MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
September 15, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Mayor Dieguez presented a proclamation in honor of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. He explained that cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among US children between infancy and 15 years of age. He stated that each year approximately 15,000 children are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. He stated that Miami Lakes recognizes the devastating impact that this disease has on members of the community. Mayor Dieguez proclaimed September 2026 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in the Town of Miami Lakes.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:30 pm. Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez were present. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia joined the meeting at 6:40 pm

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The moment of silence was led by Councilmember Fernandez.

Mayor Dieguez called for an additional moment of silence in honor of longtime Miami Laker Ms. Rosa Nell Hammer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Dieguez.

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

Councilmember Garcia moved to have Items 11A, 11B and 11C, be heard after Public Comments and he pulled Item 12B from Consent Calendar. Councilmember Herzberg

moved to have Item 16E heard after Item 8A and he pulled Item 12E from Consent Calendar.

The Town Clerk stated on behalf of Councilmember Cuadra Garcia who was absent during the start of this discussion, that he wanted to withdraw his Item 16B until further notice and to move Item 15B to be discussed right after Public Comments. Councilmember Garcia sponsored the change requested by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia. Mayor Dieguez affirmed the request to hear Item 15B after Public Comments.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the New Order of Business seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. 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.

Mr. Sean Schwinghammer 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.

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

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Gisela Soberon 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. Esperanza Reynolds 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. Joanne Ewart 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.

Mr. Kevin Bryan 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.

Mr. John Haskins came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Former Mayor Michael Pizzi came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Ms. Sandra Garcia came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Juan Pena came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Alex Dehghani 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. Bryan came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in support of item 11C, regarding the 154th traffic feasibility study.

Ms. Carolina Cuba came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in support of item 15C, regarding the reestablishment of the Youth Advisory Board.

Ms. Isara Valdes came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in support of item 15C, regarding the re-establishment of the Youth Advisory Board.

Mr. Homero Cruz came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project.

Mr. Bryan Marrero Capote came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments regarding providing resources to students struggling in foundational mathematics courses.

Ms. Mariana Bedoya participated in Public Comments via Zoom in support of item 15C, regarding the reestablishment of the Youth Advisory Board.

Mr. Mauricio Perez participated in Public Comments via Zoom. He stated that the school board should look into ways implementing AI into the school curriculum.

Mr. Adrian Gonzalez participated in Public Comments via Zoom the benefits of well-funded music programs

Town Clerk Inguanzo acknowledged that 3 written public comments were received and shared with the Town Council, via email, prior to the meeting. The 3 written public comments were from Mr. Abel Fernandez, Esperanza Hope Reynolds, Concerned and Homeowners & Residents from Crooked Palm.

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

Councilmember Garcia asked for a moment of parliamentary inquiry and Mayor Dieguez recognized him. Councilmember Garcia then stated that he wanted to make a motion directing the Town Manager to stop pursuing the GMX Project and he asked the Town Attorney if it was prudent for him to make the motion now or during the discussion of the Town Manager's Report, Item 8D.

During a brief discussion, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella clarified what Councilmember Garcia is asking for essentially, is a reconsideration for the vote that took place at the last Regular Council Meeting, where Town Council moved to ask GMX to come back with a traffic study and then for the item to be considered in the future. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained if Councilmember Garcia is asking for that process to be terminated, it would be a reconsideration of the motion and it would need to come from any of the councilmembers who was on the prevailing side, but it was stated that that motion to reconsider cannot be made right now because that item is not before the Town Council. No further discussion was had.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Dieguez announced the following appointments:

Mr. Gary Cardenas to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Sanchez.

Mr. Eduardo Mena to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Fernandez.

After the appointments were read into the record, Vice Mayor Morera asked to be recognized for a point of order. Mayor Dieguez recognized him and Vice Mayor Morera moved to reopen the agenda, and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to amend the order of business, to move Item 15C so it be heard after Appointments and have Item 8D heard immediately following item 15C. Councilmember Garcia seconded the item, and all were in favor.

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.

Town Manager Pidermann and Grants and Government Affairs Manager, Ms. Olivia Shock, provided additional feedback regarding the Big Cypress Project.

C. Report on Installation of Historical Marker of Right of Way (Fernandez)

Public Works Director, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the report and answered questions posed by Town Council. He stated the genesis of his report comes from the NBI proposed by Councilmember Fernandez to construct a historical marker to exhibit the first homes that were constructed in Miami Lakes. Director Santos explained that in the memo, he included an example of what it could look like as far as the construction method and aesthetics of this sign, the installation location mentioned by Councilmember Fernandez which is the corner of NW 67th Ave and Lake Patricia and some estimates.

Councilmember Fernandez moved to go with the bronze option. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. During discussion, Vice Mayor Morera suggested using aluminum which handles colors better than bronze. Director Santos stated he can ask the manufacturers to provide Town Council with a couple samples.

Vice Mayor Morera and Town Manager Pidermann emphasized that this is a report, a motion is not necessarily needed, but the direction would be to come back to the Second Budget Hearing, to include the funding for the item. It was also recommended for a councilmember to bring this item up as an amendment at the Second Budget Hearing.

During further discussion, Councilmember Sanchez mentioned funding for the bollards project near Barbara Goleman Senior High School. Mayor Dieguez requested Town staff to provide Town Council with the information of what the total cost would be for the wooden bollards plus the gate that blocks access to the canal adjacent to the school.

After some additional brief remarks, the motion made by Councilmember Fernandez passed unanimously 7-0

D. Update – Partial Interchange on Gratigny at 67th Ave – Revised Traffic Study (Pidermann)

This item was discussed after item 15C as per the New Order of Business.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the report and answered questions posed by Town Council; he stated this is an informational item that requires no action by the Town Council. He stated that this is feedback from GMX, directed by Town Council, about conducting a revised traffic study that eliminates the off ramp from the project and GMX has agreed to do it and promised a return date of 60 to 90 days. Town Manager Pidermann added our hope is to bring it back to Town Council for reconsideration at the November Regular Council Meeting.

E. Report on Landscaping Solutions for Veterans Park (Sanchez, Bajdaun)

Parks & Recreation Director Bajdaun presented the report and answered questions posed by Town Council. He stated this item is in response to the NBI that came before the Town Council in then July Regular Council Meeting by Councilmember Sanchez, pertaining for ways to increase the drainage and flow of water at Veterans Park.

During discussion, Councilmember Sanchez moved to accept a Bermuda grass option which includes SOD, maintenance, additional sidewalks that would create a four-way division, a draining plan with a new irrigation system with a total cost of $550,000 and receive those funds through either possible appropriations from Tallahassee or perhaps use funds from Miami Lakes Optimist Park Improvement. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez shared his opposition towards moving any money from Miami Lakes Optimist Park.

Director Bajdaun provided his thoughts on the potential drainage improvements for Veterans Park and continued to answer questions posed by Town Council. Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez shared their oppositions for the item with the Bermuda grass option.

After discussion, Councilmember Sanchez moved to amend his main motion to have this item pass, if the Town is able to receive appropriations from Tallahassee to make this improvement. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll on the amendment. The motion died 2-5; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion. The motion died 2-5. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

F. STD Automation Improvements & Vendor Rate Increase Request (Herzberg, Bajdaun)

Director Bajdaun presented the item and answered questions posed by Town Council. He stated this item comes from a NBI proposed by Councilmember Herzberg and the report provides ways to increase automation within the security districts. He referenced the 5 different options below in the report laid out with the impact to the budgets of each security district and explained that the second portion of this item is based off current labor rates for SFM under the current agreement.

After brief remarks, Councilmember Herzberg moved to have Town staff and Town Attorneys come back to Town Council, codifying the ordinance and our Town Code regarding STD Automation Improvements. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Mr. Christian Infante, from SFM Security came before the Town Council to provide further context and answered questions posed by Town Council. He also requested an increase of 2.9% bill rate and if SMF cannot get the rate increase he would respectfully request the contract go out to bid, because of major expenses.

During discussion, Councilmember Herzberg clarified his motion has nothing to do with the 2.9% increase and Town Manager Pidermann affirmed this report has two parts to it. Town Council discussed their positions regarding the STD Automation improvements.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the motion made by Councilmember Herzberg regarding STD Automation Improvements. The motion passed 4-2. Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition. Councilmember Sanchez was absent.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the 2.9% vendor rate increase. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll on the motion made by Vice Mayor Morera regarding the vendor rate increase request. The motion passed 5-2. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted opposition.

G. Reallocation of Funds - Elderly Affairs Committee (Pidermann)

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and explained that the Elderly Affairs Committee wanted to move some money around from one line item to another, all within their budget, and emphasized there is no budget change, but that it exceeds his authority. Vice Mayor Morera moved to approve the reallocation of funds, and it was seconded by Mayor Dieguez. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Report on Recent Legislation

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi stated that he and Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella attended a legislative seminar in Orlando. He further stated that they will present the information from the seminar at the October Council Meeting.

B. Report on 170th Canal Agreements

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi stated that he will meet with Public Works Director Santos on Friday, September 25, to discuss the canal stabilization agreement. He stated that they will report back to the Council at the October Regular Council Meeting.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Economic Development Committee

Chairperson Matthew Casamayor presented the report and explained the initiatives and events the committee has been working on.

11. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Miami Dade County Public Schools

Mr. Roger Miret, Chief of Staff for Roberto J. Alonso, School Board Member, District 4, came to the Town Council with Dr. Aillette A. Rodriguez-Diaz,

Administrative Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; they both provided information on behalf Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

B. Arts for Autism Program

Ms. Audrey Amadeo provided information on the Arts for Autism Foundation and referred to the Spectrum Dance Therapy classes hosted on Saturdays at Mary Collins Community Center. After discussion, Councilmember Garcia motioned to reallocate the funds utilized for the dance class into a scholarship and training model. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Sanchez was absent.

C. Miami Lakes Drive Traffic Operations and Feasibility Analysis Phase 1 Presentation

Ms. Raquel Selanikio, PE and Chris Iguate, both Town of Miami Lakes consultants from Kimley-Horn & Associates, presented phase 1 of the Miami Lakes Drive Traffic Operations and Feasibility Analysis, which the Town Council approved of the Work Order a few months ago.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

A. Approval of Minutes

- August 18, 2026 Regular Council Meetings
- August 26, 2026 Sunshine Meeting
- August 26, 2026Working Budget Workshop -All Funds

The minutes were approved in the Consent Calendar.

B. Authorization to Award Change Order No. 2 to HDR Engineering for Additional Right-of-Way Services for the NW 59th Avenue Roadway Extension Project (Santos)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CONTRACT 2021-06, RIGHT-OF-WAY CONSULTANT SERVICES, WITH HDR ENGINEERING, INC.; APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR ADDITIONAL RIGHT-OF-WAY CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE NW 59TH AVENUE EXTENSION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ($30,000.00), INCLUDING AN APPROXIMATE TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY FOR OPTIONAL SERVICES, IF NEEDED; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF

RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled by Councilmember Garcia.

Director Santos answered questions asked by Town Council and stated that this change order is to complete all the right-of-way rights for the last portion of private property located at 15550 NW 59th Avenue, which is the Caterpillar parcel. Director Santos explained that when dealing with a private owner, the Town is required to comply with the policies, codes, and manuals; it was explained that FDOT requires this when there is a consideration of acquisition of a private property and acquisition means not only ownership, but an easement, license; it was mentioned that the Town is required to use the services of a consultant to help guide through that process.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that there will be a meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 16th between the Town Attorney's team and the Town Manager to meet with the representatives of Caterpillar.

Mayor Dieguez moved to approve Item 12B and it was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The motion passed 7-0.

C. Authorization to Award Work Order to HW Lochner for Engineering Design Services for the NW 154 Street Turn Lane onto NW 77 CT Project (Santos)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE WORK ORDER NO. 2 WITH H.W. LOCHNER, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE MIAMI LAKES NW 154 STREET TURN LANE EXTENSION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE DOLLARS AND FIFTY-ONE CENTS ($228,859.51), UNDER CONTRACT NO. 2021-43 FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE WORK ORDER AND AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

D. Approval of Access Agreements for Fairway Dr. Bike Lanes and Crosswalk Improvements Projects (Santos)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE FOUR

ACCESS AGREEMENTS WITH TGC CYPRESS VILLAGE LLC, 7 ELEVEN INC, CYPRESS VILLAGE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., AND CYPRESS VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC., TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCESS TO PORTIONS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR THE FAIRWAY DRIVE BIKE LANES AND CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE ACCESS AGREEMENTS IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE FORM PRESENTED, SUBJECT TO REVISIONS MADE OR APPROVED BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

E. Authorization to Proceed with Fleet Replacement Phase 2 (Santos)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, WAIVING THE SOLICITATION PROCESS PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-155(d) OF THE TOWN CODE; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER, OR DESIGNEE, TO NEGOTIATE AND FINALIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI LAKES AUTO MALL FOR FLEET REPLACEMENT PHASE 2; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Herzberg pulled the item and explained that at the First Budget Hearing, he motioned to reduce the Fleet Replacement to go down to two cars; he then explained that this motion is to be consistent with his motion from the First Budget Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez.

During discussion, Councilmember Sanchez made a motion for the Town to remove the Tacoma vehicle from the 3 cars scheduled, do 2 of the original ones and 1 for Code Enforcement, so the Town no longer pay out the stipend to the Code Enforcement individuals. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that he would rather do all the cars together instead of piecemeal one at a time; he stated that his recommendation would be to do them all three at the same time -to save them to year 3. He explained that he agrees with Councilmember Herzberg, which is to leave the Tacoma to go further down the road, because it does not need to be replaced yet.

After listening to the explanation provided by Town Manager Pidermann, Councilmember Sanchez, withdrew his prior motion and he then motioned to lay it on

the table, which was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion to lay on the table indefinite passed 7-0.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion, and the motion passed 7-0.

F. Contract for ITB 2024-13 HVAC & Refrigeration Equipment Repair and Maintenance Services -AS NEEDED (Marrero)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AWARDING ITB 2024-13, HVAC & REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES - AS NEEDED, TO GREEN AIR INNOVATIONS, INC. AS THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR AND AIR CHANGES MECHANICAL AS THE SECONDARY CONTRACTOR, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS WITH TWO (2) ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO RENEW; AUTHORIZING AWARD TO THE THIRD-LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

G. Contract for RFP 2026-14 Property, Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance Program (Marrero)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AWARDING RFP 2026-14, PROPERTY, LIABILITY AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PROGRAM, TO RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES, INC. D/B/A BROWN & BROWN, IN AN ESTIMATED FIRST-YEAR AMOUNT, INCLUSIVE OF BROKER FEES, OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS ($174,770.00), NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS WITH TWO (2) ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO RENEW; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO REVIEW, NEGOTIATE, AND APPROVE FUTURE-YEAR INSURANCE PREMIUMS, SUBJECT TO BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

H. Protect Our Canopy Educational Initiative (Garcia)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE TOWN MANAGER'S AUGUST 18, 2026 MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF THE TOWN'S TREE CANOPIES; APPROVING THE "PROTECT OUR CANOPY" EDUCATIONAL AND PREVENTATIVE INITIATIVE IN LIEU OF A LOCAL LANDSCAPER REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATION, OR LICENSING PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY AND EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The item was approved in the Consent Calendar.

13. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

A. Town Sanctioned Signs (Garcia)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ARTICLE IX, TITLED "SIGNS," BY AMENDING SECTION 13-1902, TITLED "DEFINITIONS," TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR "TOWN-SANCTIONED SIGN"; AND BY AMENDING SECTION 13-1903, TITLED "GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SIGNS," TO AUTHORIZE THE INSTALLATION OF TOWN-SANCTIONED SIGNS WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR THEIR DESIGN, PLACEMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance in first reading into the record.

Councilmember Garcia made a motion to approve the ordinance in first reading, and it was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading, Item 13A, passed 7-0.

B. Solid Waste Franchise Fee (Herzberg)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING AND RESTATING ARTICLE VI, "SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FRANCHISES," OF CHAPTER 37, "TAXATION AND FEES," OF

THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; REINSTATING AND INCREASING THE SOLID WASTE FRANCHISE FEE FROM FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) TO TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF MONTHLY GROSS RECEIPTS FOR COVERED COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND MULTIFAMILY RENTAL COMPLEXES; EXPRESSLY EXEMPTING CONDOMINIUM RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS FROM THE DEFINITION OF A MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENT AND FROM THE FRANCHISE FEE; UPDATING DEFINITIONS, APPLICATION AND QUALIFICATION STANDARDS, ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, SERVICE AND OPERATING STANDARDS, INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS, AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS; ADOPTING A FEE SCHEDULE ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance in first reading into the record.

Councilmember Herzberg made a motion to approve the ordinance in first reading, and it was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading, Item 13B, passed 5-2; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

14. ORDINANCE -SECOND READING (PUBLIC HEARING)

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.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance in second reading into the record.

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

Councilmember Herzberg proffered a motion to approve the ordinance in first reading, and he stated that he was amending the proposed ordinance, and he explained that the Town Manager is going to conduct yearly review, so he believes that the minimum standard should be yearly reviews. He then stated that Section C1 should be amended, to read "once every year". The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in second reading, Item 13B, passed 7-0.

15. RESOLUTIONS

A. License Plate Reader Cameras (Morera)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING THAT THE SAFETY OF THE TOWN'S RESIDENTS IS THE TOWN'S PARAMOUNT CONCERN AND THAT PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL NOT BE PURSUED AT THE EXPENSE OF RESIDENTS' PRIVACY OR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS; ESTABLISHING GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE TOWN'S USE OF LICENSE PLATE READER AND SIMILAR SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES; DIRECTING THE TOWN MANAGER TO REVIEW THE TOWN'S DATA PRACTICES AND REPORT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and explained that at the August Regular Council Meeting, the Town Council had asked to bring this item back as an ordinance; however, Vice Mayor Morera stated that after conversations with Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella, they both understood that an ordinance would not make sense because the Town Council does not have control over MDSO's operations on how they elect to use the cameras; thus, why this item was presented as a resolution and not as an ordinance.

Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to move the item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. The motion passed 7-0.

B. Censure of Councilmember Angelo Cuadra Garcia (Town Council)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, CENSURING COUNCILMAN ANGELO CUADRA GARCIA FOR VIOLATION(S) OF THE TOWN'S STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND COMPETENCE; SETTING FORTH FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING

FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Gastesi presented the item and stated that he wants no exposure to the Town and that this resolution is coming back before the Town Council because it was a new business item that was introduced in a prior regular council meeting and it passed.

Councilmember Sanchez started the discussion and stated that at the August Regular Council Meeting, he moved to censure Councilmember Cuadra Garcia to protect the Town from potential liability in the future; he stated that as elected officials, they all have the ability to do some things and at the same time, they do not have the ability to do some things. He emphasized that this item was meant to bring attention to Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, on things that we cannot do. He added that he does not want private entities, -private businesses-, coming after the Town and making us liable for actions that elected officials take. He then stated the motion is to approve the resolution, to make sure that this does not happen again, and if it does happen again, the Town is protected. Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion.

Mayor Dieguez addressed comments made by the board members of the Civic Alliance and stated that this action was not an intent to bully or otherwise demean Councilmember Cuadra Garcia; he explained that at the last council meeting, he introduced a Mayor's Report, simply expressing the standards of conduct that elected officials are expected to be held to and stated that although Councilmember Cuadra Garcia is doing better, he habitually comes unprepared to council meetings. Mayor Dieguez provided on the record the genesis as to why we got to this point; he mentioned the Cease-and-Desist letter sent by an attorney as a potential unauthorized inspection using Town resources. He added that the 4th Amendment bars unreasonable searches and seizures, explained that when an elected official wears a Town polo shirt and goes to a property alleging that there are multiple violations, that elected official is acting as an agent of the Town or apparent agent of the Town. Mayor Dieguez emphasized that elected officials are not code inspectors.

Mayor Dieguez clarified the genesis of how they got to this point and that a pattern of behavior needs to be corrected, and he explained that it is unacceptable, moving forward, to act this manner. Mayor Dieguez emphasized that this is not a new censure motion, this is simply formalizing the action already taken before at the August Regular Council Meeting and ensuring to lay some concerns that were raised with respect to due process rights.

Councilmember Herzberg stated that he understands the explanation provided by the Town Attorney, that he thought that Councilmember Cuadra Garcia went through the process already and that the Town Council talked to him about their concerns and that he does not like seeing this again. Councilmember Herzberg stated that he understands it makes sense to have a formal resolution but that Councilmember

Cuadra Garcia already went through the process; he agreed that in some matters, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia could do better, but he also expressed that the Town Council is taking a letter as if it's completely true. Councilmember Herzberg expressed his opposition towards putting the censure as a written resolution on permanent public record; he stated that what was done is done and that the Town Council already censure him and it's all in the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting from August 18, 2026, which is public record.

Councilmember Fernandez stated that he does not want the Town to be in negative news. He voted in support of the motion to censure Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, but he stated that he would like to move on. He expressed he's in agreement with Councilmember Herzberg's position.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia stated that he wanted to read into the record a statement that was important to him. This is the statement he read:

> "Mr. Mayor, members of this council and residents of the Town of Miami Lakes. I condemn this proceeding as a hateful, ugly and cowardly abuse of legislative authority entrusted to this Council by the people of Miami Lakes. It has become a communist style, spectacle in which this institution is being used not for responsible government but to attack, intimidate and disparate an elected Public Official. One who has won elections with one of the highest votes, as you all have heard, one of our Town Residents, In Miami Lakes History. I'm not trying to be proud of it; I did what I did and the people spoke. We should be particularly troubled that baseless, defamatory and fraudulent allegations are being accepted by a few members of this council as proven and established facts, despite knowing full well that they come with a self-interest hired gun whose apparent purpose is to intimidate, bully and silence a public official. Allegations do not become faxes, because they are repeated in places on an agenda or given this Council Approval. The authority of this Council should never be abused to legitimize improvement, execution or to punish a member, exercising their constitutional rights or performing his civic duties. Those who have chosen to misuse the legislative powers of Council should understand that such conduct carries consequences. They carry consequences, potentially serious legal and political consequences for those responsible for this abuse of public authority and for the disrespect it shows to this forum and to the residents it was elected to represent; and what a mocking this is of the people of Miami Lakes. Our Town Faces serious and presenting problems that require the urgent and undivided attention of this Council. The residents selected us to govern, solve problems and serve them, not to indulge in a hateful political spectrum of this nature. I have made my position clear; I will not dignify this proceeding with further

> participation. I expressly reserve all my rights and remedies at law including the right to take legal action as deemed necessary to defend and vindicate my good name as some of you are trying to tarnish my name, my reputation and my legal rights. With that said I have nothing further to add to the records."

During further discussion, Councilmember Garcia shared his opposition towards the resolution. He emphasized that Councilmember Cuadra Garcia needs to follow the rules so that this behavior does not happen again, and he stated that regarding the cease-and-desist letter, there has been no ruling. However, Councilmember Garcia stated that what Councilmember Cuadra Garcia read onto the record is inappropriate to what is being dealt now.

Vice Mayor Morera explained why he will be voting in favor of the resolution based off the comments read by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia; he stated a censure is not a censor, a censure is a statement by this Town Council that we do not approve of his actions; he added Councilmember Cuadra Garcia is being censured for violating constitutional rights and to protect the property rights of the individuals in this Town.

Councilmember Sanchez shared his position towards being in favor of the resolution; he stated the censure is the lowest level of what could have been done, and he wants to see the protection for this Town, not just from Councilmember Cuadra Garcia but from anyone in Town Council.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia then apologized for the words he stated in the letter.

Councilmember Herzberg proffered a strike all amendment, to uphold the censure but not memorialize it as a resolution.

Town Attorney Gastesi explained voting "No" on the main motion or voting "Yes" on Councilmember Herzberg's strike all amendment, does not take away the censure. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella, reiterated, not signing off on the resolution is Councilmember Herzberg's amendment. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

After some discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll on the strike all amendment. The motion passed 5-2. Councilmember Sanchez and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion as amended. The motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Sanchez and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

C. Re-establishing the Youth Advisory Board (Morera)

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, REESTABLISHING A YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD; SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 24-1993; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (MORERA)

Vice Mayor Morera presented his item and gave credit to student Ms. Carolina Cubas, for her commitment to civic engagement.

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

16. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Data Center Land Use Regulation (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and stated that the current TOML Zoning Code is silent on data centers and that we need to put some parameters that we need to restrict them as much as the law allows. Councilmember Herzberg moved to work with the Town Attorneys for them to come back to Town Council within at least 30 to 60 days with revisions to the Town's Zoning Ordinance, to get ahead of this issue. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion. After brief discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

B. Voluntary Drug Testing (Cuadra Garcia)

This item was withdrawn voluntarily by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia during the New Order of Business.

C. Restricting Traffic Impact (Sanchez)

Councilmember Sanchez presented his item with a resolution, requesting an ordinance to be presented to the Town Council in a Special Call meeting, to be held before the Second Budget Hearing. He emphasized that he would like for the ordinance in second reading to be presented to the Town Council on October 13th Regular Council Meeting.

Councilmember Sanchez explained the wording of said proposed ordinance. He stated that he would like to limit the interruption flow of traffic between 9 am and 2 pm, and he amended the wording from his NBI, to state that instead of 10 pm to 5 am, for it to be from 8 pm to 7 am, and he emphasized that this time constraint would only be

enforceable on days where there is school. His explanation became a motion, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella and Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by the Town Council. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that this ordinance would require two readings and stated that it would not require two advertisings.

The motion passed 7-0.

D. NBI Form (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg presented his item and moved for the Fiscal Impact, Funding Source for Implementation and Timeline for Implementation items found on the NBI Forms, to be completed by the Town Council and not by Town staff, as has been done in the past. Councilmember Herzberg explained that this information needs to be filled out by the sponsoring member. He added in his motion, to eliminate the Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives information from the NBI Form. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

During discussion Councilmember Herzberg stated it is the councilmembers who need to put in the information on the Fiscal Impact, Funding Source for Implementation and Timeline for Implementation; that Town staff should not change what the councilmembers put in. Town Manager Pidermann stated sometimes the elected officials may not know exactly the fiscal impact and Town staff can provide information that makes it more accurate and some funding sources have restrictions that elected officials may not be aware of.

Mayor Dieguez stated that Town Manager Pidermann can always bring that up on record during a Regular Council Meeting and if an elected official puts something incorrect on the record, the Town Manager can correct them. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

E. Discussion Regarding Suspension of License Plate Reader Program (Herzberg)

This item was discussed after item 8A as per the new Order of Business.

Councilmember Herzberg presented the item and Major Ulloa provided feedback regarding the history of the license plate readers, how the system works, and what it tracks. No motions were made.

F. Recognition in Memory of Longtime Miami lakes Resident Rosa Nell Hammer (Fernandez, co-sponsored by the Town Council)

Mayor Dieguez moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of order seconded by Councilmember Garcia. All were in favor.

Councilmember Fernandez presented his item and moved to lower the Town's flag to half-staff. Vice Mayor Morera seconded the motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Garcia requested for Town staff to reach out to Ms. Hammer's family and see what the family would like so that the Town can honor her; Councilmember Garcia asked the Town Council to co-sponsor the item. Mayor Dieguez affirmed and requested the Town Clerk to add Town Council as co-sponsors.

17. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

A. Town Manager Employment Agreement (Herzberg)

Councilmember Herzberg gave his report and stated that as was discussed at the Sunshine Meeting to discuss the Town Manager's contract. He explained there are a few matters to negotiate and come to terms on the new contract between Town Council and the Town Manager; he added Town Council will set a Sunshine Meeting after the November General Election and the plan is to have the Town Manager's contract on the agenda in November.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 pm.

Approved this 13th of October 2026.

Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk