

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

May 8, 2001

Miami Lakes Middle School
6245 Miami Lakeway North
Miami Lakes, FL 33014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order Tuesday, April 24, 2001 by Mayor Wayne Slaton at 7:20 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** In addition to the Mayor, the following Council members were present at roll call: Vice Mayor Roberto Alonso, Councilwoman Mary Collins, Councilman Robert Meador, Councilman Michael Pizzi, Councilwoman Nancy Simon, and Councilman Peter Thomson. Staff members present were Interim Town Manager Merrett Stierheim; Acting Town Attorneys Nina Boniske and Allison Bieler, Acting Town Clerk Beatris M. Arguelles and Interim Administrative Coordinator Angela Garrison.
3. **INVOCATION:** Al Pino, Palm Vista Community Church offered the invocation.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Slaton Led the Pledge.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The following meeting minutes were approved:

April 11, 2001 - the minutes of April 11, 2001 were approved as circulated upon a motion by Councilwoman Collins, seconded by Councilman Thomson.

April 24, 2001 - Councilwoman Collins corrected the minutes to reflect "1%" (*regarding her comments on a suggested decrease in the utility tax*) as opposed to "1 cent" as reflected in the minutes. The minutes were approved as amended upon a motion by Councilwoman Collins, seconded by Councilman Thomson.
6. **ORDER OF BUSINESS (DEFERRALS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS):** The Order of Business was approved as presented following a motion by Councilwoman Collins, seconded by Councilman Meador.
7. **PRESENTATIONS:** No presentations were made.
8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The following persons were heard:

Bernice Smith - announced the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Miami Lakes Palm Springs North Public Library on Saturday, May 26, 2001 and encouraged residents to attend the event.

Michael Pike - apologized for not getting invitations out in time for the Oratorical Contest. Regarding the Parks, he volunteered to assist the Town in building Optimist Club(s). On the matter of annexation, he expressed opposition to the move citing that the Town might be moving to fast with not enough information.

Maria Kramer - expressed distress over a Miami Herald Article, which she opined, did not accurately report on the annexation workshop meeting. She suggested that the Council consider televising the meetings.

Sean Schwinghammer - spoke in favor of annexation. He cited that the former Community Council used to oversee the area and suggested that the Town should try to plan it properly. He expressed fear that the land might be taken over by the City of Hialeah Gardens and that the Town would become land-locked. He suggested that the property is revenue neutral.

Ken Drake - expressed concern about increased traffic flow caused by students going in and out of the newly constructed building (Administrative) at the middle school. He stated that people are parking in the residents' driveways and swale areas and blocking cars from getting in or out of homes. He mentioned that emergency vehicles would have difficulty getting through on White Oak Drive due to the numerous vehicles blocking the road. Mr. Drake suggested that the town look into putting up some kind of barrier (no parking signs, railroad ties, etc.) The Mayor asked the Town Manager to meet with Mr. Drake and Mr. Pina, Dade County Team Metro, and a member from the Miami Lakes Architectural Control to try to resolve the situation or to make recommendations for the Town Council and the School Board to consider.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES:

A. PURCHASING PROCEDURES (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING PURCHASING PROCEDURES; DESIGNATING A PURCHASING AGENT; PROVIDING FOR LIMITATIONS ON PURCHASES; PROVIDING FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING; ESTABLISHING COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND BID OPENING PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR AWARDING OF BIDS; PROVIDING FOR WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE BIDDING; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPETITIVE BIDDING; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Acting Town Attorney Nina Boniske read the Ordinance by Title. Councilwoman Collins moved to adopt the Ordinance on First Reading. Councilman Thomson seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Collins asked to amend the Ordinance by changing the effective date to the date of appointment of a permanent Town Manager and to increase the allowable purchase amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000, Councilman Thomson asked that an annual review be included in the Ordinance and to allow for two persons to attend the bid openings.

Councilman Pizzi expressed opposition to any amendments to the Ordinance, citing that the Ordinance is sufficient as proposed. The Mayor asked that each amendment be voted on separately.

Following brief discussion, Councilman Thomson moved to have two staff members (the Manager and an additional person) attend bid openings and attest the bid documents. The motion was second by Councilwoman Simon. The amendment passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Collins moved to have the effective date be the date of appointment of a permanent manager. Seconded by Mayor. Motion failed 2-5 with each member voting as follows: Collins: Yes, Meador: No, Pizzi: No, Simon: No, Thomson: No, Alonso: No and Mayor Slaton: Yes.

Councilman Thomson moved to amend the Ordinance to require an annual review of the purchasing ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Collins and carried unanimously.

Noting that there were no provisions governing professional services, Pizzi asked whether or not there would be a need for an Ordinance covering professional services to be drafted in the future. The Interim Town Manager noted that RFQ's are usually sought for professional services and that if it came down to a number of qualified firms/individuals the town would be able to negotiate on price, depending on the professional service. He stated no opposition to a policy direction from the Town Council governing professional services.

On the main motion to adopt the Ordinance on First Reading, as amended, the motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

B INTERIM BUDGET (First Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE INTERIM BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000-2001; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Acting Town Attorney Nina Boniske read the Ordinance by title and Councilwoman Simon moved its adoption on first reading. Councilwoman Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilwoman Collins suggested that the Mayor's salary, as addressed in the Charter, be budgeted and included in the interim budget prior to adoption. She asked that the Manager look into including funds for the Mayor's salary.

Councilwoman Collins also suggested that the amount for dues & publications be increased, since the Town has already committed more funds than are reflected in the interim budget.

Councilman Meador asked whether or not a separate Ordinance was needed to address the matter of the Mayor's salary, the Town Attorney opined that the Council could address the issue through adoption of the Interim Budget Ordinance.

10. **RESOLUTIONS:** There were no resolutions presented for approval.

11. **DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS:**

A. MAYOR'S REPORT:

1. **Transition of Services with Miami-Dade County** - The Mayor reported that the County is still operating Royal Oaks Park, as well as other parks in the Town. He stated that although the Town has passed a Resolution requesting the Park be transferred, the Town does not have the permanent infrastructure in place to operate the park(s) and therefore would not be assuming immediate responsibilities that will be worked out in the transition process.

He also noted that agreements between the Town and the School board are being worked on so the Town will be able to continue to use the parks that are currently under agreement with the County.

The Mayor announced that an initial meeting regarding Police services would be occurring soon.

2. **Florida Institute of Government - 2001 Institute for Elected Officials** - The Mayor urged all Council members to attend the Institute.

3. **Strategic Planning Workshop (Coral Springs/Weston)** - The Mayor announced tentative dates for the workshops as Weston, Thursday, May 17th and Coral Springs, Monday, May 21st.

B COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

1. **Town seal, logo, slogan, website** - Councilwoman Collins moved to approve the final draft of the concept and general design of the Town Seal as sketched by Felicia Salazar. Councilman Thomson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Collins noted that the sketch would be transferred to its final form by a Graphic Artist to be used by the Town on all its official documents.

Regarding the contest for the Logo, Councilwoman Collins reported that posters would be distributed around the Town announcing the contest, which is set to end on May 25, 2001.

2. **Code Enforcement** - Councilman Pizzi asked that the item be tabled.
3. **Annexation** - Councilman Meador absented himself from the meeting room citing a personal conflict of interest.

Prior to discussion by the Council, the following residents were heard:

In favor (6): Sean Schwinghammer, Jacqueline Santana, Jose Enriquez, Diane Dominguez, Arturo Rodriguez and Pedro Carballo.

In opposition (11): Neil Robinson, Raul Gestasi, Dorothy Cook, Bob Echols, Maggie Clavelo, Felicia Salazar, Mark Carswell, Noelio Mantilla, Braulio Ortiz, and Manny Figueroa. Michael Pike submitted a speakers' card in opposition to annexation, but was not present when called.

Following the comments from the public, and a brief recess, the Council engaged in discussion and debate regarding the pros and cons of annexing the land.

Councilman Pizzi urged the Council to move forward in annexing the land. Council members Alonso opposed annexing the land. Councilwoman Simon stated that she was opposed to annexation, but is in favor of looking into the matter fully. Councilman Thomson stated he would vote against any motion to annex the property at his time. Councilwoman Collins expressed concern over the costs of an impact study and suggested a cost analysis be conducted. Mayor Slaton expressed opposition to expanding the boundaries through annexing the land and expressed concern over the possible costs involved in the clean-up and final disposition of the property.

Councilman Pizzi moved that the Council adopt a resolution requesting that the County place a moratorium on discussion of annexation until such

time as the Town has a permanent Manager in place who would then make an application to the County for annexation of the land. Councilwoman Simon seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-4 with each member voting as follows on a roll call vote: Collins: No, Pizzi: Yes, Simon: Yes, Thomson: No, Alonso: No, Slaton: No. Councilman Meador was not present and therefore did not vote on the question.

Councilman Meador rejoined the Council on the dais for the remainder of the meeting.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. **Ratification of Contract with "The Consultant Group"** - Interim Town Manager presented a contract with the Consulting Group, noting that the Contract solidifies the process previously approved by the Council. Councilwoman Collins moved to ratify the contract. Councilman Thomson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Scholarships** - Councilman Meador proposed the "Key to the Town of Miami Lakes Scholarship Award" which would include a key to the Town of Miami Lakes to be awarded to a graduating senior of the Town of Miami Lakes. He urged that the Council consider budgeting funds for a matching amount to be funded from private sources. Meador moved that a resolution be drafted outlining the proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thomson and carried unanimously.
2. **Banking Relations** - Councilman Meador asked the Town Manager to look into the matter. Interim Town Manager Stierheim noted he is currently looking into various investment options, including the State of Florida Board of Administration Investment Pool as recommended by the Interim Town Clerk.
3. **Beautification** - discussion tabled.
4. **Zoning Procedures** - discussion tabled.

12. FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- A. **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, 2001, and June 12, 2001, Miami Lakes Miami lakes middle school.

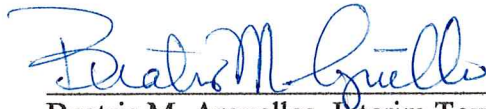
13. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:59 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of May, 2001

attest:



Hon. Wayne Slaton, Mayor



Beatris M. Arguelles, Interim Town Clerk