MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
September 16, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Mayor Dieguez invited the Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, Carlos Andres to come forward and present the Firefighter of the Year Award and the Police Officer of the Year Award. Chairperson Andres explained that each year, the PSC contacts the command staff from the Sheriff's Office and the Regional Chief from the Fire Department to select an individual to recognize.

Chairperson Andres then invited Major Gonzalez to come forward and present the Police Officer of the Year Award to Deputy Carlos Ortiz. Major Gonzalez explained that Deputy Ortiz has been with the Town for 24 years as a neighborhood resource officer. He further explained that Deputy Ortiz is one of the Police Explorer Program Advisors and is part of the Honor Guard. Chairperson Andres invited Chief Dan Bolline to come forward and present the Firefighter of the Year Award to Anthony Cueto and explained that they chose Mr. Cueto for his extraordinary service and undedicated devotion to Firehouse 64.

Mayor Dieguez presented a certificate of recognition to David Ayala in acknowledgement of his representation of Miami Lakes at the 2025 JOOLA National Junior Pickleball Tournament in Orlando Florida, where his team won a silver medal.

Mayor Dieguez presented a certificate of recognition to Lucas Collazo in acknowledgement of his representation of Miami Lakes at the 2025 JOOLA National Junior Pickleball Tournament in Orlando Florida, where his team won a silver medal

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 6:35 pm.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The moment of silence was led by Mr. Abel Fernandez in memory of longtime Miami Laker Mirtha Mendez. The prayer was led by Mayor Dieguez.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Herzberg.

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

Councilmember Sanchez pulled item 16J to be heard after Public Comments. Mayor Dieguez pulled item 10C to be heard after item 16J. Councilmember Herzberg pulled item 12D from the Consent Calendar. Vice Mayor Morera pulled item 12F and item 12H from the Consent Calendar.

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 40:25)

(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.

Dr. Dave Bennett came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that Miami Lakes residents voted against owning a share of Optimist Park. He explained that residents' property values and property insurance are increasing at a rapid rate. He stated that residents would like to own their property rather than renting it.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that it might be a good idea to renegotiate the Optimist Park agreement between the Town and the School Board. She further stated that the Optimist Park improvements place an unfair burden on the Town. She explained that all grants have strings attached and incur more expenses to the Town.

Mr. Van Toth came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he agrees that the Town should prioritize Public Safety. He discussed his concerns regarding the proposed millage increase.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She thanked the Town Council for their work on the budget. She stated that the Town should focus on maintaining their current facilities. She explained that the 25th Anniversary Committee should incorporate their ideas into the Veterans Day Parade.

Mr. Abel Fernandez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that all Miami Lakes residents want the same basic things: safety, prosperity, and a bright future for their families. He further explained that the Town cannot let the division occurring across the country take root within this community. He urged the Town Council to help bring this community back together.

Mr. Sean Schwinghammer came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He discussed his recommendations for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. He stated that he appreciates the 25th Anniversary Committees efforts, but that more can be done to celebrate the Town.

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

7. APPOINTMENTS:

None.

8. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Monthly Police Reports (Major Gonzalez)

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

B. 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.

C. Update on Fleet Renewal Status (Santos)

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

During the presentation of the report, Mayor Dieguez motioned to waive the procurement requirements, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Councilmember Garcia mentioned that Town Staff should look into car rental companies that sell cars for cost savings, and he mentioned that purchasing might be a better deal than leasing.

Councilmember Herzberg mentioned that there is not a big monetary difference between the potential purchase costs and the potential leasing costs. He then asked Director Santos to come back to the Town Council with purchase numbers just to look at the difference so that the Town Council- can decide on the 3 cars. Town Manager Pidermann agreed and stated that Town Staff will come back with a recommendation and in the titled Background portion of the memo, Town Staff will do the due diligence and provide options that were looked at.

The motion by Mayor Dieguez to waive the procurement requirements passed 5-2; Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Cuadra Garcia voted in opposition.

D. STD Decal Plan (Bajdaun)

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun, presented the report and stated that this item comes from a directive from the Town Council to implement resident decals in the STD of Royal Oaks. He explained that the resident decals would create visibility where the guard attendants will know who a resident is and who is not. He explained that these decals would be identical to the Miami Lakes Section one, smart pass distribution, where the cost for the decals will be taken upfront. He stated that every resident will be issued up to two decals and that any additional decal will be at a cost. He explained that the resident decal distribution point will be at Mary Collins or online. Director Bajdaun then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Director Bajdaun explained that since there are entry points on both the left and right sides of the vehicle, it is ideal for the decal to be placed in the middle of the front windshield. He further explained that the resident decal is optional, and residents can still utilize their clicker or ID to enter the neighborhood. He stated that the $1,529 special taxing district budget for the decals, between Royal Oaks East and West is based on the volume of units in each district.

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to implement the resident decals in Royal Oaks East and in Section One. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia voted in opposition.

E. Report on Large Bingo Flash Board (De Cardenas)

Communications and Community Affairs Director Clarisell De Cardenas presented the report and explained that this item comes from a New Business Item request from Vice Mayor Morera to acquire a large bingo flashboard for the Senior Bingo luncheon. She explained that Town Staff visited Roberto Alonso Community Center and tested a piece of Town owned equipment that would satisfy this request and further explained that a computer, projector, and access to Wi-Fi to log into letsplaybingo.io is a no cost option that would allow all those in attendance the ability to view the numbers called during the game. Director De Cardenas also stated that Town staff is ready to implement this new process at the next bingo, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 18th. She stated that she recommends that the Town invest in a portable PA system that can reach crowds of up to 1,000 people. Director De Cardenas stated that the cost for this equipment would be $1,100 and it could be used not only for Bingo but for other Town events as well. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Morera motioned to authorize Town staff to spend up to $1,200 for a portable PA system such as the one described by Director De Cardenas. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Approving and Consenting to a Waiver of Conflict of Interest regarding the Representation of D5 Family Holdings, LLC by Gastesi Lopez Mestre & Cobiella.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi presented and explained that Mr. George de la Fe, who owns D5 Family Holdings, is a long-time client of his firm. Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella explained that D5 Holdings owns the property located at 15471 Turnbull Drive. He further explained that all the properties located around this property are duplexes. He stated that while D5 Holdings has one folio, the duplex next to it has two folios. He stated that since Mr. De la Fe's property is essentially a duplex, that he would like to split it into two different folios, the Property Appraiser's Office, to create the two folio numbers. He stated that the waiver that they are requesting from the Town Council would be to approval for their firm to represent D5 Holdings regarding this matter. It was stated that this agreement is at no cost to the town residents and it was also stated that hiring outside counsel to handle this case would cost the Town extra money. Vice Mayor Morera moved to adopt the resolution attached to item 9A and to direct the Town Manager to execute the attached waiver of conflict letter. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

On a different matter, Town Attorney Raul Gastesi presented a written report to the Town Council providing a legal opinion regarding the Proposed Transfer from Building Department Technology Fund to the General Fund. This written legal opinion was requested by the Town Council. The Town Attorney Gastesi summarized Florida Statute Section 553.80 and Florida Statute Section 553.80(7)(a) and stated that Florida Statute does not allow the Town of Miami Lakes to use Building Department's technology fund to supplement the General Fund for 2026 Budget, because the proposed uses are not directly related to building code enforcement. Town Attorney Gastesi also answered questions posed by the Town Council.

On a different matter, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained that there has been some correspondence from residents sent to the Legal Department regarding the Special Taxing District Ordinances. He explained that the NSD's are under the Town's governance therefore any changes to the NSD's can be made by the Town Council. Town Attorney Gastesi stated that he has given legal opinions in the past years regarding this issue.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella then explained that they have spoken with the Town's Bond Counsel, Mr. Albert del Castillo, about utilizing his services to renew the Town's line of credit. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the Town Council must approve and give the Town Attorney's permission to go ahead and engage in using his services. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that the Bond Counsel is preparing a letter of engagement and proposal. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that they could bring the proposal forward at the Budget Hearing next week. After some brief discussion, Town

Attorney Gastesi suggested that the item be heard at a Special Call Meeting prior to the Second Budget Hearing. During the discussion, the Town Council asked if the Town Attorneys could perform these duties- the renewal of the line of credit.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that a motion must be made by the Town Council to call the Special Call meeting and discuss the item.

Councilmember Herzberg made a motion to call a Special Call meeting next Thursday, September 25th, to discuss the line of credit. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

On a different matter, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the legal team has been working on the Right-of-Way ordinances and will have an update in the coming months. Mayor Dieguez then explained that the Town Council wants to make sure that the Police officers that serve the Town of Miami Lakes can go ahead and enforce our Code.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Mental Health Task Force Report

Vice Chairman William Perez presented the report and explained that the committee's main focus has been their October 19th Fall Festival. He explained that the proceeds from the festival will be split with First Alarm. He further explained that First Alarm is a 501C3 charity that supports First Responders. Chairman Perez also stated that they are in the process of raising money for the 988 signage. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve the 50% donation to First Alarm. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Garcia was absent.

B. Veterans Committee Report

Chairman William Perez presented the report and explained that due to sponsorships, the committee's events are of little cost to the Town. He stated that the committee is still waiting on the plans for the Veterans Wall in Veterans Park.

Regarding the Veterans Wall, Town Manager Pidermann stated that an estimate of probable cost must be made prior to the development of the design, before a notice to proceed with the design is given out and he emphasized that the Town wants to work with the VC to develop a plan. Chairman Perez stated that the committee is going to sponsor events to raise money and going to reach out to different sources- state, federal and charities.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun explained that the current probable cost for the Veterans Wall is $335,000. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to have a rendering of the Veteran Wall by the next Regular Council Meeting, so that by the Veteran's Parade, we can start with marketing it.

Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion for discussion. After some discussion, Councilmember Sanchez amended his motion for the rendering to be ready by the Veteran's Day Parade. After some further discussion, Mayor Dieguez moved to table the motion indefinitely. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Perez announced the Scholarship winners, and they will each be getting $1,000, funds proceeding from the Reindeer Run. He then explained that the VC needs the Town Council's approval to create a Miami Lakes Veterans Golf Tournament, and the tentative date is February 26th. Chairman Perez and Vice Chair Borman answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Chairman Perez also stated that the VC needs a motion to move the money from the Reindeer Run to the Veteran's Scholarship. Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve this request and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Herzberg moved to approve the new events. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. 25th Year Anniversary Committee Report

Chairperson Felicia Salazar presented the report and stated that the committee was given a budget of $25,000 for the 25th anniversary event. She explained that they are still pending the final numbers for security services and explained that the event will have potential vendors from The Garrison Tap Room, Chick-fil-A, Specialty Smiles, The Trelles Cottage and Vicky Bakery, in addition to there being food trucks at the event. She explained that promoting the event within the community is essential. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Herzberg moved to have the 25th Year Anniversary Committee include a Golf Cart Parade in their celebration plans. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. During discussions, Vice Mayor Morera explained that it will be difficult to control the Golf Cart Parade without a Police Escort and Mayor Dieguez stated that a Police Escort would cost about $1,000. Vice Mayor Morera then asked the committee to come back with an exact estimate of how much the Police Escort would cost. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Councilmember Garcia asked if the committee has received any more sponsorships for the event. Committee Member William Perez stated that the Council must approve the event plan before the committee can begin soliciting for sponsorships. Vice Mayor Morera then moved to approve the event as stated in the report along with the Golf Cart Parade as already approved. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Cuadra-Garcia asked if the $13,000 cost for the DJ, Stage, and Lighting could be reduced.

Communications and Community Affairs Director Clarisell De Cardenas stated that for the committee to be able to sell sponsorships, they need to have items with the sponsorships company logo displayed on the stage.

Mayor Dieguez suggested incorporating a historical scavenger hunt into the event. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

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

August 14, 2025	Sunshine Meeting on Legislative Priorities
August 19, 2025	Regular Council Meeting
August 27, 2025	First Budget Workshop
Sept. 03, 2025	Second Budget Workshop

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

B. **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN'S COMMITTEE RULES TO ESTABLISH 7:30 P.M. AS THE LATEST START TIME FOR REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS FOR SPECIAL CALL MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS, REQUIRING COMMITTEES TO CONVENE PRIOR TO A THIRD CONSECUTIVE MISSED MONTH, ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSION ORDER FOR CHAIRING MEETINGS, PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL SETTING OF MEETING DATES AND TIMES, EXTENDING THE RULES TO ALL STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES, PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

The Town Clerk asked for a moment of personal privilege and announced that the Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting is having their regular committee meeting tomorrow, September 17th at 8:30 pm; she emphasized that as per the recently amended and approved Committee Rules, 7:30 pm is the latest time that committees will convene moving forward, except for Special Call Meetings and subcommittee meetings.

The Town Clerk also asked for clarification regarding Section 13 of the Committee Rules regarding term of office. She specifically wanted to know if the removal of the committee members is to take place in the regular council meeting or not.

The Town Clerk read Section 13 into the record and stated that the last sentence of Section 13 is not clear as to what direction she needs to follow, and she asked for clarification on this matter. The last sentence reads: "The appointing Councilmember, or the Mayor in the case of the mayor's appointment, may remove his or her appointed Committee member at any regularly scheduled Town Council meeting".

Both Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez agreed with the Town Clerk's question and provided clarification. Mayor Dieguez then referred to former Vice Mayor Lama and stated that elected officials can appoint and remove at their own discretion. The Town Clerk asked the Town Council if they could instruct her to remove that last sentence.

Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to remove that last section of Section 13 where it states that removals may take place in a council meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella clarified that removals of committee members, just like appointments, need to be brought to the Town Council as an announcement, not for action. Deputy Town Attorney stated that they need to be brought up just at the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting for public disclosure. It was clarified that removals of committee members do not take place in regular council meetings, but that the removals will be included in a list that will be disclosed to the Town Council during the Council Meeting, not for action -just for public disclosure.

C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES F/K/A THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING RULES AND PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS; AND 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, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND FUNDS FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) FY 2025-26 FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FRDAP) IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 ($200,000.00) FOR THE NW 139TH STREET LINEAR PARK PHASE I PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND 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 Town staff where the idea about this park in this location came from. He stated that he is in favor of trying for grants, but this is a grant that also requires us to spend $200,000 and stated that $25,000 was already spent on the application of the grant.

   Councilmember Herzberg then mentioned that he would rather have $25,000 wasted than spend additional $200,000 on a park that is not needed right now and that it will become another park that we will have to maintain in the future -and this statement was his motion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

Town Manager Pidermann and Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Morera then motion, as a priority motion, to lay this on the table, until the October Regular Council Meeting so that the budget discussions are heard and finished by them so Town Council can figure out better then. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. Director Bajdaun stated that the deadline for the grant is at the end of September. After some discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion to table failed 1-5; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra-Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition. Councilmember Sanchez was absent.

Mayor Dieguez then moved to approve Item 12D and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion failed 3-3; Councilmember Cuadra-Garcia, Councilmember Garcia and Vice Mayor Morera voted in opposition; Councilmember Sanchez was absent.

Town Manager Pidermann then asked about the Information Session for Public Input, which was already scheduled and posted by Town staff in the Town Website. Town Manager Pidermann asked if the Information Session needed to be cancelled or if it should still take place for the public, in case the item is brought back next year.

After some discussion, Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to cancel the Information Session because that would send the wrong message to the community. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Sanchez and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO WAIVE COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION REQUIREMENTS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-155(d) OF THE TOWN CODE FOR THE RENEWAL OF BUSINESS INTERNET SERVICES FOR THE MARY COLLINS COMMUNITY CENTER, ROYAL OAKS PARK, YOUTH CENTER, AND THE MIAMI LAKES OPTIMIST CLUB; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE RENEWAL AGREEMENTS WITH COMCAST BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

   This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD CONTRACTS TO G&R ELECTRIC CORP. AS THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR AND E-TECH ENERGY SOLUTIONS AS THE SECONDARY CONTRACTOR FOR ELECTRICAL SERVICES – AS NEEDED, PURSUANT TO RFP 2025-17; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION OF EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED

FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Vice Mayor Morera during the New Order of Business. Vice Mayor Morera mentioned that no bid numbers were included in the Town staff memo, and he asked for the pricing numbers. The Public Works Director, Omar Santos, responded that this is not specific pricing, but hourly rates, and explained that Town staff provided a number of average hours per year or for a certain cycle. It was also emphasized that this item is an ITB, different from an RFP. During discussion, Mr. Santos clarified that this item was indeed an RFP, and that the memo had a typo and that it was wrongfully labeled as an ITB, when it should have been labeled as an RFP.

During discussion, Town staff provided the pricing numbers to Town Council. Director Santos stated that the current vendor is retiring and that is why they went to bid. Director Santos stated that Town staff recommends G&R Electric Corp., and this vendor came out at $17,275 and the second place was e-Tech at $15,300. Director Santos also explained the evaluation criteria and stated that Town staff looked at the company history, the management team, the fleet, the equipment that they have available, experience in general and recommendations that were provided.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that E-Tech received 204 points and was a lower bidder; he then pointed out that G&R Electric Corp. received 275 points. He emphasized that E-Tech meets the qualifications and Town staff confirmed. Director Santos also explained the difference between primary and secondary and responded that G&R Electric Corp. is a resident of Miami Lakes. Director Santos clarified that being a resident is not a criterion for consideration, so no points were given to G&R Electric for being a resident.

Mr. Gonzalo Planas, from G&R Electric, answered questions posed by the Town Council. Mr. Planas provided the Town Clerk with 2 copies of a letter of Company Description and Scope of Service. The Town Clerk distributed the two copies amongst the Town Council.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to approve E-Tech Energy Solutions as the primary contractor and G&R Electric as the secondary contractor. The motion died due to a lack of second.

Mayor Dieguez then moved to keep it as is, to approve the item as per staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera and the motion passed 7-0.

G. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A THREE (3) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH THE ZONTA CLUB OF MIAMI LAKES FOUNDATION, INC., A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, FOR THE USE OF TOWN PARK FACILITIES FOR MEETINGS AND EVENTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN MANAGER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

H. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND, IF AWARDED, TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES ("FDACS") 2024 COMMUNITY FORESTRY CAPACITY GRANT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($50,000); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Vice Mayor Morera during the New Order of Business. Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by Town Council and stated that this item is to utilize the funds for tree inventory, no planting of trees and no reforestation project. He emphasized that this item is to be able to update our tree inventory system for Town Staff to maintain an updated collection of all conditions, all the service work orders, of all the progress and condition updates as well as assist with the CRM and overall maintenance of arbor maintenance.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to move the item and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg.

The Grants and Governmental Affairs Manager, Ms. Olivia Shock, answered questions posed by the Town Council. She provided information regarding programs that have GIS capabilities, but she emphasized that the data still needs to be processed, put into a report and then create a usable form for Town staff to do. She added that GIS is expensive and emphasized that creating the inventory, analyzing the data and then individualizing all the data for each individual tree is part of the whole process that they will go through with this.

After discussion, the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

I. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD A CONTRACT FOR DEMOLITION SERVICES FOR THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 5951 N.W. 151ST STREET, PURSUANT TO ITB 2025-15, TO CHIN DIESEL, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY DOLLARS AND 80/100 ($125,460.80); AUTHORIZING A PROJECT CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 ($30,000.00); PROVIDING AN ALTERNATE AWARD TO CONTRACTORS 911, INC. IN THE EVENT CHIN DIESEL, INC. IS UNABLE TO PERFORM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION OF THE TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

None.

14. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

None.

15. RESOLUTIONS:

A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE TOWN'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AMEND, FINALIZE, AND PURSUE THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS, EXECUTE GRANT AGREEMENTS, AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Dieguez moved this item, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. Vice Mayor Morera moved to amend the resolution from its current form, to include as a legislative priority, the creation of a municipal level homestead exemption, for seniors that are also low income. The amended motion passed 7-0. The main motion, as amended, passed 7-0.

16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Policy to Pass Through Credit Card Processing Fees to Customers (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and moved to instruct all Town departments to charge the actual cost of any credit card merchant fees to the customers. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion.

After discussion and feedback provided by Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella, Councilmember Herzberg made an amendment to confirm from legal counsel that the Town is not violating any laws and that the Town should pass on the card fees to all customers across all departments. Councilmember Garcia seconded the amendment, and all were in favor. The main motion, as amended, passed 7-0.

B. Staff Training on HB 1365 (Fernandez)

Councilmember Fernandez presented his item regarding HB1365 and Town Ordinance 25-342. He stated that other municipalities are training their staff members, and he stated that we need to identify a staff member who would be in charge. He moved for training to be provided to Town staff, so that Mrs. Hilda Fernandez would provide training on how to properly register any homeless person in the Town to the Homeless Trust Website, and once that is done, the Town has been diligent. He explained that Town Administration needs to appoint somebody who would have the responsibility of inputting all the cited homeless people into this Website and limit our exposure to a lawsuit. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-0.

C. **Resolutions for Contract Negotiations (Sanchez)**

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and motioned to instruct the Town Manager to place a request for quote, a request for proposal or an invitation to bid or search for a piggyback opportunity when the cost of renewing an expiring contract exceeds its previous contracted amount by 3.01%. Councilmember Sanchez stated that Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella hand delivered a resolution for this item for the Town Council's review.

Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion for discussion and made an amendment to the resolution, that was provided to the Town Council by the Town Attorney. He specifically stated that in section 2, to simply read that all contracts scheduled to be renewed will be procured. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the amendment, and all were in favor.

The main motion, as amended, passed 7-0.

D. **Building Department Technology Fund (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia stated because of the legal opinion provided by the Town Attorney, he requested to withdraw this item.

E. **Tax Stabilization Fund (Dieguez)**

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and motioned to instruct Town staff to come up with a proposal for another savings account that will be protected, to be able to offset any revenue losses that we have in the future. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

F. **BTR's (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented his item and stated that as the Town Attorney explained in their report, the Technology Fund is unable to be used for other reasons. Councilmember Garcia then made the following statement, "he asked the Town Manager and the Building Department to see if, within 90 days, if the Town is collecting equally from everybody and if the system in place is fairly collecting and if everyone is paying their share and because the Building Department has all that money collected, if there is an opportunity to put in place a budget in place that we can push it back and lower the fee that our business owners have to pay and try to give them some tax relief"; he asked for Town Staff to create a system in place to ensure the Building Department is collecting business tax recipients fairly and equally from all businesses that owe them, and for Town staff to provide it within 90 days. He stated that once Town Staff has an accurate account of revenues, he requested a budget be set up and money left over to push it back to lowering that fee to our business owners and to give them some tax relief or fee relief. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Town Manager Pidermann and Building Department Director Danny Angel provided clarification between the BTR's and the Technology Fee. It was confirmed by Town staff that there is no technology fee associated with the BTR's. After further discussion, Councilmember Garcia motioned to table his original motion indefinitely. Vice Mayor Morera seconded and all were in favor.

Councilmember Garcia then stated a new motion for Town staff to figure out a way -since we already have a million dollars in the technology fund- a plan for its use, any savings that are leftover, a plan to return it back or cut the fees that we are charging our businesses reflecting how much is leftover and report back to Town Council within the next 90 days. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion.

Building Department Director Angel answered questions posed by the Town Council and Town Manager Pidermann provided additional feedback.

Councilmember Garcia then made an amendment to his motion to reduce the Building Technology Fee to 3%, instead of 10% and Mayor Dieguez seconded the amendment.

After further discussion, Town Manager Pidermann then clarified that Town staff would come back at the next meeting, with information via Manager's Report, and provide research from similar cities and those cities that have a technology fee. Town Manager Pidermann stated that to make this change, it would require 2 readings of an ordinance. After further discussion on this matter, Town Manager Pidermann stated that Town staff would prepare an ordinance change and bring back a report on this matter.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the amendment to reduce the Building Technology Fee to 3%, and the motion passed 6-1. Vice Mayor Morera voted in opposition. It was explained that Town Staff will bring back an ordinance, changing it to 3%.

The main motion, as amended, was approved unanimously 7-0.

G. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and motioned that in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month we would light up the exterior of Town Hall in purple starting in October. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Councilmember Sanchez brought up concerns about the motion conflicting with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, suggesting we do half the month in pink and the other half in purple.

Public Works Director Omar Santos stated the best option would be to provide us with dates when you want to switch.

Councilmember Sanchez suggested for the display of lights from October 1st to the 15th to be pink and then from October 16th to the 31st to be purple. What was recommended became part of the motion, no amendment was made. The main motion with the recommendations was approved unanimously 7-0.

H. FPL Franchise Fees – Election Approval (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented his item and moved for any proposed increase in the FPL Franchise Fees must be placed in the ballot of the next election for approval and have the residents decide either way whether the franchise fee should be raised and what percentage should be raised. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion and recommended that instead of it being placed on the ballot of the next election that it be of the next regular Town election, so that we're not spending additional money on an election. Councilmember Garcia accepted the friendly amendment.

Mayor Dieguez made an amendment to the item as a strike all, not only to include the franchise fee, but any increases must go out to the ballot, that any increase in the millage rate must also go out to the ballot. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

After further discussion, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia requested a point of order and made an amendment to set the franchise fee at zero. Vice Mayor Morera stated he does not believe that the amendment is germane to the main motion or the previous amendment. Councilmember Herzberg seconded for discussion. Mayor Dieguez ruled that the motion made by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia was out of order and not germane.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll for the amendment made by Mayor Dieguez. The amendment died 0-7. All voted in opposition.

After brief discussion, the Town Clerk restated the main motion made by Councilmember Garcia. Vice Mayor Morera provided clarification stating the motion was for if, there is a future proposed increase to the FPL Franchise Fee, a perpetual thing, not related to any specific election year, just to set a general rule for it to then go out for ballot. The motion died 2-5. Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

I. Review of Park Facility Rental Fees (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez moved to waive 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order for this item. Vice Mayor Morera seconded and all were in favor.

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and motioned to have Town staff conduct a review of the fees we charge for renting park facilities. He stated that this is a user fee that should be updated from time to time to make sure we are recovering our cost. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion and made an amendment to add this to our overall fees including our building fees, all our user fees throughout the Town, not just parks. Mayor Dieguez seconded the amendment, and all were in favor.

After brief discussion, Parks and Director Bajdaun stated 90 days should be sufficient to come back to Town Council with the fee review but Mayor Dieguez stated to go with 180 days to report back just to be safe.

The main motion, as amended, passed 7-0.

J. Honoring Mirtha Mendez (Sanchez)

Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to waive the rules, and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. Ther motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Sanchez stated that he submitted this New Business Item today and requested that he wanted to fly the Town of Miami Lakes flag at Town Hall as half-staff until Friday, at sunset. He stated that this is in honor of long-time resident Ms. Mirtha Mendez, who passed aways recently. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Herzberg provided that regarding Rock Mining Blasting Matters, he is working on scheduling a meeting with the Vice Mayor and the Mayor of Miramar.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 pm.

Approved this 21st of October 2025.

Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk