

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
January 11, 2022
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

Vice Mayor Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the Special Presentations section of the Regular Council Meeting.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez called upon youth baseball teams of three different divisions of the Optimist Club of Miami Lakes. He recognized the 12U Angels, 10U Pirates, and 8U Angels on their Miami Lakes Optimist Club championship wins in their corresponding baseball divisions.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:37pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Carlos O. Alvarez, Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Marilyn Ruano, and Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez. Mayor Manny Cid was absent.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Daniel Vazquez of Included Church led the prayer.

Mr. Ariel Fernandez from Better You Minute, led a moment of mediation via YouTube.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Councilmember Dieguez.

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

Vice Mayor Rodriguez pulled Item 14I, for it not to be discussed.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to move the New Order of Business and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Jeff Dauhner, Manager from the Strategic Planning for Covid Testing Sites for America, came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. Mr. Dauhner along with a co-worker, the president of said organization, Pablo Smith, came to speak about Covid testing for the community and schools in Miami Lakes. He mentioned that they have 36 trained testers to conduct saliva testing which is the primary testing for Omicron. The service is provided through the CARES Act, therefore the service is provided free. He mentioned that testing is a good way to try to stop the spread of this virus and that they follow the CDC guidelines.

Mr. Armando Bernal came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. He came to suggest building a skate park in the Youth Center. He believes building a skate park would be beneficial and prevent injuries and skating in places it is not allowed.

Ms. Yessenia Gonzalez came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. She stated that she is in support on the Item co-designating a street in honor of Ofren Arrechaga. She mentioned that February is Rare Disease Month and that the last day of February is Rare Disease Day. She asked the Town Council to consider having a virtual walk to bring awareness in reference to rare diseases.

Mr. Joey Feroso came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. He stated the Town Council should have allowed the young man -Mr. Armando Bernal- to ask his questions to the Town Council. Vice Mayor Rodriguez acknowledge his comment and told him that he will speak to Mr. Armando Bernal directly, but he informed Mr. Feroso that questions are not allowed during public comments.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. She extended her wishes for a healthy and prosperous year for everyone. She expressed that some councilmembers should refrain from thinking bigger is better when it comes to growth in the town. She stated many cannot afford for taxes to keep rising and for traffic to worsen because of new projects.

Mr. Bryan Morera came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. He began by thanking Ms. Cintron for the beautiful words spoken. He then thanked Councilmember Ruano for her items on renaming of streets. He also discussed Vice Mayor Rodriguez's item on wireless reception – he stated that he hopes each councilmember supports the item and he also added that perhaps the municipality should monetize cellphone signal by leasing the area where they are placed. Finally, he also stated that the Blasting Advisory Board will be discussing a trip to Tallahassee to advocate on behalf of the TOML and that the cost of this trip is nothing compared to the dollars wasted in the community because of blasting damage.

Ms. Claudia Luces came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. She mentioned that the latest headline in the Miami Herald was the article on former

Miami Lakes Building Manager, who was sued by Carlos Perez. She expressed it is disappointing that Miami Lakes has once again been involved in another case where allegations have been made of interference with the Building Official's duties which is against the law. Ms. Luces then pointed out this year will have a lot of money being spent on legal fees and she questioned whether we at this point, should embark on major financial endeavors; she urged the Town Council to not move forward with the Optimist Park- given the number of legal matters that they are currently involved, in particular the one of the bridge litigations. She also asked the Town Council to look at the current economic state before they start moving forward with major expenditures. She concluded by asking if there is a final Joint-Use Agreement.

Mr. Steven Herzburg came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in-person public comments. He stated he is in support of the item regarding the Blasting Advisory Board trip to Tallahassee. He feels the trip is worth the cost and significantly less than what the town spends to repair blasting issues. He urged the members of the Town Council to support the members of the Blasting Advisory Board and their trip proposal to Tallahassee. He stated that this is a consistent effort to try to get any type of change in state legislations.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds participated in virtual public comments. She expressed there is a need to revise the preamble of the Town of Miami Lakes Charter because it was challenged by a constitutionalist and then proceeded to read her suggested revision.

Mr. Alex Ariano participated in virtual public comments. He expressed his desired to leave the guard gates in Miami Lakes Section 1 as is - not incorporate LPR cameras. He stated the only factor that should be taken to account on the incorporation of LPR's is the will of the specific residents rather than the Town Council or police.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read into the record the name of the individuals who sent written public comments via email. Those individuals were:

Ms. Esperanza Hope Reynolds, Residents of Lake Glen Ellen HOA – Mr. Harry Bolanger, Ms. Maria Santelices, Ms. Georgina Luces, Mr. Alex Ariano and Ms. Pilar Dalmau.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. William Perez to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Ms. Judy Farcus Serra to the Veterans Committee by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.

Ms. Gina Barrios to the Neighborhood Services District – Royal Oaks by Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez.

Ms. Diana Soto to the Cultural Affairs Committee by Councilmember Luis Collazo.

Ms. Mirelis Castilla to the Cultural Affairs Committee by Vice Mayor Jeffrey Rodriguez.

Ms. Angelica Torrez to the Youth Activities Task Force by Councilmember Carlos Alvarez.

Ms. Ardura Sunem to the Neighborhood Services District – Royal Oaks by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.

Mr. Nick Mastrovito to the Cultural Affairs Committee by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

Ms. Marissa Gonzalez to the Neighborhood Improvement Committee by Councilmember Tony Fernandez.

Mr. William Perez to the Neighborhood Improvement Committee by Councilmember Luis Collazo.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the appointments. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Special Needs Advisory Board

Chairwoman, Ms. Vivian Levy, along with members of the Special Needs Advisory Board presented this report. Ms. Levy shared that the Special Needs Advisory Board would like to introduce more special needs programming into the Town.

Arts for Autism founder, Ms. Audrey Amadeo, shared ideas for new programs and requested an additional room to hold more students for the Saturday dance classes. Ms. Amadeo is proposing different programs for the Town of Miami Lakes which requests more days and rooms to occupy at Mary Collins Community Center. The proposition is an Arts for Autism academy that will focus on those individuals that are out of school, meaning pre-school children and adults. Ms. Amadeo explained the programs and different forms of payment.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to move and accept the program and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded.

Councilmember Collazo thanked the committee and Ms. Amadeo for the work they do, and stated he fully supports the idea of the program.

Councilmember Ruano also added that Ms. Yessenia Gonzalez commented on putting together a walk and Councilmember Ruano would like the SNAB to collaborate with her to potentially have a walk this year and if not, possibly next year.

The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

B. Blasting Advisory Board

Chairman Miguel Martinez along with members of the Blasting Advisory Board came to the Regular Council Meeting and presented the committee's report. Chairman Martinez started off by thanking the Town Council for putting together the members of this board and for him serving alongside them. He then requested, on behalf of the Blasting Advisory Board, they hold a Committee Day event with other committee chairs. The event would

work in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. The board also requested to travel to Tallahassee to lobby in support of bills by State Representative Tom Fabricio. They also proposed to organize a mass movement of residents to the County Commissioner Meeting, to encourage involvement.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to approve all three sections of the committee's requests and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded.

Councilmember Ruano asked if there is a total budget for the trip and Mr. Martinez stated there is -a not to exceed budget of \$9,950. Councilmember Dieguez asked regarding the funding source and Town Manager Edward Pidermann responded that there is money in the travel and education lines to fund this and it is recommended to restore those funds during the February Council Meeting, when the carry forward amendment is brought forward.

The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

C. Veterans Committee

Chairman Michael Coote presented this report and began by highlighting the success of the Veterans Day parade this past year. He also mentioned that during the past year, thanks to the generosity of the Town Council, the committee also was able to rename Picnic Park West to Veterans Park. He stated that the park has some maintenance issues, and that the committee has engaged with some councilmembers on a long-term vision to further develop the park. Chairman Coote shared that the Jingle Bell Jog had been cancelled due to contractual issues and he then thanked EAC Chairwoman Ms. Dottie Wix for putting him in contact with veterans in the town that he had not met yet. Finally, the Veterans Committee requested a Memorial Day event to take place at the Veterans Park on Memorial Day. He stated he does not foresee any cost to the Town.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez then moved to approve the Memorial Day event request and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

D. Elderly Affairs Committee

Chairwoman Dottie Wix presented this report and shared that over the past two years, the EAC has been hosting lunches to seniors in Miami Lakes. The EAC had planned a lunch event in January however with Covid cases going up, they cancelled the event. The committee held an event for Christmas at Shula's which was successful. Chairwoman Wix explained that the committee wants to continue serving the homebound seniors and she asked assistance from the Town Council in order to continue financing and serving this group of seniors.

Communications and Community Affairs Director, Ms. Clarisell De Cardenas, explained that prior to Covid, these seniors were not serviced so perhaps memorializing that the EAC can continue serving the homebound seniors, even when the EAC goes back to in-person events. She asked for clarification and guidance from the Town Council.

Town Manager Pidermann mentioned that instead of creating a new line item, perhaps the Town Council could give authority to move the \$1,000 for Seniors ID Badges towards the Homebound Seniors, then Town Staff will work with the Budget Department to make sure it gets allocated to the right line item for the Homebound seniors.

All the councilmembers agreed with the EAC's request to continue serving the Homebound Seniors and not creating a new line item.

Chairwoman Wix then thanked Councilmember Fernandez for sponsoring the next bingo event that the EAC will be hosting.

E. Education Advisory Board

Chairman Mario Pinera presented this report and shared that the committee presented one of their checks to Barbara Goleman High School and that they also hosted the Giving Gators event in the past month. He then stated that the EAB is requesting two items. The first request is to allocate \$10,000 to Miami Lakes K-8 for updates to the sounds systems.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the request and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano asked the reason why the funds weren't allocated evenly amongst the schools, then they discussed bringing back the idea of allocating more funds to HML because Goleman is now a school of choice and HML is now the home high school that our children will go to if they decide not to attend a magnet program. Councilmember Ruano expressed her desire for the funds to be allocated in a more equitable manner. Chair Pinera said he agreed with looking at allocating funds in a more equitable manner, as Councilmember Ruano suggested.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez suggested taking \$20,000 from the \$200,000 designated to the MLOP, to be able to give HML and match what was given to other schools. Councilmember Fernandez agreed with this.

Budget Officer, Ms. Melissa Hernandez stated that a budget amendment would have to be made to take the funds from Capital Fund to General Fund.

Councilmember Ruano added that her intention was never to add funding and then asked what was BGEC's intention with the funds. Chair Pinera stated that Bob Graham Education Center has not presented what their funds would be for. Councilmember Ruano then stated her intention was never to take funds from MLOP and that it is fine keeping the funds as presented and not changing anything. After further discussion, it was agreed to leave it "as is".

Councilmember Dieguez then asked for the legal opinion of the Town Attorney, -if the expenditures included in the packet for Miami Lakes K-8, fall within the bounds of the agreement. Town Attorney Gastesi stated he would have to get back to the Town Council on that, however he stated he believed they do. Councilmember Collazo added to Councilmember Dieguez' point and suggested to wait for legal counsel to do things properly.

Chairman Pinera then moved forward to the next request while awaiting legal counsel for the approval of the first request. The Chair explained that EAB also requested to host a Parent Mental Health Night in Council Chambers. Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the Parent Mental Health Night and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Then, Councilmember Dieguez moved to defer the discussion to approve the Miami Lakes K-8 funds to after the Cultural Affairs Committee report and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed; Mayor Cid was absent.

After the Cultural Affairs Committee report concluded, Chairman Pinera came back to the podium and addressed the Town Council. The Town Attorney Gastesi posed questions about the itemized list for Miami Lakes K-8. After discussion as to whether the funds must be used for improvements that are not moveable, Chairman Pinera stated that all school principals are well aware that the improvements have to be physical and not moveable. Councilmember Dieguez read the definition of improvement from Florida's lien law and Vice Mayor Rodriguez added, as long as it is not taken out of the property, it is considered an improvement. Vice Mayor Rodriguez then stated the items in the list should not be of concern.

The motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition; Mayor Cid was absent.

F. Cultural Affairs Committee

Chairman Neill Robinson presented this report and invited the representatives of the Tommy T Foundation to present a mural idea for the Youth Center. He explained that the mural will represent children in Dade-County participating in sports activities. This mural will be funded from the unspent funds in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to approve the mural request and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Mr. Pidermann explained that to use funds from a previous fiscal year, it would be done through the carry forward amendment.

Councilmember Ruano asked if instead of waiting for funds from the carry forward amendment, could the committee allocate funds from the current budget and then replenish them once the carry forward amendment passes. Chairman Robinson stated he was in favor of that as long as the funds would be restored to the committee before the end of February.

Councilmember Fernandez then amended the original motion by moving \$2,635 from the Fourth of July event to fund the mural with the commitment of the Town Council to reimburse those funds. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Alvarez and Mayor Cid being absent.

Chairman Robinson also requested approval for an event to take place in February. The event would be called "What's Your Love Story?" and would celebrate love across cultures

in the notion that love is universal. Community members would submit their love story and be voted on to select the three best stories; those winners will receive a gift certificate. A member of the Cultural Affairs Committee, Ms. Suzanne Choopani has committed \$250 to fund the event with the Town Council's approval.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to approve the event and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Alvarez and Mayor Cid being absent.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

A. Approval of Minutes

- October 27, 2021 Sunshine Meeting
- November 4, 2021 Attorney-Client Executive Session
- November 9, 2021 Regular Council Meeting
- November 16, 2021 MLOP Workshop
- November 29, 2021 Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing
- December 2, 2021 Attorney-Client Executive Session
- December 21, 2021 Sunshine Meeting

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, JOINING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE FLORIDA OPIOID ALLOCATION AND STATEWIDE RESPONSE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY GOVERNING THE USE OF REGIONAL SETTLEMENT FUNDING; PROVIDING THE TOWN MANAGER WITH AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A WORK ORDER, PURSUANT TO CONTRACT 2018-09 (R) FOR MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES, WITH RJ BEHAR & COMPANY, A CHANGE ORDER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOURTEEN THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$14,100.00), FOR

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MIAMI LAKES ELEMENTARY PROJECT; 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.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE XII, CHAPTER 17, OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE OF ORDINANCE AND CREATING SECTION 17-2 TITLED “MALICIOUS DEFACEMENT AND MARKING OF REAL PROPERTY”; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in first reading passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING ARTICLE III, SECTION 2-55 OF THE TOWN CODE TITLED “TOWN MANAGER”; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Dieguez presented his item. He stated that this item requires that six months prior to the expiration of the Town Manager’s contract, the Town Council will review if the contract will be renewed or not.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in first reading passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

- C. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, SECTION 13-2116, TITLED “PROCESS” OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE OF ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR

SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Councilmember Dieguez presented his item and stated this item would make a change in respect to how notices are given to the public about a proposed name change. He mentioned it will be done through a paper publication like the Miami Laker rather than notices be mailed to each homeowner within three hundred feet of the proposed re-naming site.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in first reading passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; DELETING CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE V OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND CREATING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE VII, SECTION 13-1704 TITLED "GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM"; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance into the record.

Principal Town Planner, Ms. Susana Alonso explained that in this new reading of the ordinance there were changes made in response to previous discussions had with the Town Council regarding some requirements. She explained that only requirements for variances were left for the permeable pavers and the high efficiency water capacity. She mentioned that the rest of the ordinance remained unchanged from 1st reading.

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

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the item as written in the Agenda and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in second reading passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, CO-DEDICATING N.W. 143rd STREET, SFC. OFREN ARRECHAGA STREET; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Vice Mayor Rodriguez opened the public hearing.

Mr. Bryan Morera came to the Regular Council Meeting and participated in the public hearing. He reiterated what he said during public comments which was that a Town that recognizes its heroes is a Town that thrives. He stated re-naming a street in honor of someone is a way to honor their life and thanking them for their service. He urged the Town Council to support this item as Item 13B.

There being no one wishing to speak, Vice Mayor Rodriguez closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Alvarez made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll and the resolution passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Mayor Cid were absent.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, CO-DEDICATING CEDAR COURT, SGT EDDY PEREZ COURT; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

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

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll and the resolution passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Mayor Cid were absent.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Tax Relief Study (Dieguez)

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to discuss this item, once Councilmember Dieguez returns to the Council Chamber and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Mayor Cid were absent.

Councilmember Dieguez presented his item and explained a tax relief study gets done through annexation. He would like to consider annexing an area to include in the study to see how much additional tax revenue would be added to our tax base as well as providing an overview of what the annexation process would look like in the study area and come back with options at different levels of studies.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to direct the Town Manager to come back to the Town Council with a few tiers of study for annexation that will include cost, additional tax

revenue generated from it, etc. to give residents tax relief from it. Councilmember Collazo seconded the item.

Councilmember Fernandez stated he is also in favor of the study however, he would like to see two options; that is, adjust the study area to both the area between 57th to 67th and the area from 67th to our current boundary, completely squaring it off and that he would like this study to be done separately from the area requested by Councilmember Dieguez. He also added that this item should remind them of the town's past when it comes to new developments; what happened west of d-75.

Town Manager Pidermann stated this motion is not to proceed with the study, it is to define what the study will include, create the options, and get pricing for them. Councilmember Dieguez clarified that one option is to study the commercial only piece proposed by him and the other option would be to study the entire area that includes the commercial piece and small residential piece, as proposed by Councilmember Dieguez. Town Manager Pidermann confirmed those options.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid absent.

B. Turn Signal on South Montrose and NW 154th Street (Alvarez)

Councilmember Alvarez presented this item and explained that this item is to add a left turn signal on South Montrose and NW 154th Street seeing as it is a safety issue and concern about traffic.

Councilmember Alvarez then made a motion to direct Town Staff to work internally to incorporate a left turn signal on NW 154th Street and Montrose southbound. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0 with Councilmember Dieguez and Mayor Cid absent.

C. Frankie Indiero Jr. Plaque (Cid)

Mr. Mario Pinero, came forth to speak on this item and explained that Mayor Cid and Mr. Frank Indiero Sr. brought forth this idea to the EAB. Mr. Pinero explained that Frankie Indiero Jr. was a student and member of the community that took his own life. Mayor Cid would like a tree of life with a plaque to be placed in his honor at the park located on 89th avenue and 148th terrace. It is the wish of the family for a picture of Frankie Jr. and a Suicide hotline information be placed at the bottom of the plaque.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to move the new business item and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo asked for a moment of personal privilege and spoke towards Mr. Frank Indiero Sr. and expressed how powerful sharing his journey is and how he honors his son every day by doing so.

All were in favor and the motion passed 4-0; Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Alvarez, and Mayor Cid absent.

D. LPRs for Lake Glen Ellen, Lake Cynthia, and the Anchorage (Rodriguez)

Vice Mayor Rodriguez presented his item and explained that many residents in those areas were not aware of the NSD voting on the installation of LPRs at their meeting. The residents are asking for the Town Council to please reconsider this and have it out for resident approval before the NSD members can vote it down. He expressed that several residents are in favor of having LPRs and that they were not aware of the voting.

Town Manager Pidermann added that the NSD has spoken about this issue multiple times but have never voted on it.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez then made a motion to direct Town Staff to work with the NSD to potentially install License Plate Readers in that area and guard gate. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she has been approached by many residents both for and against the LPR installation. She mentioned that an important thing to do when working with the NSD's is to get the messages out to the residents in which the topic concerns because there are many different opinions, and she would like proper notice. Councilmember Ruano then added to Vice Mayor Rodriguez's motion to send out proper notices to homeowners in the area about what will be discussed at a particular NSD meeting. Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the amendment to the main motion.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Councilmember Ruano then posed questions about the NSD's to the Town Manager and Town Attorneys. Parks & Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun answered questions posed by the Town Council. The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella also stated that the NSD's are advisory committee's that assist the Town Council with the oversight of those service districts and that's why they exist, that the decision-making rests with the Town Council.

Councilmember Collazo added the Town Council should come up with a plan, like a straw ballot, to address issues with all residents in the area and get their feedback. He emphasized that we need to do everything possible to get feedback from these residents. Councilmember Collazo then made a strike-all amendment to have a straw ballot on this issue for that area and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez asked for a cost estimate and Town Manager Pidermann stated he would bring back the cost estimate of doing a Straw ballot of all residents in that area and report in the February Council Meeting.

All were in favor of the strike-all amendment to have a straw ballot on this issue. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

E. Gas Tax Relief (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained Governor DeSantis identified tax holiday in respect to the gas tax that is awaiting legislative approval. He stated this is a great idea especially in Miami-Dade County to help residents.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to pass a resolution that would support the implementation of the proposed policy in this legislative session and continue indefinitely in future sessions. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Town Manager Pidermann clarified there is no attached resolution to the agenda and asked if the Deputy Town Attorney is allowed to prepare a resolution to this affect, and it won't have to be brought back to the Town Council next month. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

F. Miami Lakes Optimist Park Online Field Reservations (Rodriguez)

Vice Mayor Rodriguez presented his item and explained the idea is to get the Optimist Club to use a similar platform to the Town's Pavilion Rentals to block fields for recreational leagues or Optimist travel. He added that this can also be used by the Town for periods of time outside of the Optimist block. The idea is to shift from the paper applications to the online platform. Vice Mayor Rodriguez then made a motion to set up the platform and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo expressed concerned of outside entities like travel teams or academies renting out the space for their business. Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated he ensured the Optimist Club members that wouldn't happen because not much is changing other than the application process from paper to online.

Councilmember Ruano asked if there was a cost associated to a platform like this and Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks & Recreation Director, stated it is possible to do so without any additional costs.

Councilmember Fernandez added he would like to look at the Park Reservation System as a whole before implementing this platform, seeing as there are better systems than what the TOML current has. He also stated that the new software needs to work around the business rules already implemented.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

G. Movie Screening at Miami Lakes Town Hall (Cid)

A trailer of the movie *Gringa* was played by IT.

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella added that Ms. Claudia Murray is the daughter of former Vice Mayor Nancy Simon who grew up in Miami Lakes. She was a lawyer and transferred her talents to film making. He stated that Mayor Cid would like to debut the film in Town.

On behalf of the Mayor, Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion for the Mayor's office to work with Town Staff to set up a date for the screening of the movie. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez suggested doing the screening in a movie theater on Main Street rather than in Town Hall and Councilmember Alvarez added to look at all possible options.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez then added to the motion for the Mayor Cid to work with Town Staff to set a day and location for the screening. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

H. Town Wireless and Data Reception (Rodriguez)

Vice Mayor Rodriguez presented this item and made a motion to direct Town Staff to reach out to all major cell phone carriers to see if there is any way to improve coverage throughout the town. Councilmember Alvarez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez asked the Town Manager where they are at in respect to the item on leasing town facilities to expand 5G access and Town Manager Pidermann stated the letters of interest recently went out and are awaiting responses.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

I. Partnership Solid Waste Management (Cid)

This item was pulled from consent.

J. Additional COVID-19 Testing Site (Dieguez)

*This item requires the waiver of section 7.3 of the Special Rules of Order.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to waive section 7.3 of the Special Rules of Order and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

Councilmember Dieguez presented his item and explained he was approached by a company called Statlab Mobile to open a drive thru site at Royal Oaks Park. Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to move forward with this company's testing site and then try to incorporate the other local company that just approached us. Councilmember Collazo seconded.

Councilmember Collazo then stated Covid is not going away and the only way to follow protocols is to get tested. He stated he loves the option of mobile testing for individuals that cannot go to a site and if his colleagues are open to it, he would like to add to the motion to include the other company that came forth and for the TOML to look at other mobile testing options. Councilmember Collazo then amended the original motion to include looking at mobile testing options, as well as home-based testing solutions. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ruano stated Mr. Michael Salem reached out to her regarding him trying to reach out to the Town to set up a mobile testing site and she was wondering if the town

can reach out to him as an option. Parks & Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun stated he would investigate this further. Councilmember Ruano also added that she would like to explore all options of company's approaching the Town regarding more testing options.

Councilmember Collazo stated that Mr. Salem had previously reached out to him however there was no demand for testing and therefore never pursued.

Councilmember Alvarez had asked Mr. Bajdaun if the Town has been approached about the monoclonal treatment and if it is possible to partner with a company to get the treatment and Mr. Bajdaun replied saying he would look further into this.

Councilmember Dieguez clarified the amendment is to look into working with other providers as well as move forward with Statlab in the original motion.

All were in favor and the motion as amended passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid absent.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

A. 2022 Federal Legislative & Appropriations Priorities (Cid)

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella discussed Item 15A and 15B together. He spoke with Mayor Cid prior to the meeting and what he would like to do with these items is formalize the process by which the Council and Town Staff work together on County and Federal legislative items. The process would be the same as the State Legislative and appropriations priorities process.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to move both Items 15A and 15B and Councilmember Alvarez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid absent.

B. 2022 MDC Legislative & Appropriations Priorities (Cid)

This item was discussed in unison with Item 15A by the Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to move both Items 15A and 15B and Councilmember Alvarez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid absent.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Acosta)

Public Works Director, Mr. Carlos Acosta presented this report and began stating the Safe Routes to School – Bob Graham design should be 90% by next month. The Streetlights Project notice was issued to proceed with the contractor. The contractor working on the Montrose and Fairway mid-block crossings is expected to start on Montrose by the end of January.

Councilmember Collazo asked when will the estimated completion time of the Streetlight Improvement Project. Mr. Acosta replied it depends on the order of equipment but should not be more than 90 days. Mr. Acosta then proceeded to report stormwater bond projects. The 159th, 166th, and Commerce Way projects are the first projects in line to be done this fiscal year.

Mr. Acosta went on to explain other projects are moving along well. The Canal Bank Stabilization project is expecting 90% plans in February. He also added that the West Lakes Drainage Improvement project is currently wrapping up at 95% and the 83rd Place Project is 90% complete. As for the facility projects, Mr. Acosta stated the Backup Generator at Roberto Alonso agreement was received and being reviewed. The Police Parking Lot Fence is also almost complete. Finally, he mentioned that for roadway maintenance, many repairs have been completed.

B. Additional Traffic Resources around premises of Bob Graham Educational Center (Dieguez)

Major Ruiz presented this report and stated that his Police Officers met with the assistant principal of BGEC, to discuss the traffic situation. They were informed that actions were taken to reduce traffic. Major Ruiz added that all afternoon programs and sports programs are no longer taking place which is another reason as to the heavy traffic. He also provided a few solutions the school could do to lessen the traffic issue.

C. Hurricane Resilience (Cid)

Principal Town Planner, Ms. Susana Alonso presented this report and explained that Mayor Cid had requested from Town Staff to study the Code and to look for ways to build technology to become more advanced. Ms. Alonso reassured the Town Council the Code is constantly being amended to allow for new technologies to come in.

D. Monthly Police Report (Ruiz)

Major Ruiz presented this report and stated the crime has continued to be stable. Units have been patrolling in residential areas, shopping centers, and businesses to ensure safety in the areas. They have also assisted in community bike rides this past month. They also addressed traffic concerns along 154th street regarding the Covid testing site. Major Ruiz mentioned that as the new year begins, they will be shifting back to focusing efforts to conducting traffic details and identifying areas of concern.

E. Monthly Report on Miami Lakes Optimist Park (Bajdaun)

Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun presented this report and explained the status with the JUA with the School Board. The School Board was given the last set of revisions and the Town is awaiting responses. He mentioned that he hopes that by February the final amendments will be provided. As far as the dugouts, the vendor has received 50% of materials therefore two dugouts should be completed by the end of January and the other two before the season begins. Mr. Bajdaun also added that the new tennis and pickleball courts have

been completed. As for Optimist Park, the Town is preparing for the Food and Wine Festival in February.

Councilmember Collazo commended Mr. Bajdaun on an outstanding job with the Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony.

F. Report on Signage on NW 167th Street (Acosta)

Public Works Director, Mr. Carlos Acosta presented this report and updated the Town Council and explained that Town Staff went out and observed the area. He stated there are plenty on signage at each exit of the community as well the intersections indicating it is a one-way street. He mentioned that Town Staff reached out to FDOT and gave them suggestions to install more signage when exiting the community. Town Staff also informed the HOA to look at signage within the community to see if new signage or striping should be done.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez asked where they are at with the new speed limit signage and Mr. Acosta stated the County Attorneys' have approved it and will be going to the Director of Public Works at the County, to sign it. Once fully executed, Staff will be ready to place new signage.

G. Regular Council Meeting Schedule Calendar

Town Manager Pidermann presented this item and explained this seeks approval of the new regular council meeting schedule. The meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month expect for the month of November because the second Tuesday is Election Day. The recommendation is to move the November meeting to the first Tuesday of the month.

Councilmember Dieguez moved the item and the proposed change and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

H. Food Trucks (Alonso)

Principal Town Planner, Ms. Susana Alonso, mentioned that food trucks are popping up in random places throughout the Town. Town Staff is seeking guidance from the Town Council if regulations need to be created. Currently, Miami-Dade Country regulations cannot be enforced, and she stated that the Town does not have any. Therefore, any complaints about a food truck cannot be handled properly. Ms. Alonso is seeking guidance to bring up an item on regulating food trucks appropriately.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to begin the regulation process and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded.

Councilmember Collazo added that he would like to see the regulations be broader like for pop up vendors as well, rather than just food trucks, including the areas they can and cannot be.

All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

I. All-America City Award 2022 (De Cardenas)

Communications and Community Affairs Director, Ms. Clarisell De Cardenas presented this item and asked direction from the Town Council on applying for the 2022 All-America City Award.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to not apply for the award and Vice Mayor Rodriguez seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, Jr. began this report by stating the former Building Director is being sued by an individual citizen and he would like to inform the Town Council about this case individually and not in an Executive Session, because the Town is not involved in the litigation.

On the Bridges Litigation, Town Attorney Gastesi mentioned that there will be oral arguments on Tuesday, January 18th at 9:30 am. Town Attorney Gastesi then proceeded to ask for an executive session on the Pizzi case, FRS matter, and Eminent Domain matter. He requested the Eminent Domain executive session was very time sensitive. Shortly thereafter, the Town Council agreed to hold the executive session on Thursday, January 20th at 9:0 am.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez asked Town Attorney Gastesi to describe the Carlos Perez v. Mike Mesa case to see where it is derived from and how the Town is not a party to the litigation. Mr. Gastesi provided a summary of the case.


Councilmember Collazo thanked Mr. Gastesi for a fair and honest description of the case. He asked the Town Attorneys to bring back a report of the dollar amount to pay for all the litigations.

Councilmember Collazo also asked for a moment of personal privilege once the report is over and during that moment, he expressed the pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. He stated mental health and suicide is a real thing and it is important to reach out to those going through a hard time to offer help.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

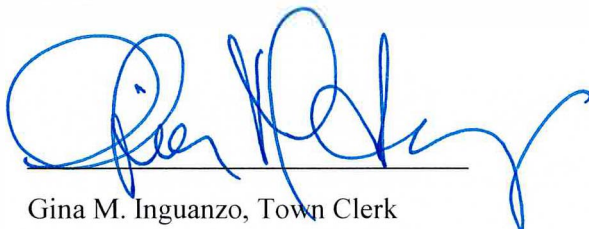
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Approved this 8th day of February 2022.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk