

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
August 18, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation to Deputy Carlos Ortiz for his 30 years of work in public service. Mayor Dieguez explained that Deputy Ortiz transferred to the Town of Miami Lakes in 2001 working in road patrol and has worked in both the Special Services Unit and the Neighborhood Resources Unit as a bicycle officer strengthening community partnerships and enhancing public safety through numerous Town sponsored events. Mayor Dieguez stated that Deputy Ortiz has received over 50 commendations for his professionalism, dedication and exemplary service and he proclaimed August 20th, 2026, as Deputy Carlos Ortiz Day in the Town of Miami Lakes. Deputy Ortiz thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation to Sergeant George Soto recognizing him for his work in public service for more than 30 years. He explained that Sergeant Soto transferred to the Town of Miami Lakes in 2001, working as a bicycle officer continuing his commitment to community-oriented policing. He stated that Sergeant Soto has received over 60 commendations recognizing his rapid response, dedication to duty, teamwork, astute powers of observation, enthusiasm and professionalism. Mayor Dieguez proclaimed August 21st, 2026, as Sergeant George Soto Day in the Town of Miami Lakes. Sergeant George Soto thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation honoring Mr. Mario Ruiz, former owner of the Miami Lakes Barbershop. He explained that in the 1960s, Mr. Ruiz opened his barbershop in the town, that he was an active parishioner of both Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church and that he left a lasting impact on his community, leaving a legacy of love, service and family. Mayor Dieguez declared August 2026 as Mario Ruiz Month in the Town of Miami Lakes. Mario Ruiz' family thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:30 pm. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Fernandez, 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 Fernandez.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Sanchez.

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

Mayor Dieguez moved for Item 10A to be heard before Public Comments. Councilmember Garcia moved for Item 16H and Item 16K to be combined and heard after Item 10A. Mayor Dieguez moved for Items 16A, 16B and 16I to be heard after Public Comments. Councilmember Garcia moved to approve the New Order of Business. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After discussion of Items 16H and 16K, Mayor Dieguez moved to reopen the Order of Business, the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera, and all were in favor. Mayor Dieguez moved for the Sports Hall of Fame Committee Report to be heard after Items 16H and 16K. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Youtube 49:00)

(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.

Mr. William Perez came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Lady's Almaguer came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Jose Soberon came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Kenneth Wilcox came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Patrice Morales came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Mary Lorenzo came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Joanne Ewart came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Maximo Alvarez came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Jim Hamilton came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Maggie Caceres came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Alex Ariano came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Ileana Colombo came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Sam Budlong came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Karina Nogueras came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Derek Cintron came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Aslam Khan came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments. He urged the Town Council to bring the Senior Programs back.

Mr. Sean Schwinghammer came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Lourdes Tella came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project. She urged the Town Council to bring the Senior Programs back.

Ms. Ezperanza Reynolds came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Maria Santelices came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Rick Gomez came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Alex Dehgani came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Michael Coote came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Constancia Laguna came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Amy Lipson Morales participated in Public Comments via Zoom and provided comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Frank Pellegrino participated in Public Comments via Zoom and provided comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Town Clerk Inguanzo acknowledged that written public comments were received and shared with the Town Council, via email, prior to the meeting. She answered questions posed by the Town Council and specifically stated that the Office of the Clerk received multiple written public comments in opposition of the GMX Gratigny Project except for Mr. Luis Martinez and Former Vice Mayor Jeffery Rodriguez, who are in support of the project.

Town Clerk Inguanzo also stated that she received a written public comment regarding the Police Budget from Mr. Albert Aguiar; and written public comments in support of the Jakey Duque Memorial Item, from Mr. Bryan Patchen, Ms. Eli Simon, former Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez and from the Duque Family. Mr. Abel Fernandez also sent a written public comment regarding the Police Budget, which was also shared with the Town Council prior to the meeting, but it was inadvertently not mentioned at the regular council meeting.

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

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Dieguez announced the following appointments:

Ms. Audrey Tomlinson to the Blasting Advisory Board by Councilmember Herzberg.

Mayor Dieguez stated that there were two resignations and one removal due to absences. He stated that the appointment of Mr. Eddie Mena to the Veterans Committee required a waiver and he motioned to approve the waiver. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. 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 and answered questions posed by Town Council.

Director Santos explained that the Miami Lakes Drive Traffic Operations and Feasibility Analysis has been completed and that the consultant will formally present the four options at the September Regular Council Meeting. Town Manager Pidermann explained that his intent is for the Town Council, the Miami-Dade County Public Works, state elected officials, in addition to FDOT and TPO, to get together and all go to Miami Lakes Drive, to get a better grasp and see what this project involves.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia requested for the Town Manager to look into the area where the Advanced Auto Parts is located within the Town because it is in bad conditions. and he also asked about the Canal Stabilization project. Director Santos stated that they are working on an ITB to get a contract for Repair and Maintenance. Councilmember Fernandez thanked the Public Works Department for the great job they provide the community.

During discussion regarding the light signaling on Miami Lakes Drive and NW 79th Ave, Councilmember Herzberg requested through the Town Manager to find out from the Miami-Dade County traffic engineer what the current signalization plan is. Vice Mayor Morera requested Town staff to ask the County to relinquish the tight grasp they have over the traffic signals and to perhaps allow the Town to have access to their system and to control the lights.

No motions were made.

C. Council Chamber Display Monitors and Dais A/V Enhancements (Garcia, Cure)

Chief Technology and Innovation Officer German Cure presented the item and answered questions posed by Town Council. He stated the report presents modern upgrade options and cost estimates received from vendors to improve visibility, presentation capabilities, and the overall meeting experience in the Council Chambers, Dais visibility and Podium Display Improvements in response to New Business Item 16C of the May Regular Meeting agenda.

During discussion Councilmember Garcia shared his concerns with the price quotes provided for each option and after brief remarks, Vice Mayor Morera moved Option 1 for Chamber Display, Option 1 for the Dais Visibility and Option 1 for Podium Display Improvements. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Summary: (A) - Chamber Display

A quick overview of all display approaches:

Option	Description	Details	Estimated Cost
Option 1	Two (2) TVs (wall mounted)	Screen size 100"	\$32,316
Option 2	Two (2) Projectors (ceiling)	Screen size (projected) ~ 200"	\$66,799
Option 3	Three (3) Projectors (2 front + 1 rear)	Screen size (projected) ~ 200"	\$80,787
Option 4	Two (2) TVs (rolling carts)	Screen size 100"	\$6,000

Summary: (B) - Dais visibility A/V improvements

Option	Description	Details	Estimated Cost
Option 1	Portable Monitor (8)+ micro PC (1)	Screen size 15"	\$5,000
Option 2	iPadAir-wifi only (8)+Tablet Mount (8)	Screen size 13"	\$6,000

Summary: (C) - Podium display improvements

Option	Description	Details	Estimated Cost
Option 1	Corner Mount+Arm+Monitor	Screen size 22"	\$1,000

During further discussion, Councilmember Herzberg amended the main motion, to go with Option 4 for the Chamber Display, no Dais Visibility and Option 1 for Podium Display. Councilmember Garcia seconded the amendment. After brief remarks, the Town Clerk called the roll on the amendment and the amendment failed 3-4. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez then made a strike-all amendment to just do Option 1 for the Podium Display Improvements. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the amendment. The Town Clerk called the roll on the strike-all amendment, and the motion passed 5-2. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Sanchez voted in opposition.

The main motion as amended passed 7-0.

D. Protecting the Town's Tree Canopies (Garcia, Bajdaun)

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

Staff proposes developing a coordinated **"Protect Our Canopy" educational initiative** that may include:

- A resident-friendly guide illustrating proper and improper tree pruning techniques, including examples of tree topping, excessive canopy reduction, improper cuts, and other practices that may constitute tree abuse.
- Guidance explaining the Town's applicable tree protection requirements and the potential responsibility of property owners when improper work is performed.
- A "Before You Hire a Tree Trimmer" checklist encouraging residents to ask contractors about training, experience, insurance, appropriate pruning standards, and professional credentials.
- Encouraging the use of tree-care professionals with recognized qualifications, such as International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists or companies working under the direction of qualified tree-care professionals.
- Educational information regarding accepted industry practices, including applicable ANSI A300 tree-care standards and current arboricultural best management practices.
- Periodic social media and e-blast campaigns, particularly before hurricane season and during periods when residential tree trimming typically increases.
- Distribution of educational materials through neighborhood associations, community meetings, Town events, Code Compliance contacts, and other resident-facing programs.
- Highlight the recently adopted Voluntary Tree Trimming Vendor Registry Program
- Highlight the recently adopted Resi- Pay Tree Trimming Program

During discussion, Councilmember Garcia moved to accept Town staff recommendations and develop the "Protect Our Canopy" educational initiative including all the bullet points included above. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Education Advisory Board

Chairperson Ana Soto presented the report and explained the initiatives and events the committee has been working on. She stated that the EAB's approved budget is \$1,000 which covers the Spelling Bee event and the Awards of Excellence. She explained that the committee has two proposed initiatives; a Field Day event and the Good News Book Fair.

Vice Mayor Morera motioned to approve both proposed events. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Herzberg and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

B. Sports Hall of Fame

Chairperson Roman Garcia presented the report and went over the initiatives and events the committee has been working on. He explained that over the past couple of months, the committee has put together their 9th class for the Sports Hall of Fame Induction

Ceremony. He then presented the four recommended inductees to the Town Council. He stated that the induction ceremony will take place on December 12th, 2026, at Optimist Park.

Mayor Dieguez motioned to approve the nominations. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. The motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

A. Approval of Minutes

- July 9, 2026 Sunshine Meeting on Updates from Town Staff
- July 9, 2026 Sunshine Meeting on Town Manager's Contract
- July 14, 2026 Special Call Meeting to Discuss Town Charter Amendments
- July 16, 2026 Quarterly STD Town Council Workshop
- July 21, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
- July 22, 2026 Town Council Budget Workshop on General Fund
- July 28, 2026 Sunshine Meeting to Discuss the Removal of Brazilian Pepper
- July 28, 2026 Special Call Meeting on Setting the Proposed Millage Rate & Budget Hearings

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

B. Recommendation to Negotiate and Award a Contract for ITN2026-11 Tennis / Pickleball Program Services (Marrero)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE (ITN) NO. 2026-11 FOR TENNIS/PICKLEBALL (YOUTH & ADULT) PROGRAM SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND, UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT, AWARD A CONTRACT TO GUERRERO TENNIS, LLC, THE SOLE RESPONSIVE AND FIRST-RANKED PROPOSER, FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS WITH TWO (2) ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO RENEW; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

C. Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB2026-10 Tree Inventory Services (Marrero)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO INVITATION TO BID (ITB) NO. 2026-10 FOR TREE INVENTORY SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD A CONTRACT TO ARBORPRO, INC., THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS, FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS WITH TWO (2) ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO RENEW; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

D. Notice of Intent to Withdraw Membership from Public Risk Management Property and Casualty Pool (Grant)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING, RATIFYING, AND CONFIRMING THE TOWN'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW ITS MEMBERSHIP FROM THE PUBLIC RISK MANAGEMENT OF FLORIDA PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE POOL, EFFECTIVE UPON THE EXPIRATION OF CONTRACT NO. 2021-20 ON OCTOBER 1, 2026; AUTHORIZING TRANSMITTAL OF THIS RESOLUTION TO PUBLIC RISK MANAGEMENT OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

E. Survey of the Par 3 Golf Course and Surrounding Area (Bajdaun, Santos)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO INITIATE STEPS TO ASSESS THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PAR 3 SITE AS A POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR THE TOWN'S SENIOR CENTER; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO AWARD A WORK ORDER TO MARLIN ENGINEERING, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SERVICES FOR THE PAR 3 BOUNDARY SURVEY AND UTILITY COORDINATION PROJECT; APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS NOT TO EXCEED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED SIXTY

DOLLARS and 92/100 (\$79,660.92) FROM GENERAL LEDGER ACCOUNT 3017287-563540; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

A. Employee Performance Review Policy (Herzberg)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE OF ORDINANCES; CREATING SECTION 2-57, TITLED "EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEWS"; PROVIDING FOR A BASELINE PERFORMANCE REVIEW REQUIREMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN ONGOING REVIEW SCHEDULE; PROVIDING FOR TOWN MANAGER DISCRETION AND DELEGATION; PROVIDING FOR OUTCOMES OF REVIEW TO REMAIN WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella read the title of the ordinance in first reading.

Councilmember Herzberg presented the item and stated the concept has already been approved; it is just the minimum standard for employee annual reviews. He stated that the Town Manager is already implementing his own standard which meets this ordinance. Councilmember Herzberg moved to approve the ordinance in first reading. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

14. ORDINANCE -SECOND READING (PUBLIC HEARING)

A. Modification of Chapter 35, Article II, Utility Facilities in Public Rights-of-Way"

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 35, "UTILITIES," ARTICLE II, "UTILITY FACILITIES IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY," OF THE TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ALIGN THE TOWN'S REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL OF UTILITY FACILITIES WITHIN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY WITH CURRENT FLORIDA STATUTES;

PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS, REGISTRATION, INSURANCE, INDEMNIFICATION, TERMINATION, PERMITTING, AND RELATED PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella read the title of the ordinance in second reading.

Mayor Dieguez opened the public hearing for public comments. There being no one wishing to speak in Council Chambers nor on-line, the public hearing was closed.

Public Works Director Santos presented the item.

Councilmember Garcia moved to adopt the ordinance in second reading. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

B. Amending Chapter 38 of the Town Code, “Special Taxing Districts”

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 38, “SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS,” OF THE TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING SECTION 38-2 TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION OF “CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT” AND TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM PROCESS FOR THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WITHIN THE TOWN’S SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella read the title of the ordinance in second reading.

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

Mayor Dieguez opened the public hearing for public comments. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Dieguez moved to adopt the ordinance in second reading. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

C. Budget Amendment for Contribution of 1.56 million for Senior Center Project

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2025-346, APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ANNUAL

OPERATING BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE AND APPROPRIATE A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GRAHAM COMPANIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,560,000.00 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SENIOR CENTER PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR THE INCREASE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND – PARKS IMPROVEMENTS REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,560,000.00 AS SET FORTH IN EXHIBIT “A”; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella read the title of the ordinance in second reading.

Mayor Dieguez opened the public hearing for public comments. There being no participants wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Dieguez moved to adopt the ordinance in second reading seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. There being no discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0. Vice Mayor Morera was absent.

15. RESOLUTIONS

A. Authorization to Apply to the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grant Program

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE FY 2026-2027 FLORIDA RECREATION DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00), CONSISTING OF FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) FOR EACH OF TWO (2) POCKET PARKS, FOR THE MIAMI LAKES POCKET PARKS PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARDS AND EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENTS AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS, IF AWARDED; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Grants and Government Affairs Manager, Ms. Olivia Shock, presented the item.

Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion passed 7-0

B. Authorization to Apply to the Resilient Florida Implementation Grant Program- Lake Glen Ellen Phase I

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE FY 2026-2027 RESILIENT FLORIDA IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$819,000.00), FOR THE LAKE GLEN ELLEN DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT PHASE I; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS, IF AWARDED; PROVIDING FOR A LOCAL MATCH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$819,000.00) FROM THE STORMWATER FUND; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Grants and Government Affairs Manager, Ms. Olivia Shock, presented the item. Mayor Dieguez moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

C. Authorization to Apply to the Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant- Florinda Estates

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE FY 2026-2027 WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY DOLLARS (\$1,436,920.00), FOR THE FLORINDA ESTATES DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS, IF AWARDED; PROVIDING FOR A LOCAL MATCH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY DOLLARS (\$359,230.00) FROM THE STORMWATER FUND; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Grants and Government Affairs Manager Ms. Shock presented the item.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

D. Authorization to Apply to the Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant- Royal Gardens Estates

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION UNDER THE FY 2026-2027 WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FOUR DOLLARS (\$1,285,504), FOR THE ROYAL GARDENS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE GRANT AWARD AND EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS, IF AWARDED; PROVIDING FOR A LOCAL MATCH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$321,376.00) FROM THE STORMWATER FUND; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Grants and Government Affairs Manager Ms. Shock presented the item.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the resolution and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

E. Authorization to Apply to the Florida Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DIGITAL SERVICE UNDER THE FY 2026-2027 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR SOFTWARE, SERVICES, AND SOLUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE MIAMI LAKES CYBERSECURITY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE AWARD AND EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS, IF AWARDED; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Grants and Government Affairs Manager Ms. Shock presented the item.

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the resolution and Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Gratigny Parkway Ramps at NW 67th Avenue (Dieguez)

This item was discussed concurrently with item 16B.

Town Clerk Inguanzo stated that many emails were received by her office, that she sent them to the Town Council, and she started to read the names and subject matter of the emails into the record, as is customarily done. Town Clerk Inguanzo read a handful of names into the record, but was asked to stop reading them, because many of the written public comments had been acknowledged already during the Public Comments section of the agenda. Town Clerk Inguanzo answered questions and she stated that most of the emails received were in opposition to the Gratigny project and she read the into the record the names of the two emails received in support of the Gratigny project and/or of Item 16A.

In efforts to save time but still be transparent and provide full disclosure, Town Clerk Inguanzo stated that she would include all the emails that were received by her office in the August 18th RCM minutes. Councilmember Herzberg agreed with this idea and confirmed that the Town Clerk had indeed sent the Town Council all the emails that her office received and that he had only seen two emails in support of the Gratigny project and /or Item 16A.

Mayor Dieguez introduced his item and stated that he is a lifelong Miami Laker, that his family, including himself are residents of the Miami Lakes, and that his office is also in Miami Lakes. He emphasized that he loves this community, that he loves the small town feel that he grew up with and that he would never do something that would take that away. Mayor Dieguez also explained that in the state of Florida, regarding the recent developments that are going up, there is a trend to benefit developers, unfortunately, and he stated that the most recent law is Live Local. He explained that the gist of that law is to allow developers, if they meet the criteria, to bypass local government boards, such as the Town Council, and bypass public approval, to develop projects -not low income- and he emphasized that many of The Graham properties qualify for that standard. He stated that they are preempting us from being able to control local development.

Mayor Dieguez stated that in his opinion, the numbers provided by GMX are way off because they account for conditions today and do not consider the population growth; he explained that projects such as the Courtyard Apartments and Executive Apartments could be redeveloped with an increase in units. Mayor Dieguez asked everyone to think about potential redevelopments and emphasized that we need to address traffic and that it would be irresponsible not to consider this potential option. He then mentioned that

he was going to make a motion incorporating Councilmember Sanchez' item, regarding the removal of Ramp B.

Mayor Dieguez made a motion and gave direction to the Town Manager, to go ahead and request for GMX to redo the traffic study, but without Ramp B, and to incorporate all the residents' concerns that the Town Council has heard throughout the public hearing process in all of their public charettes and to come back with their recommendations, as to whether they would move forward without Ramp B or not, and to show us strong numbers. Mayor Dieguez also added that he wants more information on what the construction impact would be on Soberon's home if this is to move forward. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Sanchez stated that his item, 16B, eliminates completely the off-ramp of the proposed interchange project and explained that by asking GMX to eliminate the off-ramp, provides Miami Lakes a buffer of three or four months while GMX does their research to come back to the Town Council and it also provides more time for them to do their due diligence. Councilmember Sanchez explained that he seconded Mayor Dieguez 'current motion, which was his original motion, to be able to look at the numbers to be provided by GMX, once they come back with the removal of the off-ramp. He mentioned that he lives on the east side of town, and he emphasized that he wants what is best for all the residents of Miami Lakes and that he wants things to be done in a safe and proper way and beneficial for all encompassing.

Councilmember Garcia stated that he is against the on-ramps and against the off-ramps. He stated that he does not like the proposed area to put in the ramps, because 57th Avenue entrance to the Gratigny is located less than 1 mile away. He also mentioned that noise mitigation is not guaranteed and that it will destroy the oldest neighborhood and oldest shopping center in town. During his deliberation, he stated that he wanted to make a motion to put a resolution in place against the proposed entrances and against the proposed exists.

Councilmember Herzberg stated that he does not like the current GMX proposed project because it lacks numbers and that project does not provide mitigation and does not solve the real problems and that he is 100% against the off-ramp; he stated that he would vote no on the current project. Councilmember Herzberg explained that traffic is regional and that Miami Lakes has very limited tools as a town with a low tax rate to fix traffic. He added that if there is an opportunity to mitigate traffic, the Town Council should take it very seriously. However, Councilmember Herzberg explained that if Mayor Dieguez' motion is for GMX to come back to the Town Council with more data, with real numbers and with a no off-ramp project, he would be in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia stated that he listens to what the people want and that something needs to be figured out and that it is a no for him.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that he lives on the east side of town and is directly affected by this and emphasized that this decision is not about increasing the size of Miami

Lakes; he emphasized that this decision is about addressing the way in which our town addresses the fact that we have already grown as a town. He stated that in the next 15 years, population will increase, many areas could be redeveloped and unfortunately, he emphasized that state legislature has handcuffed local governments' ability to protect the town. Vice Mayor Morera stated that he is opened to listening to the residents, that he is against the off-ramp Ramp B and that he is ok with Mayor Dieguez' motion.

Mr. Ed Godfrey Lamke, from GMX, came to Council Chambers and answered questions posed by the Town Council and he addressed many of the concerns brought up by residents.

After further deliberations, Councilmember Garcia made a motion not to approve an entrance nor an exit ramp at this time. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

The Town Clerk called the roll and Mayor Dieguez' motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

B. Off-ramp for NW 67th Avenue at SR 928 (Sanchez)

This item was discussed concurrently with item 16A.

C. Commercial Waste Franchise Fee (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and stated his position is to implement the commercial waste franchise fee if amendment three passes because we are going to have a budget deficit. Councilmember Herzberg moved to direct Staff to proceed with drafting the ordinance and come back to Town Council at the next Regular Council Meeting for first reading. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg clarified that the motion was for Town staff to come back with an ordinance regardless of, if amendment three passes. Deputy Town Attorney stated the Town already has an ordinance on the books, so it would be just to kind of tweak it and bring it back to Town Council.

Town Manager Pidermann recommended implementing this item; he explained that Town staff can get a track record to be able to know what the revenues are and put the tax percentage at 20%.

After further remarks, the motion passed 6-1. Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

D. Preventing Illegal Use of Vehicles on Our Roads (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented his item and moved to coordinate with the Miami-Dade County Sheriff's Office, the Town Council, and Miami-Dade County League of

Cities and to put together a task force and see what can be done to not only strengthen the choices that our police officers have but to also give them more tools, to give law enforcement the maximum amount of leeway to do what they have to do; he added to work with Tallahassee to strengthen these laws regarding children riding these illegal vehicles or riding vehicles illegally and to hold parents accountable. He also mentioned that they should also get fined and that the vehicle should be confiscated and that money should be used for police enforcement, an education program should be established to identify the number of riders and have police try to stop them. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Sanchez stated he sees this as more fitting with the scope and mission statement of the Public Safety Committee and recommended feeding this through the committee and developing it through methodology. Councilmember Garcia agreed that this item is part of the committee's scope and that it should be a part of this. After brief remarks, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

E. Request for Improved Street Lighting at Jacaranda Ln and Miami Lakeway South Intersection (Cuadra Garcia)

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order, it was seconded by Councilmember Garcia and all were in favor.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia presented his item and moved to request funding to get better lighting around Miami Lakeway South and Jacaranda Ln. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Morera made a friendly amendment to the motion, to have Town staff analyze and check out the intersection mentioned by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, to see if there are existing lights that may be potentially be out and need repair or replacement, if not, what the cost would be to get power to that area and what exactly would be needed to properly illuminate that intersection and potentially present it to Town Council in time for the budget season. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the amendment. The friendly amendment passed 7-0.

After brief discussion, Town Manager Pidermann affirmed that Town staff will do an assessment of the lighting in that corner and then come back with a recommendation. There being no further discussion, the main motion as amended passed 7-0.

F. License Plate Reader Cameras: Inquiry, Staff Response, and Proposed Resolution (Morera)

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia, and all were in favor.

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and stated this item is basically a constitutional protection scheme based on the flock style cameras throughout the county and the

privacy concerns that arise with their proliferation. Vice Mayor Morera shared his concern with the license plate readers and what is being done with the information that is being collected from these cameras; he explained he wants to make sure future Town Council's cannot create flock style cameras, and he emphasized that is why is he presented a resolution attached to his New Business Item. Vice Mayor Morera moved the adoption of the resolution attached and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg requested to see this item come back as an ordinance. Vice Mayor affirmed he is ok with that request and Town Manager Pidermann stated this item will come back as an ordinance at the next Regular Council Meeting. There being no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

G. Gary Cardenas VC (Sanchez)

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia, and all were in favor.

Councilmember Sanchez presented the item; he stated due to personal family health related issues. Mr. Gary Cardenas missed several meetings with the Veterans Committee which caused his removal from the committee. Councilmember Sanchez explained that since then, his family situation has improved quite well, and Councilmember Sanchez moved to recommend that Mr. Gary Cardenas comes back to the committee with a waiver of Section 11(h) of the Committee Rules. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

H. Replacement of the Jakey Duque Memorial Statue (Morera, co-sponsored by the entire Town Council)

This item was combined and discussed concurrently with item 16K.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order seconded by Councilmember Sanchez and it passed 5-0; Councilmember Herzberg and Councilmember Fernandez were absent.

Vice Mayor Morera presented the item and requested to open the floor to the Duque Family who provided a statement. Mayor Dieguez stated the Town looks forward to when the statue gets reinstalled with the appropriate security measures to go ahead and have a nice community event with the Duque Family and coordinate that as soon as possible. Mrs. Duque stated she did talk to Lotsy Dotsy from Joe DiMaggio, and she is on board for the re-unveiling of the statue.

After providing an update that the Jakey Duque statue was found, Vice Mayor Morera moved to direct the Town Manager to explore all options including potentially any repairs or changes that are needed to be done to the statue, including modifications to

be made to accommodate extra security measures at the Jakey Duque Park and for these options to be brought back to the Town Council at the September Regular Council meeting. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Garcia asked Town Council to cosponsor the item and requested to strengthen the base of the statue so that it will not happen again, address issues with the fencing at the park and take this opportunity to make sure the park is at the standards the Duque family and the Town of Miami Lakes deserve. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

I. Speed Mitigation (Sanchez)

Councilmember Sanchez moved to waive section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order seconded by Vice Mayor Morera and the motion passed 7-0.

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item and moved to direct the Public Works Department to coordinate with Miami-Dade County to evaluate and implement appropriate traffic calming measures including, but not limited to, speed humps, roundabouts, or other engineered solutions in the affected corridors, in order to proactively mitigate anticipated increases in traffic volume and vehicle speed resulting from the possible GMX interchange project. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

During discussion Vice Mayor Morera requested that while the Town Manager does research on this topic, for Staff to include more than just speed bumps, to potentially include adding three or four way stops where applicable, as well as maybe small roundabouts where the right-of-way is large enough for it and chicanes which naturally reduces the speed of traffic. Town Manager Pidermann clarified that some of these areas have already been assessed for speed humps but when Town staff went to get concurrence from residents, they said no; Town Manager Pidermann explained at some point when Town staff reports back, Town Council has to consider whether they want to put the speed humps in, whether the residents say yes or no.

Councilmember Fernandez recommended adding “no left turn” sign installation off Lake Patricia to the detour people from using those cut-through streets to be able to move further north and south on NW 67th Ave.

After brief discussion, the motion passed 5-0. Councilmember Herzberg and Councilmember Fernandez were absent

J. Veterans Memorial at Veterans (Morera, co-sponsored by the entire Town Council)

Vice Mayor Morera moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order, the motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and moved to amend the Town's State Legislative Priorities to include an appropriations request of \$250,000 for the design and construction of a Veterans Memorial at Veterans Park, to adopt the accompanying resolution memorializing that amendment, and to direct the Town Manager and the Town's state lobbying team to advance this request with our Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the Florida Legislature ahead of the 2027 Legislative Session. Councilmember Sanchez seconded the motion. Mayor Dieguez requested the entire Town Council to co-sponsor this item. There being no further discussion the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera asked for a Motion to Extend the regular council meeting to 11:10 pm and Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

K. Strengthen Security at Jakey Duque Park (Garcia)

This item was combined and discussed concurrently with item 16H.

17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Standards of Conduct and Competence (Dieguez)

Mayor Dieguez presented his report and stated that there is an expectation that Town Council lives up to, that there is an expectation that the Town Council needs to comport themselves in a certain way and that they also need to be prepared at meetings. He addressed Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and stated he was very disappointed to read the cease-and-desist letter received by the owners of Vista Memorial Gardens; he explained when they wear the Town shirt, they are representing the Town. Mayor Dieguez stated that their conduct needs to reflect that they respect the responsibilities that properly reside with the Code Department and if a Councilmember has a concern about something going on, they need to communicate that through the Town Manager. Mayor Dieguez added Councilmember Cuadra Garcia's actions could result in legal jeopardy for the Town.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella affirmed that the attorney Mr. Robert Yaffe from Vista Memorial Gardens has indicated that he is not taking any further action. Mayor Dieguez stated he does not want to see that happen again.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia stated he does not have a vendetta with Vista Memorial Gardens; he explained Vista Memorial Gardens has numerous violations and letters of complaints; he added he went to Vista Memorial Gardens wearing his Councilmember shirt, but he never went to tell them what to do, that he went there representing himself. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia explained that he has family members at Vista Memorial Gardens and detailed an incident that happened to his brother in relation with Vista Memorial Gardens about 14 years ago.

Vice Mayor Morera stated he does believe Councilmember Cuadra Garcia had a vendetta against Vista Memorial Gardens because of the story about his brother; he stated that what he read from the cease-and-desist letter indicated that Councilmember Cuadra Garcia absolutely was trying to use his position as a member of this this Town Council to effectuate some behavior or action from Vista Memorial Gardens. Vice Mayor Morera further stated Vista Memorial Gardens is a landowner and is entitled to its fourth amendment rights protection under the United States Constitution. He stated that the Town Council does not support Councilmember Cuadra Garcia's actions. Vice Mayor Morera reminded Councilmember Cuadra Garcia to be cognizant of the Sunshine Law rules and to do our best so that we can serve our residents within the rules established by the state.

Councilmember Sanchez stated we must set aside the professional from the personal, and that the Town Council is in a position of public trust. During discussion, Mayor Dieguez moved to extend the meeting to 11:30 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. The motion to extend the meeting passed unanimously.

Councilmember Sanchez further stated that the Town Council is not law enforcement, and that the Town Council is not Code Enforcement; that the Town Council sets guidelines for those entities to do their duties, but that the Town Council does not carry out those duties. Councilmember Sanchez explained that as a safeguard to protect the Town from potential litigation, he made a motion to censure this type of conduct and Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Morera stated the censure motion has to specifically mention the member of the Town Council that is being censured. Councilmember Sanchez reiterated his motion to censure specifically Councilmember Cuadra Garcia.

Councilmember Garcia stated it seems Councilmember Cuadra Garcia is a disgruntled customer and had some issues with Vista Memorial Gardens and he crossed the line. Councilmember Garcia shared his opposition to the motion to censure and suggested Councilmember Cuadra Garcia redo some of the ethics training and reach out to the Town Attorney in the future, if he is unsure about something. Councilmember Garcia added he will vote no for the motion to censure if Councilmember Cuadra Garcia admits he took it too far and will do everything he can as an elected official not to do it again.

Councilmember Herzberg stated his position on the censure is torn because he does believe Councilmember Cuadra Garcia realizes he took it too far.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained the act of censuring is basically a discipline among the Town Council and you are disciplining the person and the action they took; he added it has to be discussed and it is a policy issue that has to be decided among Town Council because the Town Council does discipline themselves. He stated that the Town Charter does provide for that and Town Council creates their own rules. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella further explained the action itself is not something Town

Council sanctioned and the action is letting attorney Mr. Robert Yaffe and Vista Memorial Gardens know that the action of this Town Council was not to allow that to have happened.

Councilmember Herzberg stated his position would then be to approve the motion to censure because he wants to be clear of the high standard we expect of Town Council; he then asked Councilmember Cuadra Garcia to schedule more sunshine meetings in the future to discuss the things he wants to discuss and get his ideas out there, get them voted on and be more proactive. Councilmember Garcia told Councilmember Cuadra Garcia not to do these acts again, and to ask questions. After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion to censure Councilmember Cuadra Garcia passed 5-2. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

B. Negotiations with Town Manager on Contract Renewal (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg gave his report and stated he wants to have a Town Manager contract presented to Town Council for approval in September; he explained he wants to set a sunshine meeting in early September and that the Town Manager will not attend the meeting so Town Council can have a very good and fluid discussion.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 pm.

Approved this 15th of September 2026.


Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:


Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk