

**TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA**

**COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**June 26, 2001**

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Wayne Slaton called the meeting to order on Tuesday, June 26, 2001 at 7:15 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** 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 Attorney Nina Boniske, Interim Administrative Coordinator Angela Garrison and Interim Town Clerk Beatris M. Arguelles.
3. **INVOCATION:** Pastor Dino Padron, New Testament Baptist Church.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Slaton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 12, 2001 Council Meeting - Councilwoman Collins moved to accept the minutes. Councilman Thomson seconded the motion.** The Interim Clerk asked that the Council accept an amendment to delete the last paragraph on page 4 and that the following be inserted:

“Councilman Meador stated that he took the time to review the tapes of the Charter Committee, and that upon review of the tapes he was of the opinion that the Charter Committee wanted to leave it to the discretion of the Town Council to determine a salary for the Mayor.”

Councilwoman Collins amended the minutes on page 2, paragraph two, line three, to include that letters also be sent to the State Representatives, County Commission, and School Board offices.

The motion to approve the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

6. **ORDER OF BUSINESS (Deferrals/Additions/Deletions)** Councilman Thomson asked that item 11(b)2 be deferred. Interim Town Manager Stierheim

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The motion to approve the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

6. **ORDER OF BUSINESS (Deferrals/Additions/Deletions)** Councilman Thomson asked that item 11(b)2 be deferred. Interim Town Manager Stierheim

stated that item 11(b)4 was not put on the Agenda for a vote at this meeting and asked that the Council make recommendations and suggestions regarding council meetings and agenda procedures. Councilwoman Collins moved the agenda as amended. Councilwoman Simon seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

7. **PRESENTATIONS:** No presentations were made.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The following residents were heard:

**Pedro Delgado** - commended the Town Manager for advertising the Town information in the Miami Laker; Councilman Pizzi for getting rid of the graffiti on a wall in the West Lakes area, and the Council as a whole for the Strategic Planning Meetings.

**Felicia Salazar** - requested the status of the zip code, web site, road work and the park. She congratulated the Council, the Mayor, the Interim Town Manager and the Strategic Planning team for the Strategic Planning Meetings. She also commended the public for participating in what she termed a real "team" effort and opined that it was a great experience.

**Sean Schwinghammer** - regarding alteration of procedures for the meetings, he requested that the Council not change the procedures and urged that the public continue to be allowed to speak at Council meetings. Regarding general compensation of the Mayoral position, he recommended that the Council consider a per-diem or a one-time payment for work executed.

9. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES**

A. **TOWN SEAL (Second Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE TOWN SEAL; ADOPTING REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE OFFICIAL USE OF THE TOWN SEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Interim Town Attorney Nina Boniske read the Ordinance by title. Mayor Slaton opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments from the public, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular meeting.

Councilman Meador moved to adopt the Ordinance. Councilwoman Collins seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

B. **SALARY FOR THE MAYOR (Second Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A SALARY AND BENEFITS FOR THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Interim Town Attorney Richard Jay Weiss read the Ordinance by title. Mayor Slaton absented himself from the room, citing a conflict of interest as advised by the Interim Town Attorney. Vice Mayor Alonso proceeded to chair the meeting.

Vice Mayor Alonso opened the Pubic Hearing. The following residents were heard:

In opposition: Anselmo Gil, Jenny Pike, Angel Gonzalez, Ralph Mizrahi and Sean Schwinghammer.

In favor: Bob Echols, Jim Bozer, John Gonzalez, Felicia Salazar, Dorothy Cook, Trish Morgan, Maggie Clavelo, Mike Clavelo, Maria Kramer, and Pedro Delgado and Manny Figueroa.

Jack Leahy, on behalf of Father Murphy, Our Lady of Lakes Catholic Church read a letter from Father, commenting on the proposed Mayor's compensation package.

The Interim Town Manager clarified that the Town Charter calls for a Mayor-Council-Manager form of government, suggesting a working Mayor.

Following lengthy discussion and debate during which two motions were made but failed for lack of a second, Councilwoman Collins moved to adopt the Ordinance as read. Councilman Thomson seconded the motion. Following additional discussion the motion carried 4-2-0, with each Council member voting as follows: Councilwoman Collins: Yes, Councilman Meador: Yes, Councilman Pizzi: No, Councilwoman Simon: No, Councilman Thomson: Yes, Vice Mayor Alonso: Yes, Mayor Slaton: Absent.

The Vice Mayor called for a recess. The Mayor reconvened the meeting and all members were present at roll call.

**C. COMMUNICATIONS TAX (Second Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA PERTAINING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX RATE; PROVIDING FOR INTENT; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION NOT TO REQUIRE AND COLLECT PERMIT FEES; ESTABLISHING THE LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**

**TAX RATES; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Acting Town Attorney Nina Boniske read the Ordinance by title. Councilwoman Collins moved the Ordinance on second reading. Councilwoman Simon Seconded the motion. The Mayor opened the public hearing. Hearing no residents in favor of or in opposition to the Ordinance the Mayor closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting.

Councilwoman Simon noted that under this Ordinance, the residents are not paying any more than they are currently paying.  
The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

**10. RESOLUTIONS:**

**A. LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION AND THE PROJECT CERTIFICATION FORM TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO ENABLE THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES TO OBTAIN ITS STATUTORY SHARE OF THE ONE TO FIVE CENTS LOCAL OPTION FUEL TAX IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 336.025(4)(b) AND 206.41 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES TO BE UTILIZED FOR RESIDENTIAL AND FEEDER ROAD RESURFACING PROJECTS WITHIN THE TOWN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** Acting Town Attorney Nina Boniske read the Resolution by title. Following brief discussion, Councilwoman Collins moved to adopt. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Simon and carried unanimously.

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

**A. Mayor's Report:**

- 1. Transition of Services with Miami Dade County -** Mayor Slaton issued a written report (*attached to these fully executed minutes.*)
- 2. Appointments -** The Mayor made the following appointments to the Education Advisory Committee and

Youth Task Force, respectively and asked for confirmation on the members as follows:

Education Advisory Committee:

Youth Activities Task Force:

**B. Town Manager's Report:**

1. **Confirmation of Beatris (Betty) M. Arguelles** - Interim Town Manager Stierheim recommended that the Council confirm the appointment of Beatris M. Arguelles to the position of Town Clerk. The Mayor recognized two residents that wished to speak on the issue, Mirtha Mendez (against) and Dorothy Cook (in favor). Councilwoman Collins moved the appointment. Councilman Thomson seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.
2. **Miami Lakes Strategic Planning Process** - The Interim Town Manager noted that the meetings were successful.
3. **Sound & Recording Equipment** - Interim Town Manager Stierheim recommended that the Council accept the recommendation to purchase the sound and recording equipment (as described in a memorandum dated June 20, 2001) in the amount of \$8,523.28. Councilwoman Collins moved to accept the recommendation. Councilwoman Simon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Simon asked that the Interim Manager look into having the Council meetings video taped.

4. **Council Meeting and Agenda Procedures:** Mr. Stierheim asked that each Councilmember review the suggested procedures and comment accordingly in order to prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

**C. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **BUILDING PERMIT PROBLEMS** - Councilwoman Collins asked that the Attorney be directed to look into creating an ordinance that would prevent a builder from being granted a permit to begin new construction until the homeowners are satisfied that all the work is completed as

promised.

Councilman Pizzi moved that under the direction of the interim Manager, that he look into, immediately the situation in the Anchorage. And with his expert staff, report back to the Council as soon as possible with all and any measures that can be taken by the Town and staff to alleviate the problems in the Anchorage as soon as humanly possible. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Collins. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **CITIZEN ACCESS OF AGENDA AND ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS** - Councilmember Thomson suggested that the Agenda be made available on CD's.

Councilman Pizzi moved that items 3 and 4 be deferred to the next meeting following the Planning and Zoning workshops with the understanding that they would be brought back as resolutions. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Collins and carried unanimously.

3. **DESIGNATION OF LOCAL PLANNING AGENDA (LPA)** - Councilmember Pizzi - deferred.
4. **DESIGNATION OF COUNCIL AS ZONING BOARD** - Councilmember Pizzi - deferred.
5. **BEAUTIFICATION** - Councilmember Pizzi - gave an oral report citing the goals of the beautification project. One goal he presented was to assure that all of Miami Lakes beautiful and pristine using public and private partnerships i.e.: programs such as Tree Planting and Adopt-a-Wall programs and urged the maximization of promotion of these programs. The second goal to increased code enforcement in the Area. The third goal for landscaping to be put in along the roadways.

He asked that each Councilmember give comments regarding the plan in memorandum form for the next meeting.

Vice Mayor Alonso urged that the Town emphasize the "canopy" effect and encourage residents to plant shade trees. He suggested that a possible program can be created to work with private entities and provide shade trees at a low cost.

Councilwoman Collins recommended that xeriscape landscaping (low maintenance) for future landscaping projects.

6. **TRAFFIC ON 154<sup>TH</sup> STREET** - Councilmember Alonso reported that on March 18<sup>th</sup> he met with DOT, Gus Pego to discuss changes to the underpass at 154<sup>th</sup> and the Palmetto Expressway. He stated that renovations that would increase the number of cars in the pocket and decrease the number of cars in the middle of the street, should begin before the end of the year.

**12. FUTURE MEETING DATES:**


**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** - 7:00 p.m., July 10, 2001 and July 24, 2001, Miami Lakes Middle School.

13. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2001

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Wayne Slaton, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beatris M. Arguelles, Town Clerk