

**MINUTES**  
**Working Budget Workshop**  
**For All Funds**  
**August 29, 2023**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting began at 6:43 p.m.

The following councilmembers were present: Councilmembers Collazo, Dieguez, Fernandez, Garcia and Ruano. Vice Mayor Alvarez and Mayor Cid were absent.

The following Town Staff members were present: Town Manager Edward Pidermann, Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez, Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo, Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez, Chief Financial Officer Kay Grant, Public Works Director Omar Santos, Principal Town Planner, Susana Alonso, Communications & Community Affairs Director, Ms. Clarisell de Cardenas, Committee & Special Events Coordinator, Aisle Pastora, Grants & Governmental Affairs Manager, Renee Wilson, Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella and Town Commander, Jose Gonzalez.

**2. Public Comments: (14:28)**

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

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Budget Workshop and participated in public comments. She stated that three weeks ago, she asked for a copy of the budget so she could review ahead of time and that today, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 pm, she still had not received the copy of the budget. She mentioned that it is not fair to her, to the residents nor to the Town Council. She mentioned that she does not see anything in the budget for Tree Trimming, Repaving the Streets and for Sidewalk Repairs. She mentioned that this is an issue that needs to be addressed; the paperwork cannot be provided only 3 hours prior to the meeting.

Mr. Steven Herzberg came to the Budget Workshop and participated in public comments. He mentioned that he echoed the sentiments expressed by Ms. Mendez and he mentioned that transparency is very important. He is disappointed that he was not able to review the budget before this workshop.

Miguel Martinez came to the Budget Workshop and participated in public comments. He stated that the BAB should have a budget and being unfunded is insane, because the committee's goal is

to protect the town's properties and to find equitable solutions to co-exist with our neighbors. He pleaded for funds to be allocated to the Blasting Advisory Board.

Ms. Claudia Luces came to the Budget Workshop and participated in public comments. She stated that it would be beneficial to get a copy of the Budget with ample time to review it beforehand. She stated that she does not want police services to be cut because more patrols are needed due to public safety; tree trimming services should not be cut; and that day-to-day operations are essential- they include safety and tree trimming. She stated that roads look horrendous and we need to maintain what we have.

Town Clerk Inguanzo stated that there was no one on-line waiting to participate in public comments.

Councilmember Ruano stated that the Town Council just received the copy of the proposed budget and that she just started to review the documents. She said that she agreed with the comments made by some residents and that she would have liked to have received this information with more time to review it prior to the workshop.

Councilmember Dieguez also stated that these budget workshops were born out of Sunshine Meetings that he proposed back in 2019, for the Town Council to provide feedback to Town Staff. He emphasized that this is not a regular formal meeting, that the public is welcomed but that this is ultimately a working meeting of the Town Council. He mentioned that this is just an introduction and that we will have 2 budget hearings during the month of September, to have a fuller opportunity to debate these issues and receive more informed public input. He would have preferred to have received the information last week, but he acknowledged the fact that the budget team is a one person department. He emphasized that this is an informal meeting and that he does not think there is a lack of transparency. He mentioned that the first budget hearing is scheduled in two weeks.

### **3. Item Discussed:**

#### **Working Budget for General Fund Only**

Town Manager, Mr. Edward Pidermann presented a PowerPoint presentation.

He began the meeting by emphasizing that when he presented the preliminary proposed budget on July 11<sup>th</sup>, the date when the millage rate was set, it was presented with the available information at that time. At that meeting, the millage rate was set at the rollback rate, so this presentation that has been prepared for this workshop, was put together and finished today early in the afternoon. The presentation starts with the July 11<sup>th</sup> balanced budget, and we (Town Manager and Budget Officer) will walk you through the changes.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that by setting the millage rate at the roll back rate, it created a deficit. He explained that they looked at the local business tax, at the revised estimate from the State of Florida, and that put us at almost \$900,000 in deficit, and that is what we are finding a way to cover these gaps.

The PowerPoint presentation addressed the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, the Debt Service, Capital Projects Funds, Enterprise Funds and Internal Service Funds. He presented the Staff's Recommendation explained the line items and the adjustments made since the adoption of the Roll Back Rate. Mr. Pidermann asked for feedback from the Town Council. Ms. Melissa Hernandez, Budget Officer, presented the PowerPoint Presentation in detail and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

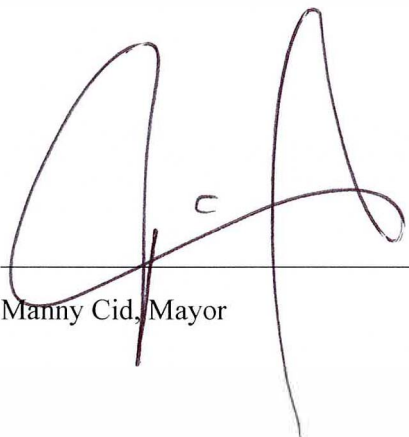
The Budget Officer Hernandez reminded everyone that the 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Budget Hearing is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Town Manager Pidermann told the Town Council that he welcomed the opportunity to have one-on-one meetings with the budget team and him prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing.

#### 4. Adjournment:

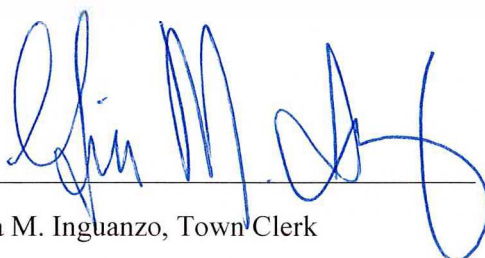
This meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Approved this 10th day October 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk