

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**March 14, 2023**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

**1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:**

Councilmember Dieguez presented a proclamation to Commissioner Michael Stern from the City of Aventura and the Miami-Dade League of Cities for Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Councilmember Dieguez presented Certificates of Recognition to the Barbara Goleman Senior High School Mock Trial coaches and the coaches then presented the Certificates of Recognition to each mock trial student for placing second in a recent mock trial competition.

Councilmember Dieguez asked Mr. Maurits Acosta to present the Project Citizen Recognition. Mr. Acosta, on behalf of Mayor Cid, presented a Certificate of Recognition the HML Project Citizen program for their achievements in the district, state, and national project citizen competitions and their continued work in advocating for affordable housing.

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:39 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia, and Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez. Councilmember Ruano arrived at 6:45 p.m. and Mayor Cid arrived at 6:50 p.m.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Mr. Raul Campanioni, from the Boy Scouts Troop 584 led the prayer.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of the Allegiance and Presentation of Colors was led by Boy Scouts of America Troop 584.

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

Councilmember Dieguez withdrew Item 14H and moved Item 14E to be taken up with Item 11A. Vice Mayor Alvarez moved Item 14D to after 11A.

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the Order of Business and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 6-0 with Mayor Cid being absent.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to reopen the Order of Business and Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Cid pulled Item 10E from Consent Calendar and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. All were in favor.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Ms. Stephanie Mendez and Ms. Zoe Venturino came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. They explained they are students in a law studies class at Miami Lakes Middle School. They then presented the project they are working on which is to make restaurant inspection reports more accessible to the public.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She commented on the initiatives dealing with the neighborhood drainage problems, enhancing street lighting, opening a passport office, and the bird sanctuary designation. She also commented on Item 14F regarding aircraft noise as well as the rearranging of budget monies for Miami Lakes Optimist Park.

Mr. Steven Herzburg came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke about an item from the February Council Meeting regarding ending the open public sessions. He added he understood they were not well attended; however, he stated that the Town needs to work to bring them back and find a way to get them better attended.

Ms. Lamavi Bermontez and Ms. Layla Rodriguez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. They spoke about the Main Street curfew and how it has impacted the businesses and audience. They asked the Town Council to consider moving the curfew from 8pm to 9:30pm.

Mr. Dayan Jimenez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He informed the Town Council about the event his organization is hosting at Roberto Alonso Community Center on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> which is a Model UN Conference. He kindly requested the Town Council to pass by the event to engage with the students.

Mr. William Perez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He commended the Town Council on trying to shift funds to support the Grants Department. He also kindly requested the Town Council consider making Miami Lakes Optimist Park more inclusive to all age groups and those physically disabled.

Ms. Helen Costa came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke in support of Item 14D regarding the BNI Miami Lakes organization hosting their weekly meetings at a Town facility. She then gave further information about the organization.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about Item 13A, and the two hearings needed for the Mirtha Mendez podium. She wanted to make sure the Town is not selectively enforcing the ordinance. She then spoke about the Miami Lakes Optimist Park JUA and the \$20 million design exhibit currently attached to it.

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Tony Sanchez to the Miami-Dade County Sheriff Ordinance Review Ad-Hoc Committee by Councilmember Tony Fernandez

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Cultural Affairs Committee**

Chairperson Felicia Salazar presented on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee and requested a reallocation of funds from one budget item to another. She further explained it is the transferring of \$1,023.31 from the Concert line item to the Hispanic Heritage line item which has a deficit.

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the request and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

In closing, Chairperson Salazar invited the Town Council to two upcoming events. The first is on March 25<sup>th</sup> for the Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon and the second is Celebrating Nature – the Everglades which will be an Earth Day exhibit.

### **B. Veterans Committee**

Chairperson William Perez presented as the new Chairperson for the Veterans Committee and updated the Town Council on the new officers in the committee. He spoke about the 2022 Reindeer Run and acknowledged Committee Member Judy Farcus Serra for her work on the event. He also acknowledged former Chairperson Michael Coote for his years of service as Chair. He then stated the committee is still planning what to do with the Reindeer Run funds and once details are settled it'll come to the Town Council for approval.

Chairperson Perez then spoke about an initiative called Veterans Story Time in which the committee wants to implement. He added the committee would like to collaborate with the Education Advisory Board on this initiative to gain their expertise. He also spoke about the Veterans Park Development Plan and added the committee would like to collaborate with the Parks and Recreation Department to get recommendations for this plan.

Councilmember Dieguez gave advice in respect to the Reindeer Run which is to start planning now for an organization that the funds will be raised for, so we are not figuring it out after the fact. Councilmember Collazo then advised Chairperson Perez of the Quarterly Committee Chair meetings to collaborate with other Chairs and he also invited a representative from the committee to educate the kids and lead the pledge at one of his baseball games.

## **9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

### **A. Introduction of Mr. Stanley W. Merantus – Public Works Engineer**

Public Works Director, Mr. Omar Santos introduced Mr. Stanley W. Merantus as the Town's new Public Works Engineer.

### **B. Introduction of Kiara Estrada Rodriguez - Programs Coordinator**

Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun introduced Ms. Kiara Estrada Rodriguez as the Town's Programs Coordinator.

## **10. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano. The motion passed 7-0.

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

- February 7, 2023, Regular Council Meeting
- February 27, 2023, Sunshine Meeting on Optimist Park Minutes

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

### **B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2023-12, TO RG UNDERGROUND ENGINEERING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,827,568.00); APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE LINE-ITEM INTO THE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS-ROYAL OAKS 6TH ADDITION DRAINAGE LINE-ITEM (402-563800-21S04); 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.**

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 2021-43**

FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND RELATED SERVICES, WITH 300 ENGINEERING GROUP, P.A. FOR ROYAL OAKS SIXTH ADDITION DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 71/200 (\$162,825.71); MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 22-307; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO FORMALLY SUBMIT WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OFFICE OF PASSPORT SERVICES REGARDING A PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE FACILITY IN THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES; PROVIDING AUTHORITY FOR TOWN STAFF; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING WOODEN POLE REINFORCEMENT SERVICES TO FRP CONSTRUCTION, LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$74,195; APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE MLOP DESIGN CAPITAL ACCOUNT (3017247-563618) TO THE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACCOUNT (3017247-563000); 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.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar by Mayor Cid. Mayor Cid stated that he is a little uneasy to waive the solicitation requirements and that he believes that we need to be as competitive as possible. However, he stated that he's going to vote affirmatively on the item because it's a public safety matter.

Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

#### **11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN'S FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE NO. 22-307; 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.

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

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and gave a brief overview of the budget amendment. Councilmember Fernandez moved the item and it was seconded by Councilmember Collazo.

Councilmember Fernandez stated that the Town Council might be best served by having a Workshop on the Budget, prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of this ordinance and asked for a workshop to take place. Councilmember Collazo agreed with having a workshop prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance. After discussion, it was agreed to convene at a workshop, prior to the April Regular Council Meeting.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in 1<sup>st</sup> reading passed, 7-0.

**12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:**

None.

**13. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, NAMING A PODIUM IN TOWN HALL, COUCIL CHAMBERS IN HONOR OF MIRTHA MENDEZ; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The item was moved by Councilmember Collazo and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

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

Mayor Cid then asked the Town Attorney, if in the future, a different Town Council would like to change this resolution, if this were to be possible. Town Attorney Gastesi responded that this resolution could be changed by passing a new and different resolution in the future.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Fernandez and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

## **14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. Lobbyist Registration Ordinance (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and made a motion directing the Town Clerk and Town Attorney to work together to try and update our lobbyist registration ordinance. After discussion, Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Mayor Cid added his thoughts on the record and the motion passed 7-0.

### **B. Golf Cart Culinary Tour (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained this was an idea brought up to encourage different committees to get together and organize a golf cart tour that will showcase the Town's restaurants and encourage the registration and safety education of golf carts.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion for Town Staff and the different Town Liaisons to see if this idea can become a yearly thing in the Town. Councilmember Dieguez seconded.

Councilmember Ruano posed questions regarding the costs and Town Manager Pidermann clarified the expenses will go through the committee budget process in the summer for next fiscal year.

The motion passed 7-0.

### **C. AI Utilization in Local Government (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that AI would allow residents to submit their plans electronically, AI will conduct an initial review of the plan, and it'll send its comments to the reviewer. He added he would like Town Staff, the Town Manager, and the Building Director to look into the possibility of using AI to improve customer service and help out our residents.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to have Town Staff look into the possibility of electronic AI. Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion simultaneously.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo received clarification that this item would come back to the Town Council with a cost and implementation process.

The motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition.

### **D. BNI Miami Lakes (Alvarez)**

Vice Mayor Alvarez presented this item and explained that the BNI is a nonprofit organization in Miami Lakes that meets once a week on Friday mornings as stated during

Public Comments. He was approached regarding the possibility of using Town space to host their weekly meetings.

In order to better use facilities and provide this group with assistance, Vice Mayor Alvarez asked his colleagues to support a 1-year lease agreement at no cost to the BNI and for it to be revisited for an extension with the usage of Mary Collins Community Center or Roberto Alonso Community Center, Friday mornings from 7am – 9am. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a friendly amendment to offer Council Chambers. Town Manager Pidermann asked the Town Council to allow Town Staff the opportunity to work with the group to see their demand and frequency in order to find the right space and accommodate them.

Councilmember Fernandez then restated his friendly amendment for this to be at any Town facility the Town Administration deems appropriate. Councilmember Garcia seconded and the amendment passed 7-0.

Back on the main motion, Councilmember Collazo stated the group meets very early and he asked if Town Staff is available at 6:30am. Town Manager Pidermann stated those details will be worked out with the group to find a way to make it happen.

The main motion then passed 7-0.

**E. Federal Lobbyist Special Project (Dieguez)**

This item was combined with Item 11A.

**F. Mitigate Aircraft Noise (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that a couple of weeks ago, Councilmembers and Town Staff met with people from Opa Locka Airport. He added that during discussions, they were told that the airport plans to build at least 4-5 more terminals for private jets. He believes not only residents, but the Town Council as a body, should have a voice in that growth before the decision is made.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion to direct Town Staff to give recommendations on how we can have a say in mitigating that. Councilmember Fernandez seconded.

Town Manager Pidermann stated one idea would be to have quarterly or semi-annual meetings with aviation and neighboring cities to discuss about this. He added there are some ideas and when Town Staff puts them together, they will present it to the Town Council as a report.

Councilmember Ruano then added as part of the discussions, that they were told the Town cannot dictate how much aircraft traffic there is, but that the Town can voice their opinions on the expansion plans.

After further discussion, Councilmember Garcia also added that Opa Locka Airport plans to build an aviation mechanic school and he asked if Miami Lakes Education Center has any program like that, so they can collaborate. Resident and educator from MLEC, Mrs.



Claudia Luces, stated there currently is no program like that, only a program for vehicle mechanics.

The motion then passed 6-0 with Councilmember Dieguez being absent.

#### **G. Public Art (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented the item and made a motion to have Town Staff, in coordination with the Neighborhood Improvement Committee, begin the process of soliciting artists to come up with renderings as to what the columns under the Palmetto on 154<sup>th</sup> Street would look like as public art in our community. Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded.

Councilmember Collazo stated he is a big advocate for Windmill Gate, and there is no beautification at that entrance on 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Councilmember Collazo then made an amendment to the main motion to include the 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Palmetto entrance as well. Mayor Cid seconded the motion and the amendment passed 7-0.

Councilmember Dieguez then made an amendment that the final design has to be approved by the Town Council, not the Neighborhood Improvement Committee, because of the branding and accountability. He added that the Neighborhood Improvement Committee can opine however the Town Council makes the final decision. Councilmember Collazo seconded.

The amendment made by Councilmember Dieguez passed 6-1 with Councilmember Fernandez voting in opposition.

The Town Clerk then called the roll and the main motion passed 5-2 with Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano in opposition.

#### **H. MLOP JUA (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez withdrew this item.

#### **I. Mitigate Use of Illegal Fireworks (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained he was approached by residents regarding the use of illegal, professional fireworks.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion to direct Town Staff to see what the Town's process is, how we can mitigate the use, and educate the public. Councilmember Fernandez seconded.

Councilmember Ruano added her thoughts on the record as to why she supports the item.

The motion passed 7-0.

**J. Chatbot on New Town Website (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and made a motion that as our website is being developed, to have Town Staff look into the utilization of a chatbot on our new website. Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion simultaneously. The motion passed 6-1 with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition.

**15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

**A. Daddy-Daughter Dance by Virtutem Populo (Cid)**

Mayor Cid reminded the Town Council about the Daddy-Daughter Dance sponsored by Mauritz Acosta's non-profit organization, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Roberto Alonso at 6:30 pm.

**16. MANAGER'S REPORTS**

**A. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)**

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the report. He highlighted some projects from the list and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

At the end of the discussion of this item, Councilmember Garcia asked for a moment of personal privilege and stated that he wants to go to Dade Days in Tallahassee. He then asked via motion, the possibility of him attending Dade Days and if some funds could be allocated to him. Town Manager Pidermann explained that in the budget, there is a line item allocating him funds to attend the ICMA Conference. The Town Manager explained that this year, he will not be attending the ICMA Conference and that those funds could be moved towards Councilmember Garcia's trip to Dade Days. The Town Manager also stated it should not be more than \$1,300.

Councilmember Dieguez moved to give the Town Manager the latitude to move whatever is necessary for his travel expenses, it could be done within the general fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 7-0.

**B. Report on Barbara Goleman/Bob Graham PLC Lighting (Santos)**

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the report. He answered questions posed by the Town Council.

He explained that staff conducted an inspection of the area and that streetlights in the area are maintained by FPL. FPL stated that they could work with the Town but that the Town would first have to conduct an independent photometric study and provide a design layout for the new lights. This study costs between \$5,000 to \$10,000 and that the monthly electrical bill for that area would be increased. Also, there is an up-front cost for the new underground infrastructure that was estimated at approximately \$5,000.

Mayor Cid asked for this to be included in the budget list amendment, for the Councilmembers to have conversations on this matter. All were in favor.

**C. Report on Miami Lakes Bird Sanctuary (Bajdaun)**

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, presented the report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

He identified four actions to be taken to place the Town in proper posture to become a bird sanctuary. The following actions are: to adopt an ordinance naming all Town boundaries as a Bird Sanctuary; to designate certain areas, -by the Marina Trail and the Southeast Corner at Veterans Park- as bird friendly locations, and include signage and plants that are bird friendly in conjunction with “Native Plant Database”; utilize the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s eBird platform to leverage technology to educate and share within the Town and for the Town to continue working with agencies for grant opportunities.

Councilmember Dieguez asked for Town Staff to investigate the possibility of adding more bird friendly plants and trees to the Par 3 area, as an on-going effort. Councilmember Collazo mentioned that he did research on this matter and found out that residents can also kind of certify their own backyards as a bird sanctuary, as an alternative. Director Bajdaun responded that he is aware of some groups that make your home bird friendly and that he is looking into this.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to accept Town’s Staff recommendation. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**D. Report on MLOP (Bajdaun)**

Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, presented the report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

He reported that some fencing on one of the fields will be changed and that they completed the repairs on the field to scoreboard -they are now replacing the digits and the LED sign.

Councilmember Collazo asked for an update about some deferred maintenance items, such as the lighting of the tennis courts and some gaps in some fences. He also complemented Director Bajdaun on the improvements done to the park.

**E. Monthly Police Report (Ruiz)**

Major Ruiz presented his report and stated that there was a bit of increase in terms of crimes in auto theft, grand thefts and retail theft. Major Ruiz mentioned that this is probably since year 2022 was very low in crimes and that we were one of the lowest numbers in the district. He mentioned that he has assigned directed patrols to remain highly visible. He also mentioned the trend in stealing catalytic converters from cars.

Councilmember Ruano posed a question regarding a locked car that was stolen with the assistance of an I-Pad. Major Ruiz confirmed that he heard about a software that allows you to reprogram a vehicle and the lock key system.

Councilmember Garcia thanked Major Ruiz and his staff for proving safety in all the community events.

#### **F. Building Department Software Update (Angel)**

Mr. Danny Angel, Building Department Director, presented the report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Director Angel stated that he first built a team, then focused on working with the software to maximize service to its full capacity. He reminded the Town Council that the Building Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee advised the building department to review the department's current processes and software functionality and suggested recommendations in a BFO report.

Director Angel stated that his staff will be trained to become subject matter experts, that address this need, as part of the FY22 Budget, allocated funding for training was approved by the Town Council and that in the next few months, the Building Department Staff will be trained and working with the software and creating automated templates, such as for new businesses, among other applications. Then goal being a more user-friendly automated enterprise system.

Councilmember Ruano complemented Director Angel for his great work and for making the Building Department run smoothly. Mayor Cid complemented Director Angel and his team for what they have accomplished, especially with their communicating with the residents and the contractors. He stated that the communication point has been transformative. Councilmember Collazo also echoed his colleagues' comments and added that this transformation is in the entire TOML; that the customer service level that has been transformed throughout the entire staff. He praised the job done by the Building Department, the Town Manager, and all Town Staff, and commended the Town Manager and Town Staff, for living and walking the walk.

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

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella presented the Attorney's report and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Regarding the Swale Ordinance, he mentioned that Luis Montaldo, the Interim Miami-Dade County Clerk, visited Miami Lakes and met with Mayor Cid, Major Ruiz and the Town Manager and himself, and Mr. Montaldo provided some ideas on how to implement our parking regulations non-moving violations, like other municipalities -such as Doral- has done. He stated that he will be working on implementing this.

Regarding the Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that it will be included in the April Regular Council Meeting Agenda. He added that Major Ruiz and

him have been talking about neutralizing Miami Dade County ordinances, in order to really enforce some vehicles that are eye sores in our right of ways.

Regarding the Town's Committee Rules, Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella provided some clarification on Section 13, which removes the need for Mayoral or Council appointments to be ratified by the Town Council. He clarified that the Town Council is free to appoint or remove individuals to Town Committees; that it is their prerogative to appoint or remove. He emphasized that once the appointment or removal is made, it is mandatory to notify, to announce the Town Council, at the next regular council meeting, the appointment or removal done. No motion will be made – it will be in form of a report. The Town Clerk asked questions regarding this matter and Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella also confirmed that the Town Clerk may swear-in all individuals that have been appointed, even before said appointment gets announced in a regular council meeting.

Regarding the Foreclosure of Outstanding Non-Homestead Liens, he explained that anything that has to do with code enforcement liens, has to come back to the Town Council, it is not done administratively. He stated that the Code prescribes the mitigating factors, the magistrate makes the order. He explained that foreclosure is something different- that it is dealing with properties that are an eyesore for our town, dealing with folks and their non-homestead properties, such as investment commercial folks, folks that have multiple liens and liens that have to do with life safety issues.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained that this mechanism is put into place by first, sending out a demand letter to the bad actors, putting them on notice that they have multiple liens and the amounts that are outstanding and that we are moving on with a foreclosure if they don't respond within a certain time and fix the issue. If they don't fix the issue, the next step is going to the Special Magistrate, for all the outstanding liens and that takes place in a public meeting, which is noticed. If nothing happens, the Town Attorneys will notify the Town Council and ask them for directions to move forward with a foreclosure action. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella emphasized that the idea is not to take property, but to bring these properties into compliance, and they will not move forward with foreclosure until they come back to the Town Council first.

After some discussion, Councilmember Ruano moved to continue with this process and to include in the details of this process, that we are not going to be holding onto properties, that there will be dispositions, if that is something that we want to do. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Fernandez asked the Deputy Town Attorney to present a Report on Airbnb Ordinance and the Registration Process, at the April Regular Council Meeting.

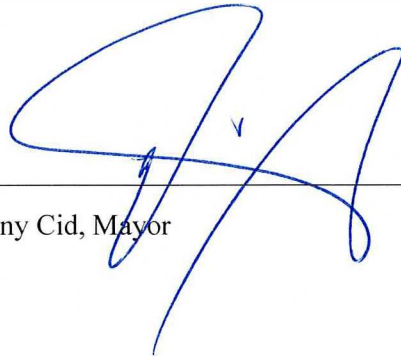
The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that he will be bringing back some additional reports due, such as the Golf Cart, Short-Term Rentals and some information on Public Records.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

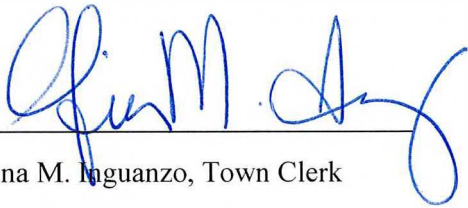
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' and 'C' that are interconnected. The signature is written above a horizontal line.

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gina M. Inguanzo'. The signature is written above a horizontal line.

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk