

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
January 20th, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation to Ms. Eileen Rominger for her 25 years of service in the Miami-Dade Police Department and Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office. Mayor Dieguez stated that Ms. Rominger's various assignments included investigative bureaus such as Special Victims and Homeland Security. He further stated that Ms. Rominger volunteered for many years with the Office of Elections to assist during major election events. Mayor Dieguez proclaimed January 20th, 2026, as Eileen Rominger Day in the Town of Miami Lakes. And she thanked the Mayor and Town Council for this recognition.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:30 pm. Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez were present.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The moment of silence was led by Vice Mayor Morera.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Sanchez.

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

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 51:30)

(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 thanked Dr. Velasco for his generous donation of Canopy Trees. She stated that she is not in favor of any new plans or projects that would include applying for grants. She thanked the Town Council for their efforts in trying to alleviate traffic congestion around Miami Lakes.

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in Public Comments via Zoom. He explained that regarding the Town's Landscaping Plans, he would like to see bushes and plants that require less water and maintenance. He stated that many residents have reported a lost coyote in Miami Lakes. He explained that he has been in contact with animal services and they will be relocating the lost coyote to the Everglades by the end of the week. He stated that cutting or eliminating property taxes would be a financial burden for the Town.

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

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Dieguez announced the following appointments:

Ms. Hailie Prieto to the Education Advisory Board by Councilmember Fernandez.

Ms. Linda M. Perez to the Elderly Affairs Committee by Councilmember Sanchez.

Mayor Dieguez stated for the record that Ms. Claudia Luces resigned from the Education Advisory Board.

8. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Monthly Police Report (Ulloa)

Lieutenant Ulloa presented the Police Report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

B. Public Works Monthly Infrastructure Report

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

C. Flower and Mulch Alternatives (Bajdaun)

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun, presented the report and explained that said report presents alternative options for mulch and the Annual Flower Changeout. He

explained that this report was done keeping in mind options to reduce long-term maintenance and financial impact.

He explained that regarding the Flower Change-Out option, there is the option of installing sod in lieu of any type of plant material, utilization of Liriope throughout the landscape beds or the use of mondo grass in lieu. He explained that the alternative options for mulch are bare soil mulch, ground covers, and mondo grass.

He mentioned that decorative rocks or pebbles would not be considered applicable since they can become projectiles when maintenance is being performed. He further mentioned that they could be used by small children around the playgrounds and that would be dangerous. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Garcia then moved to direct the Town Manager for the Parks and Recreation Director to go ahead and further look into alternative options. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi presented the report and explained that the Town does not have the proper plaintiff to bring a lawsuit regarding the blasting litigation. He explained that municipalities are political subdivisions of the state and do not possess independent constitutional rights to the right of access to courts and a jury trial in their governmental capacity; thus, he explained that the Town of Miami Lakes could not make a constitutional claim under Article One, Section's 21-22 when acting as a governmental entity. He stated that his law firm and Councilmember Herzberg's law firm will be taking on four plaintiffs at no cost, at pro bono. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Herzberg moved for the Town not to proceed with filing the litigation based on the report from the Town Attorney regarding blasting. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Public Safety Committee Report

Chairman Carlos J. Andres presented the report and stated that the committee's available budget is approximately \$7,000. On behalf of the Public Safety Committee, he extended his congratulations to Lieutenant Ulloa on his new role.

Chairman Andres stated that the Cars for Heroes event was a huge success. He further stated that they received \$10,000 in donations for the event and made \$3,336 in profit, which

\$1,000 will be donated to the Police Benevolent Association Love Fund and the Resilience Fund for firefighters.

Councilmember Garcia moved to earmark the remaining profit of \$2,336 for this year's car show. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Dieguez was absent.

Chairman Andres stated that they will be working with the Neighborhood Improvement Committee and the HOA's on a future project. He further stated the committee's upcoming events, including the fire station event in March, an Earth Day event with the Neighborhood Improvement Committee in April, and a Coffee with a Cop event in May. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Report from Miami Lakes Food & Wine and Miami Lakes Town Foundation on reaching the \$100,000 mark for donations by Ms. Lynn Matos and Mr. Fred Senra.

Ms. Lynn Matos and Town Foundation Member Fred Senra presented the report. Mr. Senra explained that the funding that is provided by the Miami Lakes Food and Wine Festival since it started has been distributed by the Town Foundation to local schools and organizations that present the need for a certain grant or program that they would like to implement.

They stated that they have granted over \$100,000 in grants for community projects over the past eight years and it was emphasized that all that funding has come from the Miami Lakes Food & Wine festival. Ms. Matos, the co-founder of the Miami Lakes Food & Wine Festival, thanked the small businesses for their involvement in the festival and thanked the Miami Lakes Town Foundation Board Members for their work. She also thanked the Mayor and Town Council for always showing support for the event.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The motion passed 5-0. Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

A. Approval of Minutes

November 3, 2025 - Special Call Meeting

November 18, 2025 - Regular Council Meeting

December 16, 2025 - Sunshine Meeting Minutes on Traffic Solutions

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

- B.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ATC ENGINEERING, INC, FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONTROSE ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$453,380.00) AND APPROVING A PROJECT CONTINGENCY OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY NINE DOLLARS (\$128,649.00); AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in consent calendar.

- C.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH 300 ENGINEERING GROUP, P.A. FOR MONTROSE ROAD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, FOR AN AMOUNT OF NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED FORTY DOLLARS AND 50/100, NOT TO EXCEED THE PROJECT CONTINGENCY; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in consent calendar.

- D.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT FOR CONCRETE WORK FOR AMENITIES AT MINI PARKS AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES TO STONE CONCEPT MIAMI, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in consent calendar.

- E.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR FLORINDA ESTATES BIOSWALE DESIGN – WORK ORDER 10; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in consent calendar.

- F.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR ROYAL GARDENS ESTATES DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT BIOSWALE DESIGN – WORK ORDER 11; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in consent calendar.

- G.** A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A CREDIT CARD PROCESSING POLICY; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENT REQUIRED TO ADOPT POLICIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in consent calendar.

13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

A. Naming Rights, Sponsorships Policy and Letters of Support (Morera)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA DELETING TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE XII, "NAMING RIGHTS, SPONSORSHIP POLICY AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT"; CREATING CHAPTER II, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 5 "NAMING RIGHTS, SPONSORSHIP POLICY AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT"; CREATING PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

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

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

14. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

None.

15. RESOLUTIONS:

A. Beautification Master Plan Update (Dieguez, Bajdaun)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE UPDATED TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES BEAUTIFICATION MASTER PLAN (2025); PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND INCORPORATION INTO THE TOWN'S GUIDING PLANNING DOCUMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Parks & Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun presented the item and answered questions posed by Town Council.

Mayor Dieguez moved this item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg requested for Town Staff to focus on plants that require as little maintenance as possible and to look for native species. Director Bajdaun stated the Beautification Master Plan is built as a guiding principle of what we should be focusing on, essentially things that are going to be conducive for our South Florida region and things that are going to be of lasting impact for any requirements or replacements. After some further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Adoption of the FY2027 Federal Legislative Priorities (Shock, Pidermann)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE TOWN'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027; 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 shared with his colleagues that when he met with Congressman Diaz-Balart a few months ago, and when he spoke with the Federal Lobbyists, the priorities listed in this resolution all passed. He then moved this item, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to amend the resolution from its current form, to request funding also for the veteran's honor wall at Veterans Park, also referred to as veteran's memorial or veteran's monument, even if it is a small percentage of the cost. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg.

Vice Mayor Morera made a friendly amendment to have Grants and Governmental Affairs Manager, Ms. Olivia Shock determine what are the potential sources of grant money, and if there are federal grants, for them to be added to this. Councilmember Sanchez stated that research has been taking place for several months, but that the research did not produce anything.

Town Manager Pidermann recommended that if this passes, to put the veteran's monument at \$400,000 just to make sure we have enough and if we are able to put together other funding sources, then we will coordinate that with the Federal Representatives Office of Mario Diaz-Balart. Councilmember Sanchez stated we can sell this to the federal government as a way to help as a recruiting tool to show how the Town of Miami Lakes honors its veterans and maybe

high schoolers will eventually see that and want to be a part of that and want to enlist or dedicate themselves to the Officer Candidate School (OCS) as a recruiting tool.

Vice Mayor Morera stated he would adopt the Town Manager's recommendation as his proposed amendment, and Mayor Dieguez seconded the amendment. The amended motion was passed unanimously. The main motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

None.

17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Tallahassee Travel in February (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez went over his expenses for his Tallahassee Travel in February. He also asked his colleagues to provide him with a list of representatives or senators that they would like him to meet with so that the meeting could be coordinated.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Approved this 17th of February 2026.



Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk