

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**April 13, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Cid welcomed everyone to the Council Meeting.

Councilmember Rodriguez on behalf of the Town Council, recognized the students from Barbara Goleman Senior High School, who participated in the Mock Trial Program 2021 and came in second place in the District. Ms. Ana Soto Gonzalez, teacher of the program was recognized, as well as Ms. Vanessa Abreu. The Town Council also recognized the principal of the school, Dr. Sanchez, and he thanked the parents of the students, the students, the Town Council, Ms. Soto, Ms. Ana Lara and Ms. Lewis, on behalf of Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman and the School region.

Ms. Elsa Reus was recognized for her many achievements and many years of activism as a volunteer in the Town of Miami Lakes. Since 1986, she became an active member of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, which led to her becoming the Director of Development for the Catholic School. She is very active in the Town of Miami Lakes, especially in the Cultural Affairs Committee, and has been responsible for the annual Nativity scene display at Town Hall, assists with the National Day of Prayer in Town Hall and was awarded the 2021 Women with Distinction Award from the Town of Miami Lakes for outstanding volunteer work in our community. Mayor Cid proclaimed April 13<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed as the Elsa Reus Day.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:42 pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Tony Fernandez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Luis E. Collazo and Mayor Manny Cid. Councilmember Alvarez joined the meeting at 6:45 pm. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Daniel Vazquez from Included 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 Mr. Johnny Linares.

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

Mayor Cid moved up Item 9B from the Consent Calendar and moved up Items 15C and 15I, to be discussed after Public Comments. Councilmember Alvarez asked for Item 13C to be combined in the discussion of Item 12A

Councilmember Rodriguez made the motion to approve the New Order of Business and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

#### **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.

Ms. Vivian Levy participated in-person Public Comments. She stated that April as Autism Awareness & Acceptance Month; she mentioned that her son is different – not less; she stated that the mission of the Special Needs Advisory Board is to create a model town for inclusion, to create opportunities to showcase the talents of some of our most special residents; she played a video of many of these special residents who participated in the “Painting With a Twist” event. She concluded her public comments by reminder us all that inclusion matters and that it is important to be kind.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron participated in-person Public Comments. She suggested that when the Agenda gets done, a simple sentence at the end of an ordinance get added, explaining exactly what the amendment might mean; regarding Item 12C, Ms. Cintron stated that the proposed enhancements sound very reasonable but that she wonders why our town is paying for them because it belongs to Dade County and not to the Town; that is should be free to use the field and not have to pay additional expenses; she thanked Councilmember Ruano for wanting to re-open public buildings again; regarding Item 14B, she stated that traffic circles are a great idea, that they alleviate the congestion and they help traffic move at a slower pace; she stated that speed bumps are horrible and that she is happy to hear that the Farmers Market is back and she finished her comment by stating that she hopes that the Attorney’s Report mention something about the bridge litigation. She also questioned why we have never seen in the news, the proposed idea of just allowing access to I-75, with our thru traffic.

Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia participated in-person Public Comments. He addressed the Town Council regarding a device that was installed in Roberto Alonso not long ago, and that now he considers debris. Mr. Cuadra Garcia brought to the Council Chambers that device to show the

Town Council, that was installed in Roberto Alonso, and he urged the Town Council to use a different product. He stated that he recommends asphalt and that the device that was installed in Roberto Alonso is garbage. Regarding Item 9 of the Agenda, he stated that he is investigating all the 19 items mentioned; he stated that the Town Council should have a proposal from a company that is called Arrow and that that this proposal is more cost effective; he also stated that once he is done with this investigation – he should be hired in the procurement department; that he will give everyone a copy of his favorite book – “The Art of the Deal” by Mr. Donald J. Trump. He stated that it is his passion to bring information to the Town Council.

Ms. Claudia Luces participated in-person Public Comments. She addressed the Town Council to discuss about the bridges on 170<sup>th</sup> and on 154. She stated that concerns over the issues that affect the residents of Hialeah have been many and should not be dismissed; concerns including lack of access to schools emergency services and the commute many residents have to endure due to lack of infrastructure (roads) are just a few; she provided a recap of facts: City of Hialeah approved these developments to be built – allowing more homes to be built in excess of what is allowed according to their Zoning Codes; in an area with one road in and one road out; this created needs to have school and emergency services for the residents residing in that area; she stated that emergency services reside in the municipality the residents reside in -so she stated that the City of Hialeah collects the taxes from those properties and they have the responsibility to provide those services and not the Town of Miami Lakes; she summarized that the City of Hialeah created this problem and that they should be the ones to resolve their problems and not burden another community for their lack of planning; that the people who bought properties in those gated communities maybe have buyer’s remorse but that is not an excuse to come to burden our town; grievances should be directed to the City of Hialeah and not the Town of Miami Lakes; she mentioned that an item on this agenda is to discuss the cost involved in designing interchanges perhaps at I-75 suggested by some residents years ago; she questioned if the City of Hialeah would bear any financial responsibility; she mentioned that if the bridge opens there will be no need for an interchange and design; she finished by suggesting that maybe the best scenario would be for the City of Hialeah and Town of Miami Lakes and to work together.

Ms. Esperanza Hope Reynolds participated in Public Comments via zoom. She stated that on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a group -including her- met with the Building and Zoning officials of the Town of Miami Lakes because they had issues and concerns and she thanked them for taking the time to meet with them; she thanked Mr. Mike Mesa; she stated that she hopes to work out the issue of incorporating the HOA approval letters to the permitting process because to work on homes without permits, turns projects into illegal additions or improvements and creates legal matters between the town and property owners; she also emphasized that the same goes for any external project done without first obtaining the approval of the HOA and the deed restrictions; she stated that the Lake Glen Ellen deed restrictions take precedence over the town, when it comes to when an owner is allowed to construct or plan; she stated that it very important for her that the Town Council support the role of volunteer board members, that it is not easy to guide the community to adhere to governing documents that have been the essence of order to our community for 40 years; she shared that she has been a resident for 40 years in Lake Glen Ellen and she thanked for taking the time to help. He also thanked the Town Manager and his team.

## Written Public Comments-

The Town Clerk mentioned that one written public comment was received and that it was from Ms. Esperanza Hope Reynolds. She stated that the email was sent to the Town Council and printed and placed on the Dais.

## 7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Eric Trillas to the Building Ad Hoc Committee by Councilmember Jeffrey Rodriguez.  
Mr. Luis Senra to the Building Ad Hoc Committee by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.  
Mr. Mark Gomez to the Youth Activities Task Force by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.  
Mr. German Cure to the Building Ad Hoc Committee by Vice Mayor Collazo.

Councilmember Alvarez motioned to approve the appointments and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. All were in favor. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Economic Development Committee

Chairman Jorge Alvarez presented the Committee Report.

He explained that at the March 16<sup>th</sup> EDC, the committee voted to become members of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce at the platinum level for a \$5,000 cost. Thus, Chairman Alvarez kindly requested the Town Council to approve funding for the EDC to join the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Committee Member Mr. Neill Robison came before the Town Council and stated that he was very much involved in the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce and that he understands it is a great opportunity for networking and to get to know various businesses each month; he was in total support of this recommendation.

Ms. Nelly Hocke, Director of Membership from Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Spenser Pylant, Vice President of Government Affairs from Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, answered posed by the Town Council.

Chairman Alvarez answered questions posed by the Town Council. He explained that the EDC is asking for an additional expense to the Town; that it would be coming out of the General Fund and not from the committee's budget. He also stated that he will discuss with the committee how to fund the \$5,000 membership level for the next fiscal year.

Town Manager Pidermann recommended for the EDC to bring this proposal in their budget request for it to be considered for the next fiscal year and for it to take place in October 2021.

After discussion, Councilmember Rodriguez moved in agreement with Vice Mayor Collazo's item, of allocating the \$2,020 from the General Fund to the Economic Development Committee to enable the EDC to join the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce at the nonprofit trustee level. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Town Manager Pidermann emphasized that the Town Council will have to amend Item 1 la, the Budget Ordinance in second reading, to reflect this new item to be funded from Cul-de-Sac.

#### B. Cultural Affairs Committee

Chairman Neil Robinson presented the CAC report and provided a recap of all the cultural activities hosted by the committee since November 2020. Chairman Robison thanked his committee members for their volunteer work, he thanked the Town Council, the Town Manager and Town staff.

Chairman Robinson also presented to the Town Council two new events that were recently approved the committee, the Earth Day celebration scheduled to take place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Pride Month celebration, scheduled to take place during the month of June. Chairman Robinson addressed the Town Council and asked for their approval on these two new events.

Councilmember Rodriguez motioned to approve the Committee Report and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Mayor Cid made a constitutional objection on this item; he emphasized the importance of respecting the First amendment and that people should have the ability to speak and be treated equally. Mayor Cid stated everybody has a right to speak and to express themselves. Without going into details, Mayor Cid mentioned that two different residents went before the CAC meeting, to express themselves on two different events; Mayor Cid stated that one resident got the event immediately approved and was invited to join a subcommittee meeting, while the other resident was told to present additional proposals and does not have that same access. Mayor Cid stated that he would like to move forward with the three events, because the three events were approved by the CAC and that they should not be treated differently.

Chairman Robinson stated that all individuals that attend the CAC meetings are always heard and allowed to speak freely by following the Robert Rules of Order; that they are always open to individuals that want to make presentations to the CAC and that after listening to the presentation, the committee deliberates. He mentioned that if inadvertently, the CAC omitted presenting three items on the CAC report for your approval, he asked for clarification and that he would be in agreement to bring the event to the Town Council.

Mayor Cid then proceeded to read from the CAC Minutes included in the Regular Council Meeting Agenda and stated that the three new events are the Earth Day, Pride Month and Honoring Mothers in May. Chairman Robinson then stated that the third event was omitted from his report, that it was an oversight and that he would like to include the three events to be presented to the Town Council for their approval. Chairman Robinson apologized for

omitting that one item. The correction was reflected so the Committee Report would consist of the three new events, as stated in the CAC Minutes.

The motion, as amended, passed unanimously. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **9. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to move the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

- March 9, 2021 RCM
- March 11, 2021 Special Call Meeting
- March 11, 2021 Community Survey Workshop

The item was approved on Consent Calendar.

**B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE NEGOTIATION AND AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR ITN 2021-21, RECREATION PROGRAM SERVICES TO CAMP WANNADO AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, INC., SNAPOLOGY OF MIAMI, AND YMCA OF SOUTH FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Cid pulled this item.

Mayor Cid motioned to move forward with this item but have Town staff come back to us in the May Regular Council Meeting, detailing the game plan on how the summertime services will look like. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **10. ORDINANCE FIRST READING**

None.

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

**A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 20-269 AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 20-270 AND 21-272, 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.

Mayor Cid read the title of the ordinance into the record.

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

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item. He explained the changes that were incorporated into the ordinance, as requested by the Town Council during the first reading of this ordinance, as well as some additions and deletions.

Town Manager Pidermann addressed three changes and three different motions were made.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to allocate \$2, 020 from the beautification plan line item of the Cul-de-Sac and to move it to the Economic Development Committee budget so that it is used for the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to move \$121,000 from gas tax to transportation capital for two mid-crosswalks to be addressed- once the design and approval of Miami Dade County is approved. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Councilmember Alvarez moved to approve the ordinance as amended twice. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded for discussion. Councilmember Rodriguez asked the Town Attorneys about the money set aside for Litigation.; it was stated that in the March Regular Council Meeting, the Town Council approved a total of \$185,000 for Legal Reserve. Town Attorney Gastesi responded that the \$185,000 for the current fiscal year should be ok.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in second reading, as amended twice, passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO ZONING; AMENDING SECTION 13-799.7, "CANNABIS DISPENSARIES, MEDICAL MARIJUANA TREATMENT FACILITIES, AND INDEPENDENT TESTING LABORATORIES"; AMENDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

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

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

Vice Mayor Collazo made a motion to approve the ordinance in second reading and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance passed 6-0. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **12. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 20-269; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Item 13C was added during New Order of Business, to be discussed with this item.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that \$28,000 were left over from the Cares Act money and Town staff recommends this money to be allocated to continue supporting the food distribution – this allocation to be able to pay for overtime police costs for 10 additional weeks; he also spoke about the outfitting of the Town trailer and its use and explained that if approved, \$7,000 would be allocated from regular salaries toward the machinery and equipment line item. Town Manager Pidermann explained that the Town Council approved \$300,000 from the Developer Contribution to be transferred from the contingency reserve line item to the Miami Lakes Optimist capital fund line item; he also explained that if approved, \$264,617 from the Public Safety Impact fees will be transferred from contingency reserve line item to the machinery and equipment line item for the LPR Cameras; he explained the sinking fund will be used for three different things: a little over \$25,220 for the Royal Oaks Park/Roberto Alonso Community Center projects; for the AC repair of the Royal Oaks Park and the third item would be for a canopy to protect one of the entrances to the Royal Oaks Park -that will be funded from the infrastructure sinking fund; he also explained that if approved, \$3,000 will be transferred from the repair and maintenance line item to a vehicles repair and maintenance line item, to repaint a Ford Expedition Town vehicle.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to move this item and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo

At this moment, Councilmember Alvarez introduced Item 12C and explained the genesis of his item. He stated that he wants to empower the principals of the 6 schools, for them to have the autonomy to select what special projects, what structural projects or improvements they wish to make to their campuses. He stated that the EAB should come before the Town Council and delineate what exactly those projects are and what would they encompass and his direction would be for the EAB to continue working with the principals and the 6 identified schools are re-allocate \$100,000, as originally promised, because of learning that the ESSER dollars are not allocated as he has been used to in the past.

Councilmember Alvarez then made an amendment to the main motion to re-allocate \$100,000 to the Education Advisory Board in order for them to work with the 6 schools in Miami Lakes, with the caveat of the EAB bringing back to the Town Council what the projects will be; the



principals need to delineate what the schools are requesting, what exactly the projects will be. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez.

Shortly thereafter, Vice Mayor Collazo made an amendment to Councilmember Alvarez' amendment, to agree to the re-allocation of the \$100,000 to the EAB but to engage the School Board and to ask for a match of the \$100,000 -to partner with the School Board. Councilmember Ruano seconded the amendment from Vice Mayor Collazo. Vice Mayor Collazo explained further his amendment and stated that the school project that met the guidelines, his intent is not to stall it, not to stall the commitment that we as the governing body made when both chairs were here arguing for the money; he emphasized that we were told by the Town Attorneys that many of those projects would not make the cut and that they would have to go back; that for the projects that are not ready – he stated that the building relationship with the School Board should be engaged. The Town Clerk called the roll on his amendment and the motion failed 2-4 with Councilmember Rodriguez, Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Alvarez and Mayor Cid voting in opposition. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

After additional discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll on the motion made by Councilmember Alvarez and the motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Ruano and Vice Mayor Collazo voted in opposition. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion, as amended, and the motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that the amendment that was just approved makes an impact on Item 11a – the budget amendment. Town Manager stated that for Item 11A and Item 12A to reconcile and be on the same page, he asked that they re-opened Item 11a to reflect the recently approved amendment regarding the \$100,000 from the Developer Contribution; to reflect the change from \$300,000 to \$200,000 and that \$10,000 be put into the Education Advisory Board and part the remainder \$90,000 into the general fund contingency so that if and when future projects do qualify that are brought before the Town Council, it's only a resolution that needs to be done to move it from the general fund contingency and no need to do another budget amendment. Vice Mayor Collazo motioned to re-open Item 11A and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez.

Vice Mayor Collazo then motioned to make the amendment to Item 11A, as stipulated by the Town Manager, so that the \$10,000 project gets done immediately into the EAB and that it is not kicked down the road. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Alvarez and all were in favor. Councilmember Dieguez was absent. The motion passed 6-0.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR SUNSET; PROVIDING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP; CREATING PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE; AND PROVIDING WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Rodriguez presented the item. He motioned to approve the resolution with one suggestion, to have the committee meeting meet meeting in May, June and July and for the committee to sunset in August. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Rodriguez also stated that he is fully aware that the Building Department does everything they can do within the parameters of their jobs to meet the resident's expectations and that some of the complaints that come to the Town Council are not the Building Department's fault; that miscommunication between contractors and architects and their employers take place. Councilmember Rodriguez emphasized that this is just an exercise to see how we can improve the processes and get some recommendations as to how we can do that; that this is merely a recommendation committee to give recommendations on how to improve processes.

It was clarified that four councilmembers have made appointments to this committee and Councilmember Ruano clarified that she withdrew her appointment to this committee. She also stated that she won't be making an appointment to this committee – she retracted her appointment to this committee. Councilmember Ruano read into the record, the section of Florida Statutes which states that “the Building Department Official shall perform their duties interference from any person”; she stated that this item just does not sit well with her with regards to some things that have transpired here and with the Building Department; she also stated that she thinks the Town Council should not move forward with this committee.

Vice Mayor Collazo then offered an amendment to this item. He then motioned for an individual from the HOA's to be included in this committee, either an ex officio member or the Town Manager's appointee to represent an HOA in order to have the HOA's perspective. Mayor Cid seconded the amendment and wants the Town Manager to make an appointment – a voting member from any HOA that the Town Manager chooses to appoint. The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Councilmember Rodriguez stated for the record that the Legal Department told him that the creation of this committee does not violate the Florida Statute that was read into the record by Councilmember Ruano. Furthermore, Town Attorney Raul Gastesi stated for the record that the committee is not in violation of Florida Statute. Councilmember Ruano then stated that she reserves her right to not make any appointment.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion, as amended once, passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF DUGOUT SHADE STRUCTURES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE THE SCHOOL BOARD OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA CONTRACT MTS-906BC WITH SHADE SYSTEMS, INC. PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 5, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-153 OF THE TOWN CODE, 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.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that this item has an action driven in regards the procurement of the dugout structure. He mentioned that Town Staff is rethinking and revisiting the dugout structure that was originally recommended in this resolution; Town Manager

Pidermann pulled the item and stated that it will be brought back to the Town Council in the May Regular Council Meeting with a recommendation of possibly an alternative dugout structure and that they will go out to bid for the resealing and resurfacing of the tennis court.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that Town Staff is moving forward with the implementation of the new portable bathroom facilities – two of those in two different locations in the park; for them to be located at both corners of 67<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### **A. Dog Feces**

Mayor Cid presented the item and explained that families are taking dogs to the parks and letting them urinate and do feces in the parks; he emphasized that the “No Dog Poop” signs at Picnic Park West is very old.

Mayor Cid then made a motion asking Town Staff to take a deeper dive into this issue, nothing specific, and come up with recommendations, to investigate options, and come back to the Town Council. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Collazo asked for Town Staff to look into some kind of enforcement beyond signs; he emphasized that placing signs is not enough. Councilmember Ruano proposed that maybe fines can be imposed to those who bring dogs to the park. Councilmember Alvarez mentioned that additional signs, code enforcement, make public service announcements to educate the residents about this via social media and create sort of a campaign. The motion passed unanimously. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

#### **B. Short-Term Vacation Rentals (Fernandez)**

Councilmember Fernandez presented his item and explained the genesis of this item. He shared with the Town Council that he became aware that there are short-term rentals in the Town of Miami Lakes and that some of these rentals seem to be taking place from additional spaces being converted for this type of use and that he is concern with this situation- that he would not like this to be encouraged in our residential neighborhoods.

Councilmember Fernandez motioned for the Town of Miami Lakes to adopt an ordinance on this matter- an ordinance very similar to that of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands regarding to short-term vacation rentals; this ordinance would require an onsite visitation of the premises to make sure that the space that is being rented out would be in compliance and lawfully to be there and safe structures. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. Vice Mayor Collazo mentioned that these rentals might be in violation of HOA restrictions and of deed restrictions. Town Manager Pidermann stated that he will brainstorm ideas with the Building Department and with the Town Attorneys on how to police and monitor these rentals and that Town Staff's recommendations will be brought back to Town Council. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

**C. Reallocation to Education Advisory Board (Alvarez)**

This item was discussed during the discussion of Item 12A.

**D. Re-opening of Public Buildings Post Pandemic (Ruano)**

Councilmember Ruano presented her item and stated that the Mayor of Miami-Dade has done away with the restriction of having no more than 10 people inside a public building, that the rule now is that people can be inside these public buildings as long as they can maintain social distancing. Town Manager Pidermann stated that we can re-open but that Town Staff would need to regulate it. Thus, Councilmember Ruano kindly directed Town Staff to re-open these facilities to the best of our abilities, to all activities – not only for HOA activities, as long as social distancing is achieved; she also stated that she wants things to get back to normal. The Town Manager mentioned that facility rental will be investigated further. Town Manager also stated that no motion was needed and that he had enough direction from the Town Council.

**E. Analysis of Alternatives to Opening of Bridges on 154<sup>th</sup> Street and 170<sup>th</sup> Street (Collazo)**

Ms. Claudia Luces participated in-person Public Comments. She stated that she is bothered by the fact that we as a town- try to solve the problem of another community; that if this bridge opens up prior to this design process - what incentive would the City of Hialeah have to participate in any type of negotiation; that this issue has been in the media and that Hialeah is lobbying the Miami Dade County Commission; that the TOML does not have to take up the entire cost of their mistake; that they need to be held accountable; that if we allowed people to build and now there is traffic jam- that is a consequence and that the City of Hialeah needs to make some commitment; that maybe the two municipalities need to work together and maybe the opening of the bridge might be able to be postpone until FDOT meets with the two municipalities; she also wished the Legal team the best of luck in the mediation..

Vice Mayor Collazo presented his item. He stated that FDOT has outlined a pathway on how we can look at an alternative to just opening up the bridge; that he wants to follow up on the item that was brought up by State Representatives Fabricio and Rizzo regarding their meeting with FDOT; he then proceeded to make a motion directing Town Staff to explore that process and to come back with a report -to look into options, into the designs that are up there and put a dollar amount to those alternatives; he would like to see what options are out there as an alternative to opening up the bridge. Mayor Cid seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid also stated that he wanted to have that information already because it is important information for the mediation process. Councilmember Ruano stated that as congested as that area now, more homes are still being built and that opening that bridge is not a solution- she stated that she is in support of seeing the report from Town Staff but that this is a problem from our neighboring city and not ours. Councilmember Fernandez stated that he will not be supporting any option that has to do with the opening the 154 bridge. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

**F. Indoor Senior Activities (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented the item and stated that the CDC guidelines supersede the County and that he would like to restart the senior programs. Mayor Cid then made a motion directing

Town Staff-where possible- to begin restarting our senior citizen's programs. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Dieguez were absent.

**G. Council Meeting Attendance Rules (Ruano)**

Councilmember Ruano presented the item. She mentioned that during the Workshop on Parliamentary procedures that was held in February, she raised the question regarding attendance rules during regular council meetings. Mr. Medina, the Town parliamentarian, responded that the Town Council -as the governing body- is responsible for defining what constitutes being present. Councilmember Ruano asked the Legal Department to review the Special Rules of Order and the Legal Department found that there is nothing on attendance rules. For this reason, Councilmember Ruano motioned to get clarification regarding attendance rules and that parameters to be established; that she would like clarification from the Legal Department. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

During discussion, The Town Clerk and Town Attorney Gastesi answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After discussion, the Town Attorneys agreed to conduct research on what constitutes attendance, to look into what other municipalities have in place regarding attendance at council meetings and that this information will be brought back to the Town Council in the May Regular Council Meeting. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Rodriguez and Mayor Cid voted in opposition; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to extend the meeting to 11:30 pm. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Collazo and all were in favor.

**H. Overall Condition Maintenance of Town Sidewalks (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented the item. He asked the Public Works Director, Carlos Acosta, to come to the Dais to answer questions. Mayor Cid asked him if the possibility of hiring an in-house sidewalk repair/replacement crew is feasible and if it would be worth having it in the Town of Miami Lakes. Mr. Acosta responded that he would need to take a deeper analysis to this in order to provide an accurate response.

Mayor Cid then proceeded to make a motion directing the Town Manager to take a look at this and to provide a report on this during the Infrastructure Report during the May Council Meeting. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

**I. Overall Value Received for Town Tax Dollars and Fees (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented his item and stated that during the Strategic Plan Retreat, it was expressed that the Town Council could improve on showcasing the overall value that Miami Lakers receive for their taxes paid to the Town.

Mayor Cid made a motion directing Town Staff to allocate \$500 for the next fiscal year, to put out a campaign in social media, showcasing the overall value that Miami Lakers received for their taxes paid. Vice Mayor Collazo seconded the motion. All were in favor. Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

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

a. **Miami Dade County BCC Agendas (Cid)**

Mayor Cid reported that he spoke to the Town Manager about the many items that are being discussed in the County that affect our town. Town Manager Pidermann said that the Department Heads will take a deeper dive into these agendas to make sure that we are well aware of all the items that are being discussed at the county level that might potentially impact the town, so that our Town Staff is well prepared on these items.

b. **Traffic Circle on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue or a Road Diet to Clam Speeding (Cid)**

Mayor Cid stated that he is doing a research on the possibility of installing a traffic circle on 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to alleviate traffic. He reported that he is meeting with Town Staff and doing the due diligence.

c. **Trip to State Capitol with Town Manager (Cid)**

Mayor Cid provided a detailed recap on all the meetings they had in Tallahassee. He reported that they met with future House Speaker, Danny Perez and Representative Anthony Rodriguez. He stated that these two individuals will be the leadership for Miami-Dade County in the House for the next 6 years and that they the meeting went well. They also met with Lieutenant Government Jeannette Nunez, Senator Anna Maria Rodriguez, Dan Daily and educated them all on our town issues, including blasting.

He thanked State Representative Fabricio, State Representative Rizo and State Senator Manny Diaz Jr., for all their support and efforts and great job regarding the interests of the Town of Miami Lakes. Mayor Cid stated that the Blasting legislation did not move forward during this session but that the positive point was on the education component; that all House leadership are well aware of this issue because both State Representative Fabricio and State Representative Rizo did a very good job educating all of them. Mayor Cid emphasized that the Rock Miners hired many lobbyists and worked really hard on this issue; State Representative Fabricio mentioned that a bigger lobbying effort must be done – from residents, from elected officials and possibly from hiring a lobbying team dedicated to this issue.

Mayor Cid also thanked State Senator Manny Diaz for his work; Mayor Cid mentioned that it looks like the Town of Miami Lakes will be getting \$400,000 for the Drainage projects and he thanked him for his hard work.

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

**A. Update on FEMA Floodplain Management Maps and Changes (Mesa)**

Mr. Mike Mesa, Building Department Official, provided an update on FEMA; he explained that FEMA is updating the floodmaps and that the official maps will be released in about 2 years; FEMA will be having public meetings throughout the year and the Building Department will communicate to the Town Manager the dates of these public hearings, in case the community wants to participate on them; he shared that one of the changes expected on these maps will be on a coastal study and that they are changing from the metric system

to the British system; all these changes will affect Miami Lakes primarily on the southeast corner of our town, which is a zone that is not required to provide flood insurance, but if it changes, the entire town will be on their special flood zone; it also appears that FEMA is going to change the elevation baseline somewhere 7 and 8; He stated that if the maps stay as the preliminary maps, the entire town will be required to purchase flood insurance and require additional policies.

Mayor Cid asked if the Town should file an objection to FEMA and if he foresees an increase to our residents. The Building Official responded that insurance rates are out of our control; regarding the objection, Mr. Mesa responded that the Building Department has requested information from FEMA to provide us with their numbers and with an explanation of why would the Town of Miami Lakes now, be in a different flood zone -with the guidance of Miami-Dade County. Mr. Mesa responded that he is waiting to receive the information from FEMA; after the information is received, if they choose to file an objection, Mr. Mesa recommends the Town of Miami Lakes to hire a consultant to address this. Mr. Mesa also mentioned that on April 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting and that he is looking forward to getting answers to many of his questions. After this meeting, Mr. Mesa will be in a better position to know if an objection should be filed and if a consultant will be hired.

Town Manager Pidermann mentioned that Town staff doesn't want to file an objection without any back up material. He emphasized that the Building Department is working together with Miami-Dade County, who has an entire department that is developing their own modeling to contest – if need be- to contest FEMA's assertion that the Town of Miami Lakes entirely now needs to be in a flood zone.

Vice Mayor Collazo moved to extend to midnight and if any items are left, to move them forward to the May Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

#### **B. Farmers Market (De Cardenas)**

Ms. Clarisell De Cardenas, Communications and Community Affairs Director, shared with the Town Council that the Farmers Market is returning to Miami Lakes starting on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. She emphasized that the new location of the Farmers Market is on New Barn Road and explained that the goal is to bring a new attraction to Town Center; that it also serves an economic driver for the neighboring businesses. Town staff worked with the vendor and with the Graham Companies to ensure the vendors area not competing against Main Street merchants. Ms. De Cardenas stated that this is a pilot program – the current vendor has applied a special permit for 5 following Saturdays; at that point, Town staff will re-evaluate the permit application process and determine the best course of action for the permanency of the Farmers Market. She also emphasized that CDC guidelines will be followed.

#### **C. Comprehensive Financial Annual Report (Diaz)**

Ismael Diaz, CFO of the Town of Miami Lakes, introduced the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and stated that he was very proud to present an audit without deficiencies and unmodified opinions. Mr. Diaz thanked Town staff, the Town Council and the entire Finance & Budget team for their amazing work and for making the Town of Miami Lakes a very healthy and favorable financial position concerning all funds. Mr. Diaz then introduced the Senior Audit Manager, Mr. Jerry Donates, who spoke about the financial statements.

**D. School Board Zone Mimi Lakes K-8 Center (Acosta)**

Mr. Carlos Acosta, Public Works Director, provided a report on the Miami Lakes K-8 Center School Speed Zone, along NW 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He stated that the School Section of Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) has advised the Town that if we want to proceed with this project and fund it, the Town needs to submit a variance from FDOT School Speed Zone standard and a set of plans for them to review. The variance request consists of submitting for review in the DTPW Permit System the Traffic Operations Plan, the proposed site plan showing the requested changes and a variance memorandum. The total cost of the project would need to be funded by the Town. Town staff reached out to a consulting firm to inquiry about the variance process and costs.

Mr. Acosta stated that he reached out to a consultant to inquiry about the costs. The variance memorandum would cost \$10,000. If the County approves it, then it would be an additional \$30,000 for the design and permit the school zone modification. Construction cost is unknown at the moment.

Mr. Acosta answered questions posed by the Town Council. The direction by the Town Council was that this item would be considered at the next budget cycle, to determine if funding is available to proceed with this project.

**E. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Acosta)**

Mr. Carlos Acosta, Public Works Director, stated that capital projects are moving ahead. He provided information on the West Lakes Drainage Improvement Project, NW 83<sup>rd</sup> Place Drainage Improvement Project, Streetlights Improvement Project. He reported that 159 street signs have been installed, striping work is going on as well; west of 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue is complete and now the Town will start moving east of 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Acosta answered questions posed by the Town Council and stated that the crosswalk on Fairway, the Town's consultant was getting more traffic data to re-submit to the County, because the County had rejected the prior study. An Interlocal Agreement was drafted for these types of crosswalks and will be submitted to the County, in addition to the traffic data.

Regarding the crosswalk on Montrose, Mr. Acosta stated that because there is an existing crosswalk, which the County had approved already, the County is not requiring us to a study.

**F. Monthly report on Miami Lakes Optimist Park (Angel)**

Mr. Danny Angel, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an update on Miami Lakes Optimist Park. He stated that the School Board is reviewing the re-design and Town staff should be receiving comments shortly.



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

Town Commander Ruiz presented the monthly Police Report. He stated that in terms of crime, the town continues to be down in all the categories, except in auto theft. He stated that since January 2020, the Police Department has dedicated 300 hours of enforcement specifically on the 87th Avenue area and issued over 200 citations. He answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding the installation of the LPR's. He stated that he is still waiting on some budgetary concerns to be approved. The Town Manager stated that all of the projected public safety impact fees are targeted to go towards LPR's.

The Town Manager stated that the CDC Guidelines Committee, along with the State of Florida, is having a meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> to make a determination on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and once the meeting takes place, Town staff will know if the distribution of the vaccine that we have scheduled to host, will take place or not. Town Manager said that he would provide an update on this as soon as the meeting takes place and alert the public.

#### **H. Update on Stormwater Bonds (Pidermann)**

Town Manager Pidermann presented his report and stated that the Town Council took a historical step forward with the modification or adjustment of the stormwater fee and direction to the Town staff to move forward with the issuance of \$15.5 million worth of stormwater bonds. A task force was put together with our bond and financial counsel and he presented the town Council with a timeline of what the team is scheduling and projecting to accomplish.

#### **I. Solid Waste Services (Acosta)**

Councilmember Fernandez introduced his item. He presented Mr. Michael Fernandez, the Director of Department of Solid Waste Management of Miami-Dade County, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Fernandez answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Fernandez stated that his department is working hard on making improvements so that Christmas trees get picked up in less time, and regarding the bulky pick up, his staff is working on trying to provide a better service to all residents. He emphasized that he will work with Town staff for better educational outreach. In a nutshell, he promised to deliver better service to the town.

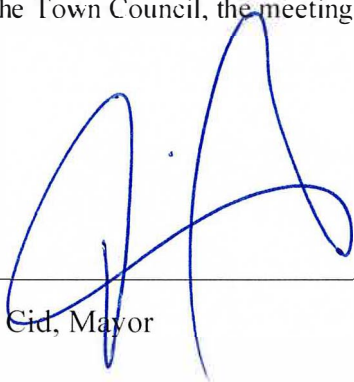
### **16. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:**

Town Attorney Gastesi reported that there is a mediation taking place on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> regarding the bridges and that the Pizzi case is not moving quickly.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 pm.

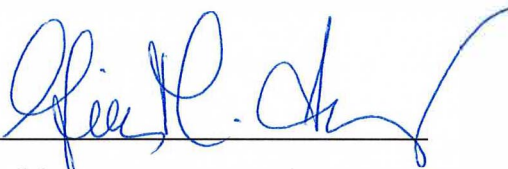
Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021



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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk