

MINUTES
1st Budget Hearing
September 14th, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilmember Fernandez called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll and Councilmember Fernandez was the only councilmember being present in Council Chambers. Councilmember Marilyn Ruano was presented via zoom. Councilmember Fernandez stated for the record that the meeting would stay open and in recess, until quorum is established.

At 7:30 pm, quorum was met with the following councilmember being present: Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Fernandez and Vice Mayor Rodriguez. Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were present via zoom and Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, led the prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Mayor Rodriguez led the Pledge of the Allegiance.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

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

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At 6:56 pm, Councilmember Fernandez opened the Public Comments section of the agenda. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

Mrs. Claudia Luces came to the Budget Hearing and participated in-person public comments. She spoke about the poor display of leadership since several councilmembers were running late to the hearing due to a conflict with Open Houses from schools. She mentioned that the public should have been notified and that it is very disappointing.

Mr. William Perez came to the Budget Hearing and participated in-person public comments. He spoke about the proposed budget; mentioned that property values have gone up and that this will bring an increase of taxes to every household; he also mentioned that municipalities and counties have lowered their millage rate. He also stated that the Federal Government gave a pay raise of 2.7% and President Biden is recommending a 4.6%. He also stated that the average American household saw a raise of 3.5%. He also stated that Town Staff should get a raise but a raise matching that with what the federal employees are receiving, which is roughly a 4%.

The Town Clerk stated for the record that there were no participants for public comments on-line.

There being no one else for Public Comments, Councilmember Fernandez then stated that the Budget Hearing would be taking a recess of 30 minutes.

At approximately 7:35pm, Councilmember Collazo asked for a moment of personal privilege and apologized to everyone and explained that there was a conflict with school activities, and that was the reason why several elected officials were late to the Budget Hearing. He thanked the public for their patience. Vice Mayor Rodriguez also mentioned that he had Open House for his children and that he apologized for being late.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez re-opened the Public Comments section of the agenda. There being no one for Public Comments in Council Chambers nor on-line, Vice Mayor closed Public Comments.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

None.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR:

None.

10. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO TAX COLLECTOR; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Edward Pidermann read a budget statement into the record.

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, read into the record the following statement: the proposed millage rate for Fiscal year 2022-23 is 2.3127 the same rate as the current fiscal year. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is four billion, one hundred and thirty-one million, forty-one thousand and two hundred and thirteen dollars (\$4,131,041,213). The proposed millage rate will generate 9 million, seventy-six thousand, one hundred and sixty dollars (\$9,076,166) in Ad Valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate. The proposed millage rate of 2.3127 is 9.61% above the roll back rate of 2.1100.

Town Manager Pidermann and Budget Officer, Mrs. Melissa Hernandez presented a Power Point Presentation of the FY 2022-23 Proposed Budget.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the ordinance in first reading for discussion and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Town Manager Pidermann and Budget Officer Hernandez answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to consider a roll back, in an effort to help the constituents, with the inflationary issues, and for Town Staff to find areas -line items- where we can find savings and give our taxpayers a little of a tax break. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion for discussion. Vice Mayor Rodriguez then made a motion and asked the Town Staff to identify how we would make up the \$795,495 difference, what specific areas would we removed funding from, in order to make the savings; what would the \$795,000 less in revenue would look like.

Councilmember Dieguez spoke about a potential 2% saving reduction and perhaps provide supplemental relief. He asked Town Staff to look into offering a potential saving to the residents but not necessarily a roll-back rate due to the high inflationary environment and a recession of this year.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated that he would like to see the Vehicle Burglary Detail increase from \$25,000 to \$75,000.

The Town Clerk called the roll for the amendment made by Councilmember Ruano and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

The main motion, as amended, to pass the proposed millage rate of 2.3127 passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to move the ordinance in first reading and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded for discussion.

Mayor Cid re-stated his motion to exempt from paying Miami Lakes property taxes, for Town Staff to come back to us at the 2nd Budget Hearing, to add to the list of the low income seniors, the deployed overseas military members, disabled first responders and disabled residents with special needs and for Town Staff to come back to the Town Council at the next Budget Hearing and provide us with how much money all three groups would be. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that last year, the intention was to provide rebates all the senior residents that qualified with the exemption program; however, he explained that a rebate was not done because it was not legal to do; he explained that the TOML had to revert to the process of assigning a fixed dollar amount – a lump-sum like the Miami Dade County does- for everybody who qualified for the exemption. Town Manager Pidermann stated that Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella conducted legal research on this matter last year and that he will do the due diligence of researching if the three exemptions categories proposed by Mayor Cid, would have to be treated the same way as the low-income seniors. Town Manager Pidermann explained that Town Staff will figure out the number of dollars to tribute to fund to that program and Town Council will have to make policies to give Town Staff guidance.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained further that TOML had to do a lump-sum last year because we are exempt from giving rebates and he explained that if you want to give money back to a group of residents, it has to be equally given to the class as a flat rate, it can't be different. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that he would have to some research and come up with a municipal purpose and find a way to meet what the mayor is proposing and that it would have to be similar to the program done last year for the senior citizens that qualified.

Councilmember Collazo stated that the spirit of last year's motion was to not charge the individuals with tax, but not to gift them monies that they didn't pay into the tax. He asked Town Staff to look into the execution of this intent and to explore this more.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the amendment from Mayor Cid passed 6-0. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Collazo stated that the Town Council is pulling in different directions and in order to be comfortable at the 2nd Budget Hearing. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. After some discussion, councilmembers proposed for the Workshop to be schedule on Monday, September 19th at 7PM. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Cid and Councilmember Alvarez were absent.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion and asked Town Staff to provide the cost of adding 2 new police officers to the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion and the ordinance in first reading as amended, passed 5-1. Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

11. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING:

None.

12. RESOLUTIONS:

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COVENANT RUNNING WITH THE LAND IN LIEU OF UNITY OF TITLE; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE COVENANT AGREEMENT; PROVIDING THE TOWN MANAGER WITH AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE COVENANT AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella presented the item. He explained that on November 29, 2021, the Town Council passed a resolution which provided a waiver of plan for real property owned by TGC 15201 Office, LLC, located at 15201 NW Court. This property is now Ana G. Mendez University. Then on April 12th, 2022, the Town Council approved a site plan for a free-standing emergency room to be located at the site. He explained that for purposes of selling or leasing the property, the Grahams would like to have them as two separate properties. Thus, he presented the covenant in Lieu of Unity of Title.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

13. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

None.

14. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

None.

15. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

None.

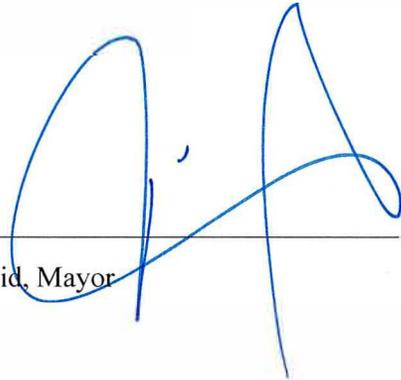
16. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Manny Cid, Mayor



Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk