

MINUTES
2nd Budget Hearing
September 27th, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Mayor Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll and Councilmember Dieguez and Vice Mayor Rodriguez were present; Councilmember Alvarez, Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Fernandez and Mayor Cid were present via zoom. Physical quorum was not met and thus, Vice Mayor Rodriguez called for a recess.

At 6:46 pm, the Town Clerk Inguanzo called the meeting to order with Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Ruano and Vice Mayor Rodriguez being present in Council Chambers; Councilmembers Alvarez, Fernandez and Mayor Cid were present via Zoom. Quorum was met.

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

Councilmember Collazo motioned to open the Order of Business and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Town Attorney Cobiella asked for a resolution regarding the Declaration of Emergency to be added to the Agenda and he also stated that he needed to ask for an Executive Session.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to approve, and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia came to the Council Chambers and addressed the Town Council regarding the issue with the rodents around the Canal Stabilization area.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the minutes and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

7. ORDINANCES – SECOND 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.

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.

After the statement was read into the record, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the millage rate of 2.2664, representing a 2% reduction in the millage rate from the millage rate proposed, he stated this is the lowest millage rate that we have had in the town's history and the first reduction that we have had in the last 5 years. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo.

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

- 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.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that what was included in the agenda is the final proposed budget but due to the adjustment in the millage rate, the budget is now out of balance. He stated that some motions will need to be done, to balance the budget.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to amend the proposed budget and asked for the following to be removed: the Committee Additional Requests of \$70,600.00; to remove the Tree Planting of \$54,281.00; to remove the Merit/Bonus for Town Staff of \$65,311.00; that we reduce the COLA Adjustment for Town Staff to 5% representing \$88,952.00; he asked for the following to be added: that we increase Police funding for Police Overtime by \$50,000; that we appropriate new speed bumps funding for \$ 30,621.00; that we reinstate \$15,000 to New Century Lobbying Affairs firm for federal lobbying services, for the contract to run until the end of the calendar year and move \$2,000 to the Council Travel line item, for him to be able to travel during the new fiscal year as part of the Florida League of Cities. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez then asked permission for him to elaborate on the last two added requests. He explained that the Town hired the New Century Lobbying Affairs firm, to work and push forward with our Zip Code efforts. The lobbyists were successful in adding into one of the policy bills that Congress passed, directing the Postal Service to study the benefits of individual zip codes for cities, which would have included the Town of Miami Lakes. Also, he explained that they are in the process of leading thru Congress, the \$3,000,000 dollars for the 59th Avenue Project. He explained that he would like for this firm to continue working with the office of Congressman Diaz Balart and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz' office, to work thru the House and Senate and close this out this year. Councilmember Dieguez also explained that he is a member of the Florida League of Cities Economic and Land Use Committee, and in anticipation of some conferences that are going to take place, he is kindly requesting \$2,000 to be allocated to cover his anticipated travel expense.

Councilmember Alvarez spoke about the importance of elected officials attending and being visible in the State Legislative Sessions and asked his colleagues to consider perhaps allocating some funds for elected officials to travel to Tallahassee and then motioned to increase the \$2,000 to be allocated to additional councilmembers for them to attend the Spring State Legislative Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid. After some discussion, Councilmember Alvarez tabled the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and Councilmember Dieguez' amendment to the main motion passed 7-0.

The power went out on Council Chambers and WIFI was lost. Meeting re-convened in approximately 10 minutes.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the main motion as amended, passed 5-1. Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Fernandez was absent.


8. ATTORNEYS REPORT:

The Deputy Town Attorney added a resolution under the New Order of Business section of the Agenda. He stated that that we are under a Tropical Storm Warning and that Town Manager Pidermann has signed a Declaration of Emergency. In accordance with the adopted State of Emergency Procedures Ordinance of the Town of Miami Lakes, he explained that the Town Council needs to consent to the Declaration of Emergency called and signed by the Town Manager. Thus, the Deputy Town Attorney explained that he drafted a resolution giving the Town Manager the authority to declare said state of emergency. Councilmember Dieguez moved to adopt the resolution, ratifying the Declaration of Emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. All were in favor.

The Deputy Town Attorney then asked for an Attorney-Client Executive Session to be held during the next few weeks, regarding the NW 59th Avenue Eminent Domain. He said the Attorney-Client Executive Session was needed to discuss litigation matters. Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion directing the Town Clerk to coordinate and schedule the date for this session to take place. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and all were in favor.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk