

**MINUTES**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> Budget Hearing**  
**September 26, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Councilmember Collazo called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll and Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Garcia. Mayor Cid joined the meeting via zoom at 6:34 pm. Councilmember Ruano joined the meeting in person at 6:36 pm. Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

**2. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Councilmember Josh Dieguez led the prayer.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Councilmember Fernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Councilmember Collazo asked via motion, for Item 9A. Report on License Plate Readers, to be deferred to the October 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0.

Then, Councilmember Dieguez motioned to approve the new order of business and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (13:08)**

*(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 instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

The Town Clerk stated for the record that there were no participants for public comments on-line. There being no one else wishing to speak, Councilmember Collazo then closed Public Comments.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to approve the Consent Calendar. It was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez, and all were in favor.

## **7. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING (PUBLIC HEARING):**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO TAX COLLECTOR; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Edward Pidermann read a budget statement into the record.

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, read into the record the following statement: the proposed millage rate for Fiscal year 2023-24 is 2.0732 and this rate is the roll-back rate. The roll-back rate is defined by truth and millage that generates the same tax revenue as the current year, less new construction, additions, deletions, and rehabilitative improvements. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is four billion, five hundred and fifteen million, three hundred forty-five thousand and ninety-nine dollars (\$4,515,345,099). The proposed millage rate will generate eight million, eight hundred and ninety-three thousand one hundred and fifty-three (\$8,893,153) in Ad Valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move the Ordinance in Second Reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez,

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion approving the Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move the ordinance in second reading and Councilmember Dieguez seconded for discussion.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came to the Second Budget Hearing and participated in in-person public comments. She asked if the blasting issues were included in the Legislative Priorities List; she stated that she could not find any reference to LPR's in Loch Ness, Windmill Gates, in Lake Hilda and in Lake Martha; she then stated that if the issue is security for the town, then there should be an item to protect all the communities and not only the Special Taxing District.

The Town Clerk stated for the record that there were no participants online.

Councilmember Garcia motioned to put forth \$5,000 into the Blasting Advisory Board, for them to have a budget of \$5,000. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. He then stated that perhaps we can take ½ a percentage from each committee, or to take it from the MLOP, to create a budget for the BAB.

During discussion, it was proposed that each committee should give a % towards creating the BAB budget and for this not be unfair to the committees with smaller budgets, Councilmember Garcia proposed maybe a .5% or 1% from every committee; equally to reset \$5,000.

During further discussion, it was discussed that it would be cleaner to allocate money towards the BAB, from Optimist Park. Town Manager Pidermann then suggested that the Town Council may want to consider \$7,500 in case all the committee members want to go to Tallahassee. After the explanation given by Town Manager Pidermann, Councilmember Garcia amended his motion, and stated that he would like to use \$7,500 for the BAB to create a budget from the MLOP and later in during the carryover amendment, to replenish the MLOP. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the amendment to the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Then, the main motion, as amended, passed 6-0.

Town Commander Gonzalez came to the podium to answer questions posed by the Town Council regarding overtime.

Councilmember Garcia motioned to discuss providing overtime budget for details for traffic and for auto theft, at least for them to have a budget with details until March, until we see how much we have until carryforward. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion for discussion.

During discussion, Councilmember Ruano stated that the \$50,000 funded towards the Police Study during the discussion held at the First Budget Hearing, would be better spent policing the community, than spending it towards a study. She thanked the Sheriff Ad-Hoc Committee and mentioned that their recommendation perhaps would be a good idea in a year when the budget is not so tight, but she emphasized that in her opinion, it is not feasible for us to choose a study over public safety. She suggested that \$50,000 could perhaps carry us through carryover and not stop the police patrols that have been so successful in the community.

Town Commander Gonzalez mentioned that historically, during the summer months and holiday season, there is an increase of auto thefts. Councilmember Dieguez then mentioned that based on the information provided by Major Gonzalez, he would be fine with allocating money towards the vehicle police burglary details for now, and the traffic detail enforcement could wait a little longer; he stated that he would be ok with re-allocating the \$50,000 from the Police Study towards the overtime details instead, as suggested by Councilmember Ruano.

Councilmember Dieguez then amended Councilmember Garcia's motion and stated to go ahead and fund \$50,000 to the vehicle burglary detail with overtime dollars and for the time being, not fund the Police Study; that the Police Study could be deferred to discuss during the carry forward in March/April and re-allocate the money at that time. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo then explained the motion and re-stated that the motion is to re-allocate the \$50,000 from the Police Study, to allocate it to Police Overtime, to give the Major immediate access to fund and be able to create the vehicle burglaries only, and with the intent to wait until the carry forward, to maybe refund the Police Study during that time.

Councilmember Fernandez then provided the following feedback. He mentioned that \$135,000 is for police overtime details -which includes both vehicle burglaries and the traffic details. He mentioned cutting in half the \$135,000 and that both details could be continued, from now to April, and once they get to the carryforward, then they (Town Council) would contemplate funding both details through the end of the fiscal year. To this explanation, Councilmember Dieguez accepted the friendly amendment proffered by Councilmember Fernandez. Councilmember Dieguez stated that he would like to incorporate both details into his motion.

Thus, the amendment proffered by Councilmember Fernandez, which was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez, was to fund \$67,500 to the item -\$50,000 from the Police Study and \$17,500 coming from the MLOP. The amendment passed 6-0.

Councilmember Garcia then discussed that he is getting many calls regarding sidewalk repairs. He then made a motion to discuss the sidewalk repair budget and tree repair. He also asked the Director of Parks & Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, to come to the podium. The motion was seconded by Councilmembers Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano, simultaneously.

Director of Parks & Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun came to the podium to answer questions posed by the Town Council. After discussion, Councilmember Garcia made a motion to discuss sidewalk repair and tree trimming. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. During discussion amongst the council members, Councilmember Dieguez asked the IT Department to please put up some images that he has been taking over the past few months, as a sample of things that we would like to be addressed. He mentioned that for him, these are items that have a higher priority, such as pocket parks, both in the east and west side.

Councilmember Garcia acknowledged the explanation given and that the budget has gone up for sidewalks, and he mentioned that he will wait for the carryover funds. He then asked his colleagues to keep in mind our pocket parks and the tree trimming budget to discuss during the carryover. Then he stated that he was not making any motions at this time.

Councilmember Fernandez then stated that in the proposed budget, there is a reduction to the Mayor's Travel and Per Diem budget of \$3,000. He stated that he would like, rather than cut from the Mayors' Travel and Per Diem, he would rather cut from Town Staff Travel. So, Councilmember Collazo rephrased the motion and stated that the motion is to restore the Mayor's Travel and Per Diem to \$3,000 and to take it away for Town Staff Travel. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia for discussion.

After some discussion, Councilmember Garcia proposed to amend Mayor's Travel and Per Diem to \$2,000, to restore the Mayor's Travel, in order not to cannibalize Town Staff budget. Councilmember Garcia proffered the friendly amendment and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the amendment.

After further discussion on the amendment, Councilmember Collazo made an amendment to the motion to allocate the \$2,000 to the Mayor's Travel and Per Diem, as suggested by the main motion, but by the way of Mayor submitting a Mayor's Report on his travel and the councilmembers can then vote on that during the Regular Council Meeting; it would be as needed, for the Mayor to submit a report as needed and we will approve his travel, as the reports come in. This amendment was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez, and it passed 6-0. Then, the original motion, as amended passed, 6-0.

After further discussion amongst the councilmembers, the main motion to approve the Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, as amended, passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

## **8. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TERMINATING GUARD GATE SERVICES WITH KENT SECURITY SERVICES FOR LOCH LOMOND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Collazo motioned to re-open public comments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed and all were in favor.

Mr. Patrick Kunkel came to the Second Budget Hearing and thanked the Town Council for being helpful with the guard system situation.

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and explained that these two resolutions are to switch over the duties of the guard house and the roving guard over from Kent Security to SFM Security Systems. He explained that after talking this over with the residents, it would be an immediate switch over to SFM, but simultaneously, have the Town Attorney work with the residents on getting a new RFP process out there, with a stronger contract. Thus, Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to terminate the existing contract, as provided, Kent, withing 30 days' notice. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid stated that he was in favor of the termination but that he is not ok with assigning another company without a proper RFP competitive process, a proper vetting.

The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, provided a legal opinion regarding the removal of Kent. He stated that there is no legal hardship because both contracts contain clauses that allow the TOML to terminate the contract in place, for any reason deemed necessary, as long as 30 days' notice is provided. He stated that backup should be in place and include it in the change order and then work on a long-term solution with the RFP process. He also included that the SFM contract that we are piggybacking was noticed, it went out to the RFP process, that SFM was chosen for both, Royal Oaks, and Miami Lakes Section 1.

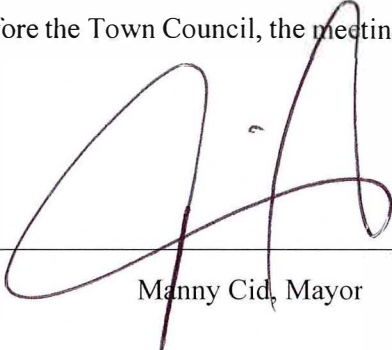
After discussion, the motion passed 6-0.

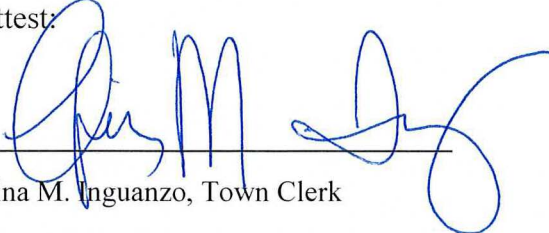
- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CONTRACT 2022-24 WITH SFM SECURITY SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE GUARD GATE SERVICES FOR LOCH LOMOND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Councilmember Dieguez explained that this is the item putting in the replacement company on a temporary basis, it's a change order and that as part of his motion, he explained that this item approves the switch to SFM Security Systems, and he also gave direction to the Town Attorney, to work with the residents on a mutually acceptable contract and RFP, so that it can go out to bid as soon as practical, to go ahead and competitively bid. He also stated via motion that although there is an increase overall in the contract, it will not affect the savings that they are going to realize this year when we approve the reduced rate. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion for discussion. The motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

  
Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:  
  
Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk