

MINUTES
Special Call Meeting on Town Committee Budgets
June 4, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Dieguez called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez. Councilmember JC Fernandez was absent.

The following members from Town Staff were present: Town Manager Edward Pidermann, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Attorney Raul Gastesi, Chief Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez, Deputy Town Clerk Alexis P. Martinez and Communications & Community Affair Director Clarisell De Cardenas.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Councilmember Garcia led the prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Colonel Bill Perez.

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

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

(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.

There being no one for public comments, public comments were closed.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION

a. Proposed Town Committee Budgets for FY2026-2027

Mayor Dieguez opened the meeting and stated that the Town Budget is operating with a preliminary tax role, with a preliminary estimate, which will later be finalized at the end of the month. Mayor Dieguez mentioned that recently, the state legislature went ahead and passed a constitutional amendment that would be voted on this November, that would have a substantial impact on the Town's Budget. He emphasized that the residents should be aware that the Town's estimates for property taxes in terms of the tax base show a 4% increase and that we are facing a substantial increase in the Police Budget. Mayor Dieguez stated that there will be plenty of time between now and September to finalize these budgets and that Town Staff and the Town Manager are looking for specific recommendations for the overall Town Budget.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to keep the Town Committee Budgets at the current level in this fiscal year, prior to the mid-year budget amendment and that this can be amended later. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Morera asked for clarification regarding the effect of Town Council's vote at this meeting. Mayor Dieguez explained this meeting is to give directions to Town Staff to build out the proposed Town Budget with these committee levels staying flat, not decreasing nor increasing their budgets.

After brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Elderly Affairs Committee:

Chair Rosario Navarro presented the committee budget request and answered questions posed by Town Council.

Chief Budget Officer Hernandez answered questions posed by Town Council.

After brief discussion, no motions were made.

Neighborhood Improvement Committee:

Neighborhood Improvement Committee submitted their committee budget request as part of the agenda. No committee members were in attendance to present the report; thus, no discussion was had.

Economic Development Committee:

Economic Development Committee submitted their committee budget request as part of the agenda. No committee members were in attendance to present the report; thus, no discussion was had.

Cultural Affairs Committee:

Vice Chair Elsa Reus came before the Town Council to present the committee budget request and answered questions posed by Town Council. She requested to have the line item under Concert on the Fairway to be renamed Town Concerts. Mayor Dieguez moved to rename that line item to Town Concerts. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

During discussion, Chair Reus stated this year the CAC did not have the Black History Month event, because it was conflicting with the time and the performer. She respectfully requested for that money to be used for the Hispanic Heritage line item, scheduled to take place in October. Mayor Dieguez stated that would be general fund transfer and clarified that within the budget for what the committee is proposing for next fiscal year, to move the money from the Black History Month line item to the Hispanic Heritage line item. Councilmember Herzberg moved to approve the CAC request and Councilmember Sanchez seconded the item. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. Councilmember Herzberg reiterated that the motion is to let the CAC use that money for the Hispanic Heritage Month, but he assumes the money would be spent before October. Mayor Dieguez and Chair Reus confirmed it would have to be spent before the end of the fiscal year.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that what will happen is that we are increasing the value of the October Hispanic Heritage line item. To this effect, Chief Budget Officer Hernandez explained that it would increase the value of what it originally has and essentially, the CAC is going to carry forward \$3,000 from the Black History Month line item from this current fiscal year into the next fiscal year; she explained that CAC is going to add additional funds to what is already budgeted to next year's Hispanic Heritage line item. She stated that if the CAC has a budget

of \$3,000 and you're carrying over an additional \$3,000, that line item will now have \$6,000. Chief Budget Officer Hernandez confirmed this would not keep the committee budget flat and in discussion with Town Council, she clarified that if the event is for October, whatever is accompanied with that event, will be allocated and expensed in that fiscal year.

Mayor Dieguez offered an interpretation of the vote and stated the CAC needs to pull money from the Black History Month line item from this fiscal year to prepay certain things for Hispanic Heritage event scheduled to take place next fiscal year and that the Town Council is ok with this. Councilmember Herzberg agreed to Mayor's interpretation.

Chair Reus concluded the CAC committee budget request and after closing remarks by Town Council, no further discussion was had.

Youth Activities Task Force:

Chair Hailie Prieto came before the Town Council to present the committee budget request and answered questions posed by Town Council. No further discussion was had.

Veterans Committee:

Chair William Perez came before the Town Council to present the committee budget request and answered questions posed by Town Council. He stated the Town Council needed to approve the \$16,950 that the VC made at the Reindeer Run for the Veterans Monument. Chief Budget Officer Hernandez stated that there is money in the Capital Fund that was moved over and she explained that it is specifically for the design of the Veterans Monument, and that once the design is completed, we can budget for the construction of the Veterans Monument. Town Manager Pidermann explained that it is an internal change within the Committee's budget, as opposed to the building of next year's budget. Chief Budget Officer Hernandez confirmed that VC has a monument line item in the Parks Capital Fund.

Chair Perez requested for the Veterans Committee to receive a copy of the VC Budget balance at every VC meeting. Town Manager Pidermann stated staff will make sure the committee liaison has a snapshot of what the Capital Account contains.

Chief Budget Officer Hernandez stated for the record that Resolution No. 25-2094, is the resolution that gives the authority to carry over sponsorship dollars.

No further discussion was had.

Special Needs Advisory Board:

Chair Vivian Levy came before the Town Council to present the committee budget request and answered questions posed by Town Council. She stated that at the last Special Needs Advisory Board meeting, a resident, Mr. Andrew Alejo, presented a proposal titled "Pickleball Clinic for Special Needs" and she informed the Town Council that the SNAB approved the item and allocated \$3,000 to come out of the Social & Recreation Programs. Chair Levy explained that it is not in the report because it occurred last night. Chair Levy requested to transfer \$3,000 from the Social & Recreation Programs line item to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the request and Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Mental Health Task Force:

Mental Health Task Force submitted their committee budget request committee budget request as part of the agenda. No committee members were in attendance to present the report; thus, no discussion was had.

Blasting Advisory Board:

Chair Miguel Martinez came before the Town Council to present the committee budget request. After brief remarks, no motions were made.

Education Advisory Board:

Chair Ana Soto notified the Town Council about her absence from the meeting due to a family emergency. On her behalf, she requested Committee Member Hailie Prieto to present the committee budget request.

Committee Member Prieto explained that the only new proposed event that the EAB is requesting as a new line item is Field Day, which would be held in the Roberto Alonso Community Center. Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the new event and for the EAB to be able to use the Roberto Alonso Community Center. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Councilmember Herzberg stated he does not know why the committee did not request anything for the AP Language Arts Program and STEM Elective Courses. Committee Member Hailie Prieto stated she would bring that up to Chair Ana Soto at the next meeting. After brief discussion, no further motions were made.

Public Safety Committee:

Chair Carlos Andres attended via Zoom and presented the committee budget request and answered questions posed by Town Council.

Chief Budget Officer Hernandez answered questions posed by Town Council. She explained to Councilmember Herzberg that based on Resolution No. 25-2094, sponsorship dollars will be utilized first before any general fund dollars, so after that, whatever is available in sponsorship dollars gets carried forward.

After further remarks, no motions were made.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

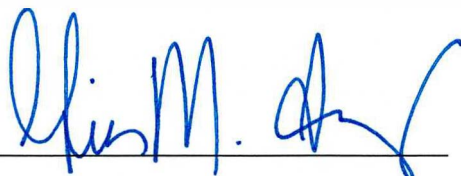
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Approved this 16th of June 2026.



Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inganzo, Town Clerk