MINUTES
2nd Budget Hearing
September 24, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:57 pm. Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra-Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez were present.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Dieguez stated that a prayer was held in the previous meeting (in the Special Call Meeting), thus, the prayer was foregone.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Dieguez stated that a prayer was held in the previous meeting (in the Special Call Meeting), thus, the prayer was foregone.

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

No changes done to the Order of Business.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, welcomed everyone to the meeting and read the instructions for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Sam Budlong came before the Town Council to provide public comments in opposition to the GMX project. He urged the Town Council to do a better job overseeing the Traffic

Study that GMX is doing, to urge the Town Manager to stay in tune with this study for them to have better conviction in November, when they will vote on this matter.

Carlos Andres came before the Town Council to provide public comments and stated that the community is actively commenting on Tree Trimming, Drainage and Parks. He urged the Town Council to earmark whatever funds are available on the fund regarding the 154 and 77th right turning lanes for The Nine project, he emphasized that the turning lane was promised. He mentioned that Par-3 needs to move forward and about future park improvements and he stated that the digital road signs are damaged and he urged the Town Council to get new signs to keep residents informed.

Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo stated for the record that there were no participants online.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Dieguez closed Public Comments.

6. ORDINANCES – SECOND READING:

A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2026 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO TAX COLLECTOR; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, read into the record the following statement: The proposed millage rate for the Town of Miami Lakes for Fiscal Year 2026-27 of 2.1577 mills. This rate is the same as the current fiscal year. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is five billion, five hundred twelve million, eight hundred five thousand and eight hundred and eighty-three dollars ($5,512,805,883). The proposed millage rate will generate eleven million, three hundred thousand, two hundred and ninety-two dollars ($11,300,232) in Ad Valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate. The proposed millage rate of 2.1577 is 5.86% above the rollback rate of 2.0382.

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

Vice Mayor Morera moved Item 6A and it was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez. Then, Councilmember Sanchez made a motion to lay on the table and Vice Mayor Morera moved to second that motion. The motion passed 7-0. At this time discussion of Item 6B was held.

After discussion of Item 6B was had, Councilmember Garcia Cuadra made a motion to lower the millage rate and to bring it to the roll back rate. Councilmember Garcia

seconded the motion for discussion. The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 2-5; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

The main motion, to approve Item 6A, ordinance in second reading, adopting the millage rate at 2.1577, which was motioned by Vice Mayor Morera and seconded by Councilmember Sanchez, passed 5-2; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Mayor Dieguez then moved to pick up Item 6B from the table, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera. The motion passed 6-0.

B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027. COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2026, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING OR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella read the title of the ordinance into the record.

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

Town Manager Pidermann presented the budget and stated that this budget reflects the amendments made at the First Budget Hearing; thus, as directed by the Town Council, it shows the modifications made to the proposed budget. Town Manager Pidermann explained that with the modifications made at the First Budget Hearing, there are $336,597 in net savings, which were placed in the contingency reserve account. Based on the motions made at the First Budget Hearing, these savings were preserved as an option for other initiatives, such as allocating funds to the Senior Rebate Program.

Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to move Item 6B, ordinance in second reading. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sanchez.

Councilmember Sanchez started the discussion of the ordinance by asking questions regarding the Sheriff's Explorer's Program. To this effect, Councilmember Sanchez stated he did some research and that he was told that approximately 6 or 7 students attend this program and that the projected budget as of the 30th of August is $36,330. Councilmember Sanchez moved to eliminate the program because it is for a very

limited number of students and it will help bring down the budget by $ 36,330. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera for discussion.

Major Ulloa answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After discussion, Vice Mayor Morera made a motion to table the amendment from Councilmember Sanchez, and it was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg. The motion from Vice Mayor Morera passed 7-0.

Mayor Dieguez then made a motion to fill the gap on Tree Trimming, which is for $298,757. Town Manager Pidermann provided some explanation and Mayor Dieguez stated that his motion died because of lack of a second and he stated that he was withdrawing his motion but he emphasized that he his intentions are to allocate money towards Tree Trimming, because request that of hithe large number of requests he receives on this matter.

Councilmember Sanchez referred to the Police Budget, specifically Police Overtime. He spoke about the Police Overtime Budget and mentioned that there are two items within the Police Overtime Budget, that possibly can be moved and as of August 2026, he stated that $134,052 has been used; he referred to the Townwide Traffic Enforcement and the Days Traffic Detail for 154th & 77th through 79th Avenue. He explained he asked for a review of the revenues and expenses of 59th Avenue and stated that for this year, we have sent out PRP 80 for $767,000. He explained that if the Town Council moves $140,000 it would bring down that $675,000 line item for overtime to a lower amount.

Councilmember Sanchez stated as a possibility to move those funds out of Police Overtime Budget from the General Fund into the PTP80, lowering the amount sent to the 59th Avenue Project with a total of $600,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg.

Town Manager Pidermann and Director Santos answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 2-5; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Councilmember Fernandez stated that he would like to keep the millage rate flat, to fund the Senior Rebate Program during the mid-year budget amendment, to fully fund the MLOP, to fully fund the Tree Trimming Cycle and to add $5,000 to planting more trees, so the amount is $15,000 instead of $10,000. After the explanation he provided, Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to fully fund the Tree Trimming Cycle to $298,757 and Mayor Dieguez seconded the motion.

Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed and stated that the amount in contingency is $336,597. He stated that if the Town Council funds the Senior Rebate Program, the difference is $251,597 towards trees.

Vice Mayor Morera stated that he wants the Senior Rebate to be fully funded and he then motioned to amend by the number just provided by the Town Manager, for the difference being held for the Senior Rebate. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion.

Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Herzberg stated that he would like to fund the Senior Programming. Councilmember Herzberg then made an amendment to the amendment from Vice Mayor Morera and motioned to reduce the difference by $40,000; thus, to apply $40,000 to Senior Programming, to allocate $200,000 to Tree Trimming Cycle and the rest amount to the Senior Rebate Program. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Morera.

During further discussion, Councilmember Garcia motioned to approve funding for the Senior Rebate Program, to approve additional Tree Funding, to approve $100,000 for Tree Trimming Cycle and to add $40,000 for Senior Exercise. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia. The motion failed.

Regarding the strike all amendment from Councilmember Herzberg, which was to include $40,000 towards Senior Programming, $85,000 to go towards the Senior Rebate Program whatever is left, $211,597, to go towards Tree Trimming Cycle, the motion failed 7-0.

Mayor Dieguez clarified the strike all amendment to the main motion, which was proffered by Vice Mayor Morera, was from the current savings generated from the changes from 1st to 2nd budget hearings $336,597, to allocate $85,000 for the Senior Rebate Program and the difference, which is $251,597 to go towards the Tree Trimming Cycle, the Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0. The main motion, as amended, passed 7-0.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia asked questions regarding Sidewalk Repairs and Chief Budget Officer Hernández answered questions posed by the Town Council. Town Manager Pidermann and Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding Tree Planting or Tree Installations and about mature trees being removed in the parking lots of Main Street.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia spoke about the changes made at the First Budget Hearing and referenced the vehicle lease option reduction from 3 vehicles to 2 vehicles and the increase amount for maintenance on the current Tacoma Truck for $5,400. Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia made a motion to cut the $5,400 allocated to the maintenance of the current Tacoma Truck. Councilmember Herzberg seconded the motion and stated that it was his understanding that this should be brought back at the Carryforward Amendment. The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Sanchez and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Councilmember Garcia made a motion to save $442,540 from the Carryforward Amendment, so the millage rate could be lowered to 2.0732. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cuadra Garcia. After a brief discussion, the Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 2-5; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Herzberg, Councilmember Sanchez, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Councilmember Herzberg made a motion to move $5,400 funds to Travel & Per Diem, for the 6 Councilmembers to have $900 allocated to each of them. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Councilmember Sanchez stated that he would like to fund the Historical Marker item and the bollards south of Barbara Goleman. He then made a motion for the sum of those 2 projects to be reduced from the Police Explorer's Program. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Deputy Town Clerk and the motion failed 2-5; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Herzberg, Vice Mayor Morera and Mayor Dieguez voted in opposition.

Director Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council in reference to mulch being used by the Town. Director Bajdaun clarified that there is no mulching in rights-of-way, only used in pocket parks (1 cycle only, and twice in neighborhood parks) and in playgrounds.

Councilmember Garcia asked for information regarding the budget for Sidewalks Repairs. He then proffered a motion to add $100,000 from the Carryforward Amendment towards Sidewalk Repairs and emphasized that he wanted the $100,000 additional funds to be used towards emergency repairs first. After an explanation provided by the Town Manager, Councilmember Garcia offered a new motion, "if we receive a Carryforward Amendment expected, to put aside $100,000 for Sidewalks Repair, for it to be at the top of the list"; thus, to bring it back at the carryforward amendment as a priority item. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia seconded the motion. The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

Vice Mayor Morera moved to table Item 6B, for the Town Council to consider first Item 6A and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Herzberg. The motion to table passed 6-0.

Once Item 6A was passed, and Mayor Dieguez stated that the Town Council would now proceed to vote on Item 6B. Councilmember Sanchez then stated that he would like for next year, for a new section to be added to the budget, titled "Councilmembers Projects". He then moved to have a new section in the budget, to reflect these new projects and how much each project would cost. Mayor Dieguez ruled this out of order because Item 6B is to pass the budget and the formatting of the budget should be brought up at another meeting.

The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll on the motion to approve Item 7B, ordinance in second reading, adopting the budget as amended, for fiscal year 2026-27, and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Cuadra Garcia and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that at the last regular council meeting, he passed a memorandum regarding updates on recent legislation. He asked for a Sunshine meeting to discuss recent legislation and for the Town Clerk to coordinate said meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Approved this 24th day of September 2026.

Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk