

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA

MINUTES

Special Meeting

August 27, 2014

5:30 PM

Government Center

6601 Main Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Slaton called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

The Town Clerk, Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Frank Mingo, Nelson Rodriguez, Ceasar Mestre, Tim Daubert, Vice Mayor Manny Cid and Mayor Wayne Slaton. Councilman Tony Lama was absent.

3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Mayor Slaton led the invocation.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Slaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mayor Slaton stated, "After consulting with the Town Attorney who consulted with the Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics, Joseph Centorino, Esquire, I am abstaining from today's discussion and any vote taken in order to avoid a conflict of interest or even the appearance of a conflict of interest. I am now turning this meeting over to Vice-Mayor Manny Cid to chair the remainder of the meeting."

Tom Duman voiced his opposition with respect to Items 6A and 6B. He also expressed his discontent with the Town's efforts in notifying residents of the special call meeting.

Norma Franquiz spoke in favor of removing Michael A. Pizzi's suspension and expressed her opposition to utilizing tax dollars to fund the meeting's agenda.

Fred Senra opposed utilizing tax dollars to seek legal counsel. He would rather allow the judicial process to take its course.

Miriam Duman, via email, expressed her disapproval of Items 6A and 6B.

Elsa Martin spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B. She maintains that the Town should not have to expend resources to pursue legal action.

Nicole Jorge stated her support to reinstate Michael A. Pizzi back to office and also spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

Janice Schneider spoke in reference to Michael A. Pizzi's trial and expressed her opposition to Items 6A and 6B as she feels that the items will further evoke "undue trauma" to the Town.

Alex Ariano disapproves utilizing taxpayer resources to fund legal action in the case of *Michael A. Pizzi v. Rick Scott*. He suggested that the Town include a special ballot question in November's election asking residents to choose a Mayor to finish this term.

Hope Reynolds expressed her support to reinstate Michael A. Pizzi back into office. She proceeded to remind the Council of the Special Council Meeting held on August 8th, 2013. She also suggested that the Town include a special ballot question in November's election asking residents to choose a Mayor to finish the term. Her opposition to Items 6A and 6B was also asserted.

Mirtha Mendez reminded the Council of its duty to uphold the Town's Charter. She spoke in favor of Items 6A and 6B, thereby referring to various sections of the Town Charter.

Jose Gonzalez spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

Martha Martinez is opposed to Items 6A and 6B.

Ana Molina expressed her discontent with the meeting's time, as many residents are still working. She also wished that the Council would have been more proactive in informing the residents of the meeting. Her opposition to Items 6A and 6B was voiced.

Ileana Gonzalez stated her opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

Neyra Panchame spoke in favor of reinstating Michael A. Pizzi as Mayor of the Town and also spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

David Bennett spoke in favor of Items 6A and 6B and explained the importance of acquiring legal representation to help sort out constitutional issues which affect the Town. He asked residents to contemplate the following question: What would you do if you were asked to commit a crime?

Raul de la Sierra spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B and recommended that the Council not utilize public funds for initiatives involving legal disputes.

Robert Kruger spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B. He also suggested that the Vice Mayor should resume the responsibilities of the Mayor during his or her absence instead of holding a

special election.

Luis Panchame voiced his disagreement of Items 6A and 6B.

Adriana Kruger advocated for Michael A. Pizzi's return and voiced her opposition to the special election that was held in September 2013. She felt it was a waste of public funds.

David Reiner, legal representative of several residents, shared brief remarks regarding the petition that was filed with the Supreme Court. He clarified the intent of the petition, which is to revoke the suspension of Michael Pizzi. Mr. Reiner also spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

Claudia Luces requested that the Council protect the interests of Miami Lakes and to continue to uphold the Town Charter regardless of costs. She spoke in favor of the resolutions.

Roberto Alonso spoke about the embarrassment the Town has endured within the last year due to Michael A. Pizzi's trial. In spite of his exoneration, he asked Michael Pizzi the following question: Why did you accept money in a closet? He also commended the Council for its hard work in upholding the legacy that his father and other Town pioneers have spearheaded.

Roberlando Padilla posed the following question: If Michael Pizzi was exonerated from all charges, why hasn't he been restored back to office?

Manuel Rodriguez advocated for Michael A. Pizzi's return as he was tried and was found not guilty by all jurors. He spoke highly of Michael A. Pizzi's character and voiced his opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

Marilyn Ruano reiterated the matter at hand and urged the community to refer to the Town Charter to remain better informed. She also encouraged residents to demonstrate the same level of civic participation in other meetings, as today is not the only day tax dollars are spent.

Juan Pablo Ramos spoke in opposition to Items 6A and 6B.

As no one else wished to speak, Vice Mayor Cid closed public comments.

6. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**
 - A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION IN THE CASE OF MICHAEL A. PIZZI V. RICK SCOTT (FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CASE NUMBER SC14-1634); PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Raul Gastesi, Town Attorney, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Councilman Lama shared brief remarks via video.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the resolution into the record. Councilman Mestre made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Daubert. The Town Clerk, Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, called the roll and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Slaton was recused and Councilman Lama was absent.

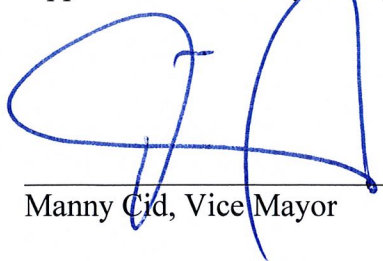
- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH AKERMAN, LLP FOR CONSULTING IN THE CASE OF MICHAEL A. PIZZI V. RICK SCOTT (FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CASE NUMBER SC14-1634); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH AKERMAN, LLP; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT WITH AKERMAN, LLP; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the resolution into the record. Councilman Daubert made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mingo. The Town Clerk, Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, called the roll and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Slaton was recused and Councilman Lama was absent.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Approved this 9th day of September 2014.



Manny Cid, Vice Mayor

Attest:



Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, Town Clerk