Cid then presented this item and explained he would like to codify the phrase “at the Town’s election” within the MOU between the Town of Miami Lakes, Hialeah, and Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to codify the section of the MOU regarding Parcel 5072 stating that if anything impacts that section of the MOU it must be voted on by the Council with the consent of the Duque family. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez then stated that the Duque family requested the Town Attorney to provide them with an agreement that states “if and when at any point the monument needs or wants to be moved, and the family does not agree with the new location, that the Town has the obligation to return the statue to them as they are the ones who raised the funds for it”.

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella then added it will be brought back as a resolution and Vice Mayor Rodriguez added hopefully it will be brought back at the July 25th Special Call Meeting.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

D. Design and Projected Cost of Branding Welcome Signs (Alvarez)

Councilmember Alvarez presented this item and clarified it is not to approve a welcome sign on NW 67th Avenue heading North, it is only to get approval to direct the Town Manager to look into design options for this area, with pricing, to bring to the Town Council. He mentioned this area is lacking an entry into Miami lakes from Hialeah and does not want a high ticketed item like a fountain. He would like to see a low ticketed welcome sign on the side of the street to avoid going through the County for this project.

Councilmember Fernandez made the motion and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano then stated it is a great idea in which she supports however if public safety is the Council’s main priority, then they have to get rid of the ticketed items brought onto the agenda every month. Councilmember Ruano asked that moving forward, they all become conscious of what is proposed in order to put as much money towards public safety.

Councilmember Fernandez asked to consider sponsorship opportunities for the sign to help pay for the costs of the sign. Councilmember Collazo added he would like to see consistency with the branding of the signs throughout Miami Lakes and likes the idea of reaching out to other entities to help fund the sign.

All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Police Impact Fees (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and began by highlighting some of the LPR statistics since January. He stated that there is an area of the Town that has no LPR’s and it is important to

prioritize LPR protection town wide. Mayor Cid added that once police impact fees come in, the LPRs should get immediately installed in the part of the Town that has none. He added that they have caught so much activity due to the LPR system and crime activity has done down.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to codify that all police impact fees moving forward until the LPR net is finalized, have to go immediately to funding the LPR program. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo stated he is in support of the item and then asked what is left in the network, what does it cost the developers, and what is the total amount of impact fees needed to collect for the safety net. Mayor Cid then stated each camera is about \$6,000 and the impact fee of the golf course alone should be able to fund the rest of the net.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Ruano was absent.

F. Bike Racks at Veterans Park (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that a resident who live across from Veterans Park, Orlando Hernandez, reached out to install a bike rack inside of Veterans Park, in front of the community center. Mayor Cid stated he is aware there is a bike rack right outside of the park but would like to see the possibility of installing one inside of the park for residents and funding it through grant funds of leftover Parks and Recreation Department funds.

Mayor Cid then made a motion that when funds do become available via grants of leftover funds towards the end of this fiscal year, that it be used to install a bike rack inside of Veterans Park. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez gave input and stated the location of the bike rack should be worked on because one issue the Town has is that people use the walking track inside the park to bicycle which is prohibited. He added that it should be installed in the park so people can go to and from the park but also discourage using the bikes on the walking path or consider allowing bikes on the path.

All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

A. Monthly Standard Operating Procedure Update (Cid)

Mayor Cid stated there was nothing to report this month. Discussion was held amongst Mayor Cid and Councilmember Collazo regarding the reasons why this update is being brought back on a monthly basis.

B. Intergovernmental Meetings Update (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented his report and stated that he is working with Town Staff to bring on the Public Works Director of the County to Town Hall for a tour of Miami Lakes. He also added that Public Works Director, Carlos Acosta is working on doing a monthly round table with different public works directors in the county and hosting the first one in Miami Lakes. Mayor Cid stated this will be done with different cities in the county to open-up communications.

Once Mayor Cid ended his report on the Intergovernmental Meetings Update, Councilmember Alvarez then provided a quick report regarding the left turn signal on NW 154th and Montrose, the County came back and said they can install it. He then asked his colleagues to reach out to Commissioner Rene Garcia to put it on a priority list.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Monthly Police Report (Ruiz)

Major Javier Ruiz presented this report and began by highlighting that crime continues to remain overall stable. He added that one issue they have been hearing from many residents is regarding vehicle burglaries. Currently they are looking into the investigations and specific targeted areas. He stated they are taking additional steps to try and deter the criminal activity.

Major Ruiz then updated the Town Council on a meeting he had attended regarding a software that is going to be a part of MDPD. He stated it will identify specific areas for officers to target and it'll be helpful in the long term to lower crime a bit more.

Councilmember Ruano shared that if you can program your car to tuck its mirrors in when locked it dissuades the individuals from breaking in as they know the car is locked. She then asked Major Ruiz to add that tip to the campaign. Councilmember Ruano then stated she would like to follow the progress of the individuals apprehended within the Town. Major Ruiz added that most people that commit crimes within the Town are not from the Town so when captured they try to avoid the area afterwards. However, he added that they do track certain individuals that were previously apprehended.

B. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Acosta)

Public Works Engineer, Omar Santos presented this report and highlighted a few projects. Starting with roadway projects, the consultant for the Safe Routes to School – Bob Graham project is working on the 100% design package to be submitted to FDOT for review. The consultant on the NW 146th Street project is working on the 60% plans to be submitted in mid-August to FDOT. As for the stormwater bond projects, the NW 159th Terrance Drainage Improvement project is scheduled to be completed before school starts and the NW 166th Street Drainage Improvement project is scheduled to begin this week. The West Lakes Gardens Second Addition as well as Alameda Northwest Drainage projects are getting ready to go out for bid and the West Lakes Gardens Drainage project was sent out for bid already.

Mr. Santos then went on to highlight the stormwater ARPA projects and stated the consultants for the NW 158th Street and Royal Pointe Drainage projects are working on 60% design plans. The Sevilla Estates Phase I project schematic design plans were submitted by the consultant for Town's review. As for facility projects, the Town is working with the consultant for the Backup Generator at Roberto Alonso Community Center and is negotiating with the top proposer. Finally, Mr. Santos stated that with roadway maintenance, they are moving along quickly and recently completed sidewalk repairs and street signs are being swapped out.

C. Report on Potential Crosswalk Enhancements (Acosta)

Public Works Engineer, Omar Santos presented this report as requested by Councilmember Alvarez at the May 10, 2022, Regular Council Meeting. He stated that Town Staff looked into additional improvements to crosswalks throughout the Town. The list is in order of priority to incorporate different types of improvements. Mr. Santos then explained the types of recommended improvements as outlined in the memo and gave examples of what each recommendation would look like as they are in areas of the Town.

D. Monthly Report on Miami Lakes Optimist Park (Bajdaun)

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun presented this report and began by highlighting the completion of the infield makeover from the Scotts and MLB grant. The grant money allowed the two t-ball fields to be made over and the parks department is working with the Scotts and Optimist Club to highlight the fields at an opening day game in mid-August.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez then asked what the chances of lighting at those two t-ball fields are and Mr. Bajdaun are stated that the lighting is now sufficient for all the tennis courts at Optimist Park within the budget allotted and now they are looking into adding lighting for t-ball fields.

Councilmember Collazo then thanked Mr. Bajdaun, Ms. Wilson, and Mr. Riquelme for doing an outstanding job on securing the Scotts and MLB grant. He also added that as a t-ball coach, he knows the kids are excited to play on the made over fields.

Mr. Bajdaun then stated they are closing out for summer maintenance through August. He also added that earlier in the day, the item for waterway markers along the C8 canal were approved at its committee hearing and will go forth the Board of Commissioners for 2nd reading at the next County Commissioners meeting.

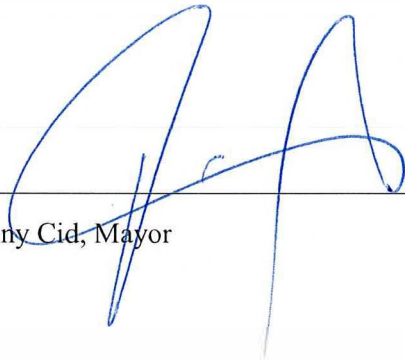
17. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

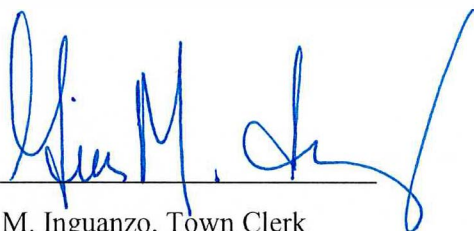
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Approved this 9th day of August 2022.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk