

MINUTES
Workshop on Working Budget
September 19, 2022
7:00 P.M.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following councilmembers were present: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo, Councilmember Tony Fernandez, Councilmember Ruano, and Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez. Councilmember Dieguez was present via Zoom.

The following Town Staff members were present: Town Manager Edward Pidermann; Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo; Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez; Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez; Chief Financial Officer Kay Grant; Communications and Community Affairs Director Clarisell De Cardenas; Principal Town Planner Susana Alonso; Building Director Daniel Angel; Public Works Director Omar Santos; Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun; Chief Technology and Innovation Officer German Cure; and Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella.

2. Moment of Silence:

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella led the prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Mayor Rodriguez.

4. Public Comments:

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to open Public Comments and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Angelo Garcia came to the Workshop and participated in in-person public comments. He spoke about the company who oversees the rodent issue in the back of the canal where he lives. He stated that the company has not been placing bait in the traps for a while and thus the rat issue has gotten

worse. Mr. Garcia also spoke about the lights on Fairway Drive by 7/11 and stated they are flickering. He asked for someone to please find out what is going on.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Workshop and participated in in-person public comments. She expressed frustration that the first budget hearing didn't start at the time published because there was no quorum. She also spoke about items in the proposed budget such as the millage, cost reduction list for consideration and Major Ruiz's recommendation for police overtime rather than more officers. Ms. Mendez's three minutes were up however, Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to extend for one additional minute and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. Ms. Mendez then went on to ask about certain funds that were presented in the PowerPoint at the first budget hearing.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo then stated that Councilmember Dieguez is online via Zoom and would like a moment of personal privilege. Councilmember Dieguez then asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Bob Ruiz as he recently passed away.

5. Items for Discussion:

Town Manager, Edward Pidermann presented the handout given to the Town Council. He explained that the front page shows that the dollar impact would be for any modification to the proposed millage rate. It also shows proposed exemptions as well as the average amount of adding an additional officer to the police department. Mr. Pidermann then explained that the back page of the handout is a list of recommendations on areas that could be explored for cost reductions to make up for the loss of the revenue on the front page. Budget Officer, Melissa Hernandez then went over the proposed exemptions and answered any questions posed by the Town Council.

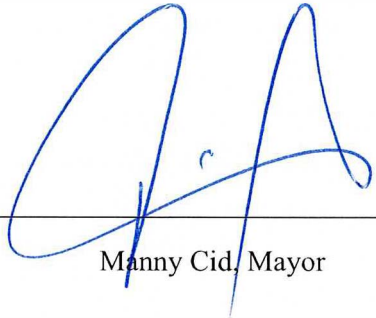
The Town Council began discussion of Major Ruiz's recommendation for overtime funds rather than hiring new officers. They proposed adding more overtime funds to the vehicle burglary detail totaling \$75,000 as a pilot program and Major Ruiz answered questions the Town Council posed. The Town Council then went over the list of cost reductions for consideration and began removing tree planting, committee budget increases, and merit bonus for Town Staff from the budget. After further discussion, the Town Council discussed the COLA percentage for staff this year and agreed to a 5% COLA rather than the proposed 8%. Therefore, with the three reductions discussed, 3% COLA reduction, and the increase in funds for police overtime, the Town Council was left with \$229,067 to make up for a loss of revenue with a lower millage of 2%. The Town Council then further discussed the carry forward amendment, lower millage rate, possible rebate checks, councilmember reimbursements, and funds for speedhump installations.

Town Manager Edward Pidermann answered all questions posed by the Town Council.

6. Adjournment:

This meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Approved this 11th day of October 2022.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk