

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**June 17, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:**

None.

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:30 pm. Councilmember Juan Carlos Fernandez, Councilmember Angelo Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Steven Herzberg, Councilmember Alex Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Joshua Dieguez were present. Councilmember Ray Garcia participated via zoom.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Councilmember Fernandez led the prayer.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Dieguez.

**5. ORDER OF BUSINESS (DEFERRALS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS):**

Councilmember Sanchez asked to make an addition on Item 11A -he informed that the Miami-Dade Commission for Women was going to address the Town Council during the Special Presentation section of the agenda. Councilmember Herzberg moved item 16C to be discussed after appointments. Vice Mayor Morera pulled item 12C from the Consent Calendar. Mayor Dieguez added Item 11B, a special presentation from the Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust. Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve the New Order of Business and Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 15:12)

*(Phonetic spelling of each speaker's name will be used throughout the minutes unless correct spelling is known.)*

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inganzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

Ms. Esperanza Hope Reynolds came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is 100% in support of item 16C to authorize initiating legal action challenging the constitutionality of Florida Statute, an item presented by Councilmember Herzberg. She stated that Florida Statute 552.36 took away the citizens' fundamental right to have access to jury trials and that Florida Statute 552.36 provides unprecedented protection for the mining industry and stated that it is a shield not permissible under Florida or Federal law. She explained that a LinkedIn group called Citizens Unite to resolve blasting damage to property was created to help educate the public on blasting related issues. She explained that in February of 2024, a public legislative workshop was held in Tallahassee, and for the first time, mining industry acknowledged the damage to properties. They called it cosmetic damage to property, despite visible impacts to homes, schools and public infrastructure. She thanked Councilmember Herzberg for guiding this effort and bringing item 16C up for discussion.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is in support of item 16C.

Ms. Hilda Fernandez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments and to speak about Item 13C. She explained that because of the housing market she has seen an increasing number of older adults, -individuals over the age of 70, being displaced from their homes. She further explained that retirement checks are not enough to keep up with the \$400 increase in monthly rent. She urged the Town Council to take advantage of the resources that have been made available by the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, to ensure a truly positive outcome and a long-term solution to helping the homeless by connecting them with housing and services and avoiding the short-term and ineffective approach of arresting homeless people. She stated that our community can lead by example, using the resources that are readily available, to help people that are homeless.

Mr. Miguel Martinez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that in June of 2017, the Town of Miami Lakes hosted the State Fire Marshall of Florida in Council Chambers. He further explained that during that period, the CFO had contracted engineering firm Lampel Hebert Consultants to review blasting records from January through December of 2016. He stated that in 2021, the CFO created a Miami-Dade pilot program to monitor the blast reports of the area. He stated that the statistics presented by Councilmember Herzberg during the February 2024 legislative workshop proved the intentional protection of the industry and negating the fiduciary responsibility of the office. He stated that he is strongly in support of item 16C.

Mr. Abel Fernandez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is strongly in support of item 16C. He stated that the Town should look into hiring a Constitutional Attorney to handle issues regarding blasting. He stated that the County Commissioners each have a million-dollar discretionary fund. He urged the Town Council to get in contact with Senator Renee Garcia's office to see if he is willing to contribute to the blasting efforts from the million-dollar fund. He stated that he is in support of changing the guard gates to level one guards, to lower the costs.

Ms. Edith Lomax came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is in support of item 16C.

Mr. Rudy Blanco came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is strongly in support of item 16C. He explained that Councilmember Herzberg's has been masterful in his approach to blasting related issues. He thanked all the past and present members of the Blasting Advisory Board for their efforts. He urged the Town Council to support item 16C.

Ms. Irene Guitterez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is in support of item 16C. She stated that she agrees with Councilmember Sanchez's item regarding the no left turn on Southbound NW 79th Avenue.

Mr. Carlos Andres came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is in support of item 8B and in support of item 16C. He thanked all the past and present members of the Blasting Advisory Board for their efforts.

Ms. Kimberly Trelles participated in Public Comments via Zoom. She stated that she is strongly in support of item 16C by Councilmember Herzberg.

Ms. Isabella Diaz participated in Public Comments via Zoom. She stated that she is strongly in support of item 16C by Councilmember Herzberg. She explained that her property has been greatly affected by the blasting effects.

Ms. Susanna Fortich participated in Public Comments via Zoom. She stated that she is strongly in support of item 16C by Councilmember Herzberg. She explained that her property has been greatly affected by the blasting effects. She further explained that the blasting effects have affected the sidewalks in her neighborhood.

Ms. Francesca Ortega participated in Public Comments via Zoom. She thanked the Town Council for their efforts towards issues regarding blasting.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Dieguez announced that Councilmember Sanchez's appointee has left the Blasting Advisory Board.

## **8. MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

### **A. Police Report (Major Gonzalez)**

Major Gonzalez presented the Police Report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

### **B. Request of Reallocation of Funds -Public Safety Committee**

Mayor Dieguez motioned to approve the request for reallocation of funds from the Public Safety Committee. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Public Works Infrastructure Report (Santos)**

The Public Works Director, Omar Santos, presented the monthly infrastructure report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

## **9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi reported the legislature passed a bill having to do with emergencies, and it could affect rezoning matters.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. Neighborhood Improvement Committee Report**

Chairman Mr. Rudy Lloredo presented the report. Committee Member Roldan then explained that the committee is requesting the reallocation of \$3,504.44 from the Neighborhood Improvement Committee's remaining budget to fund the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative. She further explained that the committee is requesting an additional \$2,450 to fund the remaining life rings. She stated that each life ring costs \$395 and that the NIC is seeking to place these rings in 15 locations within Miami Lakes. She explained that the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative honors the heroic actions of Aden Spencer Perry, a high school student who tragically lost his life while attempting to save a man from drowning on April 19, 2022, in Sunrise, Florida. She further explained that this initiative prioritizes community safety and is a small investment that can help save lives. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Garcia motioned to approve the requested reallocation of \$3,504.44 from the Neighborhood Improvement Committee's remaining annual budget to fund the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Town Manager Pidermann then explained that the Committee's request for an additional \$2,450 to fund the remaining life rings would require a Budget Amendment. Vice Mayor

Morera then motioned for Town Staff to come back at the July Regular Council Meeting with the Budget Amendment for the \$2,450 to be allocated to the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Committee Member Felicia Salazar came to the podium and presented two items included in the report. Committee Member Salazar explained that the NIC would like to request to work with both the Town Council and with the Town Attorneys on drafting a fertilizer ordinance and for the ordinance to be included in the Zoning Code. She explained that this item is closely related to another initiative from the committee, which is Lake Awareness. Committee Member Salazar explained that this initiative would be about educating the community regarding the importance of protecting the Town's lakes and using the best practices. She mentioned that it's time to update the brochure on Lake Awareness and that August had been proclaimed as Lake Awareness Month in Miami Lakes many years ago, and she mentioned that the NIC would like to continue working on this and that the goal of the ordinance is to prevent toxic fertilizers from going into our waterways. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After her presentation, Councilmember Garcia motioned to direct Town Staff to draft an ordinance that protects our lakes and that provides a mechanism that also educates our community, on what is good and bad for our lakes, and he added that a component should be added to have the landscapers follow guidelines. He then clarified his motion and stated that he would like to support and educate the public and create an ordinance that details steps on how to prevent nitrogen from going into our lakes, how to prevent fertilizers from going into our lakes, and to make sure that landscapers are educated. Vice Mayor Morera then restated Councilmember Garcia's motion to be, "to direct Town Staff and the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance complying with the NIC memorandum, which appears on page 22 of the agenda". Councilmember Garcia accepted the suggested wording of his motion and Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Committee Member Juan Estrada then spoke about the beautification under the Palmetto Expressway at Northwest 154th Street. He explained that the NIC decided to take the initiative to beautify the underpass at the Palmetto Expressway at Northwest 154th Street, using LED lights to illuminate the underpass at night. He further explained that the committee has been in contact with the contractors who worked on a similar project at the Red Road underpass and estimated that the installation would cost \$38,305. He stated that the Florida Department of Transportation District 6 informed the committee that the Town Council would have to approve a resolution to construct and maintain the community aesthetic feature.

The Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by Mayor Dieguez regarding the updated Beautification Master Plan and he stated that in August 2025, he will be bringing it to the Town Council. Mayor Dieguez then motioned for Town Staff to include the NIC's proposal -the Beautification of the Underpass Palmetto Expressway at NW 154 Street, to be included as part of the updated Beautification Master Plan, and to provide the Town Council with information regarding costs involved with making that change. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Lloredo then stated that the committee would like to amend Resolution NO. 15-1296, section 4 "Duties" (d), regarding the quarterly meetings of Homeowners Associations and similar groups. He explained that after the pandemic, it's been challenging to come up with topics of interest for the community and that it's hard to update the HOA Master List. Chairman Lloredo explained that the NIC does not want to continue using resources, time and effort in something that the NIC is not being successful. He stated that the NIC would like to amend that section and remove that section from the resolution. Chairman Lloredo then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After discussion, Mayor Dieguez stated that he would prefer to cut down the number of meetings, from 4 to 2 meetings and to not completely phase them out. Mayor Dieguez then motioned to amend the Neighborhood Improvement Committee Resolution, to provide for two meetings of the HOA's as opposed to the current quarterly meetings. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was stated that this resolution needs to come back to the Town Council, reflecting said amendments.

Chairman Lloredo then explained the committee's proposal to beautify the green space near Northwest 87th Ave and 141st Street, which was spearheaded by Committee Member Mario Pinera. Committee Member Salazar explained that this open green space is owned by FDOT and that it was brought to the committee's attention to beautify the area. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council. During discussion, Mayor Dieguez asked the NIC to come back at their next scheduled report, with more specifics on the details, more specifics of what the NIC would like to include in their proposal as part of their project, and what kind of project is being envisioned.

Mayor Dieguez then motioned for Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun, to work with the Neighborhood Improvement Committee, for the Committee to work on a more specific proposal of what can be done there and for Mr. Bajdaun to get estimates so the Town Council can get detailed information on this proposal -on beautifying the green space near Northwest 87th Ave and 141st Street. Mayor Dieguez clarified as part of his motion, to give permission for the NIC to work with Mr. Bajdaun. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Lloredo finished the presentation of the NIC's report, by stating that the proposed budget for next fiscal year, the NIC will add a golf cart ride. He stated that the NIC would like to sponsor this once a year.

#### **B. Economic Development Committee Report (To add Minutes)**

Chairman Matthew Casamayor presented the committee report and stated that the Business Networking Socials with the Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce have gone well. He stated that the next Business Networking Social will be at Dr. Limon on June 25th. He also stated that they will be hosting their third annual small Business Boot Camp in the upcoming months.

Chairman Casamayor then explained that the committee discussed canceling a service called Localintel. He further explained that Localintel is software that the Town pays for through the Economic Development Committee and is utilized to improve website engagement and share critical data business needs. He stated that in the past three years, the committee has not made use of the software and is looking to terminate the contract.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to approve the request to terminate the contract with Localintel. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## **11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: PENDING**

- A. Ms. Josephine Novo, Legislative Chair from Miami-Dade Commission for Women, gave a presentation.
- B. Mr. Javier Betancourt, CITT Executive Director from the Office of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

## **12. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes

May 23, 2025 Regular Council Meeting  
June 3, 2025 Political Signs and Flags Workshop

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD CONTRACTS TO THE STOUT GROUP, LLC AND METRO EXPRESS, INC. FOR ITB2025-05 MISCELLANEOUS DRAINAGE AND ROADWAY SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT(S); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT(S); PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND IMPLEMENT A FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) PUBLIC

TRANSIT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE MIAMI LAKES FREEBEE PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED-TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$225,000.00) PER YEAR FOR FISCAL YEARS 2027, 2028, AND 2029, TOTALING SIX HUNDRED-SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$675,000.00); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT, AND EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled for discussion by Vice Mayor Morera. He stated this item came before the Town Council on May 20<sup>th</sup> RCM and that it was approved; however, he stated that the item has come before Town Council again because the number was off last month. He clarified that it showed it as \$210,000 on May 20<sup>th</sup> RCM and this month it shows that it's \$225,000. Vice Mayor Morera clarified that the Town Council does not approve both amounts, but rather that this resolution is a replacement for the one that was adopted last month. Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve the item and Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) FY2025 SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS, EXECUTE GRANT AGREEMENTS, TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT AGREEMENTS, AND TO ALLOCATE AND EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

### **13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO PARKING REGULATIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, "LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE", AT ARTICLE VIII, "PARKING REQUIREMENTS" PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT, INTENT AND PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

The Principal Town Planner, Ms. Susana Alonso, presented the item. She mentioned that this item is the result of a business item spearheaded by Councilmember Garcia, which requested Town Staff to review the LDC, to review provisions of Electric Vehicle charges in parking lots, as well as to review requirements for vehicles transporting young children.



After discussion, Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to adopt the ordinance in first reading, and it was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll, and the motion passed 7-0.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE ADOPTED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; PROVIDING FOR THE RECOGNITION AND APPROPRIATION OF GRANT FUNDS AWARDED TO THE TOWN FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND ONE-TIME OPERATING EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the Ordinance into the record.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to approve the ordinance in first reading, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll, and the motion passed 7-0.

- C. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; PERTAINING TO PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING IN THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 17 (“OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS”); CREATING SECTION 17-4 OF CHAPTER 17, TITLED “PUBLIC CAMPING AND SLEEPING”; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING THE SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING A DEFINITION OF PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING; PROHIBITING PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING; PROVIDING FOR NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record. Vice Mayor Morera moved the item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg.

The Deputy Town Attorney answered questions posed by the Town Council, regarding the Florida Statute that was amended in 2024.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading passed 7-0.

#### **14. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE IV, CREATING NEW DIVISION 6. – RM-30 MEDIUM LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT; RENUMBERING EXISTING DIVISIONS 6 THRU 26 TO DIVISIONS 7 THRU 27; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT;

PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION OF SOME PORTIONS IN CODE; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION OF SOME PORTIONS FROM CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance and the Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing instructions into the record.

Town Clerk Inguanzo stated for the record, that all the elected officials provided her with the completed ex-parte communication forms and that no ex-parte communications were had.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and clarified that this designation is not being applied to any properties at this time; he clarified that it is to be incorporate another option into the Code, which is between RM23 and RM36, to limit it to 5 stories and other setbacks so it can be available for any rezonings into the future.

Mayor Dieguez opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, Mayor Dieguez closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve the ordinance in second reading and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the ordinance in second reading passed 7-0.

- B. AN ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA APPROVING, ADOPTING, A NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS; APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RATES FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURITY GUARD AND MULTIPURPOSE MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Sanchez motioned to move the ordinance in second reading and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by the Town Council and clarified that Item 14B sets the cap on the assessments for these districts for the next fiscal year. The Parks & Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, and the Budget Officer, Ms. Melissa Hernandez, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion to approve the ordinance in second reading passed 7-0.

- C. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO LOBBYING ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR REGISTRATION AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOBBYISTS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Mayor Dieguez stated that he spearheaded this initiative to amend our lobbyist code and to make it more flexible yet still maintain the same rigorous ethics standards that we always hold ourselves to.

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella provided a quick overview of the ordinance. He stated that our Lobbyist Ordinance is dictated by the Miami-Dade County Code of Ethics, which all municipalities must abide by. He answered questions posed by the Town Council and he clarified what conversations can be had; he explained, for instance, if someone is approached by a person, if they introduce themselves - it is considered an initial conversation. But, once that person is bringing an item to push forth to the Town Council or that person is trying to convince our Town Staff to purchase, or to look into a product or service -that is considered lobbying and that person needs to register with the Town Clerk. The Deputy Town Attorney specifically stated that once the person makes a statement that they have a product or service that will be great for the Town, at that moment, they must register with the Town Clerk.

Mayor Dieguez moved the item, and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion to approve the ordinance in second reading passed 7-0.

## **15. RESOLUTIONS:**

None.

## **16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### **A. Tree Maintenance Program (Sanchez)**

*This item was deferred by Councilmember Sanchez at the May 20<sup>th</sup> RCM, to be discussed at the June 17<sup>th</sup> RCM.*

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and referenced the Town's Black Olive Tree Replacement Program, where residents may request to have a Black Olive tree removed and replaced with an Oak tree, with a specific cost range and approved by the Parks & Recreation Department. Councilmember Sanchez then stated that he recommends a similar program for residents to be able to trim trees that are encroaching over their property. He stated that the way the Town Code is written, residents cannot trim trees that are planted on the swale because they belong to the Town.

Councilmember Sanchez motioned for a similar program for residents to be able to trim trees that are encroaching over their property lines; for example, trees over their driveway and cars, with an approved Town vendor -as long as the trimming is not detrimental to the life of the tree. He stated that the resident applying for the request to trim would pay the fee based on the estimate provided by the Town vendor and approved by the Town of

Miami Lakes Parks & Recreation Department, before the trimming occurs. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion for discussion.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council. Vice Mayor Morera suggested for these applications to be done fully online, where residents do not have to come into Town Hall and for residents to be able to submit a picture of their tree via email.

Mayor Dieguez provided additional suggestions stating that when Town Staff brings back the item to Town Council, to include some kind of cap on how many applications can be received in a given year, and to try to either in this budget cycle or the next one, to move to a two-year cycle instead of the current three year cycle. He stated that he would like frequent trimmings to take care of many of these requests.

After further discussion, the motion was approved 7-0.

#### **B. Future Stormwater Projects (Fernandez)**

Councilmember Fernandez presented his item. He then motioned to direct Town Staff to come up with different ideas, and different methods so that we can raise funds and be able to fund these unfunded drainage projects. He asked for Town Staff to report back to the Town Council within sixty (60) days with alternative funding strategies to meet the stormwater demand that will be identified next fiscal year. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-0.

#### **C. Authorization to Initiate Legal Action Challenging the Constitutionality of Florida Statute (Herzberg, Morera)**

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item, explained the Town has addressed the impacts of lime rock mining and that the Town has done everything the system tells them to do. He stated that he believes that Florida Statute 552.36 itself is constitutionally invalid, because it deprives the Town of access to judicial redress and trial by jury, in violation of both Article 1, Section 2 and Article 1, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution. Also, he stated that the Town should examine whether the statute impermissibly infringes upon the due process rights under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution by mandating that traditional common law tort claims be adjudicated exclusively in the executive agency, rather than in a constitutionally constituted court of law.

Councilmember Herzberg motioned to authorize the Town Attorney to proceed with preparing a lawsuit for declaratory injunctive relief finding that the statute is unconstitutional and then filing it in a competent court of jurisdiction and for this to be filed within the next 60 to 90 days. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Vice Mayor Morera asked for a point of personal privilege to be added as a co-sponsor of this item. The Town Clerk acknowledged this request. Vice Mayor Morera then requested an estimate of Attorney Fees, to be presented by the Town Attorney at the next RCM, to have an idea as we go into the next budget season, what we need to allocate. Vice Mayor

Morera then referred to the public comments shared by Mr. Abel Fernandez, regarding the sub-millage to explore on the legality of this, for our residents to be able to see how much of their dollars are going for a very specific purpose.

Town Attorney Gastesi provided additional context. Mayor Dieguez stated his opinion, and he shared his sentiments and concerns with the proposed lawsuit and legal deficiencies in the case being presented. After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 7-0.

**D. Large Bingo Flash Board for senior Bingo Luncheons (Morera)**

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and motioned directing Town Staff to come back to Town Council with several options, -a simple tv with a software, a screen and a projector or an actual flashboard- to be used during the Elderly Affairs Committee Senior Bingo Luncheons. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia suggested for Town Staff to look for a sponsor and Vice Mayor Morera accepted the friendly suggestion. The motion passed 7-0.

**E. Fence Setback for homes on corner lots (Sanchez)**

*This item was deferred by Councilmember Sanchez at the May 20<sup>th</sup> RCM, to be discussed at the June 17<sup>th</sup> RCM.*

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and motioned to work with Town Staff to amend the setback for fences in the Town to allow residents to have at least 5 ft of gap between the home and the fence line, to allow privacy to the homes and 10 ft from the sidewalk to the fence. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Principal Town Planner Susana Alonso answered questions posed by the Town Council.

The motion passed 7-0.

**F. Authorization to Add or Update Security Cameras at Special Taxing Districts (Herzberg)**

Councilmember Herzberg presented the item and stated that SFM has offered to update their cameras and to provide cameras that are able to record footage outside the guardhouses, at no cost. He then motioned to move forward with SFM offering to update the cameras, give us cameras that record footage on the outside, at no cost. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that regarding the LPR's, they are part of the Town's security infrastructure, so those cameras are exempt, and he stated that the cameras to be placed outside the security guardhouses are also part of the Town's security infrastructure the Town, so they are probably exempt. The motion passed 7-0.

#### **G. Relocation of Improvement of Sandbag Storage Location (Morera)**

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item which required a waiver. Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive Section 6.10 of the Special Rules of Order and Councilmember Herzberg seconded the waiver. The waiver passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera explained that when he attended the Royal Oaks Park Closing Ceremonies event, he noticed how at least three entire pallets of pre-filled sandbags had been destroyed due to prolonged sun exposure. He then mentioned that he wanted to discuss with his colleagues, other places that could serve as storage locations or perhaps build some sort of cover at the current location. He then asked Town Staff for options and proposals.

After discussion, Vice Mayor Morera motioned for Town Staff to come back to Town Council with several options and with numbers to prevent the sandbags from being subjected to constant sunlight. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and the motion passed 7-0.

#### **H. Permanent No Left Turn on SB NW 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Sanchez) Pending to be reviewed**

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and stated that the No Left Turn on Southbound NW 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which was introduced by him as a probationary basis during the April Regular Council Meeting, has been working well for the community. He added that the feedback has been positive and that it has been an effective measure in mitigating traffic congestion by the Bob Graham Education Center. Therefore, Councilmember Sanchez then motioned to implement the No Left Turn into a permanent structure. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Major Jose Gonzalez came before Town Council to provide additional feedback and recommended specifying certain school hours on the sign to be placed. Councilmember Sanchez then amended his motion with the recommendation to include in the signage, to follow the hours of the school zone, the hours of operation. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the amendment.

Councilmember Herzberg provided his opinion and asked Town Staff to report back to the Town Council with other solutions, other options, such as putting cones or something more permanent -like thick delineators- other than just a sign and other than just a police officer sitting there enforcing the sign. Councilmember Herrzberg emphasized that he would like something we can put in and out.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that Town Staff would explore options and come back with some ideas to present to the Town Council. Councilmember Herzberg clarified that the sign is a good idea, but in addition to the sign, he emphasized that he would like to not have a police officer there enforcing the sign, that he would prefer to have something in and out more like a barrier and he instructed Town Staff to do this. The Town Council acknowledged his request. The motion made by Councilmember Sanchez passed 7-0.

## **I. Enforcement of Town Ordinances (Sanchez)**

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and motioned to direct the Town Attorney to work with the Clerk of Courts and with the Sheriff's Office, so that our officers can enforce the other ordinances that are not enforced by the Building Department and Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Morera then requested to nominate Councilmember Sanchez as the point person, so that Councilmember Sanchez and Town Staff can deal with Miami-Dade County on this matter.

Mayor Dieguez then clarified that intergovernmental relations is part of the Mayor's Office, and that it doesn't matter whether the Town Council votes on it or not, it must be delegated by the mayor. Mayor Dieguez stated that he will have a sunshine meeting with Councilmember Sanchez to discuss this matter. The motion made by Councilmember Sanchez passed 7-0.

## **J. Fourth of July (Sanchez)**

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and motioned to extend the invitation to the Town's Fourth of July Celebration to the Tax Collector, the Department of Elections, the Miami-Dade Republican Party, and he added an amendment to also include the Clerk of Courts and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion for discussion and shared his opposition to include political parties, amending the motion to strike political parties, and Councilmember Herzberg seconded the amendment.

After further discussion, Town Clerk Inganzo called the roll, and the amendment to remove the political parties passed 5-2; Councilmember Sanchez and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition. Then, the main motion as amended, passed 7-0.

Town Manager Pidermann requested clarification on how the invitation will be extended, Councilmember Sanchez stated he would send out the invites and Mayor Dieguez allowed it.

## **17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

Mayor Dieguez asked for a moment of personal privilege. He specifically shared that he is optimistic that the Town will receive approximately \$1.6 million dollars from the State of Florida, for two projects on the issue of drainage.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that if the Florida Panthers win, he will request that the Mayor's Office send a formal invitation to the Florida Panthers to bring the Stanley Cup to Town Hall, in exchange for a Proclamation. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## **18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 pm.

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.

  
Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:

  
Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk