

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
October 10, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:48 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia and Marilyn Ruano. Councilmember Josh Dieguez was present via zoom. Mayor Cid arrived at 6:59 p.m. Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez was absent.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Pastor Juan Sancho from Elevate Miami Church led the prayer.

Mr. Ariel Fernandez from “Better You Minute,” led a moment of mediation via YouTube.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Ruano.

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

Councilmember Collazo pulled item 10F for discussion and moved up item 13Cm, prior to the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Ruano pulled item 10G for discussion. Councilmember Dieguez deferred item 14E.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez and Mayor Cid were absent.

After item 10G, Mayor Cid motioned to pull 10E for discussion and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (1:04:22 YouTube)

(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. Maria Kramer came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She asked about the fire rescue contract renewal in the town. She then explained that she fell, broke her hip, and fire rescue insisted on taking her to the nearest hospital instead of the one she wanted.

Mr. Sean Schwinghammer came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He stated that he believes the town is starting to fail in keeping up the value of the original creators of Miami Lakes. He stated that the town is looking bad, and issues are not being handled well.

Mr. JC Fernandez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He stated he is in support of item 13C, and Mayor Cid informed him to speak during that item and that he needed to be sworn in.

Ms. Christ Francois came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She stated that an ongoing issue in Miami Lakes is public transportation. She also stated that a solution is to create a website or App for people to plan trips in advance and be on time.

Mr. Angelo Garcia came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke about the plastic root barriers used in the town and recommended a different type of root barrier made from shutters. Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun provided Mr. Garcia and the Town Council with the current status for using root barriers and stated they will look into using shutters as root barriers.

Mr. Santiago Arrica came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He requested that the town add indoor basketball courts and provided reasons as to why the indoor courts are better.

Mr. Pedro Herrera came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke about the importance of having more streetlights during the night. He stated it provides a safer environment and gives a nicer appearance to the street. He then proposed using solar powered streetlight poles.

Mr. Luis Areas came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He addressed the issue of iguanas in the town. He stated that there are so many, and they eat plants in people's yards. He wanted to bring it to the council to see if something could be done to relocate them. He also provided other solutions to the issue.

The Town Clerk then stated for the record that Ms. Bonnie Cintron submitted a written public comment regarding overdevelopment and overpopulation in the town.

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

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Ms. Miriam Ochoa to the Sports Hall of Fame Committee by Mayor Manny Cid.

Ms. Irene Gutierrez to the Neighborhood Services District – Royal Oaks by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Education Advisory Board

Chairperson Hector Abad presented the committee report, detailing all the programs the committee had funded.

He reported that currently there are 9,088 students in our schools, an increase of about 300 students from the previous year. Our Lady of Our Lakes reported having 551 students as well. He mentioned that the schools have started Magnet applications for next school year, and it runs through January 15th – he reminded everyone that all the secondary schools have magnet programs. He mentioned that school principals reported that they are offering more AP classes and electives for their students and that they are also doing more dual enrollments partnerships with local universities. Test scores have gone up across the board. Miami Lakes Educational Center and Barbara Goleman High School reported a 99% graduation rate last year and Hialeah-Miami Lakes reported a 100% graduation rate. School Principals stated that our schools are the most desirable in the north region, and that they are very safe schools.

Chair Abad reported that as requested by the Town Council, the committee worked with the student that wanted to do the alternate Town Seal, and he mentioned that it would be placed in Town Hall sometime next month. The Town Council spoke about prominently displaying the Alternate Town Seal and to perhaps post on Instagram and Facebook. Councilmember Collazo mentioned that perhaps replace the letterhead with the new image, and for the Town Council to send the student who created the alternate seal, a congratulations letter. Chair Abad suggested that perhaps the Town Council can also send a congratulations letter to the student who spearheaded this project and recognize them both. The Town Council agreed.

Chair Abad also spoke about the subcommittee meeting with our student advisor, Mr. Maurits Acosta and he stated that 19 students from local schools participated and he also reported that the EAB is collaborating with local schools to create the informational digital school flyer.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

A. Approval of Minutes

- July 31, 2023, Sunshine Meeting on Proposed Budgets for NSD's
- August 29, 2023, Working Budget Workshop
- September 12, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
- September 26, 2023, 2nd Budget Hearing

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 CONTRACT FOR RFP 2023-24, IT SERVICES TO LANSIGHT TECHNOLOGY, LLC TO ACT AS THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$855,000.00); APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO ARISMA GROUP LLC DBA CENDIEN TO ACT AS THE SECONDARY CONTRACTOR; 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 PURCHASE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, COMPUTERS, SERVERS, AND PERIPHERALS ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS PURSUANT TO BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE THE MINNESOTA NASPO VALUE POINT MASTER AGREEMENT 23004 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 approved on the Consent Calendar.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR ITB 2023-36R, TO STONE CONCEPT MIAMI, INC. AND FLORIDA SIDEWALK SOLUTIONS FOR REPAIR OF SIDEWALK TRIP HAZARDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; 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.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AUCTION THE TOWN'S VAC-CON TRUCK IN ACCORDANCE WITH TOWN CODE SECTION 2-162; AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM SALE OF VAC-CON TRUCK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar by Mayor Cid. Mayor Cid asked Town Staff if there is a minimum price for the auction; he stated that he does not want the Town of Miami Lakes to auction the truck for a small amount of money. Director Santos explained that in the past, there was an analysis done to determine the value of the truck in an auction. Director Santos stated that he could provide this information to the Town Council, via the Town Manager. Mayor Cid mentioned that perhaps the Town could give the vac-con truck to the City of Hialeah, and then ask them to waive our monthly fee for the trucks we park in that city. Town Manager Pidermann stated that if Item 10E gets approved, that Town Staff would explore the option suggested, before moving forward with the auction. Mayor Cid agreed and stated that he just wants Town Staff to explore options.

Councilmember Collazo motioned to re-open the Consent Calendar and it was seconded by Councilmember Ruano. All were in favor.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to direct the Town Manager before the auction goes out, to approve this item, but to explore all options beforehand and report back to the Town Council at the next regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo and the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

- F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2023-23 FOR HVAC REPLACEMENT SERVICES , WITH GREEN ALLIANCE, INC., A CHANGE ORDER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINETY THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$90,800.00) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF HVAC UNITS AT MIAMI LAKES GOVERNMENT CENTER; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CHANGE ORDER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Collazo. He brought to the attention of the Town Council that this item brings a hefty price and that thanks to the Sinking Fund, they have the money to pay the expense. Councilmember Collazo stated that the Sinking Fund has bailed the Town out many times and he would like this fund to be fully funded for future generations. He mentioned that did not make a motion, and that he just wanted to have a discussion with his colleagues about this.

Then, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to approve Item 10F and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

- G. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING TWO WORK ORDERS, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH EXP U.S. SERVICES, INC. (“EXP”) FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR STORM WATER PROJECT BIO SWALE DESIGN; FOR AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED NINETEEN AND 10/100 (\$29,619.10); MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 23-318 ; 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 pulled from the Consent Calendar by Councilmember Ruano. She stated that this item comes with a \$30,000 expense and she asked whether this in excess of having a regular swale.

The Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, answered questions posed by the Town Council. He explained that this consist of taking an existing swale and turning it into a bioswale. He stated that the \$30,000 is for the design of the bioswale but that there might be potential savings; but that will be determined through an analysis of the engineer that is designing the system. He explained that the \$30,000 is going to be split into two designs, so the cost per design is really \$15,000. Councilmember Ruano stated that she just wants to keep an eye on this item because she does not want to add more cost to our projects.

After the discussion, Councilmember Ruano motioned the item and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A SHORT TERM INTERFUND LOAN FROM UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO CAPITAL PROJECT FUND IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000; PROVIDING FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to approve the Ordinance in first reading and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

Mayor Cid stated that although he loves this project, he will be voting no because he is no longer in favor of the strategic direction, of how it's being managed going forward. There was no further discussion.

The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

None.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, INCORPORATING POLICE ENHANCEMENT STRATEGIES INTO THE TOWN STRATEGIC PLAN; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Cid moved the item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. There was no discussion. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, CO-DESIGNATING N.W. 82 STREET, FROM N.W. 154th STREET TO OAK LANE, ROSA NELL HAMMER WAY; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Cid moved the item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. There was no discussion and the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO A REQUEST IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 13-304(h) OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE FOR A SITE PLAN APPROVAL AS PROVIDED AT EXHIBIT "A"; FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF 87TH AVE AND 162ND STREET, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AT EXHIBIT "B", BEARING FOLIO NOS. 32-2015-046-0010—0160 & 32-2015-047-0010—0170; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS, PROVIDING FOR APPEAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi read the quasi-judicial rules and then the title of the resolution into the record.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo swore in the individuals that would be providing testimony.

Mayor Cid opened the public hearing, and the following individuals came to speak:

Mr. JC Fernandez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments, and he spoke in support of the Site Plan. He also stated that he is in support of opening an ingress on 87th Avenue -only during construction; that he and the Royal Oaks HOA - and not in favor of opening 87th Avenue as a permanent thing.

There being no more individuals wishing to speak, the public hearing closed.

The Principal Town Planner, Ms. Susana Alonso, presented the item on behalf of Town Staff. She stated that it's a simple site plan approval for 37 lots that were platted in 2004 and 2008. She stated that Town Staff is recommending approval with several conditions that were enumerated in the agenda.

Attorney Ms. Melissa Tapanes, gave a PowerPoint presentation, on behalf of the Applicant, GT Homes. She introduced the following individuals, all on behalf of the applicant: Doug Brock, Scott Pazoli, Aron Zelo and Oscar Robaina and Benjamin Sherry. She stated that they were all in respectfully requesting approval of a proposed site plan to allow the development of an upscale single-family enclave within the Royal Oaks District, that is consistent with the Dunhill Isle and Dunhill Cove Platts, as well as the high-quality residential character of the surrounding community.

She stated that this development would form part of and contribute to the existing Royal Oaks Section 1 Security Guard Special Taxing District and that the Applicant is proposing an additional unmanned gate with license reading technology at the entrance of the island portion of the development. She stated that the rendered site plan approval proposes no variances, all is consistent with the original intent of the plats. She also mentioned that due to natural erosion, some of the lots have lost terrain since plating, and the applicant is proposing to re-establish the shoreline to the platted waterline and top of the slope. Attorney Tapanes answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the site plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo.

During the discussion of the site plan, two motions were made to be added to the conditions set in the staff report. Councilmember Garcia motioned to add and codify the conditions for the applicant, the tree barriers set on oak trees, or any trees that Town Staff feels that root barriers might be helpful to prevent future sidewalk damages that will cost the Town, in the future repairs. He asked to work with the builders on that. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

Then, Councilmember Collazo made a motion for the consideration of the opening of 87th Avenue, just for the purposes of construction, ingress and egress, and after the project is completed, if the residents of Royal Oaks wish to entertain a permanent route for egress, they can bring that forward at that time, as a permanent route for egress. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion, as amended, and the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. NW 59th Avenue Summit (Cid)

Mayor Cid withdrew this item.

B. County Waste Incinerator Sites (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained that initially there was confusion as to where the new county waste incinerator site would go. One site they are exploring is called Opa-Locka and it gave the impression that they were referring to the active airport to the East of Miami Lakes however they are referring to a closed airport to the West of Miami Lakes called Opa-Locka West. He stated that this is an important issue the Town should monitor.

Councilmember Dieguez began stating his motion, giving the Town Manager direction to continuously monitor this item and to report back as developments occur with respect to the proposal at that site.

Councilmember Dieguez then restated his motion to give director to the Town Manager to report back as changed develop related to this and also for the Town Attorney to look into the Southwest Broward incinerator site that is being proposed that could affect the town and report back at the November Regular Council Meeting with their findings as far as what project they are talking about, what impacts may occur to the town, and what they are with approvals for the project. Councilmember Ruano seconded.

After discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

C. Miami Lakes Garden Club Request (Ruano)

Councilmember Ruano presented this item and explained via motion that this is a request from the Miami Lakes Garden Club. She explained that they are requesting the use of Mary Collins Community Center either inside the center or the parking lot to host their annual rummage sale. She stated that they have previously hosted this on Main Street however they feel that with the Farmer's Market there would be a conflict. Therefore, the Garden Club is requesting approval to use this location between 8AM and 1PM on November 12th. Councilmember Fernandez seconded.

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

D. Miami Lakes Pay Plan (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained he would like to see a more thoughtful plan which rewards longevity instead of yearly COLAs.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to direct staff to start bringing back some options to the council where they can look at long-term possibilities to reward staff but also not having some years with no raises and others with raises. He would like a more thoughtful process to happen for long-term staff members to be rewarded.

Mayor Cid then stated a motion again for staff to come back to us with various options on a pay plan that looks at all different options such as the State of Florida and the County to create something that we can work with that prioritizes services but at the same time doesn't hamstring us with a lot of legacy costs going forward. Councilmember Fernandez seconded.

Councilmember Garcia also asked the Town Manager if there is any way, in metrics-based goal system, where there are direct goals for different departments and if they exceed those goals, they are given a percentage raise. He also asked to look into how the private sector and other organizations handle raises.

Councilmember Fernandez stated he would also like to see a model like a hybrid of performance-based raises and COLAs.

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

E. NSD Elections (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez deferred this item.

F. Reforming Procurement Ordinance (Cid)

After item 14D, Mayor Cid made a motion to waive the Special Rules of Order for the four remaining items that require a waiver. Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that one thing the town did a decade ago that hurt the nimbleness of our organization was approving such a robust and bureaucratic procurement ordinance.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to direct staff to work with the attorney to come back with a reformed procurement process. He stated that this does not need to come back within a month, he would like staff to take their time, look at what other cities are doing, and get the private sector perspective. Councilmember Ruano seconded.

After further discussion and expressing concerns, the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

G. Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained someone approached him asking to light up their municipality in purple to commemorate domestic violence month which is in October. Since that request, he has also become aware that Senator Garcia is asking we

light up town hall in red at the end of the month as part of raising awareness for opioid abuse. Councilmember Dieguez also added that in light of the events in Israel and to show solidarity he would like to make the following motion: to light up town hall in blue and white for the next couple of days, then switch to purple to recognize victims of domestic violence, and then to end the month in red as requested by Senator Garcia to raise awareness for opioid abuse. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion for discussion.

Councilmember Fernandez then stated we should invest in color changing light bulbs because of the many colors town hall has been lit up in. He also stated that he will speak about it more during his item, but he mentioned that he will also be lighting up the outside of town hall in blue and white tomorrow, October 11th.

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

H. In Support of the State of Israel (Fernandez)

Councilmember Fernandez presented this item and stated that his colleagues should have a copy of the resolution he asked the attorney to prepare in support and solidarity of Israel. He stated that it is not only their duty, but it is deserving to stand with them and the community in the town. He also added that as details come out of the situation, there is an increasing amount of U.S. citizens that have perished in the attacks or are believed to be kidnapped.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion to adopt the resolution and Councilmember Garcia seconded.

Mayor Cid also made a motion to waive the four-day rule on this item and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

After discussion, Councilmember Dieguez asked if the raising of the Jewish flag as outlined in the memorandum is still included in the motion. Councilmember Fernandez stated that he has worked with town staff and due to flag protocols, they will be posting a temporary standalone pole during the event to display the flag.

Back on the main motion, the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Fernandez then stated that the second part of his item was to advise the council and inform the public that tomorrow, October 11th, Rabbi Weiss, other community leaders, and himself will be hosting a community gathering in support of peace in Israel outside of town hall where the veteran's memorial is. He then invited all who is able to attend.

After discussion, Councilmember Fernandez stated that another thing he brought forth in his memorandum was for all members of the Town Council that would like to participate in a short video in support of solidarity at the end of the regular council meeting.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

A. Impact Fees (Cid)

Mayor Cid pulled this item, to be discussed at another time.

B. Intergovernmental (Cid)

Mayor Cid pulled this item and it was combined with Item, 15C.

C. Report on Legislative Trip for Upcoming Session (Cid)

Mayor Cid reported that he will be traveling to Tallahassee during the month of January 2024, to participate in Committee Week. Mayor Cid emphasized that it would only be a one-day trip- he would not be staying in Tallahassee overnight. It was stated that no motion is needed, only a report from Mayor Cid and it was stated that the cost of this trip would be reflected in the administrative travel budget. Councilmember Fernandez asked the Town Manager to share with him and the entire Town Council the dates of the proposed trip in case any other elected official desires to join the mayor.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Report on FDEP Electrical Vehicles Charging Stations (Pidermann)

Town Manager Pidermann reported that this item has been put through the RFP process several times with the caveat that we would provide a public space for these vendors, and they would foot the entire bill for us putting in public access stations. Every time we put the RFP process, they (vendors) come back requiring the Town to put up some portion of the upfront cost, which was against the Town Council's direction.

Councilmember Garcia stated that he would like, in the future, for the Town Staff or the Police Department to have electric vehicles; that many municipalities are doing this, and they are finding significant savings and maintenance savings. He explained that he would like to purchase some electrical vehicles charging stations, not put it through the RFP process and just have the service available in Town Hall; for Town Hall to be a destination charger.

During discussion, Councilmember Fernandez motioned for Councilmember Garcia to work with Town Staff and to come back at the November Regular Council Meeting, with a re-imagined plan to see if these charging stations can be put forward in the town, in a way that makes sense and in a way that we can engage a partner, that we have a mutually beneficial relationship with. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

B. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)

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

Regarding the ADA railings in Royal Oaks. Director Santos explained that it was a requirement that came in through the design of the project. Town Manager Pidermann stated that this project should be closed first and then Director Santos would work with the designers on other alternatives to minimize the drop-off and see other options. Town Manager Pidermann stated that Director Santos would work with the designers to mitigate the railings.

Director Santos also answered questions regarding the drainage projects and the heavy and intense amount of rain that hit the town. He explained that the systems are designed to withhold a certain amount of water in a certain amount of rainfall and the water will recede after. He stated that the projects are performing well and that within one or two hours, the areas are dried. He stated that the systems are working. Councilmember Collazo suggested that perhaps Neighborhood Improvement Committee or the Public Works Department could add an educational component to this and educate the residents to keep the drains free and clear and help with the performance of the systems.

Director Santos also spoke about securing the projects to continue having outfalls to help with the drainage situation.

C. Monthly Police Report (Town Commander Gonzalez)

Town Commander Gonzalez presented the report. He stated that there was a significant reduction in crime activity. He also stated that the Police Department has added the curfew security details to Main Street, to also include Sundays.

D. Report on AED at Parks (Bajdaun)

Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun presented the oral report and stated that the Brianna Vergara Foundation have produced both AEDs for the Town. The Town took ownership of both last week, and the Town is currently working with the outdoor cabinet company to have them installed by mid-December and ready to be used for the benefit of the public.

E. Report on License Plate Readers (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo explained that during the budget cycle, he had asked the Town Manager to perhaps explore the idea of having the LPR's piggyback to what some HOA's were doing. Town Manager Pidermann explained to the Town Council via email, that local governments do not qualify for financing model that the HOA qualify for and he committed to provide this explanation to the public via this report.

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

A. Report on Civil Penalties for Catalytic Converter Robberies (Garcia)

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella reported that the Florida Legislature passed the Anti Catalytic Converter Act, that makes it a crime, if someone is caught with a stolen converter. Thus, he explained that whatever the Town Council were to approve, it would be preempted by Federal Law and prosecuted by the Police Department.

B. Report on 59th Avenue Roadway Project (Cid)

Mayor Cid withdrew this item. However, Town Attorney Raul Gastesi asked for an Attorney-Client Executive Session which will be held on Thursday, October 12th at 9 a.m. Mayor Cid stated for the record, that he would not be attending the Attorney-Client Executive Session and that he is against certain aspects of this moving forward, of the strategic process. That he supports the idea but not the strategic position overall.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Approved this 14th day of November 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk