

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA

MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 10, 2004
7:00 p.m.
Miami Lakes Middle School
6425 Miami Lakeway North
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.
2. **ROLL CALL:** In addition to the Mayor, the following Council Members were present at roll call: Mary Collins, Robert Meador, Nancy Simon, Michael Pizzi, 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 requested to pull Item 7(B) from the consent Agenda and take it up together with 12 (B), since the items both dealt with the I-75 Interchange. Councilman Meador asked to take Item 13(C)3 following Item 6. The Mayor suggested instead taking Item 13(C)3 immediately following Item 7. Councilman Pizzi requested to take Item 12 (C) after Item 6. The Mayor suggested taking the Item immediately following item 7, after item 13(c)3. Town Manager Alex Rey added, an Item under his Report, Item 13(b)(5) entitled Update of emergency purchase order #1358.

Councilwoman Collins moved to accept the order of business as amended. Councilwoman Simon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** Mayor Slaton gave a brief report regarding the *Parent Resource Guide*, noting that it is a valuable resource for parents. The Mayor recognized the effort by proclaiming February 10th, 2004 as "Education Fund Parent Resource Guide Day" and presented it to Ms. Perla Tabares-Hantman, Miami-Dade County School Board representative and Linda Lecht, President of the Education Fund.
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Councilwoman Simon moved to accept the Consent Agenda as amended. Councilwoman Collins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

1. January 13, 2004 – Regular Council Meeting (*Page 6*) Approved on Consent Agenda.
2. January 15, 2004 – Zoning Meeting (*Page 19*) Approved on Consent Agenda.

B. RESOLUTION OPPOSING REMOVAL OF NW 170TH STREET FROM THE PEOPLES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (*Sponsor: Slaton Co-Sponsors: Alonso/Collins/Simon/Thomson*) (*Page 27*)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE REMOVAL THE NW 170TH ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FROM THE PEOPLE'S TRANSPORTATION PLAN; REQUESTING THAT THE NW 170TH STREET WIDENING PROJECT BE ADDED TO THE PEOPLE'S TRANSPORTATION PLAN; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO SEND COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *Item was heard with in conjunction with Item 12(B).*

The Town Attorney read the Resolution by title.

Commissioner Natasha Seijas addressed the Council. She clarified that in July the Board of County Commissioners decided what was going to be in the People's Transportation Plan. She stated that her request as Commissioner for this district was the improvements of NW 87th Avenue past NW 154th Street to give the Town the ability to move traffic into the Hialeah area. Commissioner Seijas further clarified that she did not co-sponsor adding the improvements of NW 170th Street to the People's Transportation Plan. She mentioned that she is unaware of how the improvement was added to the People's Transportation Plan as a co-sponsored item by her without her consent or knowledge. Commissioner Seijas noted that she has met with the Inspector General to review how the item was submitted to the People's Transportation Plan under her sponsorship. She also noted that many times she has tried to have the Item removed and reiterated that the Item was not sponsored by her.

Commissioner Seijas informed the Council that the Town has the right to make requests for improvements of streets within the Town's borders. However, she noted that she also has a responsibility to the neighboring municipalities to respect their requests as well. She mentioned that residents living on the north side of NW 170th Street are very concerned with the road-widening project because the fronts of their properties will be impacted. She asked the Council to not make a decision that will impact the Town's neighbors and their quality of life. She added that she will defend their quality of life as she would for the Town of Miami Lakes. Commissioner Seijas asked the Council to review all the information she has presented them regarding this situation.

Councilwoman Collins asked Commissioner Seijas if she suggests a possible solution to this issue. Commissioner Seijas responded that perhaps 186th Street was a better candidate for the improvements. Commissioner Seijas stated that she will help Miami Lakes in finding solutions to the traffic situation. Councilwoman Simon noted that a Resolution was up for discussion prohibiting the opening of an exit to NW 154th Street from Interstate 75, two miles north and two miles south. She mentioned that her concern is for the residents residing South of NW 170th Street and East of Interstate 75. She expressed concern that the access to that area is limited and mentioned that she fears that emergency vehicles will not have sufficient access in case of a catastrophe. In addition, Councilwoman Simon mentioned that the area of NW 170th Street between NW 82nd Avenue and NW 87th Avenue is not attractive. She mentioned that beautification and improvements of that area would benefit Palms Springs North residents as well as Miami Lakes residents. Councilwoman asked Commissioner Seijas to work together with the Town in finding a solution for better access to that area. Councilwoman Simon clarified that the improvement of NW 170th Street was not intended to impact on anyone's home. She added that she felt that it might help the quality of life.

Vice Mayor Alonso stated that he is happy to hear that the County wants to work together with the Town. He mentioned that a problem exists with NW 87th and NW 82nd Avenues. He added that in the morning the traffic line extends to NW 186th Street. He added that the traffic is partially caused by commuters not residing in Miami Lakes or Palm Springs North. The Vice Mayor stressed that a solution is needed now and the importance of spending the necessary funds to improve the residents' quality of life. Commissioner Seijas responded that NW 87th Avenue was one of the projects she added to the People's Transportation Plan under her sponsorship. The Vice Mayor added that he would like to see a traffic light on NW 162nd Street and NW 82nd Avenue.

Councilman Meador thanked the Commissioner for opposing the I-75 interchange at NW 154th Street. Councilman Meador mentioned that the widening of the bridge that is taking place on NW 87th Avenue south and north of NW 154th Street is as a result of road impact fees. Councilman Meador asked Commissioner Seijas to clarify if the funds allocated to the improvements of NW 170th Street from the \$.005 sales tax for transportation could be utilized for another project. The Commissioner responded that there was never any money assigned the NW 170th Street project, but that the Town can count on her to help keep NW 154th Street from being opened to I-75 and for support for funding of and improvements to NW 87th Avenue North to NW 186th Street to match 87th Avenue south of NW 154th Street.

Councilman Pizzi noted that whenever there are issues of significant impact to Miami Lakes, residents of Palm Springs North have supported the Town.

The following residents spoke in opposition to the Resolution:

- 1) Alan Riggerman – 17910 NW 84th Avenue
- 2) Felipe Fernandez – 17110 NW 86th Avenue

- 3) Jose Ruiz – Palm Springs North, FL
- 4) Sam Rodriguez – 18130 NW 83rd Court
- 5) Raul Vierra – 8311 NW 170th Terrace
- 6) Diatra Concevedo – 17650 NW 82nd Court
- 7) Patricia Collado – 7881 NW 175th Street

Councilman Thompson made a motion to table the item for further review of a solution to help control traffic that will stop the I-75 exists to NW 154th Street and NW 170th Street. Councilwoman Collins seconded the motion, which carried 6 to 1 with Mayor Slaton dissenting.

C. APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR WATER & SEWER FACILITIES BETWEEN MIAMI DADE COUNTY AND THE TOWN (Page 31)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AGREEMENT FOR WATER AND SEWER FACILITIES BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR ROYAL OAKS PARK; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO PREPARE AN OPINION OF TITLE FOR THE PARK; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Approved on consent agenda.

D. CABLE INSTALLATION AT MIAMI LAKES PARK AND ROYAL OAKS PARK – Meador Item taken out of order following Item 6

Councilman Meador introduced Mr. Tom Autrey, Area Vice President and General Manager of Comcast Cable Systems in Miami-Dade County and Mr. Matt Riso, Regional Government Affairs Manager. Councilman Meador stated that he has been in communications with the Town Manager regarding improvements to the Town's infrastructure, one of which is the parks system. Mr. Riso addressed the Council and stated that Comcast is pleased to support the initiative of developing a master plan for the Royal Oaks Park and the Miami Lakes Park such that both parks become state of the art facilities. He stated that Comcast would make the following commitments to the Town: One courtesy standard installation of Comcast high-speed Internet service and one cable modem that may be networked to four computers.

Mr. Riso mentioned that the offer is absolutely free to the Town. He added that there are no installation or monthly charges and that the Town is not obligated to purchase any services from Comcast. He mentioned that the offer is as part of Comcast's commitment to the Town and the local community to experience Comcast's high-speed Internet service in public and educational settings.

Mr. Autry addressed the Council and explained that his responsibilities include the cable television operations facilities. He mentioned all the upgrades and

enhancements Comcast has planned and has accomplished since their arrival in Miami-Dade County. Mr. Autry stated that Comcast is very pleased to extend their services to the community.

Mr. Riso also mentioned the presence of Ms. Jeanie Hernandez, the Comcast Government Affairs/Community Affairs Manager for Miami-Dade County.

E. THANKING HIALEAH MIAMI LAKES ADULT EDUCATION FOR SENIOR CLASSES (Pizzi) (Page 94)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, THANKING HIALEAH MIAMI LAKES ADULT EDUCATION

Councilman Pizzi spoke about the success of the Hialeah Miami Lakes Adult Education classes. He recognized Dr. Diaz, the Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult Education Principal and the Coordinator Ms. Duman.

Councilman Pizzi read the Resolution.

Mayor Slaton read the Certificates of Recognition and presented them to Dr. Nilda Diaz and Ms. Miriam Duman.

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

The Mayor called for a 10 minute recess. Following the recess, the following Council Members were present at roll call: Mayor Wayne Slaton; Mary Collins, Robert Meador, Nancy Simon, Michael Pizzi, Peter Thompson and Vice Mayor Roberto Alonso.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Pedro Carballo spoke before the Council. He made the following points:

- 1) There is no solution to traffic problems
- 2) The Town is paying too much money for the telephone survey
- 3) The signs purchased for the Town vehicles is a waste of money
- 4) He does not agree with the straw votes
- 5) The tire slashing incidents in Miami Lakes are not being considered crimes
- 6) Sees no solution to the NW 87th Avenue Maddens Hammock project
- 7) He suggested that video cameras be installed in Town Hall

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification Advisory Committee – Russ Guyer, Chair. gave a report updating the Council on the Beautification Committee projects. *(Attached to these fully executed Minutes)*

Councilwoman Collins moved to accept the report. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- A. **Cultural Affairs** – Bob Spano, Chair gave a report in which he noted the activities conducted by the Cultural Affairs Committee and informed of upcoming events.

10. **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:**

11. **PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES – SECOND READING:** *(Page 68)*

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA CONCERNING ELECTION CAMPAIGN FINANCE; PROVIDING FOR RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDRAISING AND REPORTING DATES FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION TO THE MIAMI LAKES TOWN COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR A TITLE; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR DATES FOR CAMPAIGN FUNDRAISING; PROVIDING FOR TOWN CAMPAIGN REPORTS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE *(First Reading: January 13, 2004)*

The Town Attorney read the Ordinance by title.

The Mayor opened the public hearing for discussion. Having no residents come forward, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

The Mayor suggested amending the Ordinance to include fines of \$500.00 and \$100.00 for each additional day. The Town Attorney clarified that the State fine is \$50.00 for the first three days total and \$500.00 for each additional day. Councilman Pizzi expressed his desire for the public to be aware of all the campaign information before they vote. He also expressed concern for fines being too lenient. He mentioned that he supports the amount the Mayor suggested to ensure that the filing is done on a timely manner. Councilman Pizzi stressed the importance of filing this report on time. Councilman Thompson noted that the biggest penalty for not filing on time is that the public will know as well as the opposing candidate. He stated that he agrees with stressing that filing be done early. Councilwoman Simon suggested that staff prepare a calendar for candidates to follow in order to ensure that they are aware of important dates with regards to their responsibilities. The Town Clerk clarified that this is currently distributed in the candidate packets. Councilman Meador asked the Town Attorney what the approach would be if the amounts of the Ordinance were challenged. The Town Attorney responded that that provision in the Ordinance would need to be amended. Councilwoman Collins noted that the number of days has also been increased. Councilwoman Simon asked the Town Attorney to explain the section of the Ordinance stating the penalties for violations related to giving and receiving certain contributions. The Town Attorney responded that if a contribution in violation of the Ordinance is given and received by a candidate both the candidate and the contributor are in violation of the Ordinance. The Town Attorney clarified that the contributor would be violating the law. The Town Attorney suggested amending the Ordinance as follows:

“For each additional day late and such fine shall be enforced pursuant to the procedures of Chapter 8CC of the Town Code.”

The Town Attorney added that this wording takes it to a Code Enforcement action where the Statute exists detailing how much can be charged per client per code.

Mayor Slaton made a motion to include in the Ordinance a fine of \$500.00 for the first day and \$100.00 for each additional day. Councilman Pizzi seconded the motion, which carried unanimously upon roll call.

Councilman Pizzi moved to adopt the amended Ordinance to include the Town Attorney’s recommendation of including *“For each additional day late and such fine shall be enforced pursuant to the procedures of Chapter 8CC of the Town Code.”* Mayor Slaton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously upon roll call following discussion.

12. RESOLUTIONS:

A. CONTRACT FOR CITIZENS’ SURVEY SERVICES *(Rey) (Page 75)*

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES AND PROFILE MARKETING RESEARCH, INC. TO PERFORM A TOWN RESIDENT SURVEY; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

The Town Attorney read the Resolution by title.

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

Councilwoman Simon expressed concern with the telephone survey and surveyors calling residents’ homes during inconvenient hours. She stated that the survey would reach only a portion of the community. She asked the Town Manager to explain. The Town Manager explained that his experience indicates that written surveys, being less expensive, are less effective. He added that the reason why this method is being utilized is because this firm specializes in actionable driven results. He explained that the firm not only collects statistics, but also receives information from residents to support the statistics and inform the Town of the reasons for the results. The Town Manager added that this firm is being used by Coral Springs. Councilman Thompson mentioned that when the Town Council was formed, the City of Coral Springs was visited. He added that the Council was pleased with the interaction with the community. Vice Mayor Alonso suggested a door-to-door survey approach in addition to the telephone survey. The Town Manager noted that an accurate survey consists of randomly selected residents.

He added that appointments are being made with residents for a telephone survey. Councilwoman Collins asked the Manager if the survey would be conducted in Spanish. The Manager confirmed that it would be. The Manager added that this method would inform the Town if residents' expectations are being met. Councilman Pizzi noted that only a select group of people attend meetings and are involved with the community. Per Councilman Pizzi's concern, the Town Manager clarified that the hiring of the survey firm is a professional service agreement and being that the contract is under \$25,000.00 competitive bids are not necessary. Councilman Meador asked what the residents' caller ID will reflect when the survey call comes in. The Town Manager mentioned that he will find out with the survey company. Councilman Meador also questioned why the firm is being addressed as "volunteers" when the Town is paying for the service. The Town Attorney responded that it is standard language for the agreements and contracts.

B. OPPOSING I-75 INTERCHANGE AT NW 154TH ST (*Sponsor: Meador / Co-sponsors: Slaton/Alonso/Collins/Pizzi/Simon/Thomson*) (Page 90)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S CONSTRUCTION OF AN I-75 INTERCHANGE ON, AT, OR NEAR NW 154TH STREET; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO SEND COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney read the Resolution by title. (Item was heard in conjunction with Item 7(B).)

Councilman Meador suggested adding the words "two miles to the north or two miles to the south" at the end of the Resolution. He added that this area covers the Miami Lakes town limits.

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

Councilwoman Simon stated that a workshop that took place where FDOT was present. She added that Palm Springs North's quality of life as a community was taken into consideration when the Resolution was drafted. She assured the audience that Miami Lakes is willing to work together with surrounding communities.

Mayor Slaton asked Commissioner Seijas to clarify if she supports Miami Lakes' opposition to the I-75 interchange at NW 154th Street. Commissioner Seijas confirmed that she supports the Town's efforts to oppose the interchange and that the Town can count on her to help keep NW 154th Street from being opened to I-75. She added that the Resolution sends a strong message to the FDOT. The Mayor asked Commissioner Seijas that the beautification project for NW 87th Avenue be extended through Palm Springs North to NW 186th Street. The

Commissioner re-iterated that the Town can count on her support for funding of and improvements to NW 87th Avenue North to 186th Street to match 87th Avenue South of NW 154th Street and that she will

13. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR'S REPORTS:

1. **APPOINTMENTS** – The Mayor made the following appointments:
Cultural Affairs Committee – Susana Alvarez-Diaz and Gabriel Bassier
Economic Development Committee – Sergio Mendez
Beautification Advisory Committee – Alejandro Cancedo, Oswald Lopez, Penny Lambeth

Councilwoman Collins moved to accept the Mayor's appointments. Councilman Thompson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. **PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE** - The Mayor noted that the Council has received copies of the Parent Resource Guide and that some copies would be available at Town Hall.

3. **BEAUTIFICATION**

The Mayor asked the Town Manager to give an update on the Town's efforts to eliminate graffiti. The Town Manager explained that in conjunction with the Code Enforcement personnel, graffiti is being combated as soon as it is seen. The Manager added with regard to painting the walls in a uniform color, the Town is trying to address the issue in the land development code. He clarified that it is the Town's policy to paint over the graffiti as soon as it occurs. The Mayor suggested that further legislation would probably not be needed if the Town keep monitoring the graffiti and painting over it on a regular basis

In addition the Mayor mentioned that Barbara Goleman High School Science and Environmental Clubs' students planted shrubbery at 89th Avenue and 143rd Street. The Mayor noted that these kids are taking pride in their area. He also commended the Town police officers for their work at the school.

4. **HOMEOWNER TAX BREAKS FOR THEIR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS** - The Mayor explained that Miami Dade County passed an Ordinance which helps homeowners who have their parents and grand-parents living with them and make improvements to their homes to accommodate them. He mentioned it is a County-wide Ordinance therefore the Town does not need to adopt an additional Ordinance. The Mayor advised that the deadline to apply for this tax break is March 1st and that residents should contact the County Appraisal's office.

B. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. **DECORATIVE BANNERS** - The Town Manager informed that he contacted the City of Doral for information about the banners they used during the Holidays. He added that the City of Doral stated that they used a countywide contract. The Manager stated that the rates are reasonable and requested feedback from the Council. He added that usually banners are used for entrance areas or to promote special events. The Manager explained that the company will install the frames and the banners are re-usable. He added that they are typically installed along major roadways. Councilman Thompson suggested that the Beautification Advisory Committee be given the opportunity to review the banner and stressed the importance of keeping a control of what the banners consist of.
2. **STREET SIGNS ALTERNATIVES** - The Town Manager noted the two different street signs. He noted that many street signs in the Town need to be changed and a street sign program should be developed. The Manager noted that a design was developed that is consistent with the "feel" of Miami Lakes. He noted that the designs are available in the packet distributed to the Council. Councilwoman Simon suggested that lighted street signs be installed at certain locations. She asked the Manager to research the cost of installing these signs. Vice Mayor Alonso added that the lighted signs utilizing solar energy should be researched.
3. **FINANCIAL REPORT** - The Town Manager distributed the report, which is attached to these fully executed minutes.
4. **UPDATE ON LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE** - The Town Manager informed the Council that the Land Development Code is a bit behind schedule by a couple of months. He added that he expects to have a workshop with the Council on Residential Land Development Code in six weeks and that he is looking for an April or May approval of the code.
5. **UPDATE OF EMERGENCY PURCHASE ORDER #1358** - The Town Manager informed that an emergency street improvement had to be done on NW 154th Street and NW 77th Court due to the collapse of the street as a result of drainage problems. He mentioned that the rules require that the Council be informed of the emergency action taken at the next Council meeting following the repair.

C. COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

1. **PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR RESIDENTS** – Thomson - Councilman Thompson suggested developing senior programs similar to those in existence for children. He added that there are many programs, but senior citizens are not as involved in the community. He asked the staff to draft a Resolution outlining how the Town of Miami Lakes can better serve the

senior residents. He noted that there are various programs available, but they need to be connected to the senior programs.

Councilwoman Simon thanked Councilman Thompson for bringing his proposal before the Council for their approval.

2. **TRANSPORTATION REPORT** – (*Meador*) Councilman Meador noted that a Transportation Master Plan workshop would be held on Thursday. Councilman Meador noted that there are two reports that he would like to discuss, one being the Transportation and Improvement for 2004 and the discussion of NW 154th Street at the Palmetto Expressway. The Town Manager informed Councilman Meador that the reports have been distributed to the Council.

Councilman Meador directed the Council to the report where he noted the NW 87th Avenue project from NW 138th Street to NW 154th Street and the NW 154th Street to NW 186th Street. He mentioned that these are the only projects that are part of the Miami Lakes district.

Councilman Meador directed the Council to a graphic displaying the NW 154th Street and the Palmetto Expressway traffic. He mentioned that two studies have been conducted by FDOT identifying recommended improvement in the area. He sited that the improvements identified are as follows: The intersection of NW 154th Street and the Northbound Palmetto Expressway ramps. He added that the FDOT proposed adding an additional left turn lane for traffic heading Southbound on the Palmetto Expressway and also adding an additional right turn lane for traffic traveling Northbound Palmetto Expressway. The second improvement would be to extend the length of the left turn signal on NW 154th Street and NW 77th Court for traffic wishing to enter the business establishments. He also mentioned an eastbound turn lane on NW 77th Court (to NW 154th Street). He mentioned that the design phase is scheduled to last twenty months. He added that construction funds have been identified tentatively. If approved they will be approved for Fiscal year 2005/2006.

3. **MIAMI LAKES PARK** – (*Meador*) - Councilman Meador mentioned the Capital Improvements made to the Miami Lakes Park. (Attached to these fully executed minutes.) Councilman Meador noted that the Town of Miami Lakes is responsible for Miami Lakes Park. He mentioned that the Town's park contractor, Valley Crest, is responsible for dirt, grass and garbage in general, but have also done other things as well. He mentioned that other general areas are not being taken care of in a timely manner. Councilman Meador noted that one area is in our current procurement process and another area pertains to general maintenance. He added that there are more areas as well but these seem to be the main areas. He proceeded to discuss the different areas, which included the following: The condition of the flag pole – He noted that some Veterans in the Town are upset with the condition of the flag pole. The batting cage –

The Winter baseball season is finishing and are not available for use. Water fountain in the Clubhouse– In and out of service. Backstops – Were not repaired in a timely fashion. Field Lights – There was downtime for nearly a month in a section of the field. Viewing Stand in Field One – Was missing seating panels and should have been taken out of service.

Councilman Meador opined that Valley Crest needs to have a master inspection or maintenance checklist. He also noted that Valley Crest has a staffing shortage. He cited several examples.

Councilman Meador proceeded to exhibit the photographs he took at Miami lakes Park pertaining to field signage, notice board, soft toss area, standing water on field and batteries on the ground.

Councilman Meador mentioned that the Optimist Club has complained about getting the backstop repaired. He added that he reminded the Optimist Club that when the County was taking care of the parks, they would try to expedite the repairs process. Councilman Meador mentioned that the Optimist Club feels that they got better results with the County. Councilman Meador stated that the Town has to find solutions to the problems in a timelier manner. The Town Manager mentioned that when contracts exceed the \$2,000.00 limit three bids are required and added that when a contract is small, most people are not interested in giving estimates due to the small amount involved. He added that he prefers to prepare a general maintenance contract to be used not only for Miami Lakes Park. He stated that a general contractor could be used for the maintenance of the parks. Councilwoman Collins asked about the cost involved. The Manager responded that the cost would be on a line item method. He added that last year Miami Lakes spent \$50,000.00 in the Miami Lakes Park alone. He estimated a contract for \$100,000.00. Councilman Thompson expressed support of the Manager's recommendation. Vice Mayor Alonso mentioned that there are other aspects of the Miami Lakes Park need to be addressed as well that are in need of repair.

4. RE-EVALUATION OF LOBBYIST AGREEMENT - Pizzi (Page 148)
Item deferred

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. REPROGRAMMING DECLINED HEALTH INSURANCE MONEY – Pizzi**
Councilman Pizzi asked the Town Manager to clarify if the unused insurance money for coverage declined by Council members would be reprogrammed back into the budget. The Manager responded that any money not utilized for insurance is up to the Council to decide how it will be used. Councilman Pizzi mentioned that he contacted the Manager and asked him to reprogram his portion of the health insurance amount back into the budget without the need for a public hearing. Councilman Pizzi noted that the Town Manager informed him that it had

to be done in a public forum. Councilman Pizzi mentioned that it makes sense to put it back into the budget.

Vice Mayor Alonso moved to extend the meeting to 11:15 pm. Councilman Meador seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Collins noted that the insurance money was not budgeted originally. The Town Manager explained that the Council has the right to decline the insurance coverage, however, the allocation of the unused funds do require a motion to be re-programmed for another specific use.

Vice Mayor Alonso noted that he is not in opposition of the Insurance benefit as long as it is budgeted in the next cycle. He mentioned that he objected at the time when it was approved and explained that the money does not currently exist because it was not originally budgeted; therefore, it cannot be reprogrammed.

Based on the discussion, Councilman Pizzi withdrew the item from the agenda.

B. COMMUNITY WALL PAINTING ORDINANCE – Pizzi – (Page 152)

Councilman Pizzi mentioned that in the past residents have become upset that their wall is being painted as a result of the wall painting projects. Councilman Pizzi also discussed having uniformity in the paint color. He added that members of the Beautification Advisory Committee have informed him that the Town does not have the authority to just go in and paint the wall, which is a responsibility of the homeowner. The Manager noted that a Resolution of the Land Development Code would mandate uniform colors from homes facing a major street. Councilman Thompson noted that with the wall painting projects, the residents whose walls are being painted are receiving the benefit. The Manager mentioned that with regards to graffiti the walls are simply painted to cover the graffiti as a deterrent. He added that the homeowners still need to repaint it.

The Mayor mentioned that painting over the graffiti with any available paint does not make the Town look any better and suggested using the proper paint color for the wall.

C. SPEEDING DOWN NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS – Alonso (Page 154)

The Vice Mayor noted that there is a lot of speeding taking place within the Town. He mentioned that according to the Attorney's research, the lowest speed limit that can be posted is twenty miles per hour. He stressed that there are children on the streets. He asked the police to enforce a stricter system to deter speeding. The Manager clarified that a consensus from the county is needed to lower speed limits since the signs are regulatory signs. The Mayor added that Key Biscayne was successful in lowering the speed limit. Councilman Pizzi mentioned that residents near NW 148th Terrace and NW 89th Avenue have contacted him about speeding in the area. He asked the Vice Mayor to include this area in his initiative.

Vice Mayor Alonso moved to direct the Town Manager to try to lower speed limits where needed and work with the police department to reduce speeding. The motion carried unanimously following a consensus from the Council.

15. FUTURE MEETING DATES:

TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOP II – Thursday, February 12, 2004, Miami Lakes Middle School, 6425 Miami Lakeway North, 7:00 p.m.

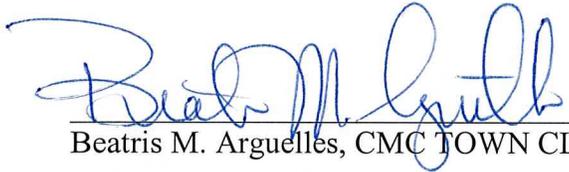
CODE ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL MASTER HEARING – Wednesday, February 26, 2004, Town Hall, 6853 Main Street, 7:00 p.m.

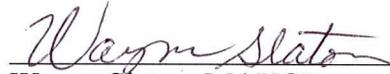
16. ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 11:15 pm.

Approved this 9th day of March, 2004

Attest:


Beatris M. Arguelles, CMC TOWN CLERK


Wayne Slaton, MAYOR