

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
February 7, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Councilmember Collazo asked Public Safety Committee Chairperson Nancy Rogers to come up for the presentation. Chairperson Rogers explained the situation for presenting the challenge coin to Mr. Soto. Then, on behalf of the Public Safety Committee, Chairperson Rogers thanked Mr. Angel Soto for seeing something and saying something and presented him with the PSC Challenge Coin. Mr. Soto then thanked the PSC for presenting him with the award.

Councilmember Collazo presented a proclamation to Mr. Neill Robinson for his 20+ years of community service to Miami Lakes. Councilmember Collazo, Vice Mayor Alvarez, Councilmember Ruano, and Councilmember Garcia each thanked Mr. Robinson for his public service and contributions to the Town. Mr. Robinson expressed he has devoted his life to being involved ever since he moved to Miami Lakes, and he then thanked his elected officials.

Vice Mayor Alvarez recognized the Town of Miami Lakes Crossing Guard members for Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. He then shared some information on the areas the guards oversee and stated that one of the crossing guards, Hirenio Moreno, was recognized as a nominee for “Crossing Guard of the Year” and although he did not win, he will continue to be nominated next year. Vice Mayor Alvarez then recognized each individual crossing guard and presented the proclamation for Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. On behalf of the crossing guard staff, Mr. Gary Cardenas expressed his appreciation for the recognition. The Town Council and Staff then thanked them for their services.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at approximately 6:49 pm with the following being present: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo, Councilmember Ray Garcia, Councilmember Marilyn Ruano and Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez being present. Councilmember Tony Fernandez was present via zoom. Councilmember Dieguez physically joined the meeting at 7:09 pm and Mayor Manny Cid joined the meeting via zoom at 8:20 pm.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Judge Nuria Vizcaino led the prayer.

Minister Juan Sancho 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 the Councilmember Collazo.

The Presentation of Colors was led by Doral Cadet Squadron from the Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force Auxiliary.

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

Councilmember Ruano moved Item 14D to after Public Comments and Councilmember Collazo moved Item 14C immediately following 14D, after Public Comments. Town Attorney Raul Gastesi then asked to combine the part of the Attorney's Report regarding Cashless Bail with Item 14A.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Collazo seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Dieguez and Mayor Cid absent.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to reopen the Order of Business to table the Mayor's items until he is able to participate in the meeting. The Town Council then spoke about the attorneys presenting on his behalf. After discussion, Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded the motion made by Councilmember Collazo. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid absent.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(Phonetic spelling of each speaker's name will be used throughout the minutes unless correct spelling is known)

Mr. Christian Agrange participated in in-person public comments. He thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for making him feel appreciated, comfortable, and relaxed when coming to the Town.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez participated in in-person public comments. She asked what happens to the New Business Items that are from absent Town Council Members if they are not here to present. She then requested to start the meetings on time and for Zoom participation to end.

Mr. Michael Coote participated in in-person public comments. He spoke in regard to his time serving on the Veterans Committee and some of the initiatives brought forth through the committee. He then thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for the experience on the Veterans Committee and as Chairman.

Ms. Carla Dimartino participated in in-person public comments. She stated that her neighbor intends to Airbnb their property however she is not looking forward to having strangers coming in and out of the neighborhood that aren't careful. She came to raise awareness to the ordinance and appreciated its restrictions, but she is requesting the Town Council to look into it and make it stricter as she believes it is not a good fit for the community.

Mr. Manuel Perez participated in in-person public comments. He spoke on Item 14D and stated that he followed the rules to get his golf cart decal issued. He added that having golf carts in the Town gives a sense of community. He stated if there is a nuisance, the individuals causing the issues should be addressed so they can follow the rules.

Mr. David Coto participated in in-person public comments. He thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for voting in favor of the golf cart ordinance and was thrilled to see it implemented. He added he was eager to comply with the Town code and register his golf cart to drive it on the streets. He then spoke about Item 14D and was disappointed to see the debate on golf cart usage come again. He asked for there to be a constructive conversation on the improvements that could be made to the ordinance and some solutions. The 3 minutes expired and Councilmember Ruano motioned to extend public comments for 30 additional seconds, Councilmember Garcia seconded. Mr. Coto then provided some possible solutions to the golf cart issue.

Mr. Jonathan Marin participated in in-person public comments. He spoke about golf carts and stated that his children love using it throughout Town. He added that they follow the rules.

Mr. Orlando Echevarria participated in in-person public comments. He spoke about the golf carts and echoes the excitement when golf carts were allowed. He came to show his support for the golf cart ordinance in the correct manner. He added that if someone is not following the rules, they should face consequences or be told to correct it.

Mr. John White participated in in-person public comments. He spoke about the golf carts and believes many things can be done prior to demolishing the golf cart ordinance. He added that many people abide by the rules but there will always be the few that don't. He stated the police officers are very busy with other things and to be put on golf cart duty is obscene. He believes a better process can be figured out.

Mr. Dayan Jimenez participated in in-person public comments. He spoke in support of Item 14A and believes things like cashless bail should not be brought up because it further puts people at a disadvantage. He then thanked everyone for voting in favor of the Model UN Conference coming up and extended an invitation to the Mayor and Councilmembers to attend the conference and see the students civically engaged.

Ms. Claudia Luces participated in in-person public comments. She spoke in opposition of Item 14B and added that we should know who speaks and if they are from Miami Lakes. In regard to

the minutes of the Walk-Through at Optimist Park, she added that the Town has yet to decide on a design.

Councilmember Dieguez took a moment of personal privilege. He apologized for his tardiness and explained the cause of his delay.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

None.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Safety Committee

Public Safety Committee Chairperson Nancy Rogers

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Town Manager Pidermann and Ms. Kay Grant, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Ms. Saily Leon-Trujillo.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Ruano moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed 7-0.

A. Approval of Minutes

- January 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- January 18, 2023 Sunshine Meeting: Walk-Through at Optimist Park Minutes
- January 30, 2023 Special Call Meeting Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR RFP 2022-27, DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO ASHBRIIT, INC., THE HIGHEST-RANKED PROPOSER AND D&J ENTERPRISES, INC., THE SECOND HIGHEST-RANKED PROPOSER; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; ADOPTING THE SYSTEMS SAFETY PROGRAM PLAN, MONITOR AND OVERSIGHT POLICY, AND DISADVANTAGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE POLICY; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENT REQUIRED TO ADOPT POLICIES; AUTHORIZING TOWN CLERK TO REMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

None.

12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER ` 13, BY CREATING ARTICLE XIII, TO BE ENTITLED "WATER QUALITY," ESTABLISHING PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THE ARTICLE; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, SEDIMENT AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS, STANDARDS FOR SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL, PERMIT ISSUANCE CONDITIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ENFORCEMENT OF SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS, PROHIBITION OF ILLICIT DISCHARGE, REPORTING OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES, PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES AND PROVIDING FOR AN APPLICATION FEE TO BE ESTABLISHED F OR THE SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL PLAN; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR REPEALER; PROVIDING FOR S EVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

Councilmember Fernandez moved the ordinance, and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in 2nd reading passed 6-0; Councilmember Collazo was absent.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

None.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Opposition to Reckless Cashless Bail (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and explained that Miami Lakes would not be the first community to pass a resolution of this type. He stated that there has been increased discussion about the possibility of adopting cashless bail as a system in Miami-Dade County and his personal view is if done incorrectly, this could be a disastrous policy for communities. Councilmember Dieguez added that it is important for Miami Lakes to join other cities that have passed resolutions in opposition.

Councilmember Dieguez then stated the following as his motion: to pass a resolution that not only provides certain findings for why we oppose, but also requesting the County Commission to also take a position on cashless bail and to transmit our position to them as well as the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and the Chief Judge of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami-Dade County.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi then stated he has yet to see where cashless bail has worked and he believes it is a danger to our community. He then further explained his position to this issue.

Councilmember Fernandez then seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

B. Council Rules and Procedures (Cid)

Vice Mayor Alvarez explained that Mayor Cid's item were moved to be discussed after Item 17, in order to allow Mayor Cid ample time to make it to the Regular Council Meeting. Because Mayor Cid was present via zoom, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to re-open the Order of Business and to re-insert Mayor Cid's item into the order they were originally presented in the agenda. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Cid presented the item and explained that it was brought to his attention, why do we require speakers, during Public Comments, to state their name and address. Mayor Cid stated that he called the Town Clerk and asked her to do some research about this.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to eliminate the non-written requirement of asking the name and address of individuals during the Public Comments portion, but for this not to be eliminated during Quasi-Judicial hearings, because for Quasi-Judicial hearings is different because they have to be sworn in. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

During discussion, the Town Clerk was asked if there is any law or legal provision that makes it a requirement for speakers to state their name and address for the record, prior to

them participating in Public Comments. Town Clerk Inguanzo responded that she had the opportunity to personally ask the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, Mr. Jose Arroyo, during the Ethics Training held on January 17th in Council Chambers, that question and that he answered that there was no legal provision or law that made it mandatory for speakers to state their name and address prior to them speaking. Mr. Arroyo responded that his preference is for speakers to state their name and address for the record, that there is no law or legal provision that requires them to state their names/address prior to speaking and he also mentioned that it's up to the governing body to decide their own rules.

Town Clerk Inguanzo also explained that as part of her research, she reached out to the Miami-Dade County City Clerks Association and asked the City/Town Clerks if their respective municipalities require speakers to state their name and address for the record. She stated that the vast majority of neighbor municipalities that responded to her question, ask and prefer for speakers to state their name and address and that they consider it a better practice; however, she emphasized that two municipalities responded that if a speaker refuses to disclose such information, they nevertheless allow the person to speak because they cannot impose such a requirement; that they prefer for speakers to provide their name and address but that they allow them to speak, even if they don't provide their personal information.

During discussion, Councilmember Ruano made an amendment to the motion and moved "for every speaker to state their name and address for the record, for purposes of this elective body to know who we are speaking to and to make this part of our Council Meeting Rules". This motion was also considered a strike all amendment and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

After further discussion, Councilmember Dieguez made an amendment to Councilmember Ruano's amendment, which is to make it a requirement for speakers to state their name and address when they address the Town Council and then he motioned and clarified that there are exemptions to those under state statute that are exempted from doing so; that we have to honor speakers proper exemptions and legally recognize exemptions from that requirement. This amendment was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. The Town Clerk called the roll and the amendment by Councilmember Dieguez passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

After further discussion, Councilmember Ruano re-stated her amendment and moved to require speakers to provide, to state their name and address when they speak to elected officials and this is a strike all amendment to Mayor Cid's main motion. Councilmember Ruano made clear that she does not want to remove the non-written requirement of speakers stating their name and address for the record. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

Councilmember Fernandez then asked what would be the consequence if this rule passes and we have a speaker during Public Comments that does not want to provide their name and address for the record? The Deputy Town Attorney responded that they as a Town Council, can have reasonable rules to provide a person with an opportunity to speak. The statute is clear as to what you need to require before you decide on any legislation you have to provide a person a time to be able to speak and give their opinion. He stated that could be restricted in time, place and manner.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the amendment made by Councilmember Ruano and the motion passed 4-3; Mayor Cid, Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

C. Loan of Artifact Display Case for an Upcoming Art Exhibition (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo presented this item and stated it was spurred on by Ms. Priscilla Aleman who curated the artifact cabinet that is in Town Hall. Councilmember Collazo asked Ms. Meaghan Kent, Curator of Exhibitions at the Art and Culture Center in Hollywood, to elaborate on the artifact cabinet which has been requested to be displayed in a gallery. Ms. Kent gave further information on the history of the cabinet and artifacts as well as her reasoning for wanting to loan the artwork. She also explained the loan process and insurance.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to support the loan of the artifact piece to this exhibit but moving forward, implement a process to make sure insurance and parameters are set on how the Town loans or provides public art that has been donated to the Town to be displayed. Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo added that the artifacts from the University of Florida are not on loan so they would have to be retained in Town Hall.

After discussion, the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid absent.

D. Golf Carts (Ruano)

Councilmember Ruano introduced the item and stated the following:

Councilmember Ruano began by clarifying a couple of things and knows that for the most part, the members in the audience who came to speak on the item are individuals that have complied and registered their golf carts as per the ordinance. She stated that the reason for revisiting the conversation held last month is because she strictly asked for enforcement of this ordinance and unfortunately it has been brought to her attention that there is a State Statute that does not allow the Town to enforce things stipulated in the ordinance.

Councilmember Ruano added she has nothing against golf carts, she only wants to promote an environment where there is safety in the community. Her intent of this item was to have the police officers stop individuals and educate those that may not know the parameters in which you are allowed to use the golf cart.

She then presented statistics that Major Ruiz and herself researched regarding vehicular accidents and accidents involving golf carts. More often than not, the accidents involving golf carts end in fatality because there is no seatbelt usage. Councilmember Ruano stated that one of the things found in the Florida Statute is that seatbelt usage is not required on golfcarts so although the Town ordinance should require it, the Town cannot supersede the Statute. She stated in reading the Florida Statute, it says golf carts can be used on roads where the municipality has deemed safe.

With that said, Councilmember Ruano then asked what progress has been made with the 25mph speed reduction previously passed. Public Works Director, Omar Santos stated that the speed reduction interlocal agreement with Miami-Dade County will only apply in local residential roads. Currently, the Town is completing the educational material that will be distributed in the next couple of weeks, and once that is done the installation of the new speed limit signs will begin in phases. Councilmember Ruano explained that is an important point in this conversation because we have not delivered on the speed limit reduction yet, so the fact that these vehicles are traveling on the same roads is unsafe. She added that statistics state if you have a seatbelt on a golf cart, there are more chances of survival, however we cannot enforce that part of the ordinance.

Councilmember Ruano stated that the point she is trying to make is that we passed an ordinance that is unenforceable, and she would like to go back to the drawing board to revisit the ordinance and create something more safe for the community. Perhaps only allowing them to drive in 25mph areas or putting a moratorium on the ordinance until the State does what they are supposed to, seeing as the Deputy Town Attorney spoke with Representative Fabricio and he is more than willing to sponsor this in Tallahassee. She added that she has a conversation with a resident from Royal Oaks that asked to allow golf carts within communities/residential streets without traversing in main thoroughfares. Councilmember Ruano is open to what her colleagues have to say and added that rescinding the ordinance is the last resort. They can either do a moratorium to wait for the State to improve their Statute or wait for the speed limit reduction, limit the roads to be driven on, or leave it as is understanding that it is not a safe environment, and the Florida Statute strictly states that the local government is the one that determines the safety of the roads.

Councilmember Ruano's thoughts were seconded by Councilmember Garcia for discussion. Councilmember Garcia then stated he is in support of maintaining the golf cart ordinance however, he understands Councilmember Ruano's issues with it. He added that he would like to encourage the use of golf carts by creating golf cart parking spaces around Town, decreasing the annual fee, and requiring the users to become educated. He stated that he does not want to punish the residents that have registered the right way. Councilmember

Garcia asked that the Town to enforce the ordinance, to lower the speed limit, and do what we can to not be legally accountable. He added he does not support rescinding the ordinance now, he believes education and enforcement will make it safer.

Councilmember Collazo mentioned he recently participated in a baseball tournament in Cutler Bay, and he saw some things the municipality did to improve safety such as golf cart lanes and parking spaces to make it a more golf cart friendly community. He added that he would hate to penalize the responsible people by a complete repeal of the ordinance. Councilmember Collazo then asked Councilmember Ruano if she spoke to State Representative Fabricio about putting something onto this legislative agenda and Councilmember Ruano responded that she did not speak to Representative Fabricio, but that the Legal Department did.

Then, Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella stated that he met with Representative Fabricio and brought this to his attention and through conversation, Representative Fabricio mentioned that if the Town were to add that as a legislative priority, he or one of his colleagues would sponsor an item. This would allow the Town to be able to adopt the installation and use of seatbelts on golf carts, and if a police officer sees seatbelts are not being worn, they can make a stop at that time.

Councilmember Collazo thinks that this is something we can immediately work on to add as a legislative priority for this legislative season. He then made an amendment to the motion to update the legislative priorities to ensure that the state can empower municipalities to enforce seatbelt restrictions. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella added that he placed a draft resolution on the dais just in case that was the direction of the Town Council. Councilmember Collazo stated he has not had the opportunity to see the resolution, but if it encompasses what was spoken about which is the opportunity to address seatbelt enforcement, then that's something we can do immediately. He then asked what a moratorium would look like and if there is a way, we can put a pause on the issuance without penalizing the ones currently registered. Councilmember Ruano added that to her, for safety reasons, the whole ordinance should be put on a pause until we can figure it out.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo withdrew his amendment because based on discussion, this is moving toward a repeal and he clarified that until alternative solutions are brought forth, he is not in favor of that. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella suggested that he will work with the Town Manager and Town's Police Major on ways to strengthen the ordinance and ways to increase enforcement.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a strike-all amendment to the main motion and also motioned for the following: to direct the Town Attorney's to conduct a new review and report back to the Town Council in the next 3 months with ways to strengthen the ordinance, authorizing the Town Manager to work with our lobbyists representatives in Tallahassee

and State Representative Fabricio to amend the State Statutes to permit localities to enforce certain requirements like seatbelts, and lastly, to create a public awareness campaign to put out to the public and perhaps look at having forums in which registered users acknowledge they are to comply. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez included a friendly amendment to Councilmember Dieguez's motion to look into engaging the Town's Neighborhood Improvement Committee and Public Safety Committee and to have them review the ordinance and give the Town Council suggestions. Councilmember Dieguez accepted the friendly amendment.

Councilmember Ruano then made an amendment to Councilmember Dieguez's motion to consider removing the main thoroughfares for the time being until the speed limit is adjusted.

Vice Mayor Alvarez asked the Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo to read all amendments to the main motion and she as well as Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella, clarified the amendments made by Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Fernandez, and Councilmember Ruano.

Councilmember Fernandez then seconded Councilmember Ruano's amendment for discussion. Councilmember Fernandez then stated that the speed limit reduction would not apply to the major thoroughfares anyway and that disallowing the use for the next 90 days would not make a difference once the speed limit changes; therefore, he believes it may become moot. Councilmember Ruano then pulled her amendment.

The strike-all amendment made by Councilmember Dieguez passed 4-2 with Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Garcia in opposition. Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Collazo then made a point of order to clarify that the golf cart ordinance remains intact and in three months the attorneys will bring back recommendations to the ordinance.

E. Federal Funding Priority (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and stated that this item was to be discussed concurrently with an item that was going to be brought up by Councilmember Fernandez, regarding his final proposed design plan for the Optimist Park.

Councilmember Dieguez then motioned that part of our Federal Lobbying Package for this upcoming year funding for the Optimist Park Improvements not to exceed approximately \$6 million dollars; based on conversations held with Town Manager and Town Staff, he stated that this is a reasonable request and that it will encompass Councilmember Ruano's preference for Plan #1 and /or at least give us a substantial headway on phasing Option 3.

He also stated that he thinks that a good number between the two possible designs and that we will probably go in that direction. He stated that he wants to keep the promise he made residents, which is that if the Item did not pass, that he would continue to pursue other ways to make improvements, and perhaps push further than we did with our Intergovernmental partners to get funding for the park. The motion was seconded simultaneously by Vice Mayor Alvarez, Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Fernandez.

Mayor Cid motioned to make an amendment, to make this also a County Funding Priority, and he explained that while the Federal Government does not have a history of funding, the County has a funding history; he stated that he wants to make it a funding priority with Miami-Dade County. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. Councilmember Dieguez added that TOML does not have a County Lobbyist but stated that we all should work together to lobby the Chairman and other members of the County Commission. Councilmember Dieguez also emphasized that a design has still not been picked but there is a deadline for the funding request to the Federal Government. He explained that this item is to give the Town Manager authorization to start working on putting that request into the pipeline.

Vice Mayor Alvarez summarized that we need to request \$6 million of Appropriation from the Federal government and to seek additional funding from the County.

Councilmember Fernandez clarified that when he became aware that Councilmember Collazo requested a Sunshine Meeting for February 27th, he withheld releasing his item regarding the Optimist Park Improvements and that he will discuss it with the Town Council during the Sunshine Meeting.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the amendment passed 6-0; Councilmember Collazo was absent. The main motion, as amended, passed 6-0; Councilmember Collazo was absent.

After the vote, Town Manager Pidermann explained that in the March Regular Council Meeting, the Carryforward Amendment will take place and he would like the Town Council to have a Workshop after the February 27th Sunshine Meeting and before the March Regular Council Meeting, so that the outcome of the Sunshine Meeting could be discussed and also to discuss how much money will be dedicated towards the Phase I Optimist Park.

After discussion, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to have a Workshop on the Optimist Park. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion for discussion. Councilmember Dieguez stated that he would prefer to have a Special Call Meeting instead of a Workshop. After further discussion, Councilmember Dieguez mentioned that once the Town Clerk schedules the Workshop, the Town Clerk will also circulate a Special Call Meeting request to take place immediately thereafter; he stated he will include three items to be discussed- the design, the budget and the next steps to take place. He also mentioned that his preference would be for the Special Call Meeting to take place right after the Workshop.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the motion to have the Workshop passed 5-0; Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano were absent.

F. Council Meeting Broadcasting Equipment (Cid)

Mayor Cid made a motion for the Town Clerk to begin researching options regarding the upgrading of the 10-year-old broadcasting equipment in the Town Council Chambers, and to report back to the Town Council. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano were absent.

G. Accessibility on Montrose (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and stated that at the crosswalk at Montrose, the crossing light is not very accessible to the individuals whose are wheelchair bound and he would like for the Town Administration to address this and make it a priority in this budget year. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Alvarez.

Mayor Cid then asked for this to be done also at Fairway Drive and asked if an automatic system for crosswalk beacon activation could be installed on both places. Councilmember Dieguez accepted Mayor Cid's suggestions.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano were absent.

H. VR Headset (Cid)

Mayor Cid made a motion to direct Town Staff to begin acquiring one oculus, which is relatively cheap, that Town Staff and Committees can use and explore these technologies. Councilmember Garcia then seconded the motion.

Chief Technology and Innovation Officer German Cure stated it's a small investment that helps better understand technology and helps us prepare for something promised to be a game changer. He added it is still very fragmented and there is volatility risk; however, he believes it is a small risk for the Town.

After discussion on this item, the motion failed 3-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition. Councilmember Fernandez was absent.

I. Solar Project at Broward Basketball Courts (Cid)

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to waive Section 6.9 and 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order for both items and Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Cid made a motion to direct Town Staff to see if there are any partners they can find in the private sector, like FPL, to work with to install solar panels over the basketball courts at Miami Lakes Optimist Park. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo then added that the School Board Member is taking on the airnasium as one of the projects he believes can be a deliverable to find funding for in the park improvements. He added that he would like to make sure that this is part of the discussions when Town Staff reached out to solar panel companies. Councilmember Ruano then asked Mayor Cid if in this FPL pursuit, would the structure for the airnasium be included or only the solar panels and he stated yes, it would include the structure.

The motion passed 7-0.

J. Honoring Councilwoman Dorothy Cook (Cid)

Mayor Cid made a motion to do a Tree Planting Ceremony at Veterans Park in honor of former Councilwoman Dorothy Cook. Mayor Cid stated that she was one of the founding members of the Miami Lakes Civic Association and one of the organizers of the first Veterans Parade, and that many of the traditions that we as a town enjoy today, she worked hard for them to be passed from generation to generation. The motion was seconded by the entire Town Council. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Fernandez was absent.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

- A. Mayor Cid presented the report and spoke about the Mayor's Daddy-Daughter Dance. He stated that he would like for this to take place on Friday, April 28, 2023. He explained that this dance will be hosted by Mr. Mauritz Acosta's non-profit organization and the Office of the Mayor, and the funds will be used to benefit the civic education at schools. Mayor Cid asked the Town Council for permission to use the Roberto Alonso Community Center on April 28th for that purpose. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez supported the item but stated that he wanted to make sure that proper posture was taken, given the fact that this report was not included in the agenda. He contested the addition of this report and asked if we (The Town Council) can vote on this item, because it was not included in the agenda. Town Attorney Gastesi stated that if it's not an emergency item, he prefers it to be put off or to be done under a Special Call Meeting. Town Attorney Gastesi then asked what the nature of the item was, and Mayor Cid explained it. Councilmember Dieguez asked the Town Attorney for an opinion and

emphasized that they as a governing body need to follow the rules and he emphasized that the Town Council relies on the Town Attorney, as the parliamentarian.

Then after discussion, the Town Attorney stated that he will not take issue with hearing something to reserve a room. Councilmember Dieguez then stated that the Town Attorney has answered his point of order, but that he just wanted to be clear that it's a bad habit that could filter into more substantive items down the line. He kept on saying that we need to fill the bad habits early on. Town Attorney Gastesi then stated that he does not disagree with Councilmember Dieguez but emphasized that he is not going to have an issue with this one item. Vice Mayor Alvarez then stated, "All right" and he moved on to the next item of the agenda. The Town Clerk needed clarification, as to whether the item was approved or not, and she asked All in Favor? Vice Mayor Alvarez responded yes, and no one opposed the item.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Monthly Report on MLOP (Bajdaun)

Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a report and stated that in the Optimist Park, some minor repairs are scheduled to take place. He also provided a short update on the vendor who proposed the lighting of the basketball courts. He mentioned that the vendor is now looking at resurfacing and start with ground level and what they would like to do there and if anything, comes to fruition, Town Staff would report it to the Town Council, for their approval. He explained that the vendor deviated from the lighting aspect and are trying to provide some floor renovation so the courts could be utilized.

Councilmember Collazo complemented Mr. Bajdaun's work. He also shared that enrollment is high- that we are not losing kids to other parks. He also shared that he would like to increase the capacity of the park.

B. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos presented the report. He highlighted some projects from the list and answered questioned posed by the Town Council.

C. Monthly Police Report (Ruiz)

Major Ruiz presented his report and stated that in year 2022, the crime rate went down, and this was significantly better than in other districts. He also provided a brief synopsis of the 4 months of conducting burglary and traffic details. He mentioned that in addition to the reduction in crimes, they recovered 5 stolen license plates that were identified by the PRR system. In addition, he emphasized that auto thefts and robberies were very low- the best year ever. Regarding the LPS, he mentioned that with the grant money received, they will purchase

2 vehicles mobile LPR units. Major Ruiz emphasized that most of the auto thefts are done with the keys being left in the car.

Councilmember Dieguez thanked Major Ruiz for taking the time to explain in detail, the vehicular burglary detail that the TOML is funding, as well as the traffic enforcement, and for the progress done.

D. Open Forum Listening Session (Pidermann)

Town Manager Pidermann provided a recap of the Open Forum Listening Sessions that were held throughout 2022. He stated that they were not well attended – actually, zero residents attended the last session. Town Manager Pidermann recommends that these sessions are discontinued due to lack of effectiveness.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the Town Manager’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Alvarez. After discussion, the motion passed 5-2. Mayor Cid and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

E. Report on LPR for Loch Ness Community (Dieguez/Bajdaun)

Town Manager Pidermann presented the report and mentioned that this is a follow-up item to what Councilmember Dieguez’ brought forward as a request from some residents in the Loch Ness community. He explained that in order to put an LPR in Loch Ness, the upfront capital cost is approximately \$20,000. He explained that the goal with the LPR network is to be able to protect every entry point in the town; the goal is to build out a network to protect all entry points. The entry point in 67th Avenue and the Palmetto is soon to be completed and it will be completely protected.

Town Manager Pidermann recommends for the TOML not take a burden on tax dollars to protect specific communities. He recommends that communities should take this task themselves, that it is not prudent to have taxpayers money spent to protect just one community; he added that the TOML will work with them and assist them but not spend taxpayers money.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that by protecting the entire network, he provides protection at a lower cost. He added that the 2 vehicles mobile LPR units will be helpful on this matter. Councilmember Dieguez thanked the Town Manager and stated that in light of the information provided , he would communicate with the Loch Ness residents and that he will not request further action.

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

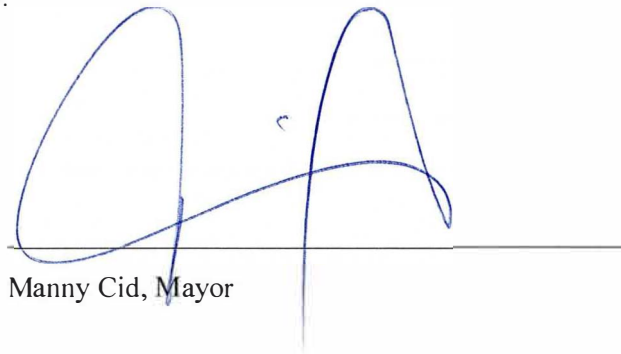
Town Attorney Raul Gastesi reported on the Pizzi matter. He explained that they need money to defend the case and he requested \$75,000 for their defense counsel. He also asked money for the Abella case. The Town Attorney also explained that \$980 are for the Valiente case.

Councilmember Collazo motioned to move \$85,980 from the contingency to the Attorney's line item. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Alvarez. The motion passed and all were in favor.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

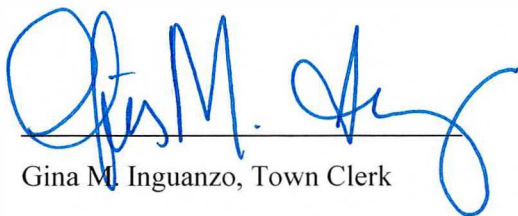
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Approved this 14th day of March 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk