

MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Miami Lakes Middle School
6425 Miami Lakeway North
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mayor Wayne Slaton called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL** – In addition to the Mayor, the following Council Members were present at roll call: Mary Collins, Robert Meador, Nancy Simon, Peter Thompson and Vice Mayor Roberto Alonso. The following staff members were also present: Town Manager Alex Rey, Town Attorney Nina Boniske and Michael Marrero of the law firm Weiss, Serota, Helfman Pastoriza and Guedes, PA.; and Town Clerk Beatris M. Arguelles, CMC.
3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE** - The Mayor called for a moment of silence.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**- The Mayor led the pledge.
5. **ORDER OF BUSINESS (DEFERRALS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS)** - Councilwoman Simon moved to pull items 7(d), 7(f), and 7(h) from the consent agenda. Councilwoman Collins requested to pull from the consent agenda item 7(c). In addition Councilwoman Collins read a memo where in she expressed concerns relating to the agenda. She expressed her wishes for the agenda to contain more specific information regarding the items to be discussed allowing for a more detailed explanation for the citizens.
6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** The Mayor on behalf of the Town Council and the Town of Miami Lakes presented the following proclamations:

National Championship Winners Barbara Goleman Varsity Cheerleaders

National Championship Winners Barbara Goleman Jewels Dance Team

Pace High School Valedictorian - Sara Mijares, Miami Lakes Resident

Pace High School Salutatorian - Sara Carballo, Miami Lakes Resident

In addition, the Mayor proclaimed May 13th Barbara Goleman Cheerleaders' Squad Day.

Also, at this time, Councilman Pizzi arrived.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **MINUTES:**

April 22, 2003 – LPA Meeting (Page 7) – approved on Consent agenda

April 22, 2003 – Special Meeting (Page 9) – approved on Consent agenda

B. APPROVING CONTRACTS WITH 2ADVANCED STUDIOS TO HOST AND MAINTAIN THE TOWN'S WEBSITE (Rey) (Page 12)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES AND 2ADVANCED STUDIOS TO PERFORM WEB SERVICES AND WEB HOSTING; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO FINALIZE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Approved on Consent agenda

C. OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF EXOTIC PLANTS FROM ALONG I-75 (Rey/Slaton) (Page 38)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S REMOVAL OF EXOTIC PLANTS FROM ALONG I-75; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OFFICIALS TO SEND COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Councilwoman Collins urged to vote against the resolution citing concerns relating to the existing exotic plants causing health problems. Councilwoman Simon mentioned that she does also have concerns with regards to the exotic plants. However, she cited that citizens living along I-75 did not wish for the plants to be removed due to the sound barrier they provide. She urged the town manager to encourage the Department of Transportation to provide a solution to the removal of the plants while providing a sound barrier. The Mayor stated for the records that a resident went to see him specifically about this issue. The citizen, while not opposed to the removal of the plants, asked that a plan be drafted before any action is taken. Vice Mayor Alonso stated that he was under the impression that these plants would be replaced after their removal. The Town Manager informed the council that the original plan did not call for the replacement of the exotic plants, which was the reason, why the town staff recommended opposing the removal. Councilman Meador expressed that a possible solution may be the removal of the trees except in the Miami Lakes town boundaries. Councilman Thompson requested that town staff pursue an alternative sound barrier.

The resolution was moved by Councilwoman Simon and seconded by Councilman Pizzi. The motion carried with opposition from Councilwoman Collins.

D. APPROVING THE ROYAL OAKS PARK MASTER PLAN AND THE MIAMI LAKES PARK MASTER PLAN (Rey) (Page 44)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE ROYAL OAKS PARK MASTER PLAN AND THE MIAMI LAKES PARK MASTER PLAN; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PARK; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Councilwoman Simon had concerns about the designs for the park not being what the citizens envisioned. Town Manager Alex Rey explained that residents were asked to conceptually design the park at the workshops that took place. Councilwoman Simon requested that changing budget concerns be taken into consideration while voting on the issue.

Councilwoman Simon moved to approve the plan and Councilwoman Collins seconded the motion. The item carried unanimously.

- E. AWARDING THE ROYAL OAKS PARK MUCK/VEGETATION REMOVAL AND BERM CONSTRUCTION TO DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION GROUP OF FLORIDA, INC. (DCG) (Rey) (Page 50)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE SELECTION OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATION GROUP OF FLORIDA, INC. FOR ROYAL OAKS PARK MUCK AND VEGETATION REMOVAL AND BERM CONSTRUCTION; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO FINALIZE THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. – Approved on Consent Agenda.

- F. AMENDING QUORUM REQUIREMENTS FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (Collins) (Page 56)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, CREATING QUORUM CRITERIA FOR COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Councilwoman Simon requested that a workshop be held in order to establish rules for boards and committees procedures. Councilwoman Collins explained that in order for a board or committee to have a quorum, fifty percent of members must be present. Councilman Meador agreed that the town should encourage the boards and committees to continue their work and provide helpful rules.

Councilwoman Collins moved to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Simon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- G. PLEDGE OF CIVILITY (Slaton) (Page 59)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY AS “CIVILITY MONTH” AND ADOPTING A PLEDGE OF CIVILITY WITHIN THE TOWN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE – Approved on Consent Agenda

H. APPROVING THE SELECTION OF US CONTRACTING & PLUMBING SERVICE, INC. FOR OFFICE REPAIRS AT TOWN HALL. *(Rey) (Page 63)*

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE SELECTION OF US CONTRACTING & PLUMBING SERVICE, INC. TO PERFORM OFFICE REPAIRS AT TOWN HALL; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO FINALIZE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Simon expressed her concerns about the funds being allocated for the repair of the existing Town Hall. She requested that an alternative solution be sought in the way of requesting bids for office space already conditioned without the need for repairs. The Town Manager explained that alternative office space is currently scarce in the town. There is currently very little space for staff to work in. He asked the council to consider the location where Town Hall should be located in relation to the community. Councilwoman Simon stated that, although the current location in Main Street is central, it is not easily accessible to residents due to the traffic associated with the surrounding stores and parking spaces. Vice Mayor Alonso pointed out that regardless of the decision, costs associated with the moving of Town Hall to another location would equal or exceed costs associated with repairing the current office space. Councilman Thompson asked the Town Manager to consider all possible office space requirements before a decision is made. The Town Manager asked the council to approve the resolution allowing him to explore all office site alternatives and execute a lease if an appropriate location is found.

Councilman Thompson moved to approve the resolution as amended. Councilwoman Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN SEVERN TRENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. *(Rey) (Page 67)*

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN SEVERN-TRENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. AND THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS; AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilwoman Simon requested a clarification, for the record, from the Town Manager regarding this year's spending on the Severn Trent contract. While the entire contract is for \$300,000.00, the total for this year's expense is \$191,500.00, as clarified by the Town Manager. Councilman Pizzi asked the Town Manager for the total paid for the contract up to date. Per Town Manager Rey it is approximately \$300,000.00. Councilman Pizzi brought up questions regarding the expenses of the software and hardware currently being used. The Town Manager clarified that the current software is being used temporarily until customized software is designed and licensed to the Town of Miami Lakes. In response to Councilman Thompson's concern regarding compatibility of the current software and future software, Town Manager Rey explained that compatibility would be criteria in selecting future software.

Councilwoman Collins moved to approve the amendment to the Contract. Councilman Thompson seconded it. The item was approved.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** - None
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** - None
10. **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING** - None
11. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES – SECOND READING:**

A. **FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE** *(Rey) (Page 91)*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING STATEMENT OF PURPOSE; PROVIDING OBJECTIVES; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING APPLICABILITY, BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD, DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING PERMIT PROCEDURES; PROVIDING ADMINISTRATION; PROVIDING PROVISIONS FOR FLOOD HAZARD REDUCTION; PROVIDING FOR VARIANCES; REPEALING EXISTING CHAPTER 11C OF THE TOWN CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
(First Reading April 8, 2003)

After the ordinance was read, Mayor Slaton announced that the public hearing was now open. Having no residents come forward, the mayor announced the public hearing closed. Councilwoman Collins moved to approve the ordinance. Vice Mayor Alonso seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

12. **RESOLUTIONS:** None

After a short recess, roll was once again called. In addition to the Mayor, the following Council Members were present at roll call: Mary Collins, Robert Meador, Nancy Simon, Peter Thompson and Vice Mayor Roberto Alonso. The following staff members were also present: Town Manager Alex Rey, Town Attorney Nina Boniske and Michael Marrero of the law firm Weiss, Serota, Helfman Pastoriza and Guedes, PA.; and Town Clerk Beatris M. Arguelles, CMC

13. REPORTS

A. MAYOR'S REPORTS:

1. **Appointments** – Ely Rodriguez for Economic Division Committee. Councilwoman Collins moved the item. Councilwoman Simon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
2. **Miami Lakes Middle School – Adopt-a-Road Clean up** – The mayor updated the community on the progress and benefits of the Adopt-a-Road Clean-up project. He pointed out how students had followed all the steps to get the project approved and later completed what they had adopted.
3. **Customer Service Training** – The mayor pointed out that he is very pleased with the results from the customer service training program and congratulated the Town Manager, council members Meador and Simon and the staff that participated in the training.

B. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. **Report on Park Safety** – Linda Reale gave a report on park safety. She recommended that the equipment located on the tot lot cited on page 11 of Council's report, be repaired due to instability. Also, equipment should be replaced. She also pointed out that safety standards change and improvements should be made to keep in compliance with the changes. Councilwoman Simon stated that park benches should be added for the comfort of families visiting the parks. Council members Meador and Thompson congratulated the Town Manager for a job well done. Councilwoman Collins suggested that perhaps funds for the parks could be raised through private party sponsorship. While Town Manager Rey agreed that it was a good idea, he voiced concern that too many sponsorship programs may overwhelm the community.
2. **Dedicated Telephone line at Miami Lakes District Office** - Lt. Bocanegra addressed the council regarding a dedicated phone line for residents of Miami Lakes. A district officer and not a town officer will supervise it. It will be established for routine queries and not for emergencies. Calls specific to the town will be forwarded to a town officer. The line is scheduled to be installed in two weeks. Vice Mayor Alonso showed concern for the line not being supervised by a town officer. Lt. Bocanegra explained that providing a dedicated town officer to answer calls would incur an increased expense. Councilwoman Simon pointed out that residents might be confused with the purpose of the line.

C. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

1. **Discussion of Mini Parks Acquisition and Maintenance** (*Thomson*) (*Page 114*)
Councilman Thompson asked the manager to review potential tot lot locations along the Palmetto. He requested an outline of the process required. The Manager indicated that four land sites for four parks might be assigned along the West Lakes and Royal Oaks areas. The mayor suggested that some private owned properties could be used through the means of agreements with the owners for tot lots.
2. **Update on Blasting Legislation** (*Pizzi*)
Council member Pizzi expressed concern regarding the lack of independent monitoring and absence of claims process with regards to land blasting. There exists no compensation due to the fact that there is no claims process. Legislation regarding claims process will direct individuals affected by the blasting. It is designed to mediate the claim rapidly. The fire marshal will be responsible for providing residents with the claims process information. This would also advice residents as to when and where blasting will be taking place. The fire marshal cannot, however, control the intensity of the blasting. Councilwoman Collins asked Councilman Pizzi how Broward County deals with the land blasting claims. Broward County does have a process to deal with this issue through a board, However the blasting that is generated is generally from residential development and not from mining per se'..
3. **West Side Fire Station** (*Pizzi*)
Councilman Pizzi informed the council that the current response time from the fire department varies from four to eight minutes around the town. The deviation creates a life or death situation. He fears that a fire station is not projected to be built in the near future. After a meeting between Councilman Pizzi, the Town Manager and Fire Chief Holmes, Chief Homes agreed that if the town provided a piece of vacant land on the west side of Miami Lakes, they would equip it with four fire officers on a twenty-four hour basis. Besides the piece of land, a trailer hooked up with water would be needed. Councilman Pizzi asked the manager what the town council needs to do in order to establish the temporary station. The manager responded that the town would first need confirmation from the fire department. Also rental prices will be sought on the rental of a doublewide trailer. The station will be completed in a year and a half at best. Property owners with vacant land would be contacted for temporary land donation for the station site. Town Manger Rey pointed out that a minority of the calls being responded to on the west side were not fire related. The council discussed potential sites to be researched.
4. **Beautification** (*Pizzi*) – Item was skipped, on Councilman Pizzi's request.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Code Enforcement/CSA Contract** (*Pizzi*) - Councilman Pizzi requested to schedule a workshop no later than forty days in order to resolve the CSA issue.

- B. **Adult Education** (*Pizzi*) - Item was taken out of order per Councilman Pizzi's request and preceded item 14(a)

Councilman Pizzi asked the council to consider the benefits of an adult education program as provided by Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High. Programs provided include English as a Second Language, computers, accounting, sewing, pottery, health education and field trip programs designed for senior citizens. He asked for this issue to be considered a quality of life initiative. A representative from the Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Program provided additional information regarding the various programs offered to senior citizens. She stated that the town would only need to provide a location for the classes to be held and she would supply the teachers and tools needed. Classes would be held Monday through Thursday from 9: am to 10: pm. In two hour increments. The state government currently provides the funding for such programs. The fiscal year for the classes begins the first of July. A decision must be reached before the first of July in order for the project to be approved by the federal government.

Dorothy Cooke, President of the Miami Lakes Civic Association, stated that the Community Center has been trying to offer classes of this nature. English is the only class offered to adults eighteen and older. All other classes are for senior citizens. Councilwoman Collins suggested that Dorothy Cooke and the Town Manager get together and develop a plan to put this issue into effect.

- C. **Private Use of Montrose Facility** (*Simon/Pizzi*) Item deferred to the next meeting.

- D. **FDOT** (*Meador*)

Councilman Meador gave a brief summary of FDOT Secretary Jose Abreu and placed a motion on the floor to issue a proclamation to Secretary Abreu in recognition of his recent appointment by Gov. Jeb Bush as the new DOT secretary and his contributions to the citizens of Florida. Councilman Meador also asked Town Manager Rey to coordinate a date and time with Sec. Abreu with the purpose of presenting Sec. Abreu with a proclamation by the Mayor at a future town meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. **Dissolution of Special Taxing Districts** (*Simon*) deferred to the next meeting.

- F. **Parks** (*Meador*) Deferred to the next meeting.

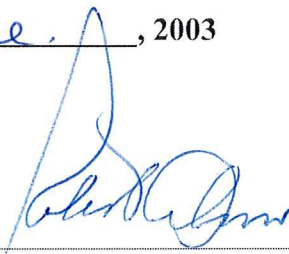
15. FUTURE MEETING DATES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 7:00 p.m. Miami Lakes Middle School, 6425 Miami Lakeway North, Miami Lakes, FL 33014

ZONING MEETING – Thursday, June 12, 2003, 7:00 p.m. Miami Lakes Middle School, 6425 Miami Lakeway North, Miami Lakes, FL 33014

16. ADJOURNMENT

Approved this 10th day of June, 2003



ROBERTO ALONSO,
VICE MAYOR

Attest:



BEATRIS M. ARGUELLES, CMC
TOWN CLERK