

MINUTES
Special Call Meeting
November 28, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

3. ROLL CALL:

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez, called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Carlos O. Alvarez, Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia, Marilyn Ruano and Mayor Manny Cid.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella led the prayer.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez.

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

Mayor Cid mentioned that he wants to add a Manager's Report to the Agenda. He explained that it's regarding a pavilion that Miami Tech High School is requesting to utilize and because its time sensitive, Mayor Cid is adding it to the Agenda. Councilmember Dieguez motioned to move the Agenda as amended and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed and all were in favor.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came to the Special Call Meeting and participated in live public Comments. She mentioned that there has been a debacle over the Bitcoin, she also mentioned that the motives of some councilmembers are to make money and revenue producing projects and she understands that many residents preferred the quality of life being preserved. She stated that there is too much emphasis on bringing new business and more industries to the town; she stated that it's not the job of the elected officials to bring new business to the town and that many residents feel that the town is already bursting in growth. She also mentioned that she would like them to ask the FAA to narrow the approach pattern to a narrower corridor.

Eladio Jose Armesto came to the Special Call Meeting and participated in live Public Comments. He stated that on behalf of the Loch Ness community, he wanted to congratulate the new members, who have shown their dedication and to all the elected officials who have shown their dedication, devotion and enthusiasm to the town.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Special Call Meeting and participated in live Public Comments. She stated that in the Laker, the Town Manager Pidermann answered that if the Bond referendum were not to pass, that they would go to Plan B; she asked what is Plan B. She stated that the investment of Town Staff needs to have a price tag.

Mr. Dayan Jimenez came to the Special Call Meeting and participated in live Public Comments. On behalf of his non-profit, he congratulated Mr. Ray Garcia for his election, and he congratulated Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Alvarez for their re-election. He also stated that the people of Miami Lakes do not want their taxes to be raised.

Mrs. Claudia Luces came to the Special Call Meeting and participated in live Public Comments. She congratulated the newly elected Councilmember Ray Garcia; regarding the Bond, she stated that the Town Council needs to determine how much money they are willing to spend and how much money they have to spend; that they need to move forward with what you have and live withing their means and that is why the people voted down the bond referendum. She also stated that if you want to share the park, then share the cost. Regarding the business park, she stated that many residents want to Miami Lakes to stay a small town.

8. ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo collected the ballots from each elected official. The Town Clerk read the ballots out loud, thereby casting their votes for the election of the Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Alvarez received 4 votes, Councilmember Ruano received 2 votes and Councilmember Dieguez received 1 vote. Thus, Councilmember Alvarez became the new Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Alvarez thanked his colleagues for entrusting him with the role of Vice Mayor and he looks forward to serving his community.

9. APPOINTMENTS

Mr. William Perez to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Ruano.

Ms. Stephanie Cruz to the Elderly Affairs Committee by Councilmember Dieguez.

Vice Mayor Alvarez motioned, and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to add Mr. Angelo Cuadra to be re-appointed to the Blasting Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. Councilmember Ruano stated that she would like to re-appoint Mr. Cuadra to the BAB, but she was not sure if she had availability. Councilmember Collazo also stated that he wanted to appoint Mr. Cuadra but he was not sure if he had availability. Either way, Mr. Cuadra was re-appointed to the BAB.

Councilmember Ruano then stated that Ms. Lourdes Corvo and Ms. Jessica Joseph were recently removed from EAC due to 3 sick absences, but she clarified that these absences were due to Covid. Councilmember Ruano then asked if these absences could be excused. Both the Town Manager and the Town Clerk confirmed that medical absences are excused so Mayor Cid stated for the record that both Ms. Corvo and Ms. Joseph would be re-appointed to the EAC.

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the five appointments and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Alvarez. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed unanimously.

A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SLCGP) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$57,700); AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE STATE AND LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SLCGP); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, TO ACCEPT THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

11. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. 305 Sports Basketball Academy (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and made a motion for Town Staff to work with 305 Sports Basketball Academy and the School Board Building Department as soon as possible, to allow the installation of the lights. Mayor Cid clarified that the lights at the Basketball Court will not be paid by Town of Miami Lakes, but by 305 Sports Basketball Academy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. Councilmember Collazo added that he has had conversation with School Board Member Roberto Alonso about improvements to the park and that they are 100% on board with partnering with the TOML. He asked for state revenue and School Board Money to be discussed and be part of this comprehensive solution and for this to be a cohesive effort.

Councilmember Ruano asked how long the contract with 305 Sports Basketball Academy is and what is the cost of permanent lighting is? Parks Director, Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council. He stated that their contract is 3 years with two 1-year renewals, and he stated that he did not have the price component for permanent lighting.

Councilmember Ruano asked for the price component for permanent lighting to be brought back to the Town Council and also how this affects their contract.

All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Master Plan for Revitalization of Business Park East (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented the item and explained that this is an on-going effort to provide Miami Lakes residents with good paying jobs so they can live, work and play in the town. Also, be able to raise the tax base. He then motioned for Town Staff to look into putting a plan to make more attractive for businesses that do business with Opa Locka

Airport, to consider Miami Lakes Business Park East as a place of business. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez then asked if he had already spoken to Town Staff about the impact with the overlay. Councilmember Garcia confirmed that he already had spoken to Town Staff and that this plan would be working together with the overlay. Councilmember Ruano then emphasized that she would not want air traffic to increase in that area. Then, she made an amendment to the motion, for language to be included stating that the TOML does not want to justify an increase in air traffic nor any larger airplanes that the ones that land there now to be allowed in Opa Locka. Councilmember Garcia accepted the friendly amendment and emphasized that his new business item is not about adding air traffic – but about increasing business for our town. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the amendment and the motion passed unanimously.

The main motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

C. Floating Solar (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented the item and made a motion for Town Staff to study the how the Town can utilize the Commercial Lakes available to study the possibility to work with all the stakeholders including FPL, Commercial Businesses, State and Local entities and residents, to use floating solar as a revenue source for the Town; that this would be a pilot program and the revenue to be used for infrastructure. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Councilmember Fernandez mentioned that in regard to alternate ways to funding the 59th Avenue extension, he would like for staff to consider leasing the entire space and building out solar in the parcel and monetize for the 59th project.

Councilmember Collazo mentioned that the former Town Manager had told him that only Lake Ruth is the lake suitable for this purpose. Mayor Cid stated that he thought other lakes in the area were suitable for this purpose.

Councilmember Dieguez made an amendment to incorporate Councilmember Fernandez' comments, to have Town Staff look at the 59th Avenue project to have floating solar alternatives there as well. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously. The main motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

D. Plan B. Optimist Park

Councilmember Garcia presented the item and stated that the majority of the Town Council agrees that the Optimist Park needs work when it comes to infrastructure.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion to direct the Town Administration to put forward a plan B at a reasonable cost and including input from everyone – residents and stakeholders- with a timeline, budget, revenue sources including grants and P’3s, and try to come up with a transparent cost, all within a six-to-nine-month time frame to make the improvements to the Optimist Park. He also clarified to focus on the following three major issues of the park, which are: flooding, lights and the backstops that are rusted and falling. Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Alvarez then made an amendment for the project not to be looked at as an entire piece and that he would like to direct Town Staff to chunk it into different parts and different phases, with cost options, - a la carte options. After some discussion and clarification provided by Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Alvarez withdrew his motion and thanked his colleagues for the clarification.

After additional discussion, Mayor Cid stated via motion that he will support this item and participate in real serious discussions on this matter, only if there is an independent cost estimation involved in this process. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and the motion passed unanimously.

The main motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

E. Gazebo requested by Miami Lakes Educational Center (Cid)

This item was added to the Agenda during the New Order of Business.

Mayor Cid presented the item and explained via motion that the Principal of MLEC is requesting to use a gazebo from Picnic Park West/Veterans Park for a school event celebrating the senior class on December 22nd. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed unanimously.

12. REPORTS:

A. Town Manager’s Reports

1. Council Meeting Schedule

Town Manager Pidermann presented his report and the Council Meeting Schedule for 2023.

Vice Mayor Alvarez proposed via motion for the February 14th RCM to be re-scheduled to February 7th and for the June 13th RCM to be re-scheduled to June 6th.

Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Attorney's Report

1. Attorney's Report on Property Foreclosure Counsel

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella presented the report and explained that attached to the oral report, is a retainer agreement. He explained that several months ago, the Town Council passed in 2nd reading, an ordinance that requires banks that are foreclosing on real properties, on homes in the town, to register those properties with the Town of Miami Lakes. This ordinance will make sure that banks are held responsible for home to be in compliance with the Code and that the banks pay for any of those Code Compliance issues.

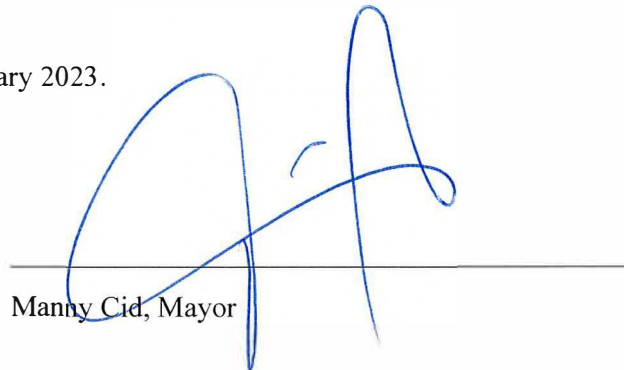
The Deputy Town Attorney explained that Attorney Figueroa, from Break Point Law helped him write said ordinance and he stated that this law firm has the expertise needed to handle this area of the law. He asked the Town Council to move forward with this retainer agreement.

Councilmember Dieguez moved to adopt the retainer agreement as presented in the Agenda and Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1 with Mayor Cid voting in opposition.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

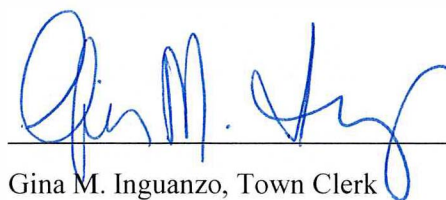
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Approved this 10th day of January 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk