

MINUTES
Workshop on Budget
April 5, 2023
6:30 PM
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 6:39 p.m.

The following councilmembers were present: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo, Councilmember Josh Dieguez, Councilmember Tony Fernandez, Councilmember Ray Garcia, and Councilmember Marilyn Ruano. Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez and Mayor Manny Cid were present via zoom.

The following Town Staff members were present: Town Manager Ed Pidermann, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo, Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez, Assistant City Manager, Dr. Tony Lopez, Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer Kay Grant, Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella, Principal Town Planner Susana Alonso, Communications and Community Affairs Director Clarisell de Cardens, Grants and Government Affairs Manager Renee Wilson, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer German Cure, Public Works Director Omar Santos, Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun.

2. Moment of Silence: Councilmember Luis E. Collazo led the prayer.

3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

4. Public Comments:

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

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

Mr. Moises Ariza participated in in-person public comments. He spoke about the excessive speeding in his neighborhood and asked the Town Council to consider budgeting for the placement of speed bumps to reduce speeding.

Mr. Jim Hamilton participated in in-person public comments. He spoke about previous investments in the Town and has asked the Town Council to hold on other projects to allow for the current carryover funds to be allocated to the Optimist Park improvements.

Mr. Hector Abad participated in in-person public comments. He addressed topics such as the EAB and their funding as well as adding more school security to Miami Lakes K-8 Center.

Ms. Karla Dimartino participated in in-person public comments. She mentioned the incident that occurred at Miami Lakes K-8 Center and asked the Town Council to please consider using funds to supplement security at the school. She then suggested a few things to increase safety for the Town Council to consider.

Ms. Millie Gonzalez participated in in-person public comments. She spoke about the incident at Miami Lakes K-8 Center and asked for an additional officer at the school. She then stated the parents would love to have a Town Hall with the school, principal, School Board, and Town Council.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez participated in in-person public comments. She spoke about the surplus funds and a list of what the residents want the funds to be used for. She added that no funds should go to the Optimist Park and that the funds should go to sidewalk and street maintenance as well as tree planting and removal.

Ms. Esther Colon participated in in-person public comments. She gave comments regarding the Optimist Park and the repairs should not be done to the park. She then asked the Town Council to do the will of the people.

Ms. Mavis Molina participated in in-person public comments. She mentioned that more funding is needed for security at Miami Lakes schools for safety purposes.

Mr. Daniel Gonzalez participated in in-person public comments. He provided the Town Clerk with copies of an aerial image of his neighborhood to be distributed to the Town Council. He then addressed the need for speed bumps in his neighborhood down 164th Street to reduce speeding.

After Public Comments closed and the discussion regarding the budget was held, Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to reopen Public Comments and Councilmember Ruano seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ms. Vivian Levy participated in in-person public comments. She expressed that she does not agree with the Special Needs Advisory Board paying for their Town Liaison through their donation funds. She added she would appreciate anything the Town Council can do to include the Liaison's pay into the budget.

5. Items Discussed:

Councilmember Dieguez asked the Town Commander Major Javi Ruiz to approach the podium and to please speak about the parental concerns that were raised during the Public Comments section of the Agenda, regarding the incident that took place in Miami Lakes K-8 Center. Major Ruiz provided a recap of some of the actions that are being taken in terms of the incident that took place in the school. He also answered questions posed by the Town Council.


Town Manager Pidermann provided an explanation of the Budget Amendment FY 2022-23, which included the Fund Balance & Carryforward. He also enumerated the balances from the prior year, miscellaneous items, administrative transfers and other items, all for the Town Council's consideration. Town Manager Pidermann also answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Discussion was held amongst the councilmembers, but arguments and comments were reserved to be held during the Regular Council Meeting.

Adjournment:

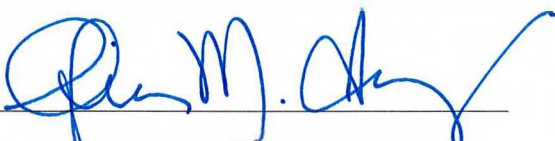
This meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Approved this 9th day of May 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk