MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
May 19, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:31 pm. Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez were present. Councilmember Herzberg joined the meeting at 7:18 pm.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The moment of silence was led by Councilmember Garcia.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance Councilmember Sanchez.

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

Mayor Dieguez moved to combine items 8D, 13B, and 16F, he added a new business item 16I regarding a resolution concerning Cuban Independence Day and, he deferred Item 15A to the June Regular Council Meeting, at the request of the Applicant.

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

During the discussion of Item 8B, Mayor Dieguez moved to reopen the Order of Business. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Dieguez moved to move up the Special Presentations, Items 11A, 11B and 11C, to take up immediately after the vote for Item 8B. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The New Order of Business is amended as stated.

During discussion of Item 8D, Vice Mayor Morera moved to take up Items 10A and 10B, the two (2) committee reports and then return to this item. There was no objection to hearing the committee reports out of order.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 41:00)

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

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

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that the proposed improvements for Optimist Park are reasonable and necessary. She stated that she questions why the Planning and Zoning Board consists only of members who work in construction and real estate related fields. She explained that William A Graham did not plan for the Town's population to exceed 30,000 people, as the Town's roads and schools cannot support a larger population. She stated that approving the 7-story apartment complex on NW 154th St was a huge mistake on the part of the Town Council.

Dr. David Bennett came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that the Charter Revision Commission has received little feedback from the town residents. He stated that the idea of reducing the number of council seats from seven to five will significantly reduce representation within the town. He explained that seven members can adequately handle the responsibilities required. He mentioned that the Blasting Advisory Board sponsored a competition at the high school level and stated that the award ceremony for the competition will take place next week. He invited the Town Council to attend.

Mr. Adonis Sardinas came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is the Vice President of the Lochness Homeowner's Association. He went over the initiatives and events that the HOA has been working on and stated that $860 was approved to implement a neighborhood library program. He stated that the HOA has begun hosting bi-weekly community walks on Sundays to bring awareness as to why residents should not park on sidewalks.

Mr. Carlos Andres came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is in support of Mayor Dieguez' item regarding early voting. He explained that Miami Lakes Optimist Park provides so much for students and athletes in the town and he urged the Town Council to support the Optimist Park Improvements.

Mr. Silvio Llanes came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that the lights at PSN's pickleball courts have not been repaired. He explained that residents from PSN are now coming to the Optimist Park to play pickleball. He stated that due to this influx of PSN residents, Town residents have been having to wait over an hour to play. He stated that he would like to suggest that the tennis court next to the four pickleball courts be converted into four more pickleball courts.

The Town Clerk stated for the record that the Office of the Clerk received written Public Comments from the following individuals: Mr. Abel Fernandez, Mr. Boris Foster, Ms. Esperanza Reynolds, Mr. Ruben Sanchez and the Miami Lakes Condominium Association.

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

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Dieguez stated that there have been three removals due to absences.

Mayor Dieguez announced the following appointments:
Ms. Torres to the Economic Development Committee by Councilmember Sanchez.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia recommended the appointment of Mr. Anibal G. Perez to the Planning & Zoning Board. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia requested a waiver of the requirements stated at Section 13-203(b)(6) of the Planning & Zoning Board Code of Ordinances.

Councilmember Garcia moved to approve the waiver. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 3-3; Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition and Councilmember Herzberg was absent.

8. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Monthly Police Report (Ulloa)

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

B. Public Works Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)

Public Works Director, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the report via Zoom and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia stated he will not support putting any money into the canal embankment and requested an update from the Town Attorneys regarding taking legal action against the contractors for Phase 2 and Phase 3.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella provided feedback and stated that if the Town Council wishes to investigate, the Town Attorneys would take a look and see if there is any liability on the part of the contractor. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained that an inspection was done on Phase 1 and Town Manager Pidermann confirmed that an inspection was done internally on Phase 2 & 3, but not with professional engineering.

Public Works Director Santos clarified that Option 1 for the Canal Bank Phase I Repair Estimate would be a strategy to start and approach this as an invitation to bid, getting a contract similar to what we have on roadway, which would be canal maintenance and repair as needed; he explained that then we would have a multiyear contract with a fixed rate and as we fund it, we would issue work orders.

Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to move Option 1 to the Canal Bank Phase I Repair Estimate, to start repairing some of the damaged cells. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Town Council discussed the warranties that expired regarding Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Canal Bank Stabilization and the actions that could be taken now. After discussion, the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez moved to reopen the Order of Business. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mayor Dieguez moved to move up the Special Presentations, items 11A, 11B and 11c to take up immediately after this vote. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The New Order of Business is amended as stated.

C. Report on 77TH Court Exit Feature (Bajdaun)

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

Councilmember Fernandez moved to get the funding to be able to install the sign. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion.

After brief discussion, Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun stated he would come back to Town Council with what the cost would be to add a solar component to the exit feature.

Councilmember Garcia requested for staff to look into the color scheme that Mayor Dieguez was looking at, not only for this exit feature but the old one as well, so they match up or order it at the color that the Mayor Dieguez was talking about; different colors from the last report. He added staff came up with a report and asked if they can bring it back to Town Council, so they can look at it again and maybe we can do that to all the entry features.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Miami Lakes Optimist Park Enhancements (Bajdaun)

This item was combined with Item 13B and Item 16F, during the New Order of Business section of the agenda.

Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun presented the item and answered questions posed by Town Council. He stated this item comes from recent conversations with Council, as to how to address some of the immediate concerns at Miami Lakes Optimist Park and what is the plan that Town Staff has for the improvements that are needed for safety, for some of the maintenance and infrastructure that is degraded as well as ways to reduce the annual cost on some of the maintenance. Director Bajdaun referenced the Scope of Work in the memo included in the agenda and that goes over the immediate concerns listed below:

Scope of Work

1. Removal of the remaining wooden poles within the park on Field 1 and installation of new modern metal poles equipped with LED lighting fixtures.
2. Backstops, Dugouts & fencing improvements for Field 1
3. Backstops, Dugouts & fencing improvements for Field 2
4. Backstops, Dugouts & fencing improvements for Field 3
5. Backstops, Dugouts & fencing improvements for Field 4
6. Backstops, Dugouts & fencing improvements for Field 5
7. Installation of safety bollards at corner of 67th and Miami Lakeway North
8. Concrete pads and bleachers for fields 1-5
9. Installation of pathways throughout the park for ADA accessibility and connectivity
10. Purchase and installation of a prefabricated restroom building (with site utility connections).

Director Bajdaun also reported on the proposed estimated costs within current and anticipated funding and explained the amount of $1,916,710, which was included in his report, details of what is anticipated to have by the end of this fiscal year and is the total anticipated amount that we will have in the account. Director Bajdaun explained that there is an item on the Agenda, Item 13B (Budget Amendment), which is moving some of the impact fees that will get us to $1.625,884 million, with an anticipated $300,000 that is coming within this fiscal year for future impact fees.

Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the Town Staff proposal as presented and stated that he believes this is a fiscally responsible plan that does not involve new taxes and gets the park up to the proper posture, with a much lower price tag than the previous plan that came before the Town Council, and that this plan is what 60% of the residents were asking for a few years ago, when the ballot question failed. Mayor Dieguez stated that he agrees with the "pay as you go" plan, and he stated that this plan will target life safety issues in addition to other regulatory issues, such as ADA and adding a restroom. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Morera stated this is a critical investment and inquired about details regarding item #1 in the Scope of Work, the replacement of the wooden poles and stated that he is in full support about having corner safety bollards at the 67th Avenue and Miami Lakeway North.

Councilmember Garcia thanked Town Staff for the report and stated that this plan takes care of the park to at least a minimum standard. Councilmember Garcia explained that adding a bathroom at this juncture might create issues because it's creating a structure on a land that belongs to the School Board and he stated that it might slow down the project, and he recommended to forego the bathroom, until next year, to not add to the complexity.

Councilmember Garcia then moved to make a friendly amendment, to forgo the installation of the bathroom to next year for phase two and to complete the lighting, the fencing and the backstops with money that is already in Miami Lakes Optimist Park. In addition, he requested Town Council to co-sponsor his New Business Item, 16F. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion.

Councilmember Herzberg stated that before the bathroom being built, any improvement to drainage should be a primary concern and agreed that the bathroom might be better for phase two and we can look at some bigger improvements for the field, including long-term cost savings in prioritizing the lights.

After further discussion on the amendment, Vice Mayor Morera explained the need to have a restroom on a concrete foundation to be used by the children at the Optimist Park, instead of having these children use a portable potty. He stated that he thinks eventually, everything needs to get done. Councilmember Fernandez stated he wants to move forward with the funds that we have and would ask his colleagues to consider the rest of the improvements, over a three (3) year plan, for instance $500,000 each year from the general fund and start thinking about that because the remaining improvements need to be made. Councilmember Sanchez stated he is a big supporter of a phase approach and completing projects little by little; however, he sees the urgent need for the restroom and for the lights to be in the phased approach.

Councilmember Garcia then reiterated his request to bifurcate the bathroom from the lighting and push it to phase two. He emphasized that the lighting needs to be done right now, all together. He added that doing the bathroom now will complicate the issue and he does not want the School Board to slow the Town project. He emphasized that complexity is what has killed fixing the Optimist Park.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella provided feedback and answered questions regarding the legality of adding an actual bathroom structure to that area in Optimist Park as opposed to not adding a structure and just doing the basic maintenance proposed by Town Staff. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that whatever the Town decides to do or move forward with will have to be in coordination with Miami-Dade County Public Schools; if it is something they would find offensive with regards to the language in the JUA, we would know then and we would be able to not proceed or make a decision at that point of how we want to move forward.

Mayor Dieguez stated that he understood Councilmember Garcia's concerns, but he stated this proposal is substantially scaled down and this is something himself and the Town Manager have discussed already with the School Board Member. He added this is a plan residents will support and has been an issue in the front and center of the campaign; it is a phased in approach, it is fiscally responsible and not involving additional taxes, and it will fix the maintenance and repairs that have been deferred. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia shared his concern for the cost of the bathroom.

After further remarks, the Town Clerk called the roll on the amendment and clarified the amendment is to bifurcate the bathroom until next year for phase #2 and adding the lighting. The amendment failed 3-4; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Vice Mayor Morera then moved to take up Item 10A and Item 10B, -the two (2) committee reports- and once done with the Committee Reports, to return to Item 8D. There was no objection to hearing the Committee Reports out of order.

After Committee Reports, the Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion of Item 8D and the motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia voted in opposition.

The Town Council then discussed Item 13B and Item 16F.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella presented the report and explained that the Town Council had requested the legal team to formulate a report of the effects of Senate Bill 1134, which the bill was signed by Governor De Santis and became Florida Statute 16604971.

He explained that Senate Bill 1134 essentially criminalizes any activity within a municipality that is considered DEI. He explained that DEI can be defined as anything to influence the composition of an employee's promotion, preferential treatment, or special benefits based on certain characteristics such as their gender identity, sexual orientation etc. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained that the law is very broad, but it also creates numerous exceptions, such as holidays, activities and events sponsored by the Federal and State government. He explained that the Town's current activities do not violate the Florida Statute, and he explained that the Town Council should continue to be careful about the events and initiatives they support, to avoid unneeded liability. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Herzberg explained that it is important that Town Staff and Committee Members be made aware of the Florida Statue to avoid unneeded liability. Councilmember Herzberg explained that this could apply to proclamations that the Town gives out, that we must be very careful with everything the Town promotes, such as social media.

Councilmember Herzberg motioned for the Town Attorneys to present this law to committees to make sure they understand the restrictions as well. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that the legalese of the Florida Statute may inadvertently end up confusing the committee members. He suggested that the legal team, through Director De Cardenas' Office, review the committee events and if there is an event that raises a red flag, they can investigate it further. Councilmember Herzberg made an amendment to have the Town Committees discuss events and initiatives with Town Staff to make sure that they are following the Florida Statute.

After further discussion the motion, as re-stated, passed unanimously.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Economic Development Report

Chairperson Matthew Casamayor presented the report and went over the events and initiatives the committee has been working on. He explained that the committee has been planning their business bootcamp event which will take place at the end of the year, that the committee has been working with the local chamber and BNI's to host networking events and explained that the committee is sponsoring social networking once per quarter. He stated that the committee is working on promoting the Best of Miami Lakes initiative, which actively promotes voting and community participation to celebrate and elevate local businesses. Chair Casamayor stated that the committee is focused on growing the Mainstreet live events. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

B. Elderly Affairs Committee Report

Chairperson Rosario Navarro presented the report and went over the events and initiatives the committee has been working on. She stated that they have over 100 seniors attending the committee's bingo events and she stated that their upcoming events include a movie night, a field trip to see a play and the EAC's Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas events. Chair Navarro stated that the EAC will be bringing back their Senior Olympics event, and she answered questions posed by the Town Council.

11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Pinning Ceremony: Major Eddy Ulloa

Major Eddy Ulloa was pinned by his son Mr. Jullien Ulloa. The Town Council congratulated Major Ulloa on his promotion and honored his continued service and leadership with the Town of Miami Lakes.

B. Introduction: Lieutenant Jorge Casiano

Major Eddy Ulloa presented the New Lieutenant Jorge Casiano.

C. Introduction: Ms. Beatriz Alchalaby, Parks and Recreation Administrative Specialist

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun introduced the new Parks and Recreation Administrative Specialist, Ms. Beatriz Alchalaby.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

A. Approval of Minutes

- April 21, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
- April 30, 2026 Special Taxing District Budget Town Council Workshop

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

B. Parks Sponsorship Program (Herzberg)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING A PARKS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

C. Recording of Covenants (Dieguez)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A RECORDING OF DOCUMENTS POLICY; DIRECTING THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

A. Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessments Rates for Security Guards and Lake Maintenance Special Taxing Districts (Bajdaun/Hernandez)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING, ADOPTING, A NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS; APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RATES FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURITY GUARD AND MULTIPURPOSE MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun presented the item. He stated the item is a base budget request for the Special Taxing Districts to maintain their current level of service. He emphasized that the budget only includes existing services, and he stated that at the last Town Workshop, Town Staff put together additional service levels, included in Exhibit C, for the Town Council's consideration. Director Bajdaun explained that those items included in Exhibit C are not currently in the budget and any adjustments would require a recalculation for the administrative fees.

Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun and Chief Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez answered questions posed by Town Council.

After brief discussion, Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the ordinance in first reading. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Vice Mayor Morera then requested a moment of personal privilege and Mayor Dieguez granted him the moment for him to address a non-germane item concerning a resident who spoke during the public comments section of the agenda. Vice Mayor Morera inquired about the possibility of converting one additional tennis court at Miami Lakes Optimist Park into a pickleball court. Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun provided feedback on what the possibilities are and what options are available.

Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun explained that he can come back with a plan proposing a schedule, in which we can overlay, not redo the courts, but overlay with temporary lines and establish a schedule in which for instance, Tuesday or Thursdays, or Monday/Wednesdays after a certain time in the evening when it is predominantly pickleball players, two courts could perhaps be activated with temporary nets and have them dedicated just to pickleball, but still be able to remove it for the next morning's tennis players, weekend tennis players, and still give that use of the court for both pickleball courts and tennis courts. Vice Mayor Morera then moved to direct Town Staff to come back with said plan and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera then requested an update regarding the Miami Lakes sign that was donated by the Miami Realtors. Director Bajdaun explained the Town is currently working with Senator Maria Rodriguez, who has interjected on behalf of the Town, to obtain the proper set of plans and to submit to FDOT. He explained that Town Staff has requested some revisions to make sure that on the first FDOT review there are no concerns and it gets approved.

B. Budget Amendment (Pidermann, Hernandez)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE TOWN'S FISCAL YEAR 2025 -2026 BUDGET ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE 25-346; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was discussed concurrently with Item 8D and Item 16F.

Town Attorney Gastesi read the title of the Ordinance in first reading into the record.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the ordinance in first reading. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to make an amendment to transfer $80,000 dollars from the fund that we set up at the Budget Amendment for the Field Regrading in item 8D. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Town Manager Pidermann referred to the memo from Item 8D and clarified that it is moving $80,000 from the second section titled "Remaining Park Improvement Costs" to the initial section titled, "Proposed Estimated Costs within current and Anticipated Funding", which it is adding it to the $1,916,710. Mayor Dieguez clarified that Town Staff would need to receive budget authorization, not just the official transfer. Town Manager Pidermann further clarified that the item that is being discussed, which is Item 13B, is the Budget Amendment, and the money is currently in "Park Improvement Impact Fees" and that it needs to be moved to the project, to the capital account.

After the clarification provided, Mayor Dieguez moved to amend the previous vote on Item 8D, to permit the budget authorization necessary to expend those funds. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Town Clerk called the roll, and Item 13B, Ordinance in first reading, as amended, which includes moving the funds and approving the amendment in general, passed 7-0.

14. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING (PUBLIC HEARING)

A. First Amendment Activity in Parks (Bajdaun)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 18, PARKS AND RECREATION, Sec. 18-94. - PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION, GATHERINGS, PERFORMANCES, SPEECHES, OF THE TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SEC.18-94(c) "FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTED ACTIVITIES"; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE, PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Mayor Dieguez opened the Public Hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak in Council Chambers nor via zoom, the public hearing was closed.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and stated this came before the Town Council last month in first reading, regarding an extra paragraph in our code that deals with First Amendment protected activities in the parks.

Councilmember Herzberg moved to approve the ordinance in second reading. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

15. RESOLUTIONS:

A. COND2025-0218 Educational World Learning Center (Alonso)

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING -

Please be advised that the following items on the Board's agenda are quasi-judicial in nature. An opportunity for people 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.

HEARING NUMBER:	COND2025-0218
APPLICANT:	Educational World Learning Center
FOLIO:	32-2013-057-0010
PROJECT LOCATION:	16470 NW 59th Ave Miami Lakes, FL 33014
ZONING:	IU-C
FUTURE LAND USE:	Industrial and Office
FUTURE LAND USE:	Industrial Office

In accordance with Section 13-304(h) of the Town of Miami Lakes Land Development Code (LDC), Educational World Learning Center (the "Applicant") is requesting Conditional Use Approval to expand operations from a daycare to elementary school to include 19 elementary students.

During the Order of Business, the item was deferred by Mayor Dieguez, on behalf of the request of the Applicant, to the June 16th Regular Council Meeting. The motion to approve mas was made by Councilmember Garcia and seconded by Vice Mayor Morera, and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Authorization to Apply for the FDOT Public Transit Service Development Grant Program FY2028 (Shock)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND IMPLEMENT A FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE MIAMI LAKES ON-DEMAND PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 ($280,000.00) PER YEAR FOR FISCAL YEARS 2028, 2029, AND 2030, TOTALING EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 ($840,000.00); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT, ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS AND EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and stated this is an FDOT grant application, it is a 50/50 match, and it is for on-demand service for Freebee service. Town Manager Pidermann stated that the Town match is being paid for by Town's portion of PTP20. Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the item. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion for discussion.

During discussion, Grants and Governmental Affairs Manager, Ms. Olivia Shock answered questions posed by the Town Council. She stated we are estimating the increase in service for this grant to cost around $104,000 additionally annually per year, that would be the cost of an extra vehicle that would do the service to the tri-rail station as well as service in Town during the middle of the day when it is not doing the shuttle service. She explained the idea behind it was to provide an additional connection to regional transit services and additional hours of service as we have had such an expansion in growth. She added as far as exploring other vendors and options we are currently preparing to put out the RFP for the service, and that this grant is an estimate of our current costs; however, she explained that we will have to wait and see what the results of the RFP will be.

Principal Town Planner Alonso explained that part of the RFP is asking for an improved algorithm that allows a lot more sharing of rides within the town and going to the Tri-Rail so that there is better utilization of every ride.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia voted in opposition.

16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Annual Facility Permit (Sanchez)

**Councilmember Sanchez deferred this item from the Regular Council Meeting on April 21, 2026.*

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and explained that in the City of Miami, landlords, not tenants, can apply for a permanent permit that is good for 365 days (one encompassing permit), instead of having to apply for individuals permits every single time, which delays the process of doing improvements to their facilities.

Building Department Director, Mr. Daniel Angel, provided feedback regarding the annual facility permit, and stated that it provides an opportunity to provide facilities - like hospitals, universities- who have certified licensed facility individuals. He explained that this has been established since 2003. Director Angel explained that in Miami Lakes, we have very few facilities of this nature and he stated that this is strictly for facilities under the Florida Building Code.

Councilmember Sanchez then stated that if this were in place in the Town, he would like to kind of replicate and bring it to the forefront, as something that can be offered by the Town of Miami Lakes, the same way the City of Miami has done it. To this effect, Director Angel stated that it has been part of the Building Permit Fee Schedule since 2008 and it is something that the Building Department offers. Director Angel then stated that the Building Department would add language to the Town website, to provide more clarity.

No motions were made.

B. Revised Lien Reduction Ordinance (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and explained the genesis of his item. He stated that he was going to propose a lien reduction program but with a far more limited scope than what it was before.

Mayor Dieguez made a motion asking Town Staff to come back with an ordinance that reduces the window application from 6 months to 2 months and he directed the Town Attorneys to explore whether the types of violations can be differentiated for purposes of the lien reduction program (permit some to be reduced but not others), and to provide a reduced lien reduction amount; that is, instead of forgiving the offender all the way down to a day's fine plus cost, to have perhaps a number such as 25% of the fines still remain in place, something that actually involves enforcing our Code. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

After brief discussion, Town Manager Pidermann stated the lien reduction would have to be across the board, homestead and non-homestead properties. He explained this was a two-step process; one was whether to open the application window and the second would be whether to move forward with the foreclosure of the non-homestead properties and that the Town Council can discuss, once Town Staff brings back the modified ordinance.

Mayor Dieguez stated he would be open to having a sunshine meeting with Councilmember Garcia to discuss lien reductions and requested his assistant and the Deputy Town Clerk to coordinate said meeting.

After further remarks, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. TV Monitor for Council Chambers (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented his item and explained that to improve transparency and to provide comfort to residents and to individuals who provide Power Point presentations during the Regular Council meetings and events that take place at Council Chamber, he moved to direct staff to look at options to add a TV monitor or screen and projector in the space under the seal or on either side behind the Dais. As part of his motion, he stated that it will make it easier for presenters and residents to follow along with important town business. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez and Vice Mayor Morera shared they are in favor of the item with preference for the two tv monitors on either side of the seal.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that Town Staff will report back to Town Council with more detailed information, providing exact amounts, the actual equipment, the wiring, any other switches and that two (2) or three (3) different options, for Town Council to consider.

During discussion, Councilmember Garcia made a friendly amendment to incorporate Vice Mayor Morera's recommendation, which was for Town Staff to explore and report back to Town Council with the option of having a small monitor at the podium as well as small monitors at every station of the Dais. Vice Mayor Morera explained this would give the presenters, as well as the Town Council, the ability to see the Power Point presentations. The friendly amendment passed and all were in favor. Councilmember Garcia's main motion, as amended, passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Review of Transportation Surtax (PPT) Fund Alternatives and Future Transit Options (Herzberg)

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

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and stated that a significant amount of money comes to the Town from the PPT Fund, and he wants to evaluate all the options. Councilmember Herzberg made a motion directing Town Staff to evaluate and provide a comprehensive report regarding permissible uses and alternative program options for the Town's People's Transportation Plan transportation tax, which is the money that currently funds the Freebee program. Mayor Dieguez seconded the item

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

E. Mobile Constituent Services (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and explained that it has come to his attention that a committee has been uncooperative in scheduling constituent services. Mayor Dieguez stated that he would like to have it codified in the Committee Rules that they are required, when it comes to constituent services, to coordinate with those entities to make it happen. Mayor Dieguez emphasized that he does not want issues in getting these constituent services to the residents. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

F. MLOP Maintenance and Replacement of Backstops and Dugouts (Garcia, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Fernandez, Herzberg, Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez)

This item was discussed concurrently with Item 8D and 13B.

Councilmember Garcia moved those who approved of Item 8D, everyone except Councilmember Cuadra Garcia because he voted in opposition to Item 8D, would be a co-sponsor of the Item 16F. item. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

G. Charter Amendment - Early Voting Requirement (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order, and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and explained that the Town Council needs to ensure that when special elections or runoff elections take place, the Town Council must allocate time for early voting, with a minimum of two days of early voting. Mayor Dieguez explained that early voting should be provided to the residents in person. He opined that it should be included in the Town Charter and that the Charter Revision Commission has not addressed this yet.

Mayor Dieguez then made a motion to propose that a question be prepared, approving for a 2-day minimum early voting to be required for special elections and runoffs, contingent on whether the Charter Revision Commission takes it up first. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

H. Loch Isle Bollards Beautification (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez moved to waive 6.10 and 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order for this item. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mayor Dieguez moved to direct Town Staff to bring back beautification ideas for the corner of Loch Isle where Miami Lakeway North and Miami Lakes Drive meet, to better disguise the bollards placed there. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

I. Cuban Independence Day Resolution (Dieguez, co-sponsored by the Town Council)

**During the Order of Business, Mayor Dieguez moved to add a New Business Item, item 16I.*

Mayor Dieguez presented his item and stated this is relevant to the May 20th, Cuban Independence Day and he would like to pass a resolution that was disseminated by Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella during the Regular Council Meeting, and for the Town Clerk to disseminate to the various cities in the county and the county commission, so they can add their voices as well to what we would like to see done in the island 90 miles south of us. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and moved for the Town Council to co-sponsor the item. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia requested a moment of personal privilege and stated that the Miami Lakes Drive under the Palmetto Expressway is pitch black and requested for Town Manager Pidermann to put some pressure on the issue with the lights and to address that because we do not want to see the underpass pitch black.

Mayor Dieguez requested a moment of personal privilege and addressed the Town Council, by stating that he was disappointed with the behavior displayed at the meeting. He emphasized that proper decorum needs to be always displayed and that when someone has the floor, they need to respect that person's time, and that they need to let that person talk and finish. He emphasized that he does not like nor want people talking over each other and he stated that elected officials need to act with dignity and grace, as is expected of them and that they need to live up to that standard.

Mayor Dieguez also emphasized that every elected official needs to do their homework prior to the Regular Council Meetings and be prepared on items being presented and that they need to come prepared and know how they are going to vote prior to the meeting. Mayor Dieguez mentioned that the Regular Council Meeting agenda gets generated and published on Wednesday, prior to the Tuesday Regular Council Meeting, and that they all have Agenda Briefings in advance to the meeting, which allows them to prepare and do research in advance. He emphasized that he wants everyone to be prepared on how to vote and he stressed the importance of no one talking over each other, and that everyone needs to treat each other in a respectful manner.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 pm.

Approved this 16th of June 2026.

Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk