

MINUTES
2nd Budget Hearing
September 25, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:31pm. Councilmember JC Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra-Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez were present.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Councilmember Fernandez led the moment of silence.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilmember Fernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

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

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (6:45)

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

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, stated for the record that there was only one participant for public comments on-line.

Mr. Darwin Villavicencio came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that promoting Public Safety throughout the Town is essential. He explained that the Public Safety Committees events help keep residents informed and safe. He stated that the committee would like the Council's support for their car show. He urged the Town Council to approve the Public Safety Committee Budget.

Mr. Geancarlo Rodriguez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that many residents did not know about the non-emergency number. He stated that the communications department has been very supportive of the initiatives of the Public Safety Committees. He urged the Town Council to support the committee's funding.

Ms. Nancy Rogers came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained the importance of the events and initiatives hosted by the Public Safety Committee. She further explained that the committee has provided many valuable resources for kids and parents. She urged the Town Council to support the committee's funding.

Mr. Carlos J. Andres came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that public safety is a top priority for Miami Lakes residents. He stated that the fundraising for Public Safety Committee's car show is going well. He explained that the Public Safety Committee needs the money in their budget to pay the vendors for the car show. He urged the Town Council to support the committee's funding.

Ms. Esther Lemme came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is speaking on behalf of the Education Advisory Board. She explained that the board supports the Miami Lakes Schools and the Miami Lakes Library. She stated that the board hosts the awards of excellence at the end of the school year. She urged the Town Council to support the committee's funding.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She discussed her concerns regarding the budget. She stated that Town residents should not be paying for the background checks of the Optimist Park coaches. She stated that the Town should not incur costs that should really be passed on to those individuals who benefit from the services. She urged the Town Council to be mindful and listen to their constituents.

Mr. Jose Zelaya came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He discussed his concerns regarding the budget. He urged the Town Council to listen to their constituents.

Mr. Jorge Lazo came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He discussed his concerns regarding the budget. He thanked the Town Council for their hard work and diligence.

Town Clerk Inguanzo stated for the record that the Office of the Clerk received a written Public Comment from Ms. Lynn Matos.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Dieguez then closed Public Comments.

7. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2025, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO TAX COLLECTOR; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, read into the record the following statement: the proposed millage rate for Fiscal year 2025-26 is 2.2459 and this rate is an increase of 0.1727 mills from the prior rate of 2.0732. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is five billion, two hundred and forty-two million, sixty-two thousand and eight hundred and ninety-nine dollars (\$5,242,062,899). The proposed millage rate will generate eleven million, one hundred and eighty-four thousand four hundred and ninety-two dollars (\$11,184,492) in Ad Valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate. The proposed millage rate of 2.2459 is 15.8% above the rollback rate 1.9400.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to table Item 7A after the consideration of Item 7B. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

After the Town Council discussed Item 7B, Vice Mayor Morera moved to pick up Item 7A from the table and the motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. All were in favor.

Now back in Item 7A, before the discussion of said item, Town Manager Pidermann read into the record the following budget statement: "The proposed millage rate for the Town of Miami Lakes fiscal year 2025-2026 is 2.1577, this rate is an increase of 0.0845 over the prior year rate of 2.0732. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is \$5,242,062,899; the proposed millage rate will generate \$10,745,259 in ad-valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate. The proposed millage rate of 2.1577 is 11.2% above the roll back rate of 1.9400."

Vice Mayor Morera then moved to adopt the 2.1577 millage rate, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Councilmember Garcia then made an amendment to stay flat and remain at the 2.073 millage rate and Councilmember Fernandez seconded for discussion.

Mayor Dieguez moved to extend the meeting to 12:15 am, Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the amendment to stay flat made by Councilmember Garcia and the motion failed 2-5; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the ordinance in second reading, Item 7A, adopting the millage rate for fiscal year 2025-2026 at 2.1577, and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Mayor Dieguez motioned to move the ordinance in second reading, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

During discussion on the main motion, Councilmember Garcia motioned for Town Manager Pidermann and for the Town Attorney to review any background checks related to our organized sports program and to try to ensure that they are not borne by the Miami Lakes taxpayers and instead paid by the participants in the club. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. During the discussion held, the Town Manager Pidermann explained that all future agreements to include that participants should bear the costs; that this will be done prospectively and that it won't affect the current budget.

Councilmember Sanchez stated he is a big supporter of Public Safety Committee and that he believes that when residents have good communication with the Police Department and with the Fire Department, it is better for the community and that it lowers crime rates. Councilmember Sanchez stated that the money regarding the PSC was earmarked for the Car Show event, and that he would like it to be able to transfer it to next year's budget, if they are not able to pay for those things ahead of time. Town Manager Pidermann explained the options that can be done with the remaining balance of \$3,062.

Mr. Carlos J. Andres, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After discussion, Councilmember Sanchez moved to approve a carryforward of whatever funds are left over from FY2024-2025, into FY2025-2026. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Dieguez explained that after having conversations with the Town Manager, he understood that \$86,000 related to Town Hall Special Revenue Bond Fund could be moved into the General Fund. Town Manager Pidermann first explained that this was looked at, thanks to conversations had with Vice Mayor Morera; that Vice Mayor Morera had asked the Town Manager to look at the Debt Fund for the Bond Payments of Town Hall. Town Manager Pidermann explained that it's a specific amount that needs to be at the reserve account but depending on how the money is invested, the amount fluctuates. He stated that there is a slight surplus this year of \$86,000 and that this amount is available. After further discussion, Mayor Dieguez then made a motion to move the \$86,000 into the General Fund. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion, and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Fernandez moved to allocate COLA for all Town Staff, including the Town staff that make above the \$100,000. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Vice Mayor Morera moved to table this discussion, until the Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez provides additional information regarding the budget. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Councilmember Fernandez moved to refund the seasonal flowers in the intersections. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. Town Manager Pidermann explained that at the First Budget Hearing, the Town Council discussed changing flowers for native species but never cutting

the funding. Town Manager Pidermann explained that the line item is fully funded and that the direction given was for Town Staff to explore changing to plant native species. Councilmember Herzberg explained that he was the one who moved to amend this line item during the First Budget Hearing, and he stated that the item is fully funded for \$35,000 to plant native plants -plants that are good but that don't need to be replaced. He added that quarterly flower changes should stop so that money is saved next year, that the goal is to not have this line-item next fiscal year.

Public Works Director Omar Santos and Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council. After the explanation provided, Vice Mayor Morera moved to table indefinitely and the motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. The motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to reduce the legal fees by the estimated projected savings of \$68,000 and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Town staff explained that this is not final; it was explained that this is pending commitment from Bank United regarding their fees. Town Manager Pidermann explained that an ordinance will come before the Town Council in October or November, in addition to a resolution, and that the closing will probably take place in January. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Dieguez was absent.

Councilmember Sanchez spoke and posed questions about Travel & Per Diem, Education & Training and Subscriptions & Memberships. During the discussion of these matters, Mayor Dieguez stated that the Town Manager and him are scheduled to travel to D.C. in early October, to meet with Senator Scott, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and the Town lobbyists among others, to discuss and work on our Federal Appropriations Requests and Zip Code Requests. After the explanation provided, Mayor Dieguez made a motion to set aside \$2,500 for the Town Manager and Mayor Dieguez to travel to D.C. and whatever money is not used, for it to go back to the General Fund. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. Town Manager Pidermann then explained that Town Council Travel & Per Diem was cut during the First Budget Hearing from \$9,000 to \$2,000 and that the Administration Travel & Per Diem was not cut. After some discussions, Mayor Dieguez moved to table his motion, pending Councilmember Sanchez's proposed cuts regarding this subject matter. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion and the motion to table passed 7-0.

Town Manager Pidermann and Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding credentials and certifications.

Vice Mayor Morera then moved to cut all the Training & Education and Travel & Per Diem for all of it, except the following: Public Works for the required P.E. license, the Communication & Community Affairs under Ms. De Cardenas, the HR Specialist and the Chief Technology & Innovation Officer for German Cure, and regarding the Town Manager's to allow it all, in accordance to Section 5.1 and 5.23 of the Town Manager's contract. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg then made an amendment to also include the Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez, for the trip that is required for him to maintain his

certifications, and to also include the Town Manager Pidermann to be able to travel to Tallahassee. The amendment was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia made a motion to recommend that both Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager take all courses on-line, that they do it through alternative means, instead of going to conferences. The motion died due to lack of a second.

The amendment by Councilmember Herzberg, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera passed 7-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding what CPRP certifications entail.

Councilmember Garcia made a friendly amendment and stated that as far as what is needed for accreditation for Town Staff, that should be something that Town staff, directors and Town Manager need to decide; he stated that some of the costs for education and travel should be taken on by Town Staff that wants to attend the conferences. He emphasized to cut the budget in half, and any additional cost should be taken from the Town staffer that needs to go. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion for discussion.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Morera made a strike all amendment, to simply fund the \$35,294, as the total amount from the Special Revenue Funds; however, to require that all future Travel & Per Diem & Education to come before the Town Council for an allocation, so that the Town Council give the approval ahead of time and that at the following meeting, after the conference -via the Manager's Report, Town staff to include a summary of what they learned. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion.

Mayor Dieguez then made a strike all amendment, to keep the funding in place, but for Town staff to report what they have learned and provide us with key takeaways, as part of the Town Manager's Report. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion, and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Sanchez voted in opposition.

Councilmember Sanchez then spoke about Public Works Green Space for Repair and Maintenance and stated that he wants to cut \$60,948 and stated that he wants to bring it to a balance that has everything that was already fully funded next year, the FDOT Right-of-Ways and the Litter Crew to full capacity.

Public Works Director Omar Santos and Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Sanchez then moved to bring down the Public Works Green Space for Repair and Maintenance by \$60,948 to a total sum of \$760,220. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez for discussion. After further discussion, Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to table until Town staff can provide the items that would be cut, - the items that would be affected by the proposed \$60,948 cut. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion to table passed 6-1; Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Councilmember Garcia then asked about the line item of Public Works titled Accident-Related Light Pole Repairs, for \$2,000 and he asked if the Town insurance covers this. After discussion, Councilmember Garcia moved to move it to another fund, to a Special Revenue Fund. After some discussion, Councilmember Garcia withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Herzberg moved to remove the \$3,500 credit card fees, in the Park's and Recreational Department, as Councilmember Sanchez had previously spoken about. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. Town staff explained that this will not be removed because there will be revenue and it will offset, that the Town will still have to pay the company but that the Town will collect it on the revenue side from the consumer. After the explanation provided by Town staff, no vote was needed.

Councilmember Fernandez then picked up the motion that he had originally tabled earlier in the evening regarding the COLA for Town staff, and Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. It was clarified that the motion that was picked up was to allocate COLA for all Town Staff, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Councilmember Fernandez then stated that he was waiting for additional numbers from Town staff to be provided. Town staff stated that the amount it would cost in next year's budget would be \$50,235 and that would be for all Town staff to receive the 3% COLA. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion to approve COLA at 3% for all Town staff passed 4-3; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Herzberg voted in opposition.

Vice Mayor Morera then read a part of an email from Miami-Dade County Attorney, providing a legal opinion regarding the use of PTP dollars for the School Crossing Guards. During the discussion of this topic, he also referred to and read from the CITT Municipal Guidelines, and he emphasized that street and sidewalk lighting in general, is eligible as a transportation expense.

Vice Mayor Morera then moved to reduce the PTP 20 Contingency Reserve by \$149,757 and to allocate to a new line item, under PTP 20, to fund under that exact amount, all the items under the General Fund, relating to the School Crossing Guards. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. Mayor Dieguez stated that Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella nodded that he was fine with the justification provided by the County Attorneys and that it seemed to cover what Vice Mayor Morera is proposing to do. Vice Mayor Morera stated that as per the legal opinion provided by the Miami-Dade County Attorney, one could argue that School Crossing Guards affect the operation and the flow of traffic of the road, and it could be justified under PTP 20, as transit. Vice Mayor Morera mentioned that he will obtain a more formal opinion.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella answered questions posed by Town Council and stated that PTP 20 and PTP 80 have different purposes, and he stated it depends where it's being drawn from and what the specifications are.

Chief Financial Officer Kay Grant and Budget Officer Hernandez answered questions posed by Town Council. Chief Financial Officer Grant stated that PTP 20 is for "transit". She stated that "transit" is defined as -bus service, bus shelters, bus service, bus benches, bus stops, freebee or related amenities. She explained that PTP 80 pertains to roadways and streetlights. Chief Financial Officer Grant stated that she sent the Miami-Dade County a question based on PTP 80 funds. She mentioned that no response has been received yet.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Morera motioned to table and the motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. The motion to table passed 7-0.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to pick up from the table, the motion regarding the Public Works Green Space Right-of-Ways Ground Maintenance. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Councilmember Sanchez asked Town staff how many cycles it brings us down to, if Town Council proceeds with the \$60,948 deduction. Director Bajdaun stated that to leave the Right-of-Ways maintenance at \$308,185, they would need to reduce to 33 mowing cycles as a maximum and foregoing mulch in its entirety, and foregoing half of the fertilizing as well. After some further discussion, Director Bajdaun summarized the findings in respect to the motion being discussed, and he stated that if \$60,948 is cut from the line item, we would need to forego more than 5 mowing cycles - doing 30 mowing cycles, keeping 1 mulch and half rate of fertilizing.

After further discussion, Councilmember Sanchez stated that he wanted to amend his main motion and stated his amendment motion to be that at the time the carryforward comes, if needed, the Town Council would fund the remaining balance to the 35 cycles. The amended motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. The amended motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

The Town Clerk called the roll for the main motion to cut \$60,948 from the Green Space Right-of-Ways and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Fernandez and Vice Mayor Morera voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez then made a motion to restore \$4,438 to the "Spot" at the Youth Center and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Cuadra Garcia voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez then moved to pick up from the table, his motion regarding his travel to DC. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera, and all were in favor. Mayor Dieguez then stated that at this point, Town Council has clarity with respect to Travel and Per Diem regarding the Town Administration, so he made a strike all amendment to his original motion, and asked to set aside \$1,500 to cover his expenses in DC, when he goes to advocate for the Zip Code and the 1 million dollar Appropriation and for whatever is left over, to go back to the General Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. During discussion, Town Manager Pidermann explained that the Mayor and Councilmember Travel and Per Diem had been cut down from \$9,000 to \$2,000, so with his motion, the Travel and Per Diem would go up to \$3,500, and that would include Mayor Dieguez' travel to Tallahassee and to DC. The motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera explained that he made a phone call and that his contact from Miami-Dade County indeed confirmed that it is transportation expense under the PTP 80 and not under PTP 20.

Then, Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to reduce the PTP 80 contribution to the 59th Avenue Roadway Extension Entrance Project by \$223,372. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. After discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to allocate funding to the School Crossing Guards for the sum of \$149,757, from PTP 80. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella interjected and stated that the concern with the email from the County. Deputy Town Attorney stated that it seems as though the Town can request it, but it doesn't state that it is automatically eligible. Vice Mayor clarified what the email states, and he emphasized that his contact in the County explained that as long as we can show that it is related, that the school crossing guards and the flashing yellow lights for the school zone serve the same function and the lights and the school speed zone signs are allowed. Vice Mayor Morera stated that he feels comfortable enough with the interpretation given by his contact in the CITT and by the County Attorney's written opinion.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella advised the Town Council to leave it as is, but to allow Town staff to go to the County and get confirmation in writing that we can do that in fact and that it is eligible. If eligible, then you move the money to school crossing guard. During discussion, Vice Mayor Morera read into the record a relevant part of the email he received from the Miami-Dade County Attorney. After further discussion amongst the Town Attorney and the Town Council, the Town Council instructed the Town Attorneys to find out if it's eligible or not and to work with Mr. Betancourt, the head of the CITT. Mayor Dieguez stated that the contingency would be the unassigned Fund Balance. After discussion, Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion from Vice Mayor Morera. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to reduce, under the General Fund, under Public Works, Repair and Maintenance Street Lights line item, from \$80,000 down to \$6,385 and simultaneously, under the PTP 80, to fund the Repair and Maintenance Street Lights line item by an additional \$73,615. Vice Mayor Morera explained his motion and stated that all he is doing is using the \$223,372 which was released earlier, allocating \$149,757 towards the School Crossing Guards and now allocating \$73,615 towards Streetlights, thereby fully utilizing the money that we obtained from the cancellation of the Green Way Project. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. Mayor Dieguez called for a 5-minute recess.

Mayor Dieguez resumed the meeting at 10:28pm.

The Budget Director stated there is a surplus to the current budget of \$371,628 and you would reduce your millage rate by .0746 mills, for a new millage rate of 2.1713.

After discussion, the motion from Vice Mayor Morera, which was seconded by Councilmember Garcia passed 7-0.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to increase -including the 3% already and the FRS contribution and the taxes, to bring the Town Clerk to a total base salary of \$115,000. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. After discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to reduce the Senior Citizen Relief Program from \$100,000 down to \$82,500 and further stated that this program serves senior citizens, veterans and the disabled, -those who qualify for that exemption as it is set forth in state statute. Mayor Dieguez asked if Town staff can cross reference that against those that last time did not cash their check and Town Manager Pidermann provided feedback stating there are about 20 to 30 individuals that Town Staff will hand-deliver the check to because in the past, they did not cash their checks. Vice Mayor Morera restated his motion to reduce the Senior Citizen Relief Program from \$100,000 to \$82,500. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. It was

clarified that this is for the senior citizens, veterans that are identified through their exemption on their property, which can be pulled from the Property Appraiser's Department and the disabled. Vice Mayor Morera stated his motion is strictly on the line-item. The motion was approved 6-1, Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to extend the meeting to midnight, and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. All were in favor.

Councilmember Sanchez referenced a spreadsheet he provided to the Town Council, during the beginning of the Second Budget Meeting, via the Town Clerk, detailing projections regarding the beautification cycles and cost comparisons for Right-of-Ways, Landscape Areas, Beach Parks, Pocket Parks, Veterans Park and Youth Center to the next fiscal year.

Councilmember Sanchez stated he wanted to bring down the mowing cycles to areas where we can save money, and the purpose of his spreadsheet was to see why the increase was so exponential over at least a minimum of 10% from last year.

Parks and Recreation Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council. Town staff provided information to the Town Council regarding the mowing cycle projection that under the current budget this would restore it to the recommended 35 cycles with the exception of the rights-of-way.

After further discussions, Councilmember Herzberg moved to cut the mulch just for landscaping in pocket parks by 1 cycle and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Fernandez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to reduce the mowing cycles at all non-athletic parks down from 35 cycles to 32 cycles and to omit Veterans Park, which would remain at 35 cycles. He explained that cutting from 35 to 32 cycles, the savings would be almost \$19,341. Councilmember Garcia seconded. Parks and Recreation Director Bajdaun answered additional questions posed by Town Council regarding mulch and mulch alternatives. After further discussion, the motion died 3-4. Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Herzberg, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez moved to lay Item 7B on the table, until Item 7A is taken up first. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Vice Mayor Morera then restated his motion to take up item 7A from the table and the motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez, and all were in favor.

After the Town Council discussed Item 7A and approved the millage rate of 2.1577, Mayor Dieguez then moved to pick up Item 7B from the table and Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the Ordinance in second reading adopting and approving the budget for FY2025-26, as amended, Item 7B, motioned by Mayor Dieguez and seconded by Councilmember Garcia, passed 5-2. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

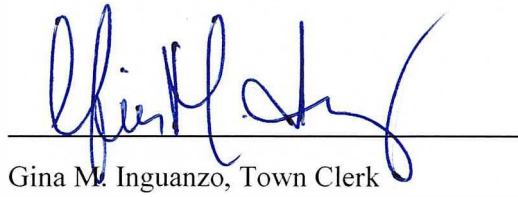
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:59pm.

Approved this 21st of October 2025.



Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk