

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**November 14, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

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

Mayor Cid called up Mr. Pedro Fiallo to present certificates of recognition to the following sponsors who help the community and the Town's committees: Floridian Clinical Research, AC Graphics, Café Mi Vitrola, Segio's Cuban, Norma Lorenzo Esq., and EZ RX Hallandale.

Mayor Cid called up Education Advisory Board Chairperson Hector Abad and members of EAB to recognize the student who proposed the alternate town seal contest, Mr. Taylor Monroy, and the student who won the alternate town seal contest, Mr. Austin Ochoa. Chairperson Abad then asked Mr. Taylor Monroy and Mr. Austin Ochoa to come up to be recognized for their work and they displayed the alternate town seal. Chairperson Abad then presented each student individualized letters written by the Town Council in appreciation of what they did.

Mayor Cid then presented a proclamation to the members of the Zonta Club of Miami Lakes proclaiming November 14, 2023, as Zonta Club of Miami Lakes Day in the Town. The proclamation recognized Zonta's 16 days of activism during November 25<sup>th</sup> "International Day to End Violence Against Women" thru December 10<sup>th</sup> "International Human Right's Day."

Mayor Cid asked Ms. Judy L. Farcus Serra, CFO of Headquarter Toyota, to come up and present a check to the Veterans Committee for the Reindeer Run. Veterans Committee Chairperson, William Perez thanked Ms. Farcus and the community for all they do for veterans.

Mayor Cid called up Drew Vidaurrazaga and Cindy Vidaurrazaga, owners of Vide Custom Designs, to come up. Mr. and Mrs. Vidaurrazaga then presented a \$400 check to the Special Needs Advisory Board which was the proceeds from the sales of custom design tumblers sold at the 2023 Mayor's Gala.

The Special Needs Advisory Board stayed standing to call up and thank all the sponsors for the 2023 Mayor's Gala. After recognizing each sponsor, Mayor Cid asked to play a video of the 2023 Mayor's Gala. After the video was played, the committee members, sponsors, and the Mayor's Assistant, Mr. Joseph Sosa, gathered around and unveiled the check which was \$32,302.60. Mr. Sosa then thanked everyone for helping in the Mayor's Gala and mentioned he is looking forward to next year. Chairperson John Rogger then recognized Mr. Sosa for his help and added that without him, none of it would happen.

## **2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez, called the roll at 7:02 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez, and Mayor Manny Cid. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, attended the meeting at 8:30 pm.

## **3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Minister Jorge Labrin from the Ministry of “Gracias Sin Limites” 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 and Presentation of Colors was led by the Gril Scouts of America Troop 902.

## **5. ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR**

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez presented the item. She collected the ballots from each elected official and read the ballots out loud, thereby casting their votes for the election of Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Fernandez received 4 votes, Councilmember Ruano received 2 votes, and Councilmember Dieguez received 1 vote. Thus, Councilmember Fernandez became the new Vice Mayor.

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

Mayor Cid moved up item 15D to after Public Comments. Vice Mayor Fernandez pulled item 11B from the Consent Calendar and combined it with item 15K, and he moved item 15H to before 13A. Councilmember Garcia added a Councilmember Report to the agenda, item 16A.

Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (YouTube) 1:26:52**

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

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez, 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 stated that the proposal on the agenda gives the impression that the park is property of the Town of Miami Lakes and it is not the Town's property. She also stated that the School Board should pay for the concession stands.

Mr. William Perez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke on Item 15B and stated that this was voted down overwhelmingly in the Veterans Committee because it is very expensive to build and to maintain. Also, he stated that it could impair the actual use of the park.

Ms. Anaya Robinson came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She stated that a public pool is needed in the community.

Mr. Dylan Francisco came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke about the firearm safety and that the Town of Miami Lakes should promote awareness on this topic and that school in the town should have day shooting as a sport.

Mr. Angelo Garcia came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He stated that he was disappointed and embarrassed for having some elected officials representing him in the Town of Miami Lakes and that he was disappointed on the results of the Vice Mayor election.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about the "November" money, about getting rid of the franchise fees and giving money back to the taxpayers that you are not using. She also spoke about the results of the Vice Mayor election, that the 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue Eminent Domain was not needed and about Optimist Park.

Mr. Rivas came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He stated that the Town of Miami Lakes residents should be talking about other issues in the community and not about sidewalks.

An individual (name not provided) came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke in support of installations of solar panels in public buildings.

Mr. Brian Rodriguez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke in support of Item 15B, but he emphasized that he is not in favor of this taking place in Veterans Park. He would prefer Royal Oaks Park or Optimist Park.

An individual (name not provided) came before the Town Council to speak about the lack of lights in the streets of Miami Lakes.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She stated that when you propose an idea/project, you must think of ways of supporting and maintaining the project. Infrastructure and public safety should be the Town's priorities and we need to follow thru with our projects. She also stated that Councilmember Ruano has been bypassed 3 times as the Vice Mayor of the Town.

Ms. Lynn Matos came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about the Food and Wine Festival scheduled to take place on February 2024 and she thanked the Town Foundation for giving back the money to our community. She also spoke about the new look of Food and Wine and thanked everyone for their support.

The Deputy Town Clerk then stated for the record that Ms. Bonnie Cintron and Ms. Hope Reynolds submitted written public comments.

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in virtual public comments via zoom. He stated that the Vice Mayor election was too political, that Councilmember Ruano was the founder of the Mayor's Gala and the first BAB Committee, that she is the most senior elected official -besides Luis Collazo. He also mentioned that infrastructure and public safety are the most important things in the town.

Ms. Hope Reynolds participated in virtual public comments via zoom. She stated that when TOML incorporated, struggles and hidden agendas erode the tranquility of her life. She also spoke highly of Councilmember Ruano and stated her disappointment that she was not elected as the Vice Mayor.

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

## **8. APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Ms. Barbara Torres-Alejo to the Cultural Affairs Committee by Mayor Manny Cid.

Mr. Alejandro Sanches to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to waive the rules and appoint the following appointments and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jaime Gutierrez to the Veterans Committee by Mayor Manny Cid.

Mr. Juan Sancho to the Blasting Advisory Board by Mayor Manny Cid.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. Youth Activities Task Force**

Chairperson Brian Rodriguez presented the committee report, detailing all the committee events. Chairperson Rodriguez explained that the Youth Activities Task Force is asking the Town Council for permission to approve the Youth Advocacy Award to be given to a high school student who volunteers, hopefully a senior in high school. The YATF is asking for a line item for \$100 for the award itself or even have it a zero dollar and to look for a sponsor. He also explained that this award is in collaboration with the mayor and to do it during the

State of the Town Address, under the Student Volunteer of the Year Award, and to be presented by the YATF.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to approve the line item for \$100 for this award and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Fernandez. The motion passed, 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Dieguez were absent.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that this money would come out from the November (March) money.

Chairperson Rodriguez answered questions posed by the Town Council.

#### **B. Cultural Affairs Committee**

Chairperson Felicia Salazar presented the committee report via zoom, detailing the committee events. Chair Salazar answered questions posed by the Town Council.

#### **C. Special Needs Advisory Board**

Chairperson John Rogger presented the committee report with a list of all the events that they committee will be working on and using the budget for. The committee also included in their presentation their very first calendar of events.

Chairperson Rogger answered questions posed by the Town Council.

### **10. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

### **11. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

#### **A. Approval of Minutes**

- October 10, 2023 Regular Council Meeting
- October 12, 2023 Attorney-Client Executive Session
- October 24, 2023 Special Call Meeting
- November 3, 2023 Sunshine Meeting

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

#### **B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; AUTHORIZING**

TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURSUE FUNDING FOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY AGREEMENT IN FURTHERANCE OF ADVANCING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING TOWN CLERK TO REMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO TOWN LOBBYIST, THE SOUTHERN GROUP AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Councilmember Fernandez from the consent calendar to be discussed with 15K. Mayor Cid moved to waive the rules of Item 15K. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, and the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Dieguez voted in opposition to the waiver.

Vice Mayor Fernandez introduced the item and explained that this item stems from a Sunshine Meeting that he had with Mayor Cid regarding our legislative priorities, and the meeting Mayor Cid had with State Senator Brian Avila. Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that Senator Avila expressed to Mayor Cid, that there could be potential for more appropriations than what the TOML has included in their Legislative Priorities List.

Town Manager Pidermann presented Item 11B and stated that his recommendations are based on his communications with State Representative Fabricio and with communications held with staff from the Office of State Senator Avila. Town Manager Pidermann explained his recommendations and he proposed for Miami Lakes Canal Bank Stabilization Phase IV to be deleted from the list and to add the Septic-to-Sewer Project Phase I Project, to the FY2024 Legislative Priorities List. He also stated that after having conversations with Senator Fabricio and Representative Avila, #2 and #3 of the Infrastructure/Transportation/Roadway Projects, the entrance ramp to I-75 and SR 92/Gratigny Parkway, to be deleted from the Legislative List.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the LPR Perimeter Network Completion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and the motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the Miami Lakes Drive -Milling and Resurfacing. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. No vote was taken on this item.

During discussion, Mayor Cid stated that he was just on the phone with Senator Avila and he clarified that Senator Avila told him that any project over 3 million, would need to be scratched out of the list and that projects under 3 million need to be submitted to his office ASAP.

Councilmember Dieguez made the following motion “for all priorities, for all projects that were included in the PowerPoint dated September 7, 2023, for all the projects that were not submitted, I would like to add those projects to our list; in addition to the LPR Perimeter Network Completion Item that we just approved”. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano and the motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Alvarez voted in opposition; Vice Mayor Fernandez was absent.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the Milling and Resurfacing under 3 million dollars. Mayor Cid seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0. Councilmember Alvarez and Vice Mayor Fernandez were absent.

Councilmember Dieguez motion to approve the Par 3 Passive Park Remediation at 3 million. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Vice Mayor Fernandez were absent.

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the Pocket Park Revitalization for \$400,000 and the Pedestrian Safety and Signalization Improvements Item for \$450,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and the motion passed 5-0; Vice Mayor Fernandez and Councilmember Alvarez were absent.

Vice Mayor Fernandez moved the main motion, as amended, and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

## **12. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AMENDING TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE CHAPTER 16, AND CREATING ARTICLE V., SHOPPING CARTS, PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, explained that this Ordinance was drafted inspired by the Ordinance of the City of Miami Gardens and the City of Doral, particularly how they use their shopping cart ordinance. He clarified that the purpose of the shopping cart ordinance is for no shopping carts to be found throughout the town, not to create additional burdens on our local businesses. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella also asked the Town Council to direct him to work with Councilmember Dieguez on this item and to come back with a second version.

Councilmember Dieguez then moved the Ordinance in first reading, with the caveat that the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will look very different, because his goal is to follow the statute, which is that in 5 days, we can pick up the carts and move them off so that they are no longer an eyesore. It's not about imposing penalties, but about treating them as abandoned properties. Councilmember Dieguez explained that we would notify the owner about the abandoned carts, and if in 5 days they don't respond, then we would have the right to treat them as abandoned carts, notify them and charge them the difference for the disposal. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading passed, 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

### **13. ORDINANCE IN SECOND 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.

Mayor Cid opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and stated that this is a temporary transfer of cash from the general fund to the capital projects funds to be able to complete the acquisition of the warehouse for the 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue project. There is a stipulation that once the money is transferred, we have 365 days to repay the general fund, after we get reimbursements from all the different sources for the acquisition cost.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to approve the ordinance in second reading and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in second reading passed 5-2; Councilmember Collazo and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

### **14. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 22-307 AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 23-310; MODIFYING BUDGETED LINE ITEMS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and stated that this is the close out of the Budget. Councilmember Alvarez motioned to approve, and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE LICENSE AND USE AGREEMENT WITH THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF MIAMI LAKES FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS FOR USE OF MIAMI LAKES OPTIMIST PARK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING AUTHORITY TO THE OWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Councilmember Collazo motioned to reopen public comments for the Optimist Park representative, Mr. Hamilton, to speak on this item and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. Mayor Cid stated Mr. Hamilton can come up to speak after Town staff presented.

Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun presented and stated that this item is the Optimist renewal agreement which is the same exact agreement from 2019. He stated there are essentially no changes on this renewal, that it is another 5-year extension that keeps the same items discussed from the last phase. The only lingering item still in the negotiations phase is if the park were to ever be enhanced or improved, the fee assessment would be reviewed. As there have been no enhancements, the renewal is proposed at the original fee assessment with the same terms and extending this agreement through 2029.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Garcia seconded.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to change the 5-year extension to 7-year extension, for the Optimist Club and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo would like to direct, in the spirit of the motion, that as we entertain the 7 years, if material conditions were to change in those 7 years, that there is an opportunity to revisit the rate. Mayor Cid stated he is going to get there so they will take the motion of the 7 years and then every other change in the contract after that. After discussion, Mayor Cid stated Councilmember Collazo's direction is fine.

Town Attorney Gastesi then stated that in the current contract, there is a 30-day clause. As a thought, he recommended they put in the contract a 180-day clause where either party can terminate. Mayor Cid stated beyond the 7 years, he wanted to see if they can appoint Councilmember Collazo or former Councilmember Jeffrey Rodriguez, to look into the contract to look at things like the possibility of allowing multiple travel teams per division and other rules. Mayor Cid would like to appoint Councilmember Collazo to go back to the Optimist Club and negotiate the contract. Councilmember Collazo stated that is not his skillset but will happily defer to Councilmember Dieguez; that he will meet during a sunshine meeting with Councilmember Dieguez, and give him his input and personal experience, so with his legal skill, Councilmember Dieguez can negotiate.

Parks and Recreation Director Mr. Bajdaun stated that unlike the Soccer Club's agreement, this agreement is coming to an end on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Town Manager Pidermann stated that this will come back at the January Regular Council Meeting but if negotiations are ongoing, they will bring back an alternative item to continue the contract on a month-to-month basis, if negotiations aren't complete.

Mr. Jim Hamilton, Optimist Park representative, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the soccer program has Royal Oaks Park 7 days a week whereas they have it for 5 hours for flag football which is not fair. He also stated that any fee they are given is a pass-through fee which is based on the registration fee and sponsor fees so anytime they raise the fee, it's paid by the parents. Mr. Hamilton also mentioned that recreational baseball is super important and if travel is not controlled, it will take over the program. He

then stated that they have 7 travel teams based on age requirements and they only want 1 team per age group until they see how to manage it, so that recreation does not go down.

Councilmember Collazo added that he could not be happier with the Optimist Club and that his kids had a very positive experience; however, the only opportunity he sees for the growth of the club would be to add more travel opportunities. After further discussion, the Town Council discussed having parents that play at the park, be part of the negotiation discussions.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that regarding Item 14A, which was previously approved, he wanted to add something that resurfaced today, which is that the School Board approved the light installation of the tennis courts. Town Manager Pidermann would like an amendment on the budget year end budget revision item 14A to be made.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to reconsider the budget item and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Ruano were absent.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then moved Town Manager Pidermann's request to move \$112,000 from the MLOP Master Plan to MLOP Capital Infrastructure line. Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Ruano were absent.

After the vote for the budget year end revision item, Mayor Cid stated that Item 14B has been tabled and will be brought back.

## **15. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### **A. Unauthorized Use of Public Areas (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and stated that it is simply to add provisions in the code, substantially like the attachment from the City of Orlando's code of ordinances. It is intended to address a variety of different unpermitted uses in public areas. He added this is in part inspired by the recent uptick in the amount of homelessness in the town.

Councilmember Dieguez then stated via motion that this item is simply to adopt an ordinance in substantially the same form as the attached from the City of Orlando but also directing the Town Manager and Town Attorney to seek out partnerships with local organizations to try to set up agreements where if there is a homeless person, they first get aid. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded for discussion.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then asked if the Council would get the ordinance back before adoption and Mayor Cid stated yes.

Councilmember Collazo then stated he would like to make an amendment to the main motion, to make accessible in the lobby of town hall homeless help cards that are alternatives to giving money. Councilmember Collazo then made an amendment to get Here's Help homeless cards for town hall and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. As part of the amendment, Councilmember Collazo wants to raise public awareness by utilizing resources in place by the county, homeless trust, and the shelter operators to be consistent in the message and to create a public information component happening prior to any law the

council may or may not consider. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded that amendment. The amendments passed unanimously.

On the main motion, the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Splash Pad at Veterans Park (Alvarez)**

Councilmember Alvarez made a motion directing staff to look at a combination of options through either grant funding, budget, or a combination of both, to incorporate a splash pad into Veterans Park. Mayor Cid seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez then stated he cannot support the item because it takes space away from the park for events, it is a very busy park, and takes away focus from other amenities. Councilmember Collazo stated he is not in favor of a splash pad; however, he asked Councilmember Alvarez if he is open to not having it at Veterans Park and have Town Staff come back with a different recommendation. Councilmember Alvarez stated he is open for staff to come back with other parks. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded Councilmember Collazo's question as a friendly amendment. The amendment passed 6-1; Councilmember Ruano was in opposition.

On the main motion as amended, the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Ruano was in opposition.

Councilmember Alvarez then took a moment of personal privilege to read a statement into the record with his resignation from the Town Council effective the November 14, 2023 meeting.

**C. Miami Lakes Model UN Conference (Ruano)**

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to support this year's Model UN Conference for middle schoolers and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

**D. Miami Lakes United Soccer Club (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and stated that the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club's contract is coming up. Mayor Cid then made a motion to direct staff to extend their contract for another seven years and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano expressed concerns that this contract would be extended further than any other organized sports contract. Councilmember Dieguez then stated he cannot support extending seven years but is fine with five years to not tie the hands of future councils and it goes past the Town Manager and Town Attorney's contracts.

After discussion, Town Manager Pidermann asked for clarification as the current soccer club contract is due to expire in May and are entitled to two 1-year renewals, so the proposal is to renegotiate a brand-new contract for 7 years and terminate the old contract and Mayor Cid stated yes.

Councilmember Collazo shared his experience with the Miami Lakes Optimist Club and its travel team. He stated they do not give opportunities to the kids in the community to play travel baseball as there are only two spots on each team. He also stated his kids had to leave to play for the City of Miami which embraces a hybrid program of recreation and travel. He added that just focusing on recreation is a disservice to a lot of residents. Councilmember Collazo stated that he has no issue extending the contract and supports the work they are doing in the soccer club but there has to be offers. He then asked for guidance from Town Staff and the Town Attorney on what is the proper thing to do if they wanted to include other things in these contracts.

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella stated that the item on the table is the New Business Item for the Soccer Club, and the Optimist Club item would come later so if he wanted staff to look into the 7 years and open negotiations with Miami Lakes United, that would be proper. Mayor Cid then clarified that is the spirit of the item as the contract would have to come back to be voted on. He also stated that things may have gotten lost in translation because the soccer club has a robust travel program and appreciates them for also embracing recreation and don't turn kids away.

Mr. Alvin Murray, the person who oversees the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club, stated they have two components, recreational and travel. Councilmember Collazo then asked if they reject kids or accept everyone into the travel program. Mr. Murray stated that the way they do it is by having a different number of teams. Councilmember Collazo then stated specifically speaking to the baseball program, he would like for there to be continuity and perhaps mimic the soccer club model. After discussion, Mr. Murray assured MLUSC never turns anyone away from their programs and that they are open to collaborations and partnerships.

Councilmember Collazo asked Mayor Cid if his suggestions need to be in a formal motion to direct staff to come back with opportunities to collaborate to make sure there are no gaps or is there sufficient direction through dialogue and Mayor Cid stated he believes there is sufficient direction. Mayor Cid restated that the main motion is to come back with a 7-year contract, the substance of that contract has been discussed enough that staff has it in their notes.

After further discussion, the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Dieguez was in opposition.

**E. EAB Student Representative Term (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to bring back the ordinance for the EAB to set specific parameters regarding the student representative's term and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

**F. Resolution to Support SB 172 – Verification of Eligibility for Homestead Exemption (Ruano)**

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the resolution to support SB 172 which is a bill allowing 100% disabled veterans to apply for homestead exemption prior to

purchasing a residence so that it's not counted against them when calculating their mortgage payments. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

#### **G. Video Production Quality (Cid)**

Mayor Cid made a motion to direct staff to begin looking at the video production quality and bring back a report to the Council. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

#### **H. 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project Management (Fernandez)**

This item was moved to before 13A.

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented the item.

Vice Mayor Fernandez motioned directing the Town Manager to retain a project management professional, to lead the management of this project. Mayor Cid seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Collazo made a motion amending Vice Mayor Fernandez' motion, to not make it mandatory- to give the Town Manager the flexibility to bring in an outside consultant if he needs it. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion and the motion failed 3-4; Councilmember Alvarez, Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Fernandez, and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

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

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion from Vice Mayor Fernandez, which was seconded by Mayor Cid, and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

#### **I. Speed Bump (Cid)**

Mayor Cid made a motion directing staff to install some speed bumps on the road outlined in the memo. Councilmember Ruano seconded for discussion.

Councilmember Ruano then asked if there is a system in place where they analyze where they will install speed bumps as this should not be prioritized in front of any other streets. She added that she would rather add this street to any existing list and Mayor Cid seconded. On the amendment, the motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

On the main motion as amended, the motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

**J. Construction Site Staging/Debris Removal (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to add language in the contract of future procurement stipulating that any public works vendor that is doing a construction project, maintain certain standards regarding litter and debris removal at staging areas and at public works construction sites. Mayor Cid seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo then asked when construction sites may or may not cause damage to residents' property, is there a way to mitigate those damages and who is responsible, the town or the construction company? Town Manager Pidermann stated he asked Public Works Director Omar Santos to work with Chief Financial Officer Kay Grant who oversees the risk management program to see who the responsible party would be and provide him with a recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

**K. Legislative Priorities (Fernandez)**

This item was moved to be discussed with item 11B.

**16. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

**A. MDCLC Thanksgiving Turkey Drive (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia added this report during the Order of Business. He stated that the Miami Dade County League of Cities sent 20 certificates for turkeys to families in need in Miami Lakes. He added that he would like to give these certificates to the Giving Gators to give them to the needy kids in the schools.

Councilmember Collazo added he supports that but would like to amend that to add that at least 5 certificates be given to seniors through the Elderly Affairs Committee.

Councilmember Garcia moved to incorporate Councilmember Collazo's amendment and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously; 6-0.

**17. MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

**A. Adoption of 2024 Council Meetings Schedule (Pidermann)**

Councilmember Ruano moved to approve the adoption of 2024 Council Meeting dates and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

The Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo then outlined the changes to the 2024 Council Meeting dates.

The motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

**B. County Waste Incinerator Sites (Dieguez)**

Town Manager Pidermann stated that on October 25<sup>th</sup>, he emailed the Town Council an update on this item, after the zoom meeting he had with the County. The Town Council thanked the Town Manager and asked him to continue following up on this item.

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

Town Commander Gonzalez presented the report. He reported that there were no residential burglaries, commercial burglaries nor robberies. He stated that the Police continue offering high visibility patrol during midnight shift and on traffic enforcement. They also provided security during some Town events with no issues. Town Commander Gonzalez also mentioned that the police officers continue to conduct and provide educational tips regarding golf carts, to parents and children, on the new laws on this matter.

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

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, gave the report. He answered questions posed by the Town Council.

**18. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Town Attorney Gastesi reported that there will be a hearing on the Pizzi Matter case on December 20<sup>th</sup> and that he will report on this during the January Regular Council Meeting.

**19. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:03 a.m.

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

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Manny Cid, Mayor



Attest:

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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk

