

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**January 12, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

As part of the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Town of Miami Lakes, the current Town Council honored all the former elected officials by giving them a Key to the Town and by thanking them for their work, their sacrifice and their time serving the people of the Town of Miami Lakes. Mayor Cid also asked all the former elected officials to stop by the Mayor's Conference Room, to see their Council portraits being displayed on the wall.

The following former elected officials participated in this presentation: Robert Meador, Wayne Slaton, Richard Pulido, Mary Collins, Nick Perdomo, George Lopez, the family of the late Roberto Alonso, Tim Daubert, Frank Mingo, Nelson Rodriguez. Peter Thomson and Tony Lama participated via zoom.

The Town Council honored Ms. Natasha Seijas, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner, who sponsored the item for the incorporation of the Town of Miami Lakes. Mr. Terry Murphy and his wife, Ms. Maribel Balbin accepted the Key to the Town on her behalf.

The Town Council gave a Proclamation and a Key to the Town to Former Commissioner Steve Bovo and thanked him for his work and dedication to the Town of Miami Lakes and for his 9 years as Miami-Dade County Commissioner representing District 13.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 7:00 pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Carlos O. Alvarez, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Luis E. Collazo and Mayor Manny Cid.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Rabbi Weiss from Chabad of Miami Lakes led the prayer.

Ariel Fernandez led a moment of mediation from Better You Minute via zoom.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Councilmember Carlos Alvarez.

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

Mayor Cid mentioned that several residents of the town passed away in the last few months and he wanted to acknowledge them and their families. Mayor Cid mentioned that Mr. Mike Clavelo, Mr. George Deming and Mr. Sergio Mendez passed away recently and that they will always be remembered. Let them all Rest In Peace.

Vice Mayor Collazo pulled Item 9D from the Consent Calendar, Mayor Cid pulled Item 9F from the Consent Calendar, Councilmember Dieguez pulled Item 13E to be discussed before 13A.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the new order of business and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo. All were in favor.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed in the Council Chambers of the Town of Miami Lakes and that are to be respected also in virtual meetings.

Mr. Reinaldo Costa participated in Public Comments via zoom. He stated that he is in full support of Item 13D, the cul-de sac beautification item.

Ms. Helen Costa participated in public Comments via zoom. She stated that she is in full support of Item 13D, the cul-de-sac beautification item.

Mr. Tom Ennis participated in Public Comments via zoom. He stated that he is a public servant that works for the City of Austin, Texas and in his spare time, he educates communities about the dangers caused by coal tar sealers. He stated that coal tar sealers are very toxic and cause danger to lakes, children and the community in general.

A pre-recorded public comment from Mr. Maurice Costa was submitted and played during the Public Comments section of the Agenda. Mr. Costa expressed that he is in full support of item 13D, the cul-de sac beautification item.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Ms. Guerlin Luly Escar was nominated to the Neighborhood Improvement Committee by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.

Ms. Guerlin Luly Escar was nominated to the Blasting Advisory Board by Councilmember Carlos Alvarez.

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to approve the appointments and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Education Advisory Board**

Chairman Hector Abad presented the EAB Committee Report to the Town Council. He stated that in 2011, the Town Council approved Resolution 11-883, which approved a development agreement for the properties on the NW and NE corner of NW 87th Avenue and NW 154 Street, what is now called the Satori community. In the Development Agreement, it was stipulated that the developer would contribute \$300,000 to be used for educational purposes specifically serving the children of the Town to help meet the future education needs generated by the development.

Chairman Abad mentioned that all educational institutions have struggled due to the pandemic and added that the EAB understands that this is the proper time to start using some of this money. Chairman Abad stated that the EAB feels that having this amount of money in the bank does not benefit the students nor the schools. He added that the EAB does not want to spend all the money -but that the EAB would like to request the Town Council for \$100,000 to be allocated amongst the 6 public schools in the Miami Lakes area. Then, the EAB will reevaluate and provide guidance for the remainder of the funding (\$200,000) for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Mayor Cid then motioned to approve the EAB's recommendation. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion for discussion.

The Town Council posed questions to Chairman Abad. After discussion, Councilmember Dieguez then motioned an amendment to the main motion. The amendment read the following way: motion to approve the EAB's recommendation but that before the EAB begins to disburse the money, the EAB will come back to the Town Council with more specific allocations. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the amendment and all were in favor.

Councilmember Ruano asked the Town Attorney to look into all the possibilities that the Town Council has with respect to the funding -what are all the things we can do with this funding - before the Town Council can decide to move forward into one direction. Councilmember Ruano asked clarification from the legal team regarding the specific language of the Development Agreement and what can the \$300,000 funds be used for; she specifically asked the Town Attorney if the funds are to be used for the impacted schools or if they can be used for a different purpose.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion as amended and the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

## **9. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Councilmember Alvarez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved on Consent

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES TOWN COUNCIL, PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BISCAYNE BAY TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Cid)

Approved on Consent

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY CONSULTANT SERVICES, RFQ 2021-06 TO HDR ENGINEERING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

Approved on Consent.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, SETTING FORTH LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PURSUE FUNDING FOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES; AUTHORIZING TOWN CLERK TO REMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO TOWN LOBBYIST, THE SOUTHERN GROUP; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

Vice Mayor Collazo pulled this item for discussion.

Vice Mayor Collazo stated that he had recently spoken to the Graham Companies regarding the Senior Center and that the Graham Companies confirmed that the project is indeed moving forward. Vice Mayor Collazo explained that he recently spoke to one of the State Representatives of the TOML about this project and that he was very supportive of the project.

Vice Mayor Collazo then motion to add the build-out of the Senior Center to the to the list of Legislative Priorities and that with the support of the TOML State Representatives, we can get this project funded via Legislative Priorities. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid and all were in favor.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2021-08, LAKE MAINTENANCE SERVICES TO SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND

CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

Approved on Consent.

- F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR SECURITY FENCING FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SUPERIOR FENCE & RAIL; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

Mayor Cid pulled this item for discussion.

Mayor Cid stated that the security fencing for the Police Department entrance is very important because many times people park on their parking spaces. Mayor Cid then made a motion to approve Item 9F. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- G. RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF REPRODUCTION AND BINDING SERVICES ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONTRACT 8254-1/22 WITH BLUE DIGITAL CORP. PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OF ORDINANCE 17-203 (THE TOWN'S PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE); AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

Approved on Consent.

## **10. ORDINANCE –**

- A. AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20-269, AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 20-270 AMENDING THE TOWN'S FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS

ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

The Town Attorney read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Pidermann introduced the ordinance. He explained that this budget amendment will fund the necessary replacement of all town wide street signs that are damaged or worn out, road pavement markings that are worn out and the replacement of speed limit signs- Town Manager Pidermann explained that the approval from Miami-Dade County regarding lowering the town wide speed limit to 25 miles per hour is very close to its final approval, so Town Staff allocated funds in this budget amendment for the change out of signs to the new 25 mile per hour limit. Councilmember Rodriguez motioned to approve the item and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Councilmember Dieguez asked the Town Manager to also consider adding anti-litter signage throughout the main thoroughfares – such as 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue or Miami Lakes Drive. Councilmember Dieguez suggested to explore adding more signage informing people the penalties for littering that exist – in the Miami- Dade County Code and/or in the Town of Miami Lakes Code. During his discussion, Councilmember Dieguez also mentioned to perhaps add signage with respect to the canal system for manatee crossings or warning those using jet skis and their boats- warning them about it being an area where manatees inhabit.

Adding to this discussion, Councilmember Alvarez asked for a thorough evaluation on the speed limit signs and the location where these signs are to be placed. He also mentioned that more digital speedometers are needed and that placement location should be taken into consideration. Councilmember Alvarez stressed on the importance for these signs to be visible to everyone driving throughout our town.

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

During the discussion of Item 13I, Councilmember Alvarez motioned to re-open the Order of Business and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. All were in favor.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to reconsider Item 10A and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

Councilmember Fernandez motioned for the crosswalk and the sidewalk items, to be included in the Budget Ordinance, Item 10A, so that Town Staff can expedite this and include this information in the Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and be able to transfer the funds from fund balance to cover the costs of those two projects, as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Vice Mayor Collazo. The Town Clerk called the roll and the Ordinance, as amended, passed 7-0.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-102 TITLED “GENERAL FUND RESERVES”; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Town Attorney read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that this was an item spearheaded by Councilmember Dieguez regarding an ordinance dealing with the Fund Balance and having adequate reserves to deal with fiscal emergencies. During the October 2020 Regular Council Meeting, the Town Council unanimously voted to amend Division 2, Chapter IV, of the Town's Code of Ordinances, in order to provide an extra year for the Town to reach the 20% Budgetary Reserve requirement. Thus, this ordinance would reflect a new timeline, for the 20% to be reached by 2023. Councilmember Alvarez motioned to approve and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid made a friendly amendment to the motion and stated that once the 20% reserve is reached in 2023, that going forward, that dollars between the 15% and 20%, that those funds should become eligible for one-time capital improvements expenses – non-recurring items. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez. After discussion, Mayor Cid withdrew the amendment but asked Town Staff to look into this and bring back different scenarios to be discussed during the second reading of the ordinance.

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

#### **11. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:**

None.

#### **12. RESOLUTIONS:**

None.

#### **13. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **A. Pedestrian Crosswalk on Fairway & Montrose (Alvarez)**

Councilmember Alvarez motion for intelligent lighting for pedestrian crosswalks to be installed on Fairway Drive and Montrose Road, to provide public safety for all Miami Lakes residents. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to amend by stating that the slope in the driveway approach in and out of the parking lot of Mary Collins is very steep and cars scrap the bottom of their cars all the time; he asked for Town Staff to consider changing the bad approach. The motion was not seconded but Town Manager Pidermann acknowledge that Town Staff would look into this matter and that Public Works will access it and bring back a report to Town Council letting you know what the impact would be.

Carlos Acosta, Public Works Director, explained the design to be installed on Fairway Drive. He stated that it will be a push button and the lights will be displayed on the grounds. Mr. Acosta said that Montrose Road is yet to be designed. Vice Mayor Collazo asked Town Staff to go over other mid-section crosswalks that might benefit of this project throughout the town.

The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Communication Improvement (Cid)**

Mayor Cid thanked the Building Department for the great work done regarding the Code Enforcement Notices. He noted that the Code Enforcement Notices now include the email addresses of the Code Officers, in order to facilitate communication with residents.

**C. Miami Lakes K-8 Center School Speed Zone (Ruano, Collazo)**

Councilmember Ruano presented her item and stated that the school speed zone for the Miami Lakes K-8 Center does not properly protect the children walking to and from school. She explained that the school speed zone ends on 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue just south of Miami Lakes Way South and that it does not extend to Crooked Pal. She added that students who walk to the entrance of Crooked Palm neighborhood must walk down 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue on a sidewalk that has no swale buffer.

Councilmember Ruano motion for the Town Council to address this situation and formally request Miami-Dade County Public Schools to solve this dangerous situation and bring forth a resolution to tackle this and have Town Staff work with Miami-Dade County Commissioner Rene Garcia, to solve this issue. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded this motion and asked to be added as a co-sponsor of the item. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Cul-De-Sac Beautification (Rodriguez)**

Councilmember Rodriguez withdrew his item and stated he would defer this item to be discussed after the Strategic Plan Retreat, in order to first address the cost of this item and identify all the cul-de-sacs that need to be addressed.

**E. Comprehensive Infrastructure Investment (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. Mayor Cid seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilmember Dieguez presented his item and motioned for the Town Manager and Town Clerk to set up an infrastructure workshop, for the Town Council to address infrastructure in a comprehensive manner to be held at the same time or around the same time as the Strategic Plan Retreat workshop. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo.

Councilmember Dieguez explained that we would like for the Town Council to be cautious when voting on items that have to do with infrastructure and maybe wait until the infrastructure workshop is held; he that emphasized that he would like the Town Council to figure out the best way to stretch out the dollars and focus on the critical needs. After discussion, all were in favor.



#### **F. Alternatives to Coal Tar Sealants (Collazo)**

Mayor Cid made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vice Mayor Collazo presented his item and explained that he became aware of the “coal tar” based products environmental impact on surrounding bodies of water, when the Windmill Gate HOA did research on this topic in the last few months. He explained that when the Windmill Gate HOA asked Town Staff for guidance, Town Staff provided little guidance because the Town Code was silent with respect to which types of products could be utilized.

Vice Mayor Collazo then proceeded to make a motion and asked Town Staff to create a policy that provides alternative products -rather than coal tar products- for the use of town property and for Town Staff to provide commercial businesses with instructional information on the pros/cons on the use of “coal tar” products vs. “non-coal tar” based sealants. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez suggested that maybe the NIC, once it resumes its Quarterly HOA meetings, to invite Mr. Ennis to participate via zoom and ask him to share his knowledge on this subject matter.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. Broken Exercise Equipment on Picnic Park West (Alvarez)**

Councilmember Alvarez presented his item.

Danny Angel, Parks and Recreation Director, reported on the condition of the exercise equipment on Picnic Park West. He elaborated on the condition of older stretching stations that need repair, the bad condition of the basketball court and to bring uniformity throughout the park trail so that it all matches the newer fitness stations. Mr. Angel shared that the price tag to repair/enhance everything would be approximately \$35,000. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion for discussion.

The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 2-5; Councilmember Dieguez, Fernandez, Rodriguez, Ruano and Vice Mayor Collazo voted in opposition.

#### **H. Community Policing during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented his item and stated that the Police Department and the Neighborhood Resource Unit have done a great job in showcasing unity with our residents, specially during the pandemic. Mayor Cid then made a motion for Town Staff to create policy allowing the Neighborhood Resource Unit officers- when available- to participate for 5 minutes, in car caravans to participate in birthday/special occasions for special needs and/or families of seniors, that request it. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

**I. Sidewalk Repairs (Rodriguez)**

Councilmember Rodriguez motioned for Town Staff to fix all the sidewalk repairs that have been flagged down in our town app and use the fund balance reserves in order to address this as a one-time capital improvement, instead of waiting for them to be taken care of under their multi year cycle schedule. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**J. Monthly Manager's Report on Miami Lakes Optimist Park (Alvarez)**

Councilmember Alvarez made a motion for a monthly Manager's Report to be incorporated in the Regular Council Meeting Agenda, on Miami Lakes Optimist Park to be given by Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez and all were in favor.

Mayor Cid made a motion to extend the meeting to 11:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez and all were in favor.

**K. Municipal State of Emergency-Hurricanes (Cid)**

Mayor Cid introduced his item.

Town Manager Pidermann explained the code enforcement policies that are put in place Pre-Hurricane and Post-Hurricane.

Mike Mesa, Building Department Official, answered questioned posed by the Town Council.

Town Staff was directed to improve Code Enforcement Pre-Hurricane and Post-Hurricane policies.

**L. Pet Disposal Garbage Bin with Garbage Bags for Park on Leaning Pine Drive & Lt. Norm Gregorish Drive (Alvarez)**

Councilmember Alvarez motioned by asking Town Staff to add pet disposal bins with garbage bags, for the parks on Leaning Pine Drive and Lieutenant Norman Gregorish Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that there are approximately 100 pocket parks and 40% of them have these pet disposal stations and the cost per station is \$400. The pet disposal stations get installed as they get requested and they litter crew maintains them. These stations are installed in the swale area abutting pocket parks because there is a Town policy

that does not allow pets in parks. The goal with these pet disposal garbage bins is to encourage keeping the parks clean.

Councilmember Ruano stated that we have to be careful and not contradict ourselves because sometimes by installing these pet disposal garbage bins, the Town might be giving the impression that pets are allowed in parks. Mayor Cid stated that it is hard to police the parks 24/7. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **M. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Cid)**

Mayor Cid made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mayor Cid presented this item and stated that this topic originated in the recently held Sunshine Meeting with Councilmember Ruano. He explained the importance of having the Town Manager and the Public Works Director prepare a monthly infrastructure report keeping the Town Council updated. Mayor Cid motioned to amend the Order of business and to add a monthly infrastructure report under the Manager's report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez

Councilmember Ruano stated that she did not present this item because she wanted to first meet with the Public Works Director and the Town Manager and discuss the best way to address the infrastructure projects. She added that many times, the residents unjustly criticize Town Staff and that she feels that it is the Town Council's responsibility to prioritize and find the funding for the projects first. She complimented the Public Works Director, Mr. Carlos Acosta, for doing a great job and she stated that if projects don't move forward, it's because the Town Council does not prioritize them. She stated that she looks forward to this monthly report to be reminded of the projects that are there and for the Town Council to tackle them.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **14. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

- a. Florida League of Cities Leadership Academy

Mayor Cid reported that he participated in a virtual Leadership Academy weekend program.

### **15. MANAGER'S REPORTS**

#### **A. All-America City Report 2021 (De Cardenas)**

Ms. Clarisell de Cardenas, Communications and Community Affairs Director presented the item. Ms. De Cardenas reported that the Town of Miami Lakes has been named a city finalist three times- in 2008, 2010 and in 2020. This year the theme is Building Equitable and Resilient Communities. Ms. De Cardenas reported that last month, the Town submitted the letter to apply for the 2021 All-America City Award. The cost of participating in this competition is approximately \$430. The competition will once again be virtual.

Mayor Cid made a motion to pursue the 2021 All-America City Award. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

#### **B. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (Diaz)**

Ismael Diaz, CFO of the Town of Miami Lakes, announced that for the eight year in a row, the Town of Miami Lakes received the Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting. This award is for the fiscal year ending in 2019 because the award is always a year behind. Mayor and Councilmembers all thanked Mr. Diaz for his great work and for this accomplishment.

#### **C. Update on Fertilizer Ordinance (Angel)**

Mr. Danny Angel, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a chronological update to the Town Council.

Mr. Angel reported that in October 2020, the Board of County Commissioners passed on First reading, a fertilizer ordinance, which does not provide an exemption for golf courses and for turf grass – which would impact the Town’s athletic fields. He explained that the Town has joined the neighbor cities of Aventura, Miami Shores and sent a letter to the Infrastructure and Capital Committee, who was scheduled to review this ordinance on December 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting never took place because this item was deferred with no further notice.

#### **D. Update on Balanced Maintenance Sinking Fund (Acosta)**

Mr. Acosta, Public Works Director, introduced the item by stating that this is a follow-up item that was introduced in November 2020. Mr. Acosta mentioned a few of the items that he has identified with the Facilities Manager, Dario Martinez. Some of the items that need repair are the inside bathrooms at Mary Collins Community Center, to seal coat the parking lot at Picnic Park West; parking lot at Royal Oaks Park and overhead protection on the doors of Royal Oaks Park; to fix the trellis at the Youth Center and to fix the bathrooms at the Marina. Mr. Acosta stated that the sinking fund has money put aside for these repairs. He stated that the Sinking fund balance has \$300,000.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to extend the meeting to midnight. All were in favor.

**E. Recommendation to Create Lake Maintenance District Advisory Board (Angel)**

Mr. Danny Angel, Parks and Recreation Director, reported that this item should have been presented to the Town Council back in 2018. This became prevalent during the summer of 2020, when Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun and himself were scheduling the budget meetings with the Neighborhood Service District committees. He explained that the purpose of this item is to establish a Lake Advisory Board, similar to what the Town does with the security guard districts – in order for the town to have some formal structure to be able to host these meetings and take on recommendations from the Board and then be able to bring it to the Town Council’s attention for approval on budgeted items. He also explained that the Board would consist of 4 members from Lake Patricia and 3 members from Lake Hilda. Town Manager Pidermann asked the Town Council how the distribution of appointments would be made. After discussion, it was decided that Town Staff will come up with a strategy for the Town Council’s consideration and if endorsed, then Town Staff will move forward.

Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to support and approve this item. Mayor Cid seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vice Mayor Collazo took a moment of privilege to thanked Mr. Angel for going above and beyond with his work on this item and in the procurement process.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to extend the meeting to 11:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid and all were in favor.

**F. Update on NW 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue Budget (Pidermann)**

Town Manager Pidermann reported that during the next couple of months, the eminent domain process for the commercial property that the Town will be taking, will be coming to a head and the Town will be needing to make a deposit with the registry of the court.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that in the next few months, an item will be included in the agenda, allowing the Town to make a temporary transfer from the general fund over to the capital fund, to be able to effectuate the taking and make that deposit with the registry. Once the Town moves forward with the project and get reimbursements from the grants, the Town will transfer the money back into the general fund.

**G. FLDOH Closed Public POD Memorandum of Agreement (Bajdaun)**

Jeremy Bajdaun, Special Projects Manager, explained to the Town Council that Town Staff has already began conversations with the State Florida Department of Health to partake in the State’s Cities Readiness Initiative, through Miami Dade Department of Health, as far as vaccinations implementations. This item is seeking approval for the Town Manager to continue pursuing and negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement with the Florida Department of Health. This program aims at giving local municipalities resources from the national stockpile and administering at a local level.

Mr. Bajdaun reported that Town Staff has been in conversations on how to open our own POD, our own vaccination site. In order to provide a community site, the Town will need to open a "Closed POD". This first Memorandum is about solidifying the "Closed POD" for a set target. Ideally, to start with staff members and household family and then proceed to open The vaccination site to the community. Department of Health has not given a timeline yet. All were in favor.

#### **H. Town Manager's Monthly Police Report (Major Ruiz)**

Major Javi Ruiz, Town Commander, presented the Monthly Police Report. He reported that one of the benefits of having traffic enforcement on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue is that when people see the police cars, it helps to curtail crime that may occur in the Royal Oaks area. Councilmember Dieguez thanked the Town Commander for the great job done by the Police Department and their active presence in our community. Vice Mayor Collazo thanked the Town Commander for taking care of the Lake Patricia residents.

Councilmember Ruano mentioned that speeding takes place every night on Commerce Way. Major Ruiz stated that he will have more police presence in the Commerce Way area to deter speeding. Regarding vehicle burglaries, he mentioned that a reduction has taken place in the last year.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to extend the Regular Council Meeting 'til 12:15 am. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid and all were in favor.

#### **16. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

Town Attorney Gastesi reported on the Michael Pizzi Jr. case- both in the civil and criminal cases. He asked the Town Council for \$50,000 from the Litigation Reserve to cover expenses related to this case. Councilmember Dieguez moved to authorize \$50,000 from the Litigation Reserve to be used for the Pizzi litigation case, to cover for the expenses of this case. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

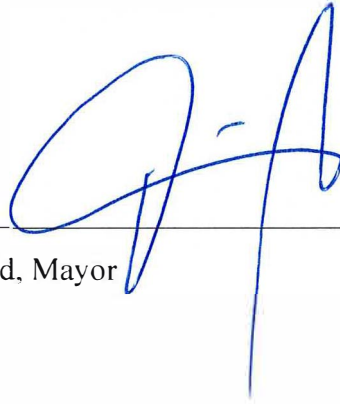
Town Attorney Gastesi reported that the Valiente case is being handled by the insurance counsel, that in the Town of Miami Lakes v. Miami Dade County and City of Hialeah (Bridge Litigation)-the Town initiated an appeal and in the FRS v. Town of Miami Lakes case, a hearing is set for February 9, 2021.

Town Attorney Gastesi asked for two Attorney-Client Executive Sessions to be held during the month of January - one for the Bridges Litigation case and another one on the Pizzi case.

#### **18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 am.

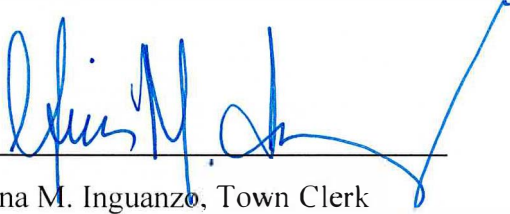
Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021



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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk