MINUTES
Special Call Meeting
September 24, 2026
6:15 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Dieguez called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Councilmember Garcia led the prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Sanchez.

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

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

Mr. Sam Budlong came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny project. He stated that he spoke with spoke with Ms. Elizabeth Dosantos, the Senior Legislative Assistant of Congressman Mario Diaz Ballart, regarding artificial intelligence. Mr. Budlong complemented Congressman Diaz Ballart in work he completed and mentioned that the Federal Aviation Administration is using millions of dollars in artificial intelligence to remedy the problems with air traffic control in the US. Mr. Budlong stated that Congressman Diaz Ballart is very familiar with the power of artificial intelligence and that his office is aware of the efforts of Miami-Dade County to use artificial intelligence to mitigate traffic. Mr. Budlong spoke about the ramps that are currently under consideration by GMX and the money to build them and he asked the Town Council to review the study to be completed by GMX. He also discussed possible alternatives for mitigating traffic; he mentioned that Miami-Dade County directed 200 million dollars towards advanced mobility management and congestion mitigation.

Ms. Joanne Ewart came before the Town Council to provide Public Comments in opposition to the Gratigny Project. Ms. Ewart spoke in support of artificial intelligence to mitigate traffic, as suggested by Mr. Sam Budlong.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds provided Public Comments via Zoom in opposition to the Gratigny project, and she referred to an email she sent to the Town Council pertaining to a thread of emails between a gentleman who works for the Department of Transportation, notifying GMX about emails that Mr. Budlong had sent to his department. She mentioned that the email thread should be read and that no one should manage the residents expectations.

Mr. Abel Fernandez provided Public Comments via Zoom regarding the Communications and Police Department budgets and the money spent and return in value, proposed Amendment 3 and the effect it will have in our municipality, in support of the Town Manager's Contract and salaries of Town Staff, and he stated that the Building and Public Works Department are second to none and always willing to help.

Councilmember Cuadra Garcia asked for a moment of personal privilege and Mayor Dieguez granted it. Councilmember Cuadra Garcia then asked if it's possible to grant speckers participating in public comments to speak for 5 minutes instead of 3 minutes.

Ms. Ileana Colombo provided Public Comments via Zoom in opposition to the Gratigny project and stated that she is in support of Mr. Sam Budlong's findings pertaining to artificial intelligence and traffic. She stated that the least destructive and most functional option is the Artificial Intelligence project, which she stated would cost the Town nothing. She also stated that in her opinion, 154 Street should be widened, and make an exit ramp off 1-75, maybe on 87th and widened 67th and the Palmetto Interchange North of us. She emphasized that the Town should invest in independent studies of traffic and noise, to validate what GMX is saying.

Town Clerk Inguanzo stated for the record that the Office of the Town Clerk received a written public comment from Ms. Esperanza Reynolds regarding the potential use of artificial intelligence-assisted traffic signal control.

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION

A. Restricting Traffic Impact (Sanchez)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING RESTRICTED HOURS ON SCHOOL DAYS FOR WORK THAT INTERRUPTS THE FLOW OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY, EXCEPTIONS, AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION, SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Councilmember Sanchez moved to approve the ordinance in first reading, which the Town Council had spoken about at the September 15th Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the ordinance is essentially what Councilmember Sanchez asked for but he emphasized that said ordinance needs some development between first and second reading; and he asked the Town Council for permission, to be able to work with Public Works Director Santos and with Councilmember Sanchez, to bring back an improved ordinance.

During discussion, Vice Mayor Morera stated that he wants the proposed ordinance not to contravene any of our existing agreements. Councilmember Garcia asked if Town Staff can find out or incorporate AI technology and traffic lights, and he referred to what a gentleman spoke about during public comments at this special call meeting. To this effect, Mayor Dieguez mentioned that the TOML has considered this option, that it's in the TOML Master Plan, that both former councilmembers Lama and Rodriguez were big proponents of this, and he mentioned that there have been issues on the bidding process on that contract and the rollout process with Miami-Dade County. Mayor Dieguez then asked Public Works Director Santos to provide an update on this topic.

Public Works Director Santos stated that in 2017 through 2019, the Town went through a project, in coordination with the County, to incorporate an adaptive signalization. He stated that that system intended to have self-

adjusting of the lights to account for traffic in certain areas. Director Santos stated that he would reach out to the County and find out what exactly they are incorporating and what's the ultimate function. Councilmember Garcia then asked Director Santos to get together with Mr. Sam Budlong and ask him what the level of technology he is talking about and then ask the County what they are doing and ask about implementation and costs. He would like to know if this AI is implemented, how it would improve traffic flow to the point that perhaps the Gratigny exists may not be needed. To this effect, Town Manager Pidermann stated that Town staff will work with Miami-Dade County, specifically with Public Works and their Traffic & Signalization Department.

During discussion, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that the Second Budget Hearing was scheduled to start at 6:30 pm and that it was 6:45pm; he stated for the record that the Second Budget Hearing would start soon. Mayor Dieguez also provided a statement summarizing what Deputy Town Attorney had just stated and he mentioned that once the special call meeting ends, they will need a 10-minute break, for IT to go ahead and reset up for the Second Budget Hearing.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading, Item 7A, passed 7-0.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Approved this 13th of October 2026.

Joshua Dieguez, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk