

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**August 8, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:**

Councilmember Garcia took a moment of personal privilege to recognize Mr. Richy Pelaez, a soccer coach for the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club. He then called up the coaches, managers, and members of the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club Under 14 team and presented them with certificates of recognition for winning the National Championship. He also presented the team with a proclamation for their accomplishments.

Councilmember Collazo recognized the coaches of the 8U Padres, and he presented certificates of recognition to the members of the 8U Padres for their Spring 2023 Championship win. The coaches then said a few words regarding their team and how proud they are of the kids on the team. Ms. Clarisell de Cardenas

Mr. William Perez, Chairman of the Veterans Committee presented certificates of recognition to former members, Mr. Michael Coote, Ms. Martha Gonzalez, and Ms. Lourdes Iglesias, for their service and dedication to supporting veterans and first responders while in the Veterans Affairs Committee. Also, Former Chairman, Mr. Michael Coote, thanked the Town Council for their support and thanked the former members for their contributions.

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:50 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia, Marilyn Ruano, and Mayor Manny Cid. Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez was present via zoom.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Father Yonhatan Londono from St. Benedict Catholic Church let the prayer.

Ariel Fernandez from "Better You Minute", led a moment of mediation via YouTube.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town Attorney Raul Gastesi.

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

Councilmember Fernandez moved Item 9A to be heard before Public Comments and Item 14C immediately after Public Comments. Councilmember Ruano moved Item 13B to before Public Comments, after Item 9A and she also pulled Item 10K from the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Dieguez moved the Order of Business as amended and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor was absent.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (1:18:33)**

*(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.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about the importance of thoughtful and careful municipal planning, the Town Charter, the Constitution, and the original concept of the Town.

Ms. Juliana Correa came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about her project with GiGi's Playhouse and Angels Reach, providing 50 students with recordable books. She thanked the Town Council and the Miami Lakes Foundation for their support.

Mr. Gary Snow came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke about the Town Council considering to close Main Street and making it a pedestrian street on Saturdays and Sundays. He shared that he would oppose to such a policy.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds and residents from Section 1 Special Taxing District came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She asked them all to stand up to be recognized.

Mr. Harry Bolinger came before the Town Council to participate in public comments and thanked the Town Council for their hard work. He also spoke about the license plate reader for the guard gate. He shared that they were effective, but questioned if they were necessary for Section 1. He asked the Town Council to consider not spending money on items that are not needed.

Mr. Boris Foster came before the Town Council to participate in public comments and expressed his thanks to the Town Council and Town Staff for their efforts in reviewing the Town Budget. He then shared his concerns that the Section 1 7 Board Members are not representing all the residents of Section 1.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds returned to the podium and read comments from Bertha Alvarez, Florentino Amaro, Rick Gonzalez, Modesto Jimenez, Silvia Gonzalez, William Saravia, James Hamilton, Frank San Miguel. Their comments expressed opposition to installation of speed bumps at the guard gate, and lack of communication from the Section 1 Guard Gate Advisory Board. Ms. Reynolds read comments from David Achay, who shared a lack of communication on behalf of the Advisory Board, but who was in favor of the guard gate speed bumps and read a comment from

Ms. Claudia Luces. She expressed concern about the proposed installation of a permanent band shell in Veteran's Park. Ms. Luces wrote that she opposed such construction, especially if it would result in cutting spending on police and public safety.

Ms. Tina Gallinar came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She urged the Town Council to be frugal with spending. She expressed her concern on how funds are being spent and asked for better communication with the Section 1 Advisory Board.

Ms. Enid Lomax came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She read an email from Ms. Diana Fernandez. Her comments expressed concern over a lack of communication of when Advisory Board meetings take place and to express opposition to the guard gate changes. She recommended sending text and emails to notify residents.

Mr. Steven Herzberg came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He expressed concern that funds budgeted for communication are not being used fully. He recommended that upcoming meetings be shared through regular mail and email. He also recommended having a meeting scheduled 6 months to a year in advance so that all interested parties are aware.

Esther Colon came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She shared on the importance of having a community cultural center but opposed using Veteran's Park for this purpose.

There being no further public comments, public comments were closed.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Mr. Chad Sorentino to the Veterans Committee by Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez.

Ms. Katherine Alvarez to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Luis E. Collazo.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. Economic Development Committee**

Chairperson Matthew Casamayor presented the Committee Report. He updated the Town Council on the EDC's Business Networking Socials, Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, and the Quarterly Newsletter. He then asked for a Town Staff update on the letter to Grocers that the EDC had prepared, and Town Manager Pidermann provided the update. Chairperson Casamayor then asked about the attendance change in the Committee Rules and Town Manager Pidermann gave an explanation on the new process regarding attendance. Chairman Casamayor spoke about the upcoming event for EDC, a Business Bootcamp, which will be their big event in the Town. The event will be on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Town Hall from 9:30am to 12:30pm and it will feature different speakers from different business organizations in Miami Lakes.

Councilmember Garcia then posed questions regarding Business Park East and expanding business in that area.

#### B. Veterans Committee

Chairperson William Perez presented the Committee Report and began by updating the Council on some of the things the committee has been doing, especially with other committees such as the Elderly Affairs Committee and Public Safety Committee. He proposed the Mayor and Council create a proclamation declaring November as Veteran and First Responder Month in the Town. He then also mentioned that he asked Mr. Fred Senra from Miami Lakes Automall to fund banners for first responders who are residents or work in the Town, similar to the veterans banners. The Veterans Committee plans to work with the Public Safety Committee on this initiative.

Chairman Perez then stated the committee has created a plan of action for improvements at Veterans Park and the committee hopes to set up a Veterans Park Foundation to raise funds for the improvements. Regarding a clam shell stage, Chairman Perez then mentioned that Veterans Park is used for many performances; therefore, instead of renting a stage each time, the park should have a permanent stage which could be funded by the foundation money.

Councilmember Dieguez stated that he loves the committee's proactiveness and can support many of the items overtime with respect to the flag display, small memorial wall, and the battlefield cross outlines in the memo. However, he expressed his concerns with placing the clam shell stage at the park as it is overwhelmed in terms of capacity. He would like to see the park maintain as green and open as possible although he does like the idea of a cultural center somewhere else. Councilmember Garcia also stated that the clam shell stage is a good idea; however, not for Veterans Park.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to adopt the concept of the four proposals but to remove the clam shell stage and to also move forward with the concept of funding these proposals through fundraisers, not necessarily a foundation. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she cannot support the clam shell stage at this location however it is a great idea for a different location. Mayor Cid also stated that he is fine going forward in the direction of the motion however to also explore other options.

The motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Garcia in opposition.

Councilmember Garcia stated that he voted in opposition because he would like to see other areas where the clam shell stage might be more feasible.

Before ending the report, Town Manager Pidermann asked if a motion is needed to allocate the proceeds from the Reindeer Run and Chairman Perez stated yes. Chairman Perez then explained that the 2022 Reindeer Run proceeds will go to Combat and Veterans Outdoors. The committee only has to pay for the attendees' flights and the organization provides lodging and meals and they will go hunting and fishing. The organization also provides therapy and is ADA compliant. As for the 2023 Reindeer Run proceeds, the committee wants to set up a veterans family scholarship program. He explained if a veteran has a child that is a senior in

high school and is a Miami Lakes resident, they may apply. The scholarship will be based on the veteran's status not the child's academics.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move both ideas. Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Collazo seconded simultaneously.

Councilmember Collazo added that regarding the organization, he would like to accommodate Miami Lakes veterans first and then other veterans that qualify. Councilmember Ruano then posed questions regarding the scholarship.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion to reopen the order of business and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Fenandez then moved Item 16C to after Consent Calendar and the motion passed unanimously.

## **9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

### Mirtha Mendez Podium Unveiling

Councilmember Collazo presented the item and the Town Council recognized Ms. Mendez' engagement with the Town, her attendance to the public meetings since the Town's incorporation, her speaking her mind at these meetings, her activism in the community and for voicing her opinion in the matters related to the Town. The Mayor and the Town Council honored her by naming the podium in Council Chamber, "Mirtha Mendez Podium", in recognition and in honor of her commitment to the Town of Miami Lakes and its Town Charter.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

## **10. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

### A. Approval of Minutes

- July 10, 2023 Working Budget Workshop on General Funds
- July 11, 2023 Regular Council 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 2023-28, COMMERCE WAY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO ACOSTA TRACTORS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$3,117,881.00); APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY LINE-ITE INTO THE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS-COMMERCE

WAY DRAINAGE LINE-ITEM (402-563800-21S11); 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, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2023-26 ROYAL OAKS FIRST ADDITION DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO ATC ENGINEERING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTEEN DOLLARS 00/100 (\$1,650,418.00); APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE LINE-ITEM INTO THE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS-ROYAL OAKS 1<sup>ST</sup> ADDITION DRAINAGE LINE-ITEM (402-563800-21S16); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; 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.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH 300 ENGINEERING GROUP, P.A. FOR ROYAL OAKS FIRST ADDITION DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN NINETY ONE DOLLAR AND 00/100 (\$138,791.00); MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 22-307; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH 300 ENGINEERING GROUP, P.A. FOR COMMERCE WAY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES FOR AND AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR DOLLARS AND 57/100 (\$170,894.57); MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 22-307; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND

BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH CALVIN GIORDANO AND ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR ROYAL POINTE (NW 158 TERR) DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTIONS SERVICES, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN DOLLARS AND 48/100 (\$111,967.48); MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 22-307; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- G. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH EXP U.S. SERVICES, INC. ("EXP"), FOR NW 158 ST DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTIONS SERVICES, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND 60/100 (\$102,650.60); MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 21-285; MODIFYING BUDGETED LINE ITEMS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- H. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2023-20, TO RG UNDERGROUND ENGINEERING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$879,226); APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE LINE-ITEM INTO THE NW 158<sup>TH</sup> STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS LINE-ITEM (405-563805-ARP01); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; 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.

- I. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2023-35, TO HARTEC GROUP, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$788,876.00); APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE LINE-ITEM INTO THE ROYAL POINTE (NW 158<sup>TH</sup> TERRACE) DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (405-563805-ARP02); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; 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.

- J. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2023-14R DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF THE MIAMI LAKES ENTRY FEATURE TO MULTIPLE MEDIA NETWORK, INC. DBA BEST SIGN MONUMENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TEN DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$23,310.00) AND A NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS AMOUNT FOR WAYFINDING; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; 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.

- K. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION EQUIPMENT ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS PURSUANT TO BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL CONTRACT EF04-21 WITH VIGILANT SOLUTIONS, LLC. PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-157 OF THE TOWN CODE (THE TOWN'S PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Councilmember Ruano.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to approve, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.



- L. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, FISCAL YEAR 2023–2024, RESILIENT FLORIDA GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RESILIENT FLORIDA GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- M. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, FISCAL YEAR 2022, EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM; 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.

**11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:**

None.

**12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:**

None.

**13. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Ruano motion to approve the resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Vice Mayor Alvarez were absent.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, NAMING 59<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, FRED SENRA WAY; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor and Town Council thanked Mr. Fred Senra for his contributions to the Town, to the Chamber of Commerce, to the Veteran Affairs Committee and for the work he puts into our community and for being a mentor to us all and for leading by example. The Town Council thanked him and stated that they are honored to name 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue as “Fred Senra Way”.

Mr. Senra thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for his recognition.

Councilmember Collazo motioned and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR RFP 2023-30, ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO BRIGHTVIEW LANDSCAPE SERVICES, INC. AND JUNIPER LANDSCAPING OF FLORIDA, LLC. IN AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS PER PARK; 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.

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to approve, and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

The Town Manager explained that Town Staff will do a deep dive and explore the cost benefit analysis would be and make a comparison of what the costs would be if we had in-house, including proper equipment in the staffing and that Town Staff will also do a deep dive analysis with our procurement ordinance. This report will be completed by Town Staff in 6 months. Councilmember Fernandez moved to recommend the Town Manager’s recommendation and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez and Councilmember Dieguez were absent.

#### **14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

##### **A. Town Center District Amendment (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that he would like to make an amendment to the Town Center District that allows as an option, in the future, for the closure of Main Street. He explained that it would make the code much better in terms of incentivizing and making it

more pedestrian friendly. Mayor Cid then made a motion to amend the Town Center District to allow by right as an option, the closure of Main Street. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-3; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

#### **B. Emergency Repairs (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that he would like for Town Staff to look into having a team of employees to respond within 24 to 48 hours of a request, to take care of basic maintenance and emergency repairs; he further explained that perhaps, by having little teams, they would be able to respond in a timely manner. Councilmember Garcia then motioned to have Town Staff look into the cost of creating a little tiger team to address these issues and analyze what we would save compared to contracts. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Mr. Omar Santos, Public Works Director, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

#### **C. NSD Budgets (Fernandez)**

Councilmember Dieguez moved to waive the applicable rules on this item and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Fernandez introduced the item, provided a brief overview and stated that this proposed budget is the result of the Town Budget Workshop had on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. He explained the Town Staff revised the proposed NSD Budget based on the conversations had during said workshop. He then proceeded to address some of those proposed changes in the proposed budget included in the agenda.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion to approve the amended NSD Budgets. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo stated that he was voting in favor of the motion but he said he wanted to make some amendments to the main motion. After providing an explanation to his amendment, Councilmember Collazo motioned for the NSD's to have a maximum cap of 10% of reserves, especially for the Lakes Districts and for any special project in excess of 10%, for it to go to a straw ballot vote for all the residents to be notified. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the amendment.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo then added perhaps the need to create a sinking fund and eliminate the need of having reserves all together. Councilmember Fernandez then stated that he would be ok with any increase over 5%, to trigger the straw ballot poll or perhaps a direct mail to every resident. These ideas were provided for Town Staff to consider.

Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks and Recreation Director, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Ms. Melissa Hernandez, Budget Officer, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Garcia stated that he wanted to hear from the residents, and he made a motion to re-open Public Comments. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Public Comments- (2:18:52)**

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds provided public comments regarding the suggestion of placing a speedhump in the visitor lane and she stated that this would require a traffic study and that you need to find concurrency, and that the entire community needs to be asked, as well as Fire, Police Rescue and School Buses; that they all need to be considered before deciding.

Mr. Boris Forester provided public comments regarding the importance of the Special Taxing District; that costs have gone up in the last 2 years, spoke about the importance of following what the Ordinance allows them to do, lack of notice to the community and that taxes should be spent wisely.

Mr. Eddie Blanco provided public comments and stated that he is disappointed that the Town Council rolled back the taxes; that he is concern about how staff will be able to provide the level of services that residents are used to; that raises to staff should be given to those that have earned it through merit and not across the border.

Ms. Martha Gonzalez provided public comments and stated that she is a very happy resident, that she is in opposition to the installation of speedbumps at the guard gate, and that what residents want is security.

There being no one else from the public wishing to speak, Councilmember Ruano closed Public Comments.

Councilmember Collazo then clarified his amendment to the main motion and restated that his amend is to have a 10% reserve as a maximum cap, perhaps to bifurcate between the NSD's and the NSD-Lakes, and in lieu of the reserves, to perhaps have a sinking fund. Councilmember Ruano then stated that she would support the 10% cap for all the NSD's, and that the contingency should not be spent in capital improvement, without the consent of the residents.

After further discussion, Councilmember Ruano made an amendment to Councilmember Collazo's motion, and she motioned to support and cap all NSD's contingency funds at 10% and any capital improvements that would be needed, regardless of the amount, would have to go to the residents for a straw ballot. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Mayor Cid were absent.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to re-open public comments, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in public comments and spoke about speedbumps on public roadways; that there is a 20 second delay on Fire Rescue vehicles when driving by areas with speedbumps; he suggested for staff to reach out to Miami-Dade Rescue and ask them to opine

on what the ramifications would be of installing speedbumps in the visitor lane; he spoke about the reserves and he suggested for parameters to be placed on the budget items. He also asked why they are being charged so much money for the LPR's cameras.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to re-open Public Comments, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Ms. Hope Reynolds participated in public comments at stated that many residents did not vote to get guard gates to protect arms, but to protect themselves.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to remove the \$1,000 speedbumps from Miami Lakes Section 1. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 3-3; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Garcia and Vice Mayor Alvarez voted in opposition.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion, as amended, and the motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Mayor Cid was absent.

#### **D. Budgetary Reforms (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented the item and explained that he saw some discrepancies between the Tax Collectors actuals and our actuals. Mayor Cid then made a motion and asked Town Staff to look at the last 5 years of collected Ad-Valorem Actuals and pass a resolution so we can start possibly budgeting at a higher clip than the 95% that is currently budgeted now, and this hopefully provide a clearer picture of our budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano, and the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

#### **E. EV Charger (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and stated that he would like to have an EV charger in Town Hall. Councilmember Garcia then made a motion directing Town Staff to look into allowing EV Charger in Town Hall at little cost. Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Collazo mentioned that they would be ok with Town Staff coming back with this item if there is no cost to the Town. After discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

#### **F. 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue Roadway Project Reporting (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented the item and stated that this is the biggest and most important infrastructure project in the town's history. He then motioned directing the Town Attorney to compile and work with the Town Manager and Town Staff, and compile a worksheet, on a weekly basis to keep the Town Council updated -including the eminent domain process, the FAA and with the County. This worksheet to be sent to the Town Council at least once a week. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion for discussion.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that the Project Manager, holistically speaking, is the Public Works Director. He mentioned that this project is very complex, and that every month, Town Staff has a general Capital Improvement Meeting, and that at this meeting, they go over

every Capital Improvement Program and that the Deputy Town Attorney is included in these monthly meetings. He then specified that for 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project, they also have a separate stand-alone meeting, every month, and at this stand-alone meeting, they discuss all the legal matters that the Deputy Town Attorney is involved with -including the eminent domain, the issues with the license agreements with Miami-Dade Aviation to cut through their runway approach, the transfer of lands that we will need from the School Board on the north side, in addition to the land that we will need from Caterpillar, also on the north side. The Town Manager stated that Town Staff and the Deputy Town Attorney provide monthly updates on these meetings. Councilmember Garcia then suggested that if this is already done and kept by Public Works, perhaps this information can be sent out via email to the Town Council, providing all the information that is being done regarding this project and not having to create a new report. Mayor Cid agreed with this suggestion.

Councilmember Collazo also agreed and asked for this information to be shared with the residents during the council meetings, perhaps via the Manager's Report, but to also have this Manager's Report in writing and to send it to the Town Council as backup material. He mentioned that it should not be a weekly thing, just a monthly report of what already the Public Works Director has in the works. The Deputy Town Attorney then stated that he would work with Public Works on this monthly report. Councilmember Collazo then suggested to take out of the agenda, the MLOP Monthly Report.

The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to extend the meeting to midnight. Mayor Cid seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition. Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

#### **G. Resolution Wishing Chief Alfredo "Freddy" Ramirez III a Speedy Recovery (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented the item. He made a motion for the Town of Miami Lakes to draft a resolution and wish Chief "Freddy" Ramirez III a speedy recovery and also, a resolution to make sure that we as a town, are doing everything to support our first responders, and town employees, with our Mental Health Task Force, with our HR Department, to make sure that our officers, first responders and Town Staff, know that there is help and that we are doing everything possible to give them resources to insure mental health. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

#### **H. Miami Lakes Budget Advisory Committee (Cid)**

Mayor Cid made a motion to waive Section 6.9 and 7.2, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 4-1; Councilmember Dieguez voted in opposition.

Mayor Cid presented the item, and he made a motion to have a discussion and create the Miami Lakes Budget Advisory Committee. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Councilmember Garcia stated that as long as it does not create undue burden for Town Staff, he is all for creating this committee. Mayor Cid explained that the TOML has an investment committee, and that this committee advises regarding investments. Mayor Cid stated that

perhaps this Investment Committee could be expanded and have them have an extra meeting a year, and maybe add a few new members, and give advice regarding the budget. Mayor Cid added that he wants to give the Town Manager latitude to come back with a resolution to that effect- for the Investment Committee to not only look at financial and investment matters but also budgetary matters. Councilmember Fernandez stated that he is opened to giving the Town Manager direction to study what this would look like, what the parameters of that would look like and what the effect on Town Staff time would be and for The Town Manager to come with a report in a month of two, for the Town Council to discuss.

After discussion amongst the Town Councilmembers, Councilmember Garcia then stated that he would like to make a motion, to have the Mayor's motion and to look into how we did the "Finance Committee" and for the Town Manager to report back to the Town Council whenever he has time, and for us to see how can we implement that, to see if that is something that we can do. Mayor Cid seconded the amendment to the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the amendment by Councilmember Garcia failed 3-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion by Mayor Cid, seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The motion failed 3-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

## **15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

### **A. Additional Police Officers (Cid)**

Mayor Cid reported that he will be sending a letter to the County Mayor asking them if they would be amenable to lowering the management fees that the county charges the TOML. He explained that if additional funds are made available, perhaps the Town Council can approve having additional police officers. Councilmember Dieguez seconded Mayor's explanation and all were in favor; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

### **B. PTP Funds/NW 59<sup>th</sup> (Cid)**

Mayor Cid reported that during the budget process, you all spoke about the release of the PTP funds into our budget process from 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This would be to utilize for infrastructure, for sidewalks and road repairs. He explained that he will be working with Town Staff so that it gets presented to the Town Council. Mayor Cid then made a motion for Town Staff to bring back a report to the Town Council and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

## **16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

### **A. Town Drone (Gil)**

Marketing and Digital Services Specialist, Mr. Jonathan Gil, presented on acquiring a Town drone as requested by Councilman Garcia at the June 11 Council Meeting. Mr. Gil estimated

the costs of acquiring a drone to be approximately \$5,000. The Council agreed to discuss the topic during future budget deliberations.

**B. Report on AI Utilization in Local Government (Cure/Angel)**

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the monthly infrastructure report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Germán Cure and the Director of the Building Department, Mr. Daniel Angel, presented on using Artificial Intelligence in the Town's Building Department in the creation of an automatic permit process as requested in the March 14 Council Meeting. They found that currently, there is no leading vendor for using AI in this capacity. They reiterated the Town's commitment to continue to research new applications for Artificial Intelligence and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

**C. Report on External Communications and Marketing Consultant (De Cardenas)**

Communications & Community Affairs Director, Ms. Clarisell de Cardenas presented the report.

She stated that Town Staff has found social media management consultants with experience in government accounts and who provided comparable proposals, including initial assessments, social media, strategy development and performance monitoring, all for a baseline budget of \$18,000. Director De Cardenas explained that this not for content creation, but for analyzing the Town's content and Town's strategy and providing consultation on the Town's social media strategy.

Director De Cardenas answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmembers Fernandez thanked her for the report and stated that he looks forward to discussing the proposals during the Budget process.

**D. Monthly Police Report (Town Commander Gonzalez)**

Town Commander, Mr. Jose Gonzalez, presented the monthly police report and answered questions posed by Town Council. He reported that stolen vehicles went down 8% and 25% reduction in vehicle burglaries and no residential burglaries during the month of July. They continue with high visibility on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue, on Commerce and on 154<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, they continue to work on the Main Street area.



**E. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)**

Director Public Works Director, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the monthly infrastructure report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

**F. Monthly Report on MLOP (Bajdaun)**

Councilmember Collazo made a motion requesting that MLOP monthly report be removed from the agenda. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent. Town Manager Mr. Edward Pidermann informed the council that the MLOP reserve stands at \$1.4 million.

**G. 2024 Legislative Priorities Strategy and Workshop (Wilson/Pidermann)**

Town Manager, Mr. Edward Pidermann, presented on legislative priorities and answered questions posed by the Town Council. Mr. Pidermann recommended a workshop in August with Representative Fabricio and State Senator Avila to discuss with the Council which priorities are of importance for the upcoming year, to be presented at the September council meeting.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to accept the recommendation and Councilmember Collazo seconded. The motion passed.

**H. Mental Health Task Force Creation of Contribution and Donation Account Request (Pidermann)**

Town Manager, Mr. Edward Pidermann, presented on behalf of the Mental Health Task Force. They requested funding for shirts. Councilmember Fernandez stated that he will donate the shirts.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to create an account to allocate the donation from Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

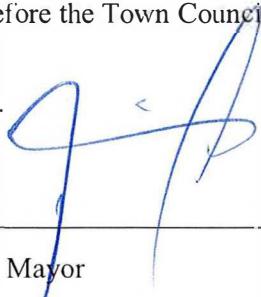
**17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, asked for an Attorney-Client Executive Session to be scheduled in 3 weeks, for the Pizzi Matter.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

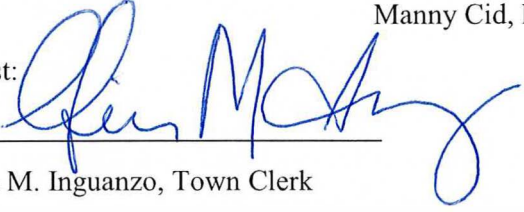
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 am.

Approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk