

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**February 17th, 2026**  
**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 Mr. Brian Rodriguez for his 14 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Youth Activities Task Force. Mayor Dieguez thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his exemplary civic leadership and the positive impact he has made in enriching the lives of the Town's youth. Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Mayor and the Town Council for this recognition.

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation to the Miami Lakes School Crossing Guards. Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun explained that this proclamation is in recognition of School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day which took place the first Friday of February. Mayor Dieguez proclaimed February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day in the Town of Miami Lakes. He explained that school crossing guards provide essential public safety services to the community and deserve continued recognition for their day-to-day efforts throughout the 9-month school year.

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation to St. Thomas University for their donation to the 2025 Mayor's Gala. He explained that St. Thomas University serves a diverse student body of more than 5,000 students and offers over 60 undergraduate, graduate and law programs in both online and on campus formats. He further explained that last fall St. Thomas University graciously served as the title sponsor of the 2025 Mayor's Gala, contributing \$10,000 in support of the Town's Special Needs Advisory Board. Mayor Dieguez proclaimed February 2026 as St. Thomas University month in the Town of Miami Lakes. The representatives from St. Thomas University thanked the Mayor and the Town Council for this recognition. Mayor Dieguez then presented the check for \$43,025.77 to the Special Needs Advisory Board. Secretary of the Special Needs Advisory Board Kimberly Trelles presented a check of \$300 to the Special Needs Advisory Board.

**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 Councilmember Herzberg.

#### **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Fernandez.

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

Town Manager Pidermann moved to defer items 13A and 13B to before Public Comments and recommended that both items be heard at a Special Call Meeting. Councilmember Sanchez moved items 10A and 10B to after Public Comments. Councilmember Herzberg moved item 10C to before Public Comments. Councilmember Garcia pulled item 12B from the consent calendar. Vice Mayor Morera moved for item 16A to be discussed with item 8B.

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the New Order of Business. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 43:06)**

*(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 she is not in agreement with the zoning changes requested by the Graham Companies. She stated that William Graham Sr.'s vision was to provide a refuge for families to escape the hustle and bustle of the urban sprawl. She explained that the development of four new apartment buildings would generate more traffic across the Town. She urged the Town Council to do what is right and listen to the voice of their constituents.

Mr. Miguel Martinez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that the Blasting Advisory Board was created to establish, discuss and provide the Town Council with recommendations and possible solutions to ease the effects of rock mine blasting. He further stated that at no time was the Blasting Advisory Board considered to be a permanent committee, however without a finite path of completion it would be impossible to offer a realistic timeline. He stated that the Blasting Advisory Board will continue to center itself as a source of information for the council, the residents and the public at large. He urged the Town Council to vote against item 16H.

Mr. William Perez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that a traffic study should have been conducted before the apartments next to the golf course were approved. He stated that regarding the Graham's request for a zoning change, a traffic feasibility study should be conducted and approved by the Town Manger and the Public Works Department.

Ms. Susana Herrera came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that there was a procedure failure for a proper written notice for the Planning and Zoning Meeting. She stated that the rights of the residents should be the Town Council's first priority. She urged the Town Council to do what is right and listen to the voice of their constituents.

Ms. Hilda Fernandez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is happy that items 13A and 13B were deferred as it gives an opportunity to properly provide notice for the Planning and Zoning meeting. She stated that the Town Council should provide full and complete transparency for the residents.

Ms. Lissette Perez participated in Public Comments via Zoom. She stated that she is opposed to the new development proposed by the Graham Companies. She explained that the development of four new apartment buildings would generate more traffic across the Town. She stated that it is the responsibility of the Town and zoning officials to ensure that new developments meet community needs.

Mr. David Bennett participated in Public Comments via Zoom. He stated that he is happy that items 13A and 13B were deferred as it gives an opportunity to properly provide notice for the Planning and Zoning meeting. He urged Town Residents to attend the Charter Revision Commission Meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Town Clerk Gina Inguanzo stated for the record that the Office of the clerk received written Public Comments from Mr. Albert Aguiar, Ms. Rocio Garcia, Ms. Susana Herrera, Mr. Peter Thomas, Mr. Eduardo Betancourt and Ms. Esther Colon.

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

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Vice Mayor Morera announced the following appointments:

Ms. Tammy L. Hassan to the Special Needs Advisory Board by Councilmember Herzberg.

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

### **A. Monthly Police Report (Gonzalez, Ulloa)**

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

Councilmember Garcia moved to have Staff work with the Sheriff's Department to get the new non-emergency number for 305-Sheriff or (305) 743-7433 on social media and our Town website. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed and all were in favor.

After brief discussion, Councilmember Garcia moved to adopt the Police Report. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed and all were in favor.

## **B. Public Works Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)**

Public Works Director, Omar Santos, presented the monthly infrastructure report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. This item was discussed first with Item 16K and then with Item 12B.

Vice Mayor Morera presented the genesis of Item 16K. Public Works Director Santos confirmed the project for Mary Collins Community Center entrance approach to be redone is already funded under the drainage improvements on the northern half of NW 82nd Ave between Miami Lakes Drive and Oak Lane. Director Santos stated that the construction is scheduled for the first week of March. Drainage will be done first and then the restoration items. Director Santos also stated he would provide the timeline via email and dates for when the drainage project will finish and then move on to the ancillaries.

Vice Mayor Morera and Councilmember Herzberg addressed concerns regarding the project's completion possibly interfering with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations and the August and November elections.

Town Manager Pidermann stated whether it will be for the independence day celebrations, August primaries, or November election, staff will work with the contractor to see how they can mitigate it, even if it is on a temporary basis for a day or for the early voting and see if the project is still ongoing and if they have not done the final restoration and the final elevation there. No motions were made.

Councilmember Garcia presented Item 12B. He stated that the traffic study is very costly. Councilmember Garcia moved to have the Town Manager look into using the existing License Plate Reader (LPR) system that has data points from traffic going through Miami Lakes Drive and get a license when it comes to Artificial Intelligence for traffic studies and use the data already collected by the Town, incorporate that software and create our own traffic studies. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion for discussion and stated he believes the License Plate Reader (LPR) information can only be used for criminal investigations. Councilmember Herzberg then made an amendment to the motion, for the Town Manager to not just to focus on the License Plate Reader (LPR), to look into other data points that the Town has, that could be used to see what type of studies we can potentially do. Councilmember Garcia seconded the amendment.

Public Works Director Santos continued with his presentation and answered questions posed by the Town Council. Councilmember Herzberg restated his previous amendment and the amendment passed. All were in favor.

Councilmember Garcia then restated his original motion and explained he would prefer to defer this item with the caveat that Town Manager Pidermann looks into using our data points to help save money in the future for any future studies.

After further discussion, Attorney Gastesi stated that the License Plate Reader (LPR) can only be used for the purpose of collecting active criminal intelligence and investigative purposes. He stated that we cannot use the data for traffic studies, that it is statutorily prescribed. Town Principal Planner Susana Alonso also provided feedback regarding trip counts and answered questions posed by Town Council.

Mayor Dieguez then reiterated the motion made by Councilmember Garcia, which is to defer the item to the next Regular Council Meeting while Staff provides answers to his questions and Councilmember Herzberg's non-limitation amendment.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

**C. Report of Alternative Revenue Opportunity (Dieguez, Pidermann, Grant)**

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and explained that this item is a two-step process. He further explained that Staff divided the items into two categories, one category being items that are more viable or easier to implement, and the second category being items that are less viable or harder to implement. He stated that Staff needs direction from the Town Council to narrow down the list to twelve items or less, so they can come back next month with more detailed information and revenue estimates.

Councilmember Herzberg stated that his caveat would be to protect homestead property owners. He stated that items two and three are where he sees the most feasibility and budget changing figures. He said the discussion of less viable options would be unnecessary. Town Manager Pidermann stated that regarding item number two, the Town is currently working on establishing an impact fee ordinance.

Mayor Dieguez explained that the purpose of this item was to go over revenue opportunities in the event that the property tax reform does pass. He further explained that this is a report of the options the Town Council has if the tax reform passes. He stated that all items from 1-12 are acceptable to move forward to the second round with the caveat that the bus bench advertising would be the least favorite. He stated that he would be in support of item 11 on the less viable list to create and sell Town Merchandise.

Councilmember Sanchez stated that he is in support of item 3 relating to solid waste as long as the Town can provide the same service that residents currently have with the county garbage. Mayor Dieguez stated that item 3 would not replace the garage carrier but only add a surcharge.

Councilmember Fernandez stated that he would be ok with all the items except anything that takes away from the look of the Town. He stated that in the event of the elimination of property taxes, the Town Council would most likely have to raise the millage rate of the non-homestead properties to get the revenue needed for Town services.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that if the state eliminates all homestead property taxes, then the Town can modify because then The Town would only have one millage rate which would be for the non-homestead public.

Councilmember Garcia stated that he would be in favor of implementing electric vehicle chargers or a boat rental storage as either of these options could be a revenue generator for the Town.

Councilmember Cuadra-Garcia stated that the boat rental storage would be a good contender.

**D. Tree Nursery Locations (Dieguez, Bajdaun)**

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun presented the item and explained that the goal of the proposed Tree Nursery is to look at ways to build resiliency to the Town's urban canopy by being able to maintain and grow trees within the Town. He further explained that the report looks at potential locations which we can look at further by investigating and working with by establishing a tree nursery within the Town. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mayor Dieguez requested Staff to come back with further details regarding the number of trees that fit at each site and the cost savings of implementing the Tree Nursery in the long run.

**E. Parks Sponsorship Program (Herzberg, Lopez)**

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun presented the item and explained that this program aims at providing sponsorship opportunities through playgrounds, pavilions, athletic features, dog park elements, fitness equipment and landscape enhancements.

Councilmember Herzberg stated that he would like to focus on making upgrades to the Town's pocket parks and playgrounds. He also stated that this would be a cost saving measure.

Director Bajdaun then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

**F. Organizational Review Report (Herzberg, Lopez)**

Deputy Town Manager Lopez presented the report and explained that this item is a follow up to Councilmember Herzberg's request to look into the costs for an organizational structure and efficiency review. He explained that this review would be a comprehensive assessment of internal administrative and operational structures, identifying areas where the Town can improve streamlined processes, reduce costs and enhanced service delivery. He explained that Town staff conducted a preliminary wholesale review of communities across the country that have conducted similar studies and found that the price of the study depends on the size of the community. He stated that based on the number of Town staff and residents, the cost of the study could be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Councilmember Herzberg moved to proceed and send this item out to bid to be able to have a more definite cost. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Garcia stated that conducting this study would be an unnecessary expense. He explained that the Town Manager and the Deputy Town Manager have more than enough expertise to be able to conduct the study themselves.

Town Manager Pidermann explained if the Deputy Town Manager and himself conducted the study, they would not be able to complete their daily duties, as it is a time-consuming comprehensive report.

After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. Public Safety Committee Request to Transfer Allocated Funds (Pidermann)**

Town Manager Pidermann presented the report and explained that this item is a request from the Public Safety Committee to get Town Council approval for two donation checks. He further explained that the two donation checks would each be \$500 and the funds would be pulled from the proceeds of the Cars for Heroes event.

Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the request. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

None.

### **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **A. Special Needs Advisory Board**

Chairperson Vivian Levy presented the report and went over the events and initiatives that the committee has been working on. She stated that the dance students performed at the Town's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and that the committee has continued with the contactless Martial Arts program and the Animation program. Three events were sponsored, the fashion show, holiday party and the Mayor's Gala. Chair Levy explained that the committee is currently working together with the Parks and Recreation Department to install the communication boards at the Town's parks.

Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun explained that a cost-effective solution would be moving the communication boards off the rubber plane port surface and installing the board directly in the grass adjacent to the playground. He further explained that by taking this route, the Town would forego the large sum that was tied up with the installation. He reported that the communication boards will be bilingual one side in English and the other side in Spanish.

Committee Member Kimberly Trelles and Secretary Ethan Rivero explained that the committee is currently planning a sensory friendly game night at Roberto Alonso Community Center. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Committee Member Jesenia Orellana presented the proposal for the family café conference. She explained that the family cafe is a statewide nonprofit that hosts a conference described as the largest statewide cross disability event in the nation. She further explained that the event brings together self-advocates, families, educators, service providers and policy makers to share resources, learn best practices, explore system technologies and strengthen partnerships that promote inclusive communities. She stated that the committee's participation in this conference would allow committee members to gain valuable insight into the evolving needs of individuals with disabilities. She stated that the committee proposes sending six advisory board members to attend the conference on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> with an estimated budget of between \$2,750 to \$3,000 dollars.

Councilmember Garcia moved to approve the six committee members to attend the conference. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Levy stated that the committee's opening night for the Art Without Limits event will be on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to adopt the report. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Veterans Committee**

Chairperson William Perez presented the report and went over the events and initiatives that the committee has been working on. He explained that the committee is planning on hosting a bingo night for the veterans who are permanent residents at the VA facility. He stated that he needs a motion to transfer the money from the veteran's scholarship to this initiative. He explained that the committee wants to have a poppy flower sale. He stated that the committee raised over \$62,000 during the 2025 Reindeer Run and that the committee will be utilizing a sum of the proceeds towards the Veteran's Monument. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to approve the transfer of the veteran's scholarship money to the VA facility initiative and to approve the sale of poppy flowers. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairperson Perez requested a reallocation of \$400 from the Reindeer Run fund to pay for the renderings of the Veterans Monument.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to approve the reallocation of funds. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Educational Advisory Board**

Chairperson Ana Soto presented the report and went over the events and initiatives that the committee has been working on. She requested additional funding so the committee can sustain and expand some of the programs that directly benefit Town residents. She explained that the committee's current budget is \$1,000 and that they use the funds for the annual spelling bee, awards of excellence and the community book drive. She further explained that the annual awards of excellence costs approximately \$3,500 dollars to host. She stated that the committee currently has no funds to buy books for their community book drive.

Chair Soto then proposed a new item to help offset these costs, which would be a small adjustment to the graduation banner program. She explained that by increasing the price by just \$10 a banner, they would raise an additional \$700 to \$800 dollars, which would go towards the annual Spelling Bee event and purchasing new books for the book drive. She respectfully requested the Town Council's support so the committee can continue serving the Town residents at the level they deserve. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Sanchez moved to approve the graduation banner increase to up to \$20 at the committee's discretion. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Dieguez was absent,

### **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**

January 13, 2026 – Town Meeting to Discuss Traffic Concerns  
January 15, 2026 Quarterly STD Workshop  
January 15, 2026 Sunshine Meeting to Discuss Town Commander Appointment  
January 16, 2026 Sunshine Meeting to Discuss TFP  
January 20, 2026 Regular Council Meeting  
February 6, 2026 Sunshine Meeting to Discuss Advocacy Positions for Dade Days

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 EXECUTE WORK ORDER NO. 06 WITH KIMLEY-HORN AND ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL**

ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR A MIAMI LAKES DRIVE TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS FEASIBILITY STUDY, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000.00, INCLUDING A PROJECT CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00; PROVIDING FOR FUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from consent and discussed during item 8B.

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

#### **QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Please be advised that the following items on the Board's agenda are quasi-judicial in nature. An opportunity for persons to speak on each item will be made available after the applicant and staff have made their presentations on each item. All testimony, including public testimony and evidence, will be made under oath or affirmation. Additionally, each person who gives testimony may be subject to cross-examination. If you do not wish to be either cross-examined or sworn, your testimony will be given its due weight. The general public will not be permitted to cross-examine witnesses, but the public may request the Board to ask questions of staff or witnesses on their behalf. Persons representing organizations must present evidence of their authority to speak for the organization. Any person presenting documents to the Board should provide the Town Clerk with a minimum of 10 copies. Further details of the quasi-judicial procedure may be obtained from the Clerk.

#### **a. ZONE2026-0007, Future Land Use Map (FLUM) Amendment**

**HEARING NUMBER:** ZONE2026-0007  
**APPLICANT:** The Graham Companies  
**FOLIO:** 32-2022-070-0010  
32-2022-068-0010  
32-2022-068-0020  
32-2022-068-0030  
**LOCATION:** 14610 Oak Ln. MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA  
33016

#### **b. ZONE2026-0007, Rezoning**

**HEARING NUMBER:** ZONE2026-0007  
**APPLICANT:** The Graham Companies  
**FOLIO:** 32-2022-070-0010  
32-2022-068-0010  
32-2022-068-0020  
32-2022-068-0030  
**LOCATION:** 14610 Oak Ln. MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA  
33016

Town Manager Pidermann requested items 13A and 13B to be deferred to the date of a Special Call meeting either on March 31, 2026, or April 1, 2026. Councilmember Sanchez moved to conduct the Special Call meeting on April 1, and Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion.

Councilmember Sanchez stated the April 1 date makes the most sense to give enough time for the residents of the Town to be aware. Councilmember Herzberg stated we need to move it to provide proper notice in 30 days of the Special Call Meeting, and for it to be posted within 30 days of the Planning and Zoning Board Meeting and deferred to the Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella for confirmation. Town Manager Pidermann confirmed they can get the notice by next week. After some discussion, Mayor Dieguez restated the motion for the ordinance to have its first reading on April 1, 2026, then be read at the Planning & Zoning Board meeting on April 14, 2026 and then the second reading held at the Regular Council Meeting on April 21, 2026.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 6-1. Vice Mayor Morera voted in opposition.

### **C. Procurement Ordinance (Lopez)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AMENDING AND RESTATING ORDINANCE NO. 17-203 PERTAINING TO PURCHASING PROCEDURES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Deputy Town Manager Lopez presented the item and answered questions posed by the Council. He explained the item is a proposed revision to the Town's procurement ordinance. This ordinance provides the procedures and rules of how the Town administration makes purchases and acquires services. The last time this ordinance was revised in detail was approximately 14 years ago and he stated that this is a good opportunity for improving the ordinance to make it more efficient, streamline processes, and adapt to current times and current costs. He also stated we received directions back in 2023 from the previous Council to proceed in reforming the Code and incorporate certain preferences described as part of this report.

Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera who requested to have a meeting with Deputy Town Manager Lopez and Town Manager Pidermann to talk about the proposed changes. Councilmember Herzberg also stated he wants to meet with Staff.

The Town Clerk called the roll, and the ordinance passed 6-1. Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

**14. ORDINANCE IN SECOND 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 5, 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.

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

Mayor Dieguez opened the public hearing. There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor moved to approve the ordinance in second reading, and the motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella provided background of the ordinance.

After brief comments made by Vice Mayor Morera, no further discussion was had. The motion passed 5-2. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

**15. RESOLUTIONS:**

**A. Authorization to Apply to the 2025 Urban & Community Forestry Grant (Shock)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR THE 2025 URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY NATURAL DISASTER AND RECOVERY SUPPLEMENT GRANT TO FUND THE MIAMI LAKES URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000; AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS IF AWARDED; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF GRANT AGREEMENTS AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item. Mayor Dieguez moved the item, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

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

### **A. Comprehensive Review and Modernization of the Town Code (Herzberg)**

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and moved to proceed with a review and cleanup of the Town's Code of Ordinances to identify provisions that are outdated, obsolete, unenforced, or no longer necessary and have Staff come back to the Town Council with those parts of our Code that they do not believe have any value. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

### **B. Adoption of Resolution Supporting Compliance with Federal Sanctions Programs Related to Cuba (Dieguez)**

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and moved to adopt a resolution supporting both the Miami-Dade County Tax Collector's efforts and those of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners regarding the revocation or refusal of a Local Business Tax license for several businesses engaging and operating in violation of federal law through commercial ties with the regime in Cuba. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion and Councilmember Fernandez requested to be a co-sponsor of the item.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

### **C. FPL Street Lights (Morera)**

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and moved to direct the Town Manager to open discussions with FPL with the end-goal of reaching an agreement whereby the Town can be authorized to implement the repairs ourselves and then apply for reimbursement for said repair from FPL. He explained that this would allow the Town to ensure timely repair of FPL-owned streetlights without impairing FPL's ability to respond to emergencies throughout the State. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion and recommended as an alternative, reaching out to our state representatives in Tallahassee to put something forward where local municipalities, not just Miami Lakes but across the state, can collaborate with FPL to expedite the repair process on their own and just seek reimbursement after the fact.

After brief discussion the motion passed, and all were in favor.

### **D. School Zone Designation (Sanchez)**

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and moved so that a request be made to Miami-Dade County requesting a study to implement a school zone of 15 MPH from 6:45 am to 7:45 am and 1:45 pm to 3:00 pm, along with sufficient signage and flashing lights to alert drivers of the speed

zone on NW 158<sup>th</sup> Street and NW 59<sup>th</sup> Ave. It is also recommended to seek support from Miami-Dade County School Board since this directly affects the safety of the students at Miami Lakes Educational Center. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

**E. Maintenance of Overgrown Foliage Surrounding Electrical Light Posts (Cuadra Garcia)**

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order and Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia presented his item and moved to recommend Town Staff to look into the trimming and maintenance of the overgrown foliage surrounding electrical posts around the Town as seen in the photos attached to the agenda. The goal, he explained, is to avoid hazardous situations such as fires, safety issues and structural damage. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Town Manager Pidermann explained this was addressed verbally with FPL, and that this is only concentrated in the Lake Patricia and Lake Katherine area, with the overhead power lines being on private property. FPL advised that they handle the top of the pole where the power lines are and that homeowners are responsible for the lower half of the pole.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that this is something FPL needs to get out and address immediately, if the vines pose a life and safety concern, it should be mentioned to FPL. Mayor Dieguez stated he would support the item in the form that the Vice Mayor put it, further clarifying to have Staff look at the potential to argue it as a life safety issue and for Staff to explore, perhaps adding this to our code as something they need to maintain.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

**F. Business Tax Receipts and Compliance with Laws Prohibiting Business with Cuba (Garcia)**

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilmember Garcia presented his item and moved to recommend to the Mayor and Town Council, to adopt a resolution directing the Town Manager to coordinate with the Miami-Dade County Tax Collector to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws governing Business Tax Receipts (BTRs), including laws prohibiting business with Cuba in violation of federal law. He emphasized that if they are doing business with the Cuban regime, then we make sure they lose their business license in the Town of Miami Lakes, and this will also

include any ordinances that have to be passed. The resolution further provides for implementation measures and ongoing reporting to the Mayor and Town Council. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Mayor Dieguez without objection, directed the Town Clerk to add all of Council as co-sponsor to the resolution.

Tax Collector Dariel Fernandez came before the Town Council as a special guest to provide further background on the resolution and shared he is ready to work with the Town of Miami Lakes to support compliance and the integrity of this process.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

#### **G. Establish Employee Performance Review Policy via Ordinance (Herzberg)**

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and stated it should be the policy of this Council to require some type of review process for the Town employees and directors, to put this into an ordinance making it a clear policy directive of the Town with minimum standards and moved to direct the Town Manager to come back to the Council with positions for how the standard reviewing process would work. He added all we can do is say implement one and do one, it is up to the Town Manager to decide what that review process means for employees. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

After brief discussion, Town Manager Pidermann stated Staff has already taken the steps to implement a review process where it would happen on the employee's anniversary month and he also shared his concerns regarding the Council interfering with the Town administration. Mayor Dieguez directed the Town Attorney's to report back on what extent can Town Council direct the Town Manager to establish these sorts of programs and evaluations.

Town Attorney Gastesi stated his plan was to talk to Councilmember Herzberg, get more details and then discuss it with the Town Manager. He thinks there is a way to implement this legislation without offending the Town Charter.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

#### **H. Review of Status of the Blasting Advisory Board (Dieguez)**

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and moved to discuss and consider the dissolution of the Blasting Advisory Board, in accordance with the Town's authority over advisory committees, due to changes in circumstances that limit its ability to fulfill its original purpose. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion for discussion.

Councilmember Garcia stated it is premature to sunset the Blasting Advisory Board now but does think we should implement a mechanism that allows the Town Council to review on a yearly basis, any board or committee and to review if there is a budget to make sure, they are being effective.

Vice Mayor Morera stated sunsetting the Blasting Advisory Board does not send the right message at this time; he agreed with the mayor's item to the extent that it only seeks review and a potential amendment to the ordinance to fit it to its current role. The earliest he can see a sunset to the board is at the end of the current fiscal year or at the end of the current legislative session.

Councilmember Cuadra Garica stated we should give the Blasting Advisory Board more time and consider evaluating it once a year and see their performance, but this is not the appropriate time to get rid of it.

Councilmember Herzberg stated he agrees that what we have to look at the incorporated resolution, what it does now has completely changed, he added the Blasting Advisory Board is the Town's lobbying team for the current legislation and agreed with Mayor Dieguez, that the purpose of the board does need to change, we can look into that and look at any committee or board every year and see if we want to get rid of it or not.

Councilmember Sanchez asked Town Attorney Gastesi and Councilmember Herzberg if the information put forward by the Blasting Advisory Board can be used as reference material for the cases, they are currently litigating. Town Attorney Gastesi stated the information is helpful and Councilmember Herzberg stated the information they use is all public records.

Councilmember Fernandez shared he is in favor of reviewing the committee yearly and its mission but right now he thinks we should just leave it alone.

After discussion, Mayor Dieguez gave his final remarks and moved to make a strike all amendment, requiring that every year, to coincide with the fiscal year, every July at the start of the budget process, Council will need to go ahead and reauthorize the committee's existence. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

## **I. Budget Calendar (Morera)**

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item regarding potential modifications to the Town's budget calendar to provide the Council and residents with greater opportunity to offer meaningful input before the first preliminary budget is developed and released. He explained, this would include holding at least one preliminary strategic planning workshop prior to the submission of departmental budget requests and circulating draft preliminary budget scenarios based on good-faith revenue and expenditure forecasts earlier in the process, therefore, allowing the Council to identify at an early stage, if additional funding, adjustment, or further analysis is needed.

He then moved to direct Staff to return at the March 17, 2026, Regular Council Meeting with proposals, including a review of budget practices employed by peer municipalities that align with the spirit and intent of this proposal. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the item for discussion and recommended an amendment, to add a deadline for the specific specialty funds that we have within the budget within this proposed preliminary budget workshop.

Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez came before the Council to provide further feedback regarding the budget deadlines.

Mayor Dieguez requested through the Town Manager for Budget Officer Hernandez to email Council her deadlines or estimated timeframes for the budget. Budget Officer Hernandez stated the Council will have a copy of all the deadlines she has to meet in the March Regular Council Meeting which she believes is what Vice Mayor Morera is asking for.

After further discussion Mayor Dieguez added a recommendation, for Staff to make sure the proposal is detailed enough about the objective of that meeting and for it not just be a sunshine meeting for the sake of having a sunshine meeting. He emphasized that this meeting should be productive, to respect the public's time.

The motion passed and all were in favor.

**J. Technology Upgrade (Sanchez)**

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and moved to recommend Staff to return at the March 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting, with a project scope to begin the procurement process for the technology upgrades needed to implement the ability for architectural plans to be submitted digitally instead of printed paper. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion and shared he is in support of the item.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed and all were in favor.

**K. Repair of Mary Collins Community Center Approach (Morera)**

This item was discussed during the Public Works Monthly Infrastructure Report, Item 8B.

**L. Consolidation of Town Events (Sanchez)**

Mayor Dieguez moved to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The motion passed and all were in favor.

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item recommending Staff to return with a new schedule where events with low attendance be merged with larger events such as the Skate event to be a part of the Spring Fling, and the Fall Mental Health Fair be part of the Halloween and remaining the Miami Lakes Fall Festival, as this will draw a larger crowd due to the attractiveness of family events without the stigma associated with mental health.

Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion for discussion and stated he is in favor of the item and added the Town Council has been encouraging committees to work together to decide how they can pull resources and find a way of generating revenue and to try to codify that.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed, and all were in favor.

**M. Zoning Notices Review (Dieguez)**

Mayor Dieguez made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. All were in favor.

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and moved to direct the Town Manager to conduct a review of prior zoning notices that the Town has issued and come back with a report to the Town Council via Miami Lakes Connect or with the after-action items with any findings, any regularities or anything that needs to be addressed. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed, and all were in favor.

**17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS**

**A. Joint Letter Relating to Property Tax Reform (Herzberg)**

Councilmember Herzberg presented his report and explained the purpose of the joint letter relating to property tax relief. Mayor Dieguez stated he liked the letter and is willing to sign his name with the caveat of wanting to add some changes. Councilmember Herzberg agreed with the mayor's comments and suggested Mayor Dieguez put the comments in the letter, and that he would sign the letter with him.

Councilmember Fernandez stated he is all for it and Councilmember Sanchez stated he is happy to sign it as well. Mayor Dieguez requested for the councilmembers to wait for him to turn the letter around, and for all of them to sign it.


**B. Update on Dade Days (Dieguez)**

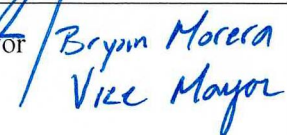
Mayor Dieguez presented his report on updates from Dade Days.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

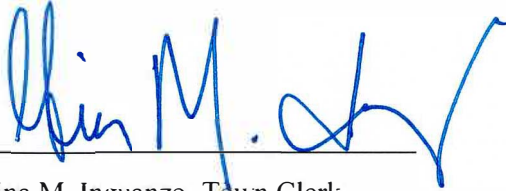
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 pm.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

  
Bryan Morera  
Vice Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk