

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
August 19, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Mayor Dieguez presented a certificate of recognition to Dr. Gilberto Velazquez for his generous donation of 25 live oak trees for the east side of the Town of Miami Lakes. He stated that the Town of Miami Lakes commends Dr. Velazquez's remarkable active community generosity and steadfast commitment to enriching the Town's urban canopy. Dr. Velazquez thanked the Town Council for their recognition.

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 joined the meeting in person at 6:34 pm.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Vice Mayor Morera led the Prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Sanchez.

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

Councilmember Sanchez requested a waiver of Special Rules of Order Section 6.10 for Item 16M. Vice Mayor Morera combined Item 16A and Item 16N to be heard together, he pulled Item 16I to be heard during the discussion of Item 8C, the Public Works Report and he pulled Item 12F from the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Garcia moved Item 11A to be heard after Public Comments. Councilmember Herzberg pulled Item 12E from the Consent Calendar.

Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve the New Order of Business. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 13:25)

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

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

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that the budget should only focus on the town's genuine needs. She explained that the Town should stop seeking grant money that requires matching funds. She stated that the Town should focus on keeping existing drains clear instead of adding new drains. She stated that residents will always appreciate living in Miami Lakes if the deed restrictions are enforced; therefore, keeping the aesthetic beauty of the Miami Lakes community intact.

Mr. Ray Palacios came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that as the President of the Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce, he represents every business in Miami Lakes. He requested the Town Council's consideration in adding a \$20 surcharge to the annual business tax receipt fee that's paid by the local small businesses. He stated that the fee is not meant as a burden but as an investment. He further explained that many of the small businesses in Miami Lakes have been struggling due to the lack of foot traffic from outside the Town. He explained that this fund could make Miami Lakes the designation it deserves to be. He thanked the Town Council for their consideration.

Former Councilwoman Marilyn Ruano came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that she has received many phone calls from Miami Lakes residents who are slightly offended by the proposed budget at such a high millage rate. She stated that there are many items on the proposed budget that should not have been presented to Miami Lakes residents. She urged the Town Council to consider the residents when discussing the budget.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that the Town Council only needs to fund what is essential. She stated that the Town should not propose new infrastructure projects while not being able to maintain the current infrastructure. She urged the Town Council to go through the budget and determine what items are a priority and what items are not a necessity.

There being no further public comments, public comments were closed.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Dieguez announced the following appointments:

Ms. Christina Gonzalez to the Youth Activities Task Force by Mayor Joshua Dieguez.

Ms. Esther Lemme to the Education Advisory Board by Councilmember Alejandro Sanchez

8. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Future Funding of Storm Water Projects (Pidermann)

Town Manager Pidermann presented the report and explained that the Town is currently finishing up projects with the current bond and the ARPA projects, and he stated that it's good to start looking at possible funding sources for future stormwater projects. He spoke about the Master Stormwater project goals, the Stormwater Rate Restudy and current funding projects and preliminary future funding options. Mr. Pidermann also presented a PowerPoint report.

Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by the Town Council.

During discussion, Councilmember Garcia motioned for the Town Manager to present an option of extending stormwater improvements' timeline, so that the Town does not have to raise fees, for current revenues to stay fixed and not have to raise fees or taxes. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera and the motion passed 5-0; Major Dieguez and Councilmember Sanchez were absent.

B. Monthly Police Report (Major Gonzalez)

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

C. Public Works Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)

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

Director Santos also addressed Item 16I, the Canal Stabilization Report that Councilmember Cuadra Garcia presented at the Regular Council Meeting and that Vice Mayor asked to be discussed during Item 8C, the Public Works Report.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia asked via motion, for Director Santos to prepare a comprehensive report on Canal Stabilization. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Santos also provided a timeline of steps taken and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

D. Sandbag Storage Area (Bajdaun)

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun presented the report and explained that the report focuses on long-term solutions to better maintain the Town's emergency management storage area. He further explained that the report presents the Town Council with the option of a hard roof structure or a soft canopy-shaped structure, to cover the vast majority of the maintenance yard. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi presented the report and explained that he would like to not discuss the blasting litigation in a public forum. He explained that the case against Becker is on a contingency. Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella explained that the rezoning matter is currently being resolved. He further explained that some of the new bills passed in the state legislature will influence what the Town is able to do as a governing board. He explained that there have been changes to micromobility ordinances. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Public Safety Committee Report

Chairperson Carlos Andres presented the report and went over the events and initiatives that the committee has been working on. He explained that the committee is working on getting Miami Lakes residents to sign up for the Town's text emergency system. He stated that the committee's event at Station 64 was successful. He explained that the committee will be hosting their September 11th Memorial event, the Annual Recognition Awards, and National Coffee with a Cop event in the upcoming months. He stated that the committee would like to request approval from the Town Council to host a car show in conjunction with the local police and fire departments on October 11th. He further explained the potential revenues and expenses for the car show and that its cost neutral to the Town. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Garcia motioned to approve the event. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Andres requested approval from the Town Council to add new classifications for Town events in their committee budget.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to approve the committee's request to add new classifications for Town events in their committee budget. Mayor Dieguez stated that it must be broken down by events and to have the committee work with the Town Liaison and break down by events and have it ready for the First Budget Hearing. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

B. Mental Health Task Force Report

The report was not presented.

C. Sports Hall of Fame Committee Report

Vice Chair Miriam Ochoa presented the report and explained that the committee met in July to make the selection of the 2025 Sports Hall of Fame inductees. She further explained that she is requesting the Town Council's approval of the inductees. She stated that the

induction will take place on December 13th. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Garcia motioned to approve the 2025 Sports Hall of Fame inductees. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: PENDING

A. Check Presentation (State Representative Tom Fabricio)

State Representative Tom Fabricio and Ms. Alicia Araya representing Senator Bryan Avila presented the 1.6 million dollar check to the Town of Miami Lakes. Mayor Dieguez explained that the check will be utilized to fund infrastructure projects in the Town of Miami Lakes. State Representative Fabricio explained that the check will be utilized to complete the 154th turn lane project and the Big Cypress drainage project.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

A. Approval of Minutes

June 16, 2025 Workshop Updated Committee Rules
June 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
June 26, 2025 Sunshine Meeting

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT \$5,000 FROM THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HEALTH ASSOCIATION AWARD TO THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES' EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD; AND 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, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE FY 2025-26 RESILIENT FLORIDA IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RESILIENT FLORIDA IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER, TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PIGGYBACK CITY OF MIAMI, FL CONTRACT NO. 1338386 (27) FURNISH AND INSTALL FENCING; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Councilmember Herzberg during the New Order of Business section of the agenda. Councilmember Herzberg asked the Town Manager to explain the item and to explain what the benefit is of not procuring this contract ourselves. During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg motioned to approve the item, subject to asking Town Staff to go ahead and do their own solicitation and to report back to Town Council, so that Town Council can determine if the piggyback contract makes sense or not. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella asked for clarification on the motion. Councilmember Herzberg clarified that he wants Town Staff to accept the piggyback contract from the City of Miami, but if a bid comes back at lower price, to accept it.

The motion passed 7-0.

- F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IDENTIFICATION (ID) REQUEST PROTOCOL FOR VISITORS AT MIAMI LAKES SECTION ONE SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT (STD) GUARDBOUSES DURING NIGHTTIME HOURS; DIRECTING STAFF TO COORDINATE WITH THE TOWN'S SECURITY PROVIDER FOR NOTICE TO RESIDENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Vice Mayor Morera during the New Order of Business section of the Agenda.

Councilmember Fernandez presented the item and stated he would like to add the protocol of asking for IDs after 10 p.m. and until 6 am. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera, and it passed 7-0.

- G. RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE A WORK ORDER WITH H.W. LOCHNER, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE NW 154 STREET ADAPTIVE SIGNALIZATION PROJECT PLAN REVISIONS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-THREE DOLLARS AND 70/100 (\$10,893.70), UNDER EXISTING CONTRACT 2021-43;

PROVIDING FOR ALLOCATION FROM THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS CONTINGENCY RESERVE; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to re-open the New Order of Business. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Morera then moved Item 16K to be discussed immediately thereof, for the benefit of our audience. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia and all were in favor.

13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

None.

14. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO ATTACHED CANOPIES FOR SINGLE-FAMILY AND TWO-FAMILY BUILDINGS; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, "LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE", AT ARTICLE V, "ALLOWABLE ENCROACHMENTS INTO THE REQUIRED YARDS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED HEIGHTS", AT SECTION 13-1506, "CANOPIES,"; 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.

Vice Mayor Morera moved the item and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez.

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

Vice Mayor Morera stated that he approves the item as per Staff's recommendation, but he asked Town Staff to come back with an amendment later, so that it can be implemented right away to allow the reduced distance from the main structures to accessory structures to be reduced for all properties and not just small yards. Principal Town Planner, Susana Alonso, then stated that she can reflect the change in the Ordinance, before it gets executed.

After a brief discussion, Vice Mayor Morera made the following amendment to the main motion: Pursuant to the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Board, that the reduced distance from the main structure to accessory structures be reduced to all properties, not just smaller yards. The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. Principal Town Planner Alonso answered questions posed by the Town Council. The amendment passed 7-0.

The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion was approved 7-0.

- B. 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.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella presented the item and stated that this item was presented to the Planning & Zoning Board, and some issues were discussed at that level. He then asked the Town Council to entertain a motion to defer this item, so that Town Staff can come back with better recommendations. Vice Mayor Morera motioned to defer, and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated for the record that for all those applicants that are out there, since this has already been moving in first reading, they may be obliged to follow these recommendations, as it is a zoning in progress.

15. RESOLUTIONS:

None.

16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Flat Committee Budgets for FY2025-26 and Post-Budget Town Council Workshop on Committee Structure (Herzberg)

Item 16A and Item 16N were combined during the New Order of Business section of the agenda, as per Vice Mayor Morera's request. Mayor Dieguez asked for Item 16A to be discussed first.

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and explained that when the budget discussion is held, his position is that we should have a flat committee budget, -for discussion to start at the amount that it was set last year. He stated that he's not ready to entertain any raises in committee budgets and would like to go line-by-line. He then motioned and gave direction to Town Staff, for them to give the committees a flat committee budget, to start with the same amount the committees were granted last fiscal year, for this fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion was approved 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera then presented his item, item 16N. He stated that he does not agree with a flat budget, but that he does not agree with a flat budget as a starting point. He stated that we are being asked to fund \$391,450 in committee budgets, which is a 91% increase over the last fiscal year. He emphasized that committees play a tremendous role in enhancing citizen participation and engagement, but that the Town Council is responsible for ensuring that our taxpayer's dollars are used effectively and efficiently. He then stated that he would like the Town Council to have a Workshop with Town Committee Chairs

and committee members, for Town Committees to be able to present their budgets and go line by line, to ensure the Town Council knows what events are being successful and important to the town. He added that this would add more transparency.

Vice Mayor Morera then motioned for the establishment of a Committee Budget Workshop to take place every year, starting on June 2026, for it to take place -no earlier than June 2026 and no later than July 31, 2026- of each year and for this to commence in 2026. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella answered questions posed by the Town Council. He stated that Town Councilmembers are allowed to speak with committee chairs and with committee members.

Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, Director of Parks & Recreation, also answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding the Skate Event and its attendance. Director Bajdaun stated that he would look at the registrations and at the actual return on that program.

During discussion, Mayor Dieguez stated for the record why he would not support the motion and explained that in the past it was done and that he thought it was better and more beneficial for the Town Chairs to meet with the Town Council members directly. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 6-1; Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

The Town Clerk stated that the Office of the Town Clerk had not received a copy of this resolution, and she asked for the resolution, so it would be part of the record. The motion was approved unanimously 6-0, Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

B. Alternative Revenue Source-FPL Franchise Fee (Fernandez)

Councilmember Fernandez presented his item and stated that he is trying to find different ways we can generate some funds. He then motioned for Town Staff to bring back a resolution at the First Budget Hearing, on Thursday September 11, 2025, to increase the Franchise Fee from 3% to 6%. He also requested from Town Staff to present an ordinance in first reading at the First Budget Hearing, modifying the surplus FPL Franchise Fee Ordinance – suspending the ordinance from one fiscal year, to allow the entire additional \$1,500,000 to be used in the General funds for general Town operation and that he still wants to allocate the approximately \$225,000 in “surplus” FOPL Franchise Fee for the appropriate infrastructure, since that is what it is now how the ordinance reads. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by the Town Council. He stated that it would probably start on January 1, 2026, because by the time TOML notifies FPL, FPL starts 60 days later. Town Manager Pidermann also clarified that if this item passes, it's only asking Town Staff to bring back a resolution to be discussed on the First Budget Hearing and an ordinance in first reading to be discussed at the First Budget Hearing.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Sanchez voted in opposition.

C. Report Card Performance Evaluations (Cuadra Garcia)

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia presented his item and made a motion requesting the Town Manager -the Town Council- to get report cards on performance on everybody in our town -including the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that it is the job of the Town Council to talk directly to the Town Manager regarding who is over or underperforming or if they want to talk about the Town Manager's performance. He also stated that the Town Council gets evaluated by the residents every 4 years. To this effect, Mayor Dieguez stated that he was the councilmember who brought up the Town Manager's evaluation to be done every February as an option, not a requirement, for councilmembers to fill out a form and evaluate the Town Manager's performance. He also emphasized that the Town Council cannot take any action that applies to an individual employee because only the Town Manager has the ability to hire and fire, and that only the Town Manager can make adjustments to any salaries, etc. He also explained that there is a yearly performance report for the Town Manager that can be filled out in February.

After discussion, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia withdrew his motion.

D. Letter of Support for Improvements to Left Turn Lane NW 87th Avenue and NW 186th Street (Morera)

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item. He explained that making a left turn from NW 87th Avenue (Northbound) onto NW 186th Street (Westbound) has been causing frustration for many residents. He explained that to make a left turn on 87th Avenue, in order to get access to use I-75, the road backs up more than 300 feet to the median to the south, where the turn lane begins, which in turn causes cars to block the go-straight lane, which is to the right. Vice Mayor Morera stated that many residents have reached out to him requesting for turning lanes to be improved.

Vice Mayor Morera motioned that he would like the Town Council, as representatives of the residents, to reach out to Miami-Dade County -because this is outside the Miami Lakes jurisdiction- to get them to do the necessary studies and hopefully, improve that corner so that it becomes a dual left turn, and the existing left turn is extended. Councilmember Garcia seconded his motion. Mayor Dieguez heard the discussion and stated that no motion was needed because inter-governmental relations is entirely in the discretion of the Office of the Mayor, unless there is a resolution expressing the will of the council, to which that can be transmitted to the appropriate body, because at that moment, it would be fully voted on by the Town Council. He emphasized that intergovernmental relations are under the purview of the office of the mayor.

Mayor Dieguez explained that this is a letter from the Mayor's Office to the appropriate authorities; he happily agreed to review Vice Mayor Morera's letter and make changes that he deems appropriate and then send the letter to its destination. He asked Vice Mayor Morera to send the letter to the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr. Alexis Martinez, and for Alexis to send the letter to Mayor's Assistant, Mr. Joshua Villorin.

After Mayor Dieguez' explanation, Vice Mayor Morera withdrew his motion.

Mayor Dieguez also pointed out that as per Vice Mayor Morera's request, the Office of the Mayor was able to reach out to the Panthers, and unfortunately, they stated that they are not available to join us for this meeting, and they have not yet provided us with an alternate date.

E. 988 Signage (Sanchez)

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and explained that the 988 service exists to help individuals who are experiencing emotional distress, having suicidal thoughts, or facing a mental health challenge. He further explained that despite the launch of the 988 hotline, many residents are unaware that the service exists. He explained that he has drafted a resolution directing the Town Manager to work with the Mental Health Task Force to implement the 988 signs around the Town. He stated that this initiative would be funded through sponsorship.

Councilmember Sanchez motioned to adopt the proposed resolution. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Business Tax Revenues Fees Report (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented his item 16F and stated that there's a percentage of business fees that the Town generates that have not been collected and that he wants to make sure that the Town is getting all the revenue that's supposed to come to the Town so decisions can be made during the budget cycle.

Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by Councilmember Garcia in regard to the business tax revenue and stated that Town Staff will create a report and provide it to the Town Council next month in September, to be placed under Manager's Report, with full detail of the process and collection levels including challenges. Councilmember Garcia requested this report to be prepared before the September council meeting.

Building Department Director, Daniel Angel answered questions posed by the Town Council and provided explanations.

Councilmember Garcia then motioned to have a report, as soon as possible, to show how much business tax revenue we've left on the table this year and what's the process to fix this issue with the online software, and to get a report every month on how much money has been missing and how much money we need to collect. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion for discussion and requested Town Staff to provide the Town Council with the report by the First Budget Hearing, scheduled to take place on September 11th. The Town Council agreed.

After further discussion, Councilmember Garcia also stated that he wants to know the business tax revenue to come up with something later, to help promote the Town, working with the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Committee, to help businesses grow. All were in favor, and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera asked the Town Attorneys, via motion, if the Town is allowed to surcharge and if so, if we are allowed to turn that amount as a grant to the Chamber of Commerce for them to disperse. After some brief discussion, Vice Mayor Morera stated that he would wait for the Town's Report and that he will address this later.

G. Bleeding Liens (Dieguez)

This item requires a waiver of Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order

Mayor Dieguez moved to waive section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera and were all in favor.

Mayor Dieguez explained the genesis of his item and motioned to direct Town staff to come back with a proposal on how to better preserve the Town's rights to go after an owner of the property without affecting the marketability of title for that particular situation, which often will cause especially more stringent title insurers like the fund to not close on the property in this particular situation, Vice Mayor Morera seconded and all were in favor. The motion passed 7-0.

H. Staff to Evaluate Automated Gate Arm Upgrades for STDs (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and stated that he would like to propose a 5% contingency across the Boards for the Special Taxing Districts and potentially provide some savings and improvements. He explained that the Gate Arm in many of the Special Taxing Districts around Miami Lakes remains open when it should be closed. He further explained that the cost would allow the gate to sense when a car is coming and automatically open and close.

Councilmember Herzberg motioned to give the 5% contingency across the board and for staff to provide the Council with firm options and costs to potentially add to the budget. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Morera amended the motion to request Town Staff to include a provision that includes the amount of time the automatic system will be in use. Vice Mayor Morera stated that the automatic system should only be used for a limited time because the guard gates are man operated gates and that we should be able to know how long the automated system will be in use. Town Staff provided feedback on his comments and stated that a timer will be enforced. Councilmember Herzberg explained that if the contingency is lowered to 5% the cost of the assessment will be reduced.

After further discussion, the amended motion passed 7-0.

I. Canal Stabilization Report (Cuadra Garcia)

This item was pulled by Vice Mayor Morera, during the New Order of Business, to be heard during the discussion of Item 8C, the Public Works Report.

J. Amendment to Sponsorship Ordinance (Morera)

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and explained that the current ordinance gives the Town Manager authority to accept or approve procurements items that are up to \$25,000. Vice Mayor Morera motioned to direct staff to come back with an ordinance to change the Town code, amending section 13-21108 to reflect this change. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

K. Zonta Club Use of Facilities (Dieguez)

This item requires a waiver of Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order

Mayor Dieguez moved to waive section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera and all were in favor.

Mayor Dieguez presented his item 16K and motioned to give the Zonta Club of Miami Lakes immediate authorization to host their upcoming orientation at the Roberto Alonso Community Center and secondly, to direct staff to begin discussions with the Zonta Club of Miami Lakes for a longer-term licensing agreement that will help them to expedite some of these requests in the future. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. After discussion, all were in favor, and the motion passed 7-0.

L. Resident Decals for Special Taxing Districts -Royal Oaks Section 1 and Royal Parks east (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg motioned to waive section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and motioned directing Town staff to look into the potential options and costs to implement resident decals for Royal Oaks Section 1 and Royal Oaks East. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

M. Future Needs, Not Wants (Cuadra Garcia)

Pursuant to the Council's action earlier on the Order of Business, Councilmember Sanchez made a point of order along with an explanation by Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella, in regards to the Special Rules of Order, Section 6.10, placing a new business item for consideration before the Council – to which Councilmember Sanchez stated he is open to

discussing this item 16M but moving forward Councilmember Cuadra Garcia is to give us a little bit more of content so that the Town Council can do their due diligence before the meeting.

Mayor Dieguez addressed Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and suggested for him to provide as much detail as possible in his future new business items, to specifically state what he wants to do and discuss as possible. Councilmember Sanchez motioned to waive the rule as per the Special Rules of Order, Section 6.10, the motioned was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera, all were in favor.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia presented his item 16M, he stated his opinion and stated what he will support public safety and allocating funds for the next four years to be able to repair sidewalks. There was no motion, and no further direction was given.

N. Establishment of Committee Budget Workshops (Morera)

This item was combined with Item 16A, during the New Order of Business section of the agenda, as per Vice Mayor Morera's request. Mayor Dieguez asked for Item 16A to be discussed first.

O. Creation of a Standing Agenda Section for Staff Reports on Deferred Council Items (Morera)

Vice Mayor Morera motioned to waive the Special Rules of Order, Section 6.10, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and explained that frequently, items are introduced by the Town Council and referred to Town staff for them to work on these items but he noted that sometimes these items never get back to the Town Council. He stated that the purpose of this item is to hold everyone accountable -Town Council and Town Staff.

Vice Mayor Morera then motioned for the creation of a new, recurring section on the Regular Town Council meeting agenda, to be titled "Referred Items", to be placed after Resolutions and before New Business Items. He explained for this section to include a brief written report from Town Staff, on the status or finding related to any item previously referred by the Town Council, each item listed in the written report will state the month the item was referred, the name of the staff member or department to who, the item was delegated and the last status of the item. The item will remain on this agenda section until the item is formally closed by the Town Council action, and the Town Council may also request for any specific referred item to be placed back on the main agenda for renewed discussion. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion.

During discussion of the item, Councilmember Garcia made an amendment to the motion, to perhaps add these referred items to be added to the Manager's Report section on the agenda, for them to be discussed under the Manager's Report and for the Town Council to ask questions on these items. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the amendment, as a friendly amendment. The Town Clerk called the roll and the amended motion failed 3-4; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg

and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition. During discussion, Mayor Dieguez made a motion to strike all amendments and explained that he would require all council items to be forwarded to the Town Council every 2 weeks by the Town Council Assistant. During further explanation, of the strike all amendment, Town Manager Pidermann explained that Town Staff holds an After-Action meeting a few days after every Regular Council Meeting, where Town Staff discuss every item included in the previous regular council meeting. Town Manager Pidermann suggested that Staff can send this After-Action list to the Town Council monthly.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Dieguez re-stated his motion. Mayor Dieguez amended his original motion, and stated a new strike all amendment, for the Town Council to receive a report from Town Staff every 2 weeks, regarding pending Town Council items, and to specifically include the status of where Town Staff is regarding the implementation of those items. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. The amendment passed 7-0. The main motion, as amended, passed 7-0.

Deputy Town Attorney answered questions posed by Town Council regarding when Town Council items get off the list.

As a second part of his item, Vice Mayor Morera mentioned that a few months ago, the Town Council re-arranged the agenda of the Regular Council Meetings and he noted that Section 3.1 of the Special Rules of Order sets the order of the agenda, and he pointed out that section 3.1 of the Rules have not been updated. So, he asked Town Staff to come back to the Town Council with a resolution amending Section 3.1 of the Special Rules of Order reflecting the current order of business and to get it updated. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg and the motion passed 7-0.

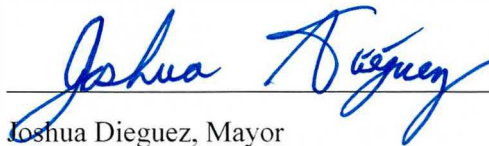
17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

None.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.

Approved this 19th of August 2025.


Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:


Gina M. Inganzo, Town Clerk