

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**February 9, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

No special presentations.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:46 pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Luis E. Collazo and Mayor Manny Cid. Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez was present via zoom.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Pastor Stuart Bodin, from United Methodist Church 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 Marilyn Ruano.

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

Mayor Cid moved up Item 13A, 13E, 13H to be discussed after Public Comments. Councilmember Alvarez pulled Item 11A and 12A to be discussed after Appointments and prior to Committee Reports. Councilmember Fernandez moved up Item 13F to be the first item in the Agenda to be discussed after Public Comments, because of the participation of students in this item. Vice Mayor Collazo pulled Items 9C and 9E from the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Rodriguez made the motion to approve the New Order of Business and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed and 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 as well as in all virtual meetings.

The Mayor of the City of Miami, Mayor Francis Suarez, addressed the Town Council via zoom about attracting the tech industry to the 305 community. He stated that Miami is receiving high migration from tech cities like Silicon Valley and New York City and he emphasized that we need to ensure that our economy is prepared for the future. He mentioned that in the City of Miami Regular Council Meeting, scheduled to take place on February 11<sup>th</sup>, he will be supporting a resolution that will make Miami one of the most crypto friendly cities in America. He thanked the Town Council for letting him participate in the Regular Council Meeting.

Mr. Alvin Murray participated in Public Comments via zoom. He shared the good news that the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club teams all did very well in their competitions and that the U17 Team won the tournament and became the #1 team in the nation.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron participated in-person Public Comments. She thanked the Mayor and Town Council for running the town so smoothly and keeping it safe. She specially thanked Mayor Cid, Vice Mayor Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano for responding and acknowledging her emails. She also thanked Mayor Cid and Vice Mayor Collazo for working hard on the Opa Locka Air Traffic Patterns for trying to make the corridor narrower and she thanked Councilmember Dieguez for letting her know about the March 18<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Infrastructure. Ms. Cintron also stated that she is not in support of having the Town of Miami Lakes involved with the Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies. Ms. Cintron also asked the Town Council if the Town of Miami Lakes has deed restrictions in place requiring properties to have a certain number of trees.

Mrs. Claudia Luces participated in-person Public Comments. She spoke about the initiative by Councilmember Alvarez, to look at perhaps bringing a Miami Lakes Charter School to our area. Mrs. Luces stated her concerns over bringing a charter school to our town; she explained that there are 6 public schools and 1 private school all within the town boundaries and that outside the boundaries, we have 2 charter schools, as well as an additional private school; she stated that in her opinion, there are plenty of choices for parents to go around; she stated that if you have an issue with how public schools are managed or if you want some improvements to be made, then you should contact the school board; she stated that not another layer of bureaucracy should be added to our town. Mrs. Luces also stated that COHEA – the school were Councilmember Alvarez serves as a Principal, the governing board is Hialeah City Council; she mentioned that the Town of Miami Lakes should focus on infrastructure improvements and that people do not want bigger government. Ms. Luces also spoke about the EAB funds – the \$300,000 that were allocated to the schools of impact. She stated that she does not understand why \$150,000 of those funds should be given away to the schools; she mentioned that there was an agreement signed that stipulates that the money should go to the schools of impact; that agreements need to be respected and that the Town Council should know how the \$150,000 are going to be distributed amongst the school; she asked the Town Council to wait and find out what the needs are once the kids and the teachers return back to school in order to determine the needs of the

school; Ms. Luces also spoke about Bitcoins and mentioned that the Town of Miami Lakes embarks on projects and then forgets everything else that is affecting this town; she stated that that blasting activity is destroying the town; that there was a lot of social media in Bitcoins and not as much for blasting; that the Kindergarten Savings Plan item can be handled by the Education Advisory Board but should not be handled by Town Staff.

Mr. Angelo Cuadra participated in-person Public Comments. He stated that he saw a big puddle of oil spilled on 57<sup>th</sup> and 163rd, that he called Vice Mayor Collazo and that they both saw the puddle of oil and took pictures; Mr. Cuadra stated that he sent an email to the Code Enforcement Department about this situation and that he has done so for many years; he stated that this is an environmental concern that could be damaging the water that we drink; he asked the Town Council to please do something about this situation.

Mr. Sylvio Puppo-Casco participated in-person Public Comments. He spoke about government blockchain and about the acceptance of digital payments in digital currency at the Town of Miami Lakes.

Mr. Armando Varona participated in Public Comments via zoom. He stated that in the street where he resides, 142<sup>nd</sup> Lane, there is a stormwater drainage that is not working properly. Mr. Varona would like to have the stormwater drainage cleaned before the rainy season. He welcomed the opportunity to meet with Town Staff and show them the drainage situation on his street.

Ms. Alex Avellanet participate in-person Public Comments. She spoke about the inclusion of the digital currency within our municipal government. She gave a PowerPoint presentation about digital currency and Bitcoin and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Ms. Eryka Gemma participated in-person Public Comments. She gave a PowerPoint presentation about digital currency and Bitcoin and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Juan Alfonso participated in Public Comments via zoom. He stated that a few days ago, when he was approaching his home driveway, and getting out of his car, 5 masked gunmen were parked in front of his house and pointed at him and his spouse and requested that they hand over the keys of their car. Mr. Alfonso stated that as it was a terrifying experience for him and his spouse and that they are thankful to God that they are alive to tell this story. He reached out to the Town Council to consider measures to improve the security of the residents of our town; perhaps add LED lighting, additional LPR's and increase police patrolling within our boundaries. Mr. Alfonso thanked the entire Police Department and mentioned that Officer Santamaria did a great job on the night of the incident.

Ms. Maria Adel participated in Public Comments via zoom. She spoke about a hazard concern on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue as you drive into Miami Lakes from Hialeah. She mentioned that the hedges on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Hidden Lakes are too high. She asked the Town Council to lower the height of said hedges. She also mentioned that she has elderly neighbors that are dear to her and that someone complained that they left the garbage containers in front of their property for several days. They received a citation from the Town of Miami Lakes and Ms. Adel explained that her

neighbors are too old and frail to walk outside their homes. Ms. Adel kindly requested for the Town of Miami Lakes to be compassionate about this situation.

Mr. William Porro participated in-live Public Comments. He spoke about the Childs Savings Account and presented a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Porro also mentioned that he will be meeting with the Education Advisory Board to provide more information on this program. Mr. Porro answered questions posed by the Town Council.

#### Written Public Comments

The Town Clerk Inguanzo read into the record, all the names of all the individuals who sent written public comments; the Town Clerk also stated that she sent these emails to the Town Council as soon as she received them; these emails were photocopied and placed on the dais, for the convenience of the Town Council.

Ms. Hope Reynolds sent a written public comment.

Ms. Georgina Luces sent a written public comment.

Mr. Alex Ariano sent a written public comment.

Mr. Boris Forster sent a written public comment.

Ms. Rosa Prieto sent a written public comment.

Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia sent a written public comment.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to re-open the Order of Business and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

Mayor Cid stated that he wanted to move up the Committee Reports and the Appointments. Councilmember Dieguez motioned for this to happen and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Mr. Rudy Lloredo was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Patricia by Mayor Manny Cid

Mr. Sam Budlong was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Patricia by Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez.

Mr. Ruben Arguelles was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Patricia by Vice Mayor Luis E. Collazo.

Ms. Patrice Morales was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Patricia by Councilmember Jeffrey Rodriguez.

Mr. Angel De La Fuente was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Hilda by Councilmember Josh Dieguez.

Ms. Gisela Soberon was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Hilda by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.

Mr. Kristian Garcia was nominated to the Neighborhood Services District –The Lake Hilda by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Mr. Juan Torres was nominated to the Public Safety Committee by Mayor Manny Cid.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the appointments and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Neighborhood Improvement Committee**

Chairman Rudy Lloredo stated that the NIC met on November 24<sup>th</sup> and in said meeting, the NIC voted to allocate \$500 towards signs for Public Safety Committee and to assist them with the Drive Safety Signs. Also, he thanked the Town Council and the Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella for the Workshop on Committee Rules and Regulations. He said that that the workshop was exceptional; he thanked Mr. Danny Angel and his team for the fantastic job regarding the Neighborhood Services Districts meetings and thanked everyone for providing more autonomy to the committees.

Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to approve the transfer from the NIC to allocate \$500 towards the signs for the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and all were in favor.

### **B. Blasting Advisory Board**

Councilmember Fernandez motioned to re-open the Order of Business. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to move up the Committee Reports and the Appointments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and all were in favor; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Chairman Miguel Martinez presented the BAB Report to the Town Council. Chairman Martinez asked the Town Council for approval to have the BAB Town Hall Meeting on February 25th to educate the public on this topic; to have a trip – virtual and in person- to Tallahassee for residents to testify in Committee meetings. The date of this trip is yet to be determined; he also asked the Town Council to review and approve the proposed BAB recommendations for 2021. He stated that the BAB's recommendations coincide with House Bill 143- which was recently submitted by State Representative Fabricio.

Mayor Cid then proceeded to make a motion to accept the BAB report and recommendations for 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and all were in favor.

Councilmember Ruano asked for her two items dealing with BAB – Item 13C and Item 13G- to be discussed simultaneously with the BAB committee report. Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to

open the Order of Business and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

Mayor Cid then motioned to move up Item 13C and Item 13G and to discuss these items with the BAB Committee Report. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo and all were in favor.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to support the BAB's recommendations and Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to adopt the Resolution in support of House Bill 143. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. Mayor Cid made a friendly amendment to this motion by directing the Town Manager to have Southern Strategies and Sun City work on this legislation. He stated that this was a request from State Representative Tom Fabricio. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the amendment and all were in favor. The main motion passed unanimously; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

All physically present councilmembers co-sponsored the resolution in support of House Bill 143.

#### C. Education Advisory Board

Chairman Mario Pinera presented the EAB Committee Report to the Town Council. Chairman Pinera stated that the EAB was able to meet with the 6 Principals of the Miami-Dade Public Schools within our town and that they allocated \$100,000 amongst those 6 schools- the detail breakdown was included in the report. Chairman Pinera stated that the EAB decided to only allocate \$100,000 this year and that the board members will reevaluate and provide guidance for the remaining \$200,000 for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Mayor Cid then motioned to accept the EAB's report. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Chairman Pinera answered questions posed by the Town Council.

During discussion, it was suggested for Town Attorney Gastesi to step outside Council Chambers and meet with Chairman Pinera, to discuss all the requests from the principals and to determine if they are within the Development Agreement or not. After some further discussion, Councilmember Rodriguez suggested for Town Attorney Gastesi to come up with parameters that can be used and to take it back to the principals. Town Attorney Gastesi reviewed the requests while in Council Chambers and stated that request #1, #2 and #3, have no legal problem because they consist of a physical plant improvement- a fixture.

After further discussion, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to defer this item until March, in order for Chairman Pinera to have an opportunity to speak with the Town Attorney with more time and determine each request. The motion failed due to lack of second.

Councilmember Rodriguez then proceeded to make a motion for the Chairman of the EAB to speak to Town Attorney Gastesi outside Council Chambers and discuss all the requests with the principals, and to determine if they are within the Development Agreement but to figure it out tonight. Councilmember Fernandez second the motion and all were in favor.

After meeting with Town Attorney Gastesi outside Council Chambers, Chairman Pinera addressed the Town Council and stated that he would like to table this item until the next meeting, in order to get more clarifications regarding legal issues; Chairman Pinera stated that the EAB needs to meet again with the principals and discuss further matters.

Chairman Pinera asked the Town Council if moving forward, should the EAB include HML. Mayor Cid responded in the affirmative- he stated that the school boundaries changed and the HML is the town's high school feeder pattern. Mayor Cid also requested that Town Attorney Gastesi and Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella be present at the next meeting between EAB and the principals.

Chairman Pinera also reported that Miami Lakes Middle requested to transfer the \$6,400 that they were originally allocated for vocabulary classes to be allocated to hourly tutoring. Councilmember Rodriguez motioned to approved the transfer and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## **9. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Vice Mayor Collazo moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approved on Consent

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2017-32(W) FOR MISCELLANEOUS ENGINEERING SERVICES, WITH WOOD ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS, INC., PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS, AMEC FOSTER WHEELER ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE DOLLARS AND 80/100, FOR STREETLIGHTS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE WORK ORDER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Approved on Consent.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND, IF GRANTED ACCEPT FDOT'S, TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FDOT'S, TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM GRANT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Collazo pulled this item for discussion.

Vice Mayor Collazo explained that in his opinion, the area where the proposed sidewalk is being added is very light traveled by foot; he sees value to this sidewalk but he would like for the Town of Miami Lakes not to commit the \$200,000 because it is not required to commit a match. Thus, Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to apply for the grant but to not commit the People's Transportation Funds of \$200,000 and to use those \$200,000 where residents need it the most. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez.

The motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2019-27 FOR DESIGN SERVICES, WITH STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICE, INC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CHANGE ORDER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Approved on Consent.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A CHANGE ORDER PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2019-27 FOR DESIGN SERVICES, WITH STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICE, INC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CHANGE ORDER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Collazo pulled this item for discussion.

He explained that this item has to do with the replacing of parking lot surfacing and the Town Manager confirmed that it is not a coal-tar based product. Vice Mayor Collazo then proceeded to make a motion to adopt the resolution and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.



## **10. ORDINANCE –**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL TURF; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, “LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE”, AT ARTICLE VII, “ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS”, CREATING SECTION 13-1703, “ARTIFICIAL TURF”, PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT, INTENT AND PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title into the record.

Susana Alonso, Principal Town Planner, presented the item and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Ms. Alonso explained that this ordinance will create a section in our Land Development Code and allowing artificial turf only in some cases. She explained that Miami-Dade County does not mention artificial turf anywhere in its Code but that the proposed ordinance is stating that wherever the Miami-Dade County allows to pave, artificial turf will be allowed - in the rear yard and inside yards that are not facing the street and in the 2-inch separation of the concrete driveways.

Mayor Cid made a motion to approve the ordinance in first reading. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

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

- A. 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.

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

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and explained the key changes between first reading and second reading.

Mayor Cid opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to move Ordinance in second reading as per Town Staff recommendations. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Shortly thereafter, Vice Mayor Collazo made an amendment to his main motion to remove all the road pavement markings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 2-4; with Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Ruano, Councilmember Rodriguez and Mayor Cid voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

After discussion, Councilmember Rodriguez made an amendment, to the first amendment, to have \$150,000 for road pavement markings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 3-3; with Councilmember Dieguez, Ruano and Vice Mayor Collazo voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to amend the amendment, to assign \$90,000 for the road pavement markings. The amendment was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo. The Town Clerk called the roll and motion failed 3-3; with Councilmembers Fernandez, Rodriguez and Mayor Cid voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to amend the motion and assign \$120,000 for road pavement markings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. After discussion, Councilmember Rodriguez withdrew his amended motion.

Then, Councilmember Rodriguez proceeded to make an amendment to the main motion to assign \$110,000 for road pavement markings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-1, with Councilmember Fernandez voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion, as amended 4 times, and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

## **12. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TOWN CLERK; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager Ed Pidermann presented the item and recommended the Town Council to approve the resolution authorizing an adjustment in the stormwater utility fee from \$4.50 per ERU to \$13.50 per ERU through fiscal year 2024/2025 and adopt a rate of \$21.50 ERU per month, commencing on October 1, 2024. Town Manager Pidermann asked the Town Council to adopt option #4 and give him authority to pursue a long-term bond in order to address the \$54 million stormwater need. He also stated that with option #1, a ballot question to the voters of the town would be raised only if the Town Council decides to do so and ask residents to approve or not an issuance of \$54.6 million in Stormwater Bonds to be able to address the stormwater infrastructure needs.

Mayor Cid asked if anyone from the public wished to speak. Seeing that no one wished to speak, Mayor Cid closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to adopt the new stormwater fee and to accept Town Staff's recommendation of option #1. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded for discussion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 1-5 with Councilmembers Dieguez, Rodriguez, Ruano, Vice Mayor Collazo and Mayor Cid voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Mayor Cid made a motion to move forward on crowdfunding a muni bond to pay for all of these improvements. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned for Town Staff to come back with a report aligned to funding of option #2 or option #3; he explained for the funding target to be within the parameters of option #2 or option #3. After some discussions, Councilmember Dieguez amended his motion for Town Staff to come back with a report to include all of the 4 options. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid.

After discussion, Town Staff was asked to research all the options and to come back with this research in March.

**B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE COMMITTEE RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the resolution into the record.

The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, presented the item and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to move Town recommendation's forward. Mayor Cid seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Collazo thanked the Deputy Town Attorney's work as well as the work of the Director of Communications, Ms. Clarisell de Cardenas. He acknowledged that this version of the committee rules include everything that the Committee Chairs spoke about in the workshop.

During discussion, Councilmember Fernandez made an amendment to the main motion and asked for the following tweaks to be made: In Section 14, the proposed section C, to be eliminate it; and section 24, that allows the 10 calendar days of notice essentially to the Town Council, of when the Committee presents an item, he proposed to add some language to preserve the Town Council the ability to waive that at any point. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion for discussion. They were all in favor of the amendment.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

## C. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

### A. Bitcoin (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented his item.

Mayor Cid explained that our merchant service is PayPal that that they are going to start accepting bitcoin/cryptocurrency through PayPal in the first quarter of 2021.

Mayor Cid then motioned to include a tab in the Town Website outlining what Bitcoin and cryptocurrency is and to lay-out all the information that PayPal has on Bitcoin on our Town Website, so that our residents stay educated. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo.

During discussion, Vice Mayor Collazo welcomed the idea of having Mr. Sylvio Puppo or Ms. Eryka Gemma and Ms. Alex Avellanet working with the EDC and hosting some type of educational workshop on cryptocurrency to educate our residents; he mentioned that maybe the speakers could partner up with the Economic Development Committee to educate all our residents and to continue to move this information forward.

Councilmember Fernandez then proceeded to thanked FIU and stated that during his master's program, blockchain and bitcoin was extensively covered, as an emerging technology. He suggested that in order to educate our residents better maybe we should reach out to FIU and get some academic backup.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she understands that our merchant service PayPal will be accepting Bitcoin and that it is a great thing but that she does not think it's a municipal function to promote any kind of currency usage in the Town Website due to potential liability implications. Councilmember Fernandez added that municipalities should not endorse a particular product or thing and only educate our residents.

Ms. Eryka Gemma spoke about Bitcoin vs. Blockchain vs. Cryptocurrency and answered questioned posed by the Town Council.

Ms. Alex Avellanet spoke about Bitcoin vs. Blockchain vs. Cryptocurrency and answered questioned posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Luis Lanlinde spoke about the difference between cryptocurrency and blockchains and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Sylvio Puppo spoke about digital payments in digital currency at the Town of Miami Lakes and about municipal bonds as an investment opportunity, blockchain in the bond market, crowdfunding mini-muni bonds and about defining a set of standards regarding blockchain in the bond market.

The motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

**B. Stormwater Truck Augmentation (Fernandez)**

Councilmember Fernandez presented his item and stated that the productivity of the Stormwater truck is substantially different between the dry season v. the wet season. Councilmember Fernandez motioned to augment our existing Vac Truck only during the dry season month, so that we can have one and a half truck and be able to cut down our cycle to one year. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid.

Town Manager Pidermann recommended that this could be done for the pending half dry season- three months- by reopening Item 11a, amending to add \$70,000 so that Town Staff can fund this program from the fund balance for the next three months. Councilmember Rodriguez then proceeded to make a motion to re-open item 11A and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-1, with Councilmember Dieguez voting in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

Then, Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move \$70,000 from Fund Balance line item to an operational line, so Town Staff can use the money to contract for a three-month basis program, to pay for the second backup of the stormwater truck. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the amendment to Item 11a, ordinance in second reading passed 6-0; with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

Mayor Cid made a motion to extend the meeting to 1:30 am, Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion and all were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

**C. Supporting Blasting Advisory Board 2021-revised recommendations report (Ruano)**

This item was discussed simultaneously with Item 8B, during the discussion of Committee Report of Blasting Advisory Board.

**D. Convenient Business Licensing (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez moved to waive the rules and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to direct Town Staff to go ahead and add a new feature to the Town of Miami Lakes App, so that residents can pull licenses and permits through the App. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion and all physically present were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

**E. LPR Program (Cid)**

Mayor Cid stated that there are approximately \$60,000 in the Police account Impact Fees and more funds -approximately \$300,000- are expected to come in soon. Mayor Cid asked

Police Commander Javier Ruiz to share with the Town Council some information about the LPR Program. Police Commander Ruiz shared the accomplishments of the LPR Program and stated that it allows the Police Department to be reactive and pro-active as an agency.

Mayor Cid made a motion to utilize those dollars -the \$60,000 plus the expected funds- to immediately install the LPR's in our two major corridors – 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to amend the main motion, to add the LPR to 82<sup>nd</sup> and 170<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Cid seconded the motion and all were in favor. The main motion as amended, passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

#### **F. Stormwater Recommendations from Miami Lakes Middle Legal Studies Academy (Fernandez)**

Councilmember Fernandez called the students from the Miami Lakes Middle Legal Studies Academy. The students presented a PowerPoint presentation and they kindly asked the Town Council to consider their “Flooding Prevention Plan for the Town of Miami Lakes. The students that participated on this presentation are Maurits Acosta, Lucia Bring, Jocelyn Hernandez and Gabriela Vega. The students introduced as part of their PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Silvio Pupo-Casco, who spoke about funding options known as digital impact bonds. He spoke about municipal bonds to raise capital

Councilmember Fernandez stated that Section 1, Part a of the Flooding Prevention Proposal for the Town of Miami Lakes, drafted by the Middle School students, deals with banning the use of concrete and non-permeable building materials in flood zones. Then he made a motion to direct town staff to look into drafting an ordinance to that effect and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. All were in favor; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to direct Town Staff to research on the water catch basins and incentives that we can give to residents and commercial business property owners, in order to install these types of water catch basins and water retention sites. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. Councilmember Dieguez added that Town Staff should get information from Senior Town Planner Susana Alfonso, regarding the Green Building Ordinance and water management techniques that will be presented to the Town Council soon. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and all were in favor. Alvarez was absent.

Councilmember Dieguez motion to re-open the order of business and it was seconded by Council member Fernandez. All were in favor; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

At the end of this discussion, Item 12A was moved up and to be discussed now. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and all were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

### **G. Resolution in support of HR 143 Fabricio/Rizzo (Ruano)**

This item was discussed simultaneously with Item 8B, during the discussion of Committee Report of the Blasting Advisory Board.

### **H. Child Savings Account (Cid)**

Mayor Cid made a motion for the Town Council to endorse this initiative and for this idea to be handled by the Education Advisory Board. Mayor Cid explained that if a cost is attached to it, then this would have to come back to the Town Council. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and made a friendly amendment. He stated that if this initiative goes down the path of funding, it should be done in Bitcoins. Mayor Cid seconded the amendment. After discussion, Councilmember Fernandez withdrew his motion.

Mayor Cid stated that if this item passes, he recommends EAB to talk to Banco Popular and Bank United to potentially work with the committee free of cost.

The main motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

### **I. Resume HOA Meetings in Town of Miami Lakes Community Centers (Ruano)**

Councilmember Ruano presented her item. Councilmember Ruano explained that because of the Emergency Order in place not allowing more than 10 people to gather in a public building, Homeowners Association have not been meeting in the Town of Miami Lakes community centers.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she wants the HOA's to meet at the community centers immediately and she motioned to direct the Town Attorney to reach out to the County to see if they can lift the restriction under the parameters that we would be socially distancing and wearing a facial covering; and if this is not allowed, then to allow HOA's to use the Town's facilities limited to 10 individuals per sectioned area and with the supervision of Mr. Escobar, who is the Town Staff member assigned to this task. A resolution to be drafted for this matter. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo for discussion.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that there will be an added cost, because Town Staff will need to be present at these meetings – to make sure that no more than 10 people from the public congregate in these meetings.

After further discussion, Mayor Cid asked the Town Attorney to send an email to the County, asking them to lift the Emergency Order and explaining that the HOA's want to meet in public buildings and that they will be socially distanced and wearing facial coverings. If the County does not move forward, Councilmember Ruano stated that she would like for the HOA's to meet and have Town Staff in the community centers making sure that the residents are maintaining social distance and wearing their facial coverings, as previously discussed with the Town Manager.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that he would work with Town Staff to allow having a person available in the community centers to monitor the situation. All were in favor.

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

- a. Appointment to the Miami-Dade TPO- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) (Cid)

Mayor Cid reported that he was appointed to the Transportation TPO Long Range Plan to represent all the cities in Dade County. Mayor Cid explained that this is the plan that is responsible for coordinating and compiling the long-term transportation plan and that he will make sure to provide updates to the Town Council.

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

##### **A. Outside Employment (Pidermann)**

Town Manager Pidermann explained that he was offered a teaching position as an Adjunct Professor in Miami-Dade College. Town Manager Pidermann explained that in accordance with Section 14 of his Employment Agreement, the Town Council needs to approve any outside employment. Councilmember Rodriguez motioned to approve Mr. Pidermann's outside employment. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo and the motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

##### **B. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Acosta)**

Mr. Carlos Acosta, Public Works Director, gave his report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. His report consisted of three sections: Capital Improvement Projects, Maintenance Activities and Unfunded Items.

Mayor Cid moved to extend the RCM to 2 am. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Rodriguez voting in opposition; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

##### **C. Monthly Report on Miami-Lakes Optimist Park (Angel)**

Mr. Danny Angel, Parks and Recreation Director, gave his report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. Mr. Angel stated that the TOML's final proposal to the Optimist Park was sent and that the Optimist Park gave them their final blessing. The TOML's final proposal is now in the hands of the School Board's possession. Mr. Angel stated that he is working on getting this proposal to the Town Council soon.

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

Major Javi Ruiz, Town Commander, presented the Monthly Police Report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. He reported that they have added more police presence on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



**E. Update on “No Wake” zone for Lake Ruth and Canal (Angel)**

Mr. Danny Angel, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a quick update and answered questions posed by the Town Council. He explained that this report is about how to better enforce boating and personal watercraft enforcement along the C 8 canal, which is adjacent to the Celebration, Windmill Gates and Loch Ness communities. Mr. Angel stated that he is working with Miami Dade County – who has jurisdictional authority of all the waters. asked the Town Council for their support to reach out to Miami-Dade County and to work with the Public Works Department and figure out how they can amend Section 7 of the County ordinance, for the C.8 Canal to be included in their ordinance.

Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to give support and enough latitude to do whatever it takes to make sure we protect our waterways, home properties and town properties. Mayor Cid seconded the motion and all physically present were in favor.

**F. Update on Palmetto Expressway Project (Zayas-Morales)**

Mr. Michael Zayaz-Morales, Transportation Planning Manager, presented an oral report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. Mr. Zayas-Morales stated that he met with FDOT Staff regarding the project and modifications happening inside the boundaries of the Town. He shared with the Town Council that the modifications occurring on the northbound travel lanes are minimal but the south travel lanes are more significant; one express lane will be converted to a general-purpose lane to able to accommodate the capacity and the existing southbound express lane currently located north of NW 154 will be relocated to SR 932/NW 103 street.

**16. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi, on the Michael Pizzi Jr. case, reported that they are negotiating with the Becker Law Firm simultaneously with the Pizzi Firm. He stated that the Pizzi team has issued a Notice of Readiness for Trial and the Town Attorney Gastesi explained that his firm is putting an ultimatum to the Becker Firm to get this done in 30 or 45 days.

Town Attorney Gastesi also provided a report on the Bridges case- the one involving Miami-Dade County. He stated that \$15,000 need to be move from legal reserves to the 170 Bridge Litigation Case.

Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to transfer \$15,000 from the legal reserve line item to the 170<sup>th</sup> Bridge Litigation line item. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and all the physically present were in favor.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 am.

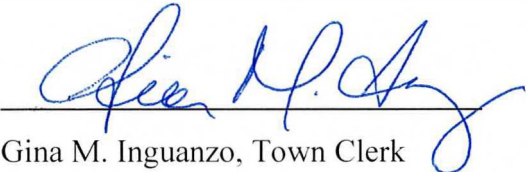
Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024



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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk