

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA

MINUTES

Special Meeting

January 9, 2015

4:00 PM

Government Center

6601 Main Street, Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Slaton called the meeting to order at 4:12 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."

Nicholasa Jorge suggested that the Council find another source of funding for the legal representation expenses.

Michael Pizzi elaborated on the Town's electoral history, the democratic process, and why he should fill the Mayoral Seat.

Tom Duman spoke in opposition to the all items, as he feels it's a waste of taxpayer money.

Robert Kruger advocated for Michael Pizzi's return and spoke in opposition to all of the items.

Miriam Duman expressed her discontent with respect to utilizing taxpayer funds on legal representation.

Paula Hagan spoke in favor of all the items and urged the Town Council to defend the Charter and the current Mayor, Wayne Slaton.

Pablo Peña expressed his opposition to expending taxpayer funds on the below-mentioned items.

Alex Ariano spoke in opposition to all the items.

Edric Valdes shared his support for all the items.

Raul de la Sierra requested that the Town Council uphold the Charter without expending Town funds.

Carmen Nodal voiced her opposition to all the items.

David Bennett shared his support for the all the items.

Jose Nodal, Sr. expressed his approval of Michael Pizzi's reinstatement.

Jose Nodal spoke in favor of Michael Pizzi's return to the Mayoral seat.

Marta Martinez spoke in opposition to all the items.

Eladio Jose Ernesto voiced his opposition to all the items and suggested that the Charter be amended to provide more specificity regarding the reinstatement of the Mayor.

Carlos Ibanez advocated for Michael Pizzi's return.

Rosalina Nunez supported Michael Pizzi's reinstatement.

Marilyn Ruano voiced her support for all the items for discussion.

Mirtha Mendez expressed her support for the items and recommended that the Council include a clause stating that the plaintiffs are to reimburse the Town for expended funds concerning the lawsuit.

Dave Oliver recommended that the Town hold a boxing match to fund the lawsuit.

Jackie George advocated for Mayor Michael Pizzi's return.

Ed Shohat spoke in favor of Michael Pizzi's reinstatement.

Ralf Rodriguez advocated for Michael Pizzi to finish his term and asked the Council to follow the Rule of Law.

George Demming shared his opposition to all of the items.

Nancy Simon spoke in favor of all the items, as she feels it's the Town's moral obligation.

Claudia Luces expressed her support for all of the items and asked the Town Council to respect her vote.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Defense of the case of Michael A. Pizzi, Jr. and Mary Collins vs. Town of Miami Lakes, Florida, Wayne Slaton, and Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, in her Official Capacity as Town Clerk, Town of Miami Lakes, Florida (Miami-Dade Case No.: 15-000256-CA-01(08) (Gastesi)

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, conducted a presentation. Councilman Mingo made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mestre. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-0. Councilman Lama was absent and Mayor Slaton recused himself.

B. Approval of the Akerman Law Firm to serve as Counsel for Mayor Wayne Slaton in the case of Michael A. Pizzi, Jr. and Mary Collins vs. Town of Miami Lakes, Florida, Wayne Slaton, and Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, in her Official Capacity as Town Clerk, Town of Miami Lakes, Florida (Miami-Dade Case No.: 15-000256-CA-01(08) (Slaton)

Councilman Mestre made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Daubert. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-0. Councilman Lama was absent and Mayor Slaton recused himself.

C. Approval of Gelber Schachter & Greenberg to serve as Counsel for Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo in the case of Michael A. Pizzi, Jr. and Mary Collins vs. Town of Miami Lakes, Florida, Wayne Slaton, and Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, in her Official Capacity as Town Clerk, Town of Miami Lakes, Florida (Miami-Dade Case No.: 15-000256-CA-01(08) (Rey)

Councilman Mestre made a motion to approve the item. The motion was seconded by Councilman Daubert. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-0. Councilman Lama was absent and Mayor Slaton recused himself.

D. Pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, the Town Attorney advising the Town Council of the Town Attorney's desire for advice concerning the litigation in the case of Michael A. Pizzi, Jr. and Mary Collins vs. Town of Miami Lakes, Florida, Wayne Slaton, and Marjorie Tejeda-Castillo, in her Official Capacity as Town

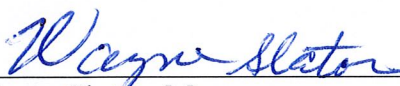
**Clerk, Town of Miami Lakes, Florida (Miami-Dade Case No.: 15-000256-CA-01(08)
and request for an attorney-client session pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida
Statutes (Gastesi)**

The Town Attorney called an Executive Session for two matters: Michael A. Pizzi, Jr. and Mary Collins vs. Town of Miami Lakes, Florida et al. on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. and J.R.T. vs. Town of Miami Lakes, Florida on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

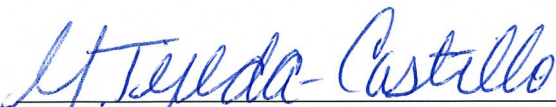
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Approved this February 3, 2015



Wayne Slaton, Mayor

Attest:



Marjorie Tejada-Castillo, Town Clerk