

MINUTES
Special Call Meeting
On
Charter Revision Commission's Report
to
the Citizens of the Town of Miami Lakes
July 14, 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 Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez. Councilmember JC Fernandez joined the meeting at 6:38 pm and Councilmember Cuadra Garcia was absent.

The following members from Town staff were present: Town Manager Edward Pidermann, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo, Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella, Attorney Mirelis Castilla, with the Law Firm of Gastesi, Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Alexis P. Martinez.

The following Charter Revision Commission Members were in attendance: Chairman Ley-Soto, Vice Chairman Inguanzo, Commission Member Abad, Commission Member Bennett and Commission Member Matos.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Councilmember Alex Sanchez led the prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Steven Herzberg.

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

Mayor Dieguez stated that he wanted to add Item 7B, which would be an alternate mayoral appointment, a new ballot question, and to add Item 7C, which would be an alternate runoff schedule. Vice Mayor Morera moved the New Order of Business, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Cuadra Garcia were absent.

Mayor Dieguez recognized Vice Mayor Morera for a point of personal privilege and excused himself for not wearing a blazer to the Special Call Meeting. He stated that due to work constraints, he could not go home and pick up his blazer and that he was aware of the proper decorum rules regarding proper attire to be worn at said meetings.

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. Charter Revision Commission's Report to the Citizens of the Town of Miami Lakes

Mayor Dieguez introduced Chairman Javier Ley-Soto, who came to Council Chambers and presented the 14 ballot questions which were approved by the Miami Lakes Town Charter Revision Commission on June 2, 2026.

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella, asked for a moment of personal privilege and thanked Chairman Ley-Soto, the Town Charter Revision Commission, Attorney Mirelis Castilla, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo and Deputy Town Clerk Alexis Martinez, for their hard work and commitment.

Chairman Ley-Soto then approached the podium and addressed the Town Council and presented the final report of the 2026 Miami Lakes Charter Revision Commission, including the 14 ballot questions to be presented to the voters. Chairman Ley-Soto stated that every decision made at the Charter Revision

Commission meetings was a result of meticulous drafting, intense scrutiny and a shared commitment for the betterment of our community. He stated that they took great care in drafting the amendments and that the principle guiding their work was humility in their role, that the Charter Revision Commission strongly believes that although it was their job to evaluate and recommend, the ultimate authority rests with the electors of Miami Lakes and that the electors are the ones who have the last and final say on the future of our town.

Chairman Ley-Soto respectfully asked the Town Council to accept the 14 amendments and to forward them to the Office of the Supervisor of Elections of Miami -Dade County, so they can be placed before the voters on the November 3, 2026, election ballot.

Chairman Ley-Soto thanked the Town Council for entrusting the Charter Revision Commission Members with their vital endeavor, he specifically thanked Mayor Dieguez for appointing him to the Charter Revision Commission, he thanked his fellow commissioners for selecting him as chairman of the board, he thanked the Town Attorneys, the Town Clerk, the Town Manager and the Miami-Dade Sheriff's officers for their work and professionalism and most importantly, he thanked his wife Jennifer and both sons Javier Antonio and Julian Valentino, for their support, unwavering patience, love and understanding of his duty to serve this town.

Chairman Ley-Soto emphasized that by placing charter amendments before the voters, we honor an American tradition, "we are enduring that our local constitution continues to reflect the will of our residents, securing a resilient, well-governed Miami Lakes, for generations that follow".

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella answered questions posed by the Town Council. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the Town Council appointed members to the Town Charter Revision Commission, that they worked on the proposed amendments and then those proposed amendments are presented to the Town Council for them to be ratified and consequently, those amendments will be put forth before the voters.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella then explained that the June 23rd Special Call meeting was cancelled because some last-minute language and questions were challenged by the Supervisor of Elections of Miami-Dade, and he explained that the Town Attorneys had to engage in conversations with the attorneys from the Elections Department to provide them with further clarification. He then confirmed that the 14 proposed amendments are the product of the Charter Revision Commission, which have been reviewed, debated and finalized with the Office of the Supervisor of Elections from Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Dieguez supplemented Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella responses with a brief explanation and stated that the Town Council can only ratify what the

Charter Revision Commission's work and that the Town Council has some discretion as to the placement of the items on the ballot, with the timing of when they go on the ballot. Mayor Dieguez also explained that the Town Charter clearly provides the Town Council can also have alternate amendments and when there is a conflict between the amendments and the alternate amendments, the one receiving the greater number of votes will prevail.

Vice Mayor Morera asked the Deputy Town Attorney for clarification regarding the language of question number 6, reducing the number of councilmembers from 6 to 4 and that the question states that the way this will be accomplished is by electing the councilmember to Seat #5 in 2028 to a 2 year term, and that Seat #5 will be abolished in 2030, and then abolishing Seat #6 upon expiration of the current term in 2030. Vice Mayor Morera then clarified that the current term expires in 2026 and not in 2030. He then proposed the language to be changed to read "the term ending in 2030." Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella proposed the language to read: "upon the expiration of its term in 2030". Vice Mayor Morera agreed with the proposed language offered by Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella.

After some discussion, Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the proposed questions, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

Vice Mayor Morera thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their work and commitment. Councilmember Garcia spoke about the importance of the Voter Guide, to educate and explain the questions to our residents. Councilmember Herzberg thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their work and for listening to the concerns that he raised. Councilmember Sanchez thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work and for their dedication. Councilmember Fernandez thanked the Charter Revision Commission Members and stated that it was an honor to serve with them in the Commission. Mayor Dieguez concluded by thanking the Commission Members for their time and effort and he commended them for a job well done.

Mayor Dieguez then stated that he wanted to amend the order of some amendments and he explained that all amendments are important but some amendments are more urgent than others and that due to voter fatigue, he has identified questions 2,3,5,12,14 and 7 to be the first amendments in the ballot, followed by all the other amendments, in whatever order they land. Mayor Dieguez then stated that, if need be, the order of the questions could be revisited in the next regular council meeting, which is scheduled to take place on July 21st.

Mayor Dieguez then made an amendment to the main motion to move questions 2,3,5,12,14 and 7 towards the front of the pack, the other questions to continue from there and question 4 to be placed towards the bottom of the questions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

At this moment, Mayor Dieguez asked Chairman Ley-Soto to convene with the Charter Revision Commission Members for a few minutes and to discuss as residents, the renumbering of the questions. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the Charter Revision Commission Members could gather and speak as residents, but he emphasized that no formal vote could be taken.

During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg stated that in his opinion, question #8 regarding the appointment of the Town Clerk, is a major structural issue and he would like that question to be included in the front of the pack.

Chairman Ley-Soto reported that the order of the amendments was not specifically discussed by the Commission Members during the Charter Revision Commission Meetings, so he stated that they don't have an issue with the order of the ballot questions and that they defer to the Town Council's consideration, and that they as a Commission hope that all the questions are considered important by the voters. Also, he was asked to convey to the Town Council, to consider the possibility of requesting the Officer of the Supervisor of Elections of Miami-Dade County to have this as a Mail-in-Ballot option.

After further discussion, Mayor Dieguez made a motion to amend his prior amendment, for question #8 to be included in the top seven questions to be in the ballot; he stated for the following questions to be front of the pack: 2,3,5,12,14,7,8. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia and all were in favor.

During further discussion, Mayor Dieguez recommended everyone digest the current revised order of the questions and then make amendments for Tuesday, July 21st Regular Council Meeting. To this effect, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the Town Council can amend the order of the questions but not change the substance.

Councilmember Herzberg then requested Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella to bring this resolution back on Tuesday, July 21st at the Regular Council Meeting, to be discussed during the Attorney's Report, to see if the Town Council wants to make any additional changes. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella agreed but stated that the Town Council can give him instructions as to how they want the final version to look like and that he will bring it back to present to them on Tuesday. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained that a motion is needed for him to include a resolution, as amended, in his Attorney's Report.

To this effect, Mayor Dieguez said that the approval of this resolution must come back to the Town Council, in an actual report by the Town Attorney, and that the final order will come back to the Town Council at the Regular Council Meeting, after this item passes tonight. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez, and all were in favor.

The revised order of Item 7A, the main motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

b. Alternate Mayoral Appointment (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez read into the record the following statement: “With all due respect to the Charter Revision Commission, ballot question #4 is incomplete and therefore, will be improperly before the voters at great risk to the structure of our government. First, the text of the proposed amendment does not contain the language of the 45-day nomination period when the mayor may make a nomination for a vacancy on the Town Council. Second, the text of the amendment and the proposed question and ballot summary do not address when the Town Council must act on the mayor’s nomination creating an unacceptable risk of nonstop gridlock that would grind the people’s work to a halt as previously occurred in 2023/2024. Accordingly, I propose the following alternate amendment text and ballot summary to the voters”.

Mayor Dieguez then explained his proposed item, alternate question to ballot question #4, to be that the mayor would have 45 days to make a nomination, by day 60, the vote must be taken as to whether to accept it or not, if not accepted it goes to a runoff and if it does, they serve it out to the remainder and not further changes. Mayor Dieguez emphasized that he would like to keep the existing language so that if 6 months or more remain in the term, the mayor is permitted to make a nomination until the next regularly scheduled election. After providing his explanation, he made a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

After brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Early Voting in Person (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez explained that he had a very recent telephone conversation with the Supervisor of Elections of Miami-Dade County, Ms. Alina Garcia, and she told him that there would be no early voting in-person, in the event of having a December Run-off. Mayor Dieguez disclosed that the telephone conversation with Ms. Alina Garcia regarding no early voting in person for a December Run-off was held after the Charter Revision Commission Members had voted on the amendments. Mayor Dieguez further explained that he became aware that there would be no early voting in person, in his conversation with Ms. Alina Garcia, while discussing what the Elections Department Attorneys had viewed as deficiencies with the wording of the questions included in the initial report from the Charter Revision Commission.

Mayor Dieguez asked Chairman Ley-Soto to approach the podium and provide a quick rundown on how the discussion went regarding the August Primary,

November Run-off. Chairman Ley-Soto stated that the Charter Revision Commission Members were not aware of the comments from the Supervisor of Elections, thus, her comments were not part of the Commission's discussions. Chairman Ley-Soto provided a brief explanation on the Commission's proposals and debates on this topic.

Mayor Dieguez then stated that considering that conversation with the Supervisor of Elections, he would like to propose a simple August Primary, November Run-off alternate amendment. Mayor Dieguez made a motion to add an alternate proposal, and Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion for discussion.

During discussion, councilmembers provided their opinion and stated that putting up a primary in August makes it harder for candidates to run and makes it more costly. Mayor Dieguez stated that he is fine with having a potential run-off in December, but he wishes the Supervisor of Elections would give the us the option to also have in-person early voting for a run-off. Mayor Dieguez then made a motion to lay this on the table indefinitely and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. The motion passed unanimously.

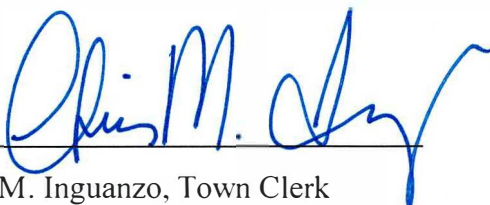
8. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Approved this 18th day of August 2026.


Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:


Gina M. Inganzo, Town Clerk