

TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA

Town Council

Mayor Wayne Slaton

Vice Mayor Robert Meador

Councilmember Roberto Alonso

Councilmember Mary Collins

Councilmember Dorothy Cook

Councilmember Michael Pizzi

Councilmember Nancy Simon

MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2006

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 7:15 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Town Clerk Debra Eastman called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Robert Meador, Richard Pulido, Nancy Simon, Michael Pizzi, Roberto Alonso, Vice Mayor Mary Collins and Mayor Wayne Slaton.
3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Mayor Wayne Slaton called for a moment of silence.
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Wayne Slaton led the pledge.
5. **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mayor Wayne Slaton announced that Michael Pizzi was elected to Seat 2, Robert Meador was elected to Seat 4 and Nancy Simon was elected to Seat 6 in a General Election conducted on October 3, 2006. Richard Pulido was unchallenged and elected to Seat 3.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Michael Pizzi.

Miami-Dade County Court Judge Steven Leifman administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Robert Meador.

Town Clerk Debra Eastman administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Richard Pulido and Councilmember Nancy Simon.

The newly elected Councilmembers thanked the voters for the opportunity to serve.

6. **PRESENTATION:** Mayor Wayne Slaton read and presented a proclamation to Councilmember Dorothy Cook and thanked her for her service as a Councilmember.

After a short reception, Mayor Wayne Slaton asked the Clerk to call the roll with the following Councilmembers in attendance: Mary Collins, Richard Pulido, Nancy Simon, Michael Pizzi, Roberto Alonso, Vice Mayor Robert Meador and Mayor Wayne Slaton. The meeting resumed at 8:37 p.m.

7. **ELECTION OF VICE-MAYOR:** Councilmember Richard Pulido made a motion to name Councilmember Mary Collins as the next Vice Mayor. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Michael Pizzi. Vice Mayor Robert Meador thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

8. **ORDER OF BUSINESS (DEFERRALS/ADDITONS/DELETIONS):**

Councilmember Nancy Simon made a motion to add item 15C1 "Recognition of Commissioner Natasha Seijas" to the agenda. Councilmember Michael Pizzi requested that item 16H be deferred and that item 16I be moved in front of item 16F. Councilmember Robert Meador requested to pull items 9A and 9B from the consent agenda. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Mary Collins to accept the agenda as amended. It was seconded by Councilmember Nancy Simon. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

9. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVING THE PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AND THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR TOWN ENGINEERING GENERAL SERVICES FOR THE 2006-2007 FISCAL YEAR. (Rey)**

It was pointed out that in the backup materials the reference of three percent (3%) should be four percent (4%). Councilmember Robert Meador moved for approval of the resolution. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Mary Collins. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

- B. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVING THE PROCUREMENT RULES AND AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THOMAS SIGN AND AWNING COMPANY, INC. FOR THE UNIFORMITY OF THE SIGNAGE ON THE TOWN HALL BUILDING. (Rey)**

Councilmember Robert Meador asked about control of the electricity to the sign. Councilmember Robert Meador made a motion for approval. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Mary Collins. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

- C. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVING THE PROJECT AGREEMENT BETWEEN KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AND THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR ADDITIONAL SITE PLAN REVIEWS PERTAINING TO THE MATTER OF DCA VS. MDC-HIALEAH COMP PLAN. (Rey)**

Councilmember Roberto Alonso made a motion to pass the resolution. Councilmember Robert Meador seconded. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Peter Diaz thanked voters and the Council. He expressed that he would like to see the voters and Council work hard on his campaign issues.
Dr. David Bennett congratulated the Councilmembers.

Pedro Carballo congratulated the Councilmembers. He pointed out that only fifteen percent (15%) of the voters cast ballots. He stated that the cows are back near his property and urged the Council to help solve the problem.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Economic Development Committee - No report was given.

B. Beautification Advisory Board - Russ Geyer announced his resignation as Committee Chairman of the Beautification Advisory Board. Mr. Geyer reported that the Committee elected Frank Diaz as the new Chairman. Russ Geyer delivered bullet points of uncompleted projects.

Councilmember Richard Pulido acknowledged Mr. Geyer for his service. Vice Mayor Mary Collins, Councilmembers Nancy Simon, Roberto Alonso and Robert Meador expressed their gratitude.

Mayor Wayne Slaton stated that beautification is one of the highest priorities for The Town of Miami Lakes. Mayor Wayne Slaton thanked Mr. Geyer for his work and pledged to support the new chairman.

12. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

13. PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES – SECOND READING:

14. RESOLUTIONS:

15. REPORTS:

A. MAYOR’S REPORTS:

B. MANAGER’S REPORTS:

1. Audit Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2005

Town Manager Alex Rey introduced the auditor, Pablo Llerena. Mr. Llerena explained the financial statement and gave a report on fixed assets, revenues, and compliance with laws and regulations.

C. COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS:

1. Recognition of Commissioner Natasha Seijas

Councilmember Nancy Simon stated that it is incumbent upon Councilmembers to act respectfully toward all other elected officials. She expressed gratitude to Commissioner Natasha Seijas for various projects that have involved her assistance. She expressed that she would like to challenge others to work together.

D. ATTORNEY’S REPORTS:

16. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Town-Wide Garage Sales (Alonso)

Councilmember Roberto Alonso proposed a Town-Wide Garage Sales to be held twice a year. He suggested that this would help code enforcement and be a good community relations practice.

Vice Mayor Mary Collins explained that there would have to be an ordinance change to make that possible. Vice Mayor Mary Collins suggested that the ordinance should be reviewed.

Councilmember Richard Pulido questioned whether the Town-Wide Garage Sales would be in lieu of existing opportunities. Councilmember Roberto Alonso stated that the sales would be held twice a year so as to replace private garage sales.

Councilmember Robert Meador expressed approval of the idea. Councilmember Roberto Alonso clarified that each person would have a sale in their own house. He also expressed that he envisioned the event would take place over the course of a weekend. Vice Mayor Mary Collins suggested that the issue be discussed at a later date.

Councilmember Roberto Alonso made a motion to revisit the issue at the next Council meeting. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Mary Collins. Town Manager Alex Rey questioned if there was to be any follow-up by the Town of Miami Lakes staff. Vice Mayor Mary Collins clarified that the issue would be brought back to be reviewed but no action was required of the staff. Councilmember Nancy Simon spoke in favor of further discussion. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

B. League of Cities Issues (Collins)

Vice Mayor Mary Collins suggested that Councilmembers bring a list of items to be accomplished to the Florida League of Cities Conference. Mayor Wayne Slaton explained the process used by the Florida League of Cities to select legislation that will be supported.

C. Ground Lighting at Parks (Meador)

Councilmember Robert Meador stated that Montrose Park is heavily utilized in the evening for walking. He expressed that he would like to research grants to cover ground lighting.

Town Engineer Russell Barnes reported that the Town was in the final design phase of the walking trail at Royal Oaks Park and gave current cost estimates for comparison purposes.

Vice Mayor Mary Collins inquired if a solar lighting option had been researched or considered. Councilmember Richard Pulido explained that parks are generally open after sundown but Montrose Park closes after dark. Councilmember Richard Pulido asked if after installation of a ground lighting system further lighting would be needed for the rest of the park. Town Manager Alex Rey explained that lighting of the trail would open the park during evening hours. Additional lighting and a certain level of security staffing would be needed. Councilmember Richard Pulido questioned if a change of policy on park use would be necessary.

Mayor Wayne Slaton commented that historically, Montrose Park has not been lit because of limited parking at the community center. He expressed concern about

the possibility of issues with parking. Mayor Wayne Slaton suggested that discussion be postponed until completion of the Miami Lakes Park and Royal Oaks Park projects.

Councilmember Robert Meador stated that the proposed lighting would be on a timer and that he is not a proponent of lighting up the park. He commented that he was not suggesting spending money, only that the issue should be kept on the table for consideration.

Councilmember Nancy Simon encouraged Town Manager Alex Rey to have staff check for street lights that are out and to ensure that low level lighting would be in place for daylight savings time, particularly for the end of October and Halloween. Councilmember Robert Meador made a motion to look into staff procuring funding sources for low level lighting that would coincide with daylight savings time. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mary Collins.

Mayor Wayne Slaton asked if a specific project was necessary in conducting a grant search or if the search could be done in a more general manner. Town Manager Alex Rey responded that normally, before beginning a grant search, an initial investment is needed for a conceptual design. He explained that the work would be used for the bidding and implementation process.

Mayor Wayne Slaton asked what the timetable would be for the completion of the Royal Oaks Park trail. Town Manager Alex Rey explained that the lighting could be done over the next year with the design of the community center. Town Engineer Russell Barnes estimated that the project could get out to bid within a 2-3 week period. He projected that construction would take 3-4 months and should be completed by March or April 2007. Mayor Wayne Slaton spoke in favor of finishing this project before starting work at Montrose Park.

Councilmember Roberto Alonso stated that the projects in Royal Oaks Park and Miami Lakes Park could be taken as an example for the work to be done in Montrose Park. He expressed that he would like to see those projects finished before undertaking the installation of lighting in Montrose Park.

Councilmember Richard Pulido stated that the motion needs to be clarified taking into consideration the need for lighting in the rest of Montrose Park subsequent to the installation of lighting for the trail.

Councilmember Michael Pizzi expressed that there is also an issue of maintaining peace and tranquility in the neighborhood surrounding the park. He asked if the Council is voting to spend money on the project. Town Manager Alex Rey explained that there would be an associated cost if a grant were to be pursued. He recommended a study to be conducted before expenditure of Town of Miami Lakes funds.

Councilmember Robert Meador withdrew the motion.

D. Recycling in Town Hall (Pulido)

Councilmember Richard Pulido explained that a large amount of paper is used at Town Hall. He asserted that he would like to start some environmentally friendly projects in the Town of Miami Lakes and would like to see a recycling campaign at Town Hall. Town Manager Alex Rey stated that there are companies that specialize in recycling paper that can be contacted.

Councilmember Richard Pulido made a motion to direct the Town Manager to implement a paper recycling program in Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Michael Pizzi. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

E. Election Day Sign Enforcement (Simon)

Councilmember Nancy Simon expressed concern about sign enforcement during elections. She proposed that an ordinance be prepared for signs used in garage sales, real estate and elections. Councilmember Simon suggested a uniform ordinance that covers all usage of signs so as to prevent confusion.

Town Manager Alex Rey explained that a sign ordinance would be part of the scope of work involved in the redrafting of land development code. He stated that commercial/industrial code and signage code are a priority and need to be completed. The Town Manager projected that land development code would be addressed over the next year.

F. 87th Avenue (Pizzi) – Deferred

G. Annexation (Pizzi) – Deferred

H. Hurricane Relief Act (Pizzi) – Deferred

I. Neighborhood and Green Space Protections Act (Pizzi)

Marcello Merlo spoke in favor of green space. Mr. Merlo suggested a town meeting to discuss concerns with the Miami Lakes Golf Course Village.

Kathy Seiler stated that she purchased her house because of the golf course. She expressed opposition to development of the golf course and any building.

Judy Tabor stated that if the Grahams give the golf course to the Town of Miami Lakes she would like it to stay green rather than its being converted to asphalt.

Nancy Gaines expressed concern about development rumors and would like the area to remain a golf course.

Kathleen Fleming spoke in favor of preservation of the golf course, emphasizing that it improves quality of life.

Joe Sachs, President of the Lake Mary Association and Miami Lakes Golf Course Village Homeowners Association, expressed concern about rumors about swimming pool, apartments and the convalescent home. Mr. Sachs requested the Council to be overly diligent in this matter.

George Clayton spoke in support of Councilmember Michael Pizzi's initiative and of keeping parks passive. He stated that he would like to see the green areas of the Town of Miami Lakes preserved.

Robert Pardo stated that he enjoys the parks and tree lined streets and would like the neighborhood to be preserved and maintained.

Councilmember Michael Pizzi thanked the residents for attending the meeting. He stated that people move to Miami Lakes for the tree lined streets, golf course and its exceptional quality of life. Councilmember Michael Pizzi declared that a

proactive approach is necessary to protect the quality of life. He stated that whether the Town of Miami Lakes is deeded property or not there will be no action taken that would do anything to take away peace and tranquility.

Councilmember Michael Pizzi made a motion to direct the staff, that if and when the Town of Miami Lakes comes into possession of the golf course, to hold public hearings and work with residents in the area on any related issues and specifically the issue of deciding whether the area will remain a golf course or passive park.

Councilmember Nancy Simon seconded the motion with an amendment declaring that the residents be consulted concerning the issue and that public hearings be held.

Councilmember Michael Pizzi declared that he would like to leave the motion as it stands. He clarified the motion, stating that the Council, if the Town of Miami Lakes were to operate the land, would take no action without consulting the residents. He expressed that he would like to leave it passive.

Councilmember Michael Pizzi asked if the Council would second leaving the land passive. Town Manager Alex Rey explained the possibility that the issue might never need to be looked at. He elaborated that the developer had some preliminary plans and that they are currently reconsidering them.

There was no second to the motion.

Councilmember Michael Pizzi made a motion to direct the Town staff that in the event the Town of Miami Lakes secures ownership of the land, no action will be taken until the public is consulted. Councilmember Nancy Simon seconded the motion. Mayor Wayne Slaton called for the vote and all were in favor.

17. FUTURE MEETING DATES:

October 17, 2006 LPA Meeting, 6425 Miami Lakeway N, Miami Lakes 6:30 PM
October 17, 2006 Zoning Meeting, 6425 Miami Lakeway N, Miami Lakes 7 PM
November 14, 2006 Regular Meeting, 6425 Miami Lakeway N, Miami Lakes 7 PM

18. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11 p.m.

Approved this 13th day of February, 2007.



Wayne Slaton, Mayor

Attest:



Debra Eastman, MMC
Town Clerk