

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
April 11, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:43 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia, and Mayor Cid. Councilmember Marilyn Ruano and Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez were present via Zoom. Councilmember Josh Dieguez joined the meeting in person at 8:00 p.m.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Jonathan Rodriguez led the prayer.

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

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scout Member Aurora Medina.

The Presentation of Colors was led by the Girl Scouts of America Troop 9002.

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

Mayor Cid combined Item 14C with 12A and moved up Items 14B, 15B, and 15D to after Public Comments. Councilmember Fernandez moved Item 16B to be discussed with Item 12A.

Vice Mayor Alvarez motioned to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Dieguez absent.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

Mr. Dayan Jimenez came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He thanked the Town Council for entrusting his organization with the first Miami Lakes Model UN Conference which was held at the Roberto Alonso Community Center. He also expanded on the event and topics discussed.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about the status of the bathrooms at Veterans Park and explained they need to be maintained. She then asked the Town Council to consider adding fans under park pavilions. She also spoke about the Miami Lakes Optimist Park Sunshine Meeting, the JUA, the unavailable streaming, and the poor audio recording of said meeting.

Ms. Esther Colon came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She expressed her concerns that have been going on for over 2 years. The first concern is the traffic calming device on Fairway Drive and the need to maintain it as there is still speeding. The second concern is the pothole in the Loch Andrews neighborhood located in front of P53. She asked the Town Council to prioritize these needs.

Mr. Manny Cid, Jr. came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He suggested adding another basketball hoop to Veterans Park as the courts are very busy and popular with all ages. He stated that an extra hoop will give everyone a chance to shoot around.

Mr. Hector Abad came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. He spoke about the Budget Workshop held on April 5th where parents from Miami Lakes K-8 Center expressed their concerns related to school safety. He then spoke about the funds from the Satori development agreement which were to be allocated to the impacted schools for educational improvements.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to extend Mr. Abad's time by 2 minutes and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Dieguez absent.

Mr. Abad then respectfully asked the Town Council to reallocate the \$200,000 Satori development funds that were given to the Miami Lakes Optimist Park, to be used for educational purposes and specifically for safety initiative at all six of the local schools.

Ms. Claudia Luces, as an Education Advisory Board Member, came before the Town Council to participate in public comments. She spoke about Item 15C and wanted to clarify that the EAB has no idea as to what the item is.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo stated for the record the 2 written public comments her office received. The following individuals submitted written public comments:

Ms. Bonnie Cintron.

Ms. Hope Reynolds on behalf of Roberto Monroig.

Ms. Karla DiMartino participated in virtual public comments via Zoom. She stated that she supports any efforts that could be made to enhance school safety. She also thanked the Town Council for all the attention that has been given to the matter at Miami Lakes K-8 Center. She asked them to please continue to take the initiative to reach out to the school principal to coordinate security enhancements.

There being no further public comments, Mayor Cid closed public comments.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Mr. Carlos Padilla to the Economic Development Committee by Councilmember Luis E. Collazo.

Mr. Patky Changkachith to the Neighborhood Service District – Miami Lakes Section 1 by the Town Council.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Cultural Affairs Committee

Chairperson Felicia Salazar presented on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee and requested a reallocation of funds to balance line items that are currently at a deficit. The CAC requested to move \$2,189.50 from the Fourth of July Line item to be allocated towards the Concert on the Fairway Line item and to move \$958.32 from the Juneteenth Line item and to be allocated to the Concert on the Fairway Line item.

Councilmember Collazo moved the item and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the motion for discussion. The Town Council posed questions to Chairperson Salazar and after discussion, Town Manager Pidermann stated that if there is any prior event in the fiscal year that has a surplus, to move that money first, and then move the balance from Juneteenth and 4th of July events, if needed. Councilmember Collazo agreed with the suggestion and made it part of his motion. Councilmember Collazo further explained that instead of taking funds from upcoming events, to take the funds from previous events that may run a surplus. Town Manager Pidermann restated Councilmember Collazo's motion and stated for funds to be taken from any surplus events that have taken place, then Juneteenth and then if any balance is left, it would be from the 4th of July event.

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

Chairperson Salazar presented the second item of the Committee Report, which was the Pride Celebration Month event. Committee Member Charles James presented the event

proposal to the Town Council and asked permission from the Town Council to hold this event at the theater on Main Street, on June 24th, from 6 to 8 pm. The Town Council posed questions to Committee Member James.

After discussion, Councilmember Ruano then motioned for this event to be done independently from the Town of Miami Lakes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

B. Elderly Affairs Committee

Chairperson Dottie Wix presented on behalf of the Elderly Affairs Committee. She first spoke about her friend and committee member, Aida McCarthy's passing and her active role in the committee. She stated that Ms. Aida McCarthy will be missed dearly.

Chairperson Wix presented the Committee Report. She asked the Town Council for advice on how the EAC can find a way to feed the Homebound elderly in the community; Chairperson Wix then asked the Town Council for assistance to find a way to provide the Homebound Initiative in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Bingo lunches.

During discussion, Councilmember Collazo stated that he wants to help the committee with this and that he would reach out to some service organizations he met with in Tallahassee who want to help the elderly in Miami Lakes, and he also stated he would reach out to Mr. Michael Salem, who always helps with these sorts of things and with the Alliance for Aging.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella clarified that there is no problem with a committee member delivering food for a friend in their personal capacity; but he did clarify that a committee member cannot deliver food on behalf of the Town of Miami Lakes.

The Town Council and Chairperson Wix ended her report by saying a few lovely words in honor of Ms. Aida McCarthy and they thanked her for all she did for the EAC and the community.

C. Economic Development Committee

Chairperson Matthew Casamayor presented the Committee Report on behalf of the Economic Development Committee. He explained that the committee would like to host a new event, which would consist of a panel of businesspeople that would answer questions from the community and provide information for local business to improve their businesses and to gain resources that are available to them by the County and the Town.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to allow the EDC, to use Town Hall for the "Small Business Bootcamp". The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and the motion passed 7-0.

D. Special Needs Advisory Board

Chairperson John Rogger presented the Committee Report on behalf of the Special Needs Advisory Board. He explained the line items of the FY2022-23 and he asked questions to

the Town Council. Town Manager Pidermann explained that there should be no motion regarding the Town Liaison's pay because it will be discussed by the Town Council during the Carryforward Budget Amendment later on the night, during the discussion of Item 12A.

After discussion, Councilmember Dieguez motioned to approve the proposed budget, minus any accommodation to the Town Liaison pay, with the requirement that prior to the spending of any funds, that the committee first come back to the Town Council and explain to them the guidelines and parameters for the Grants and Aides and explain to the Town Council how the committee will spend the advertising budget and everything else. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez and it passed 7-0.

E. Blasting Advisory Board

Chairperson Miguel Martinez presented the Committee Report on behalf of the Blasting Advisory Board. He provided a detailed summary of the committee's trip to Tallahassee, which took place on February 21, 2023 and their accomplishments. Chairperson Martinez thanked the committee, the Town Council, Representative Fabricio and everyone involved in making this a successful trip and for helping the community with their efforts.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Grant)

Chief Financial Officer, Kay Grant, presented the Town of Miami Lakes annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ending 2022. Ms. Grant stated that because of the teamwork in the Town, for 10 consecutive years, they have received the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

The independent audit for the Town was conducted by the firm of Garcia, Espinosa, Miyares, Rodriguez, Trueba & Co. LLP. The Director of Audit and Assurance Services, Mr. Gerry Donates, and Audit and Assurance Services Manager, Ms. Francis Cabrera Yec, provided an explanation of the audit's outcome. Mr. Donates briefly went over the results of this year's audit for the Town of Miami Lakes and explained that for the last 7 years, there have been no findings to report or address. No material weaknesses were identified, no significant deficiencies reported and 100% in compliance. She thanked Town Staff, the Finance Department, and the independent audit firm of GEMRT.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

A. Approval of Minutes

- February 22, 2023, Attorney-Client Executive Session
- March 14, 2023, Regular Council Meeting

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 2023-07R, MARY COLLINS COMMUNITY CENTER CABINET REPLACEMENT TO DYNAMIC BUILDERS, CORP IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$39,454; 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, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR MIAMI LAKES PARK WEST BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, RFQ 2022-11 TO CHEN MOORE AND ASSOCIATES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$175,213; 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.

- D. 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 MARLIN ENGINEERING, INC. FOR THE MIAMI LAKES FAIRWAY DRIVE BIKE LANES AND CROSSWALKS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; 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.

11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 17 BY CREATING SECTION 17-3 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.

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

Councilmember Collazo moved the ordinance and it was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND 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.

Mayor Cid opened the public hearing for public comments and there being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

Items 14C and 16B were moved to be taken up with this item, 12A.

Mayor Cid presented his item, 14C and explained he would like to wrap four of the traffic signal boxes in honor of the men and women in the Armed Forces, Miami Lakes Police Department, local Station 64, and Station 1. He added that these boxes cost \$1,000 each to do and would like to see the Town Council allocate \$4,000 to do this. He mentioned he would like Town Staff to work on different design and bring it back to the Town Council at a subsequent Council Meeting and for them to vote on a design but at least have the dollars already allocated.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to allocate \$4,000 to wrap four traffic signal boxes in honor of our men and women in uniform. Councilmember Fernandez seconded. Councilmember Collazo added he has no problem allocating the funds but would like to bring in the Public Safety Committee and Veterans Committee to make sure they are part of the process and have input. Councilmember Fernandez seconded the amendment and the amendment passed 7-0.

Back on the main motion made by Mayor Cid on Item 14C regarding the \$4,000 allocation, the motion passed 7-0.

Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Mr. German Cure presented Item 16B and gave a report on updating the broadcasting equipment in Council Chambers. He explained three upgrades would need to take place whether it be all at once or in phases. He then explained each phase and their costs.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion to add phase 1 of the broadcasting equipment to the carryforward amendment and Mayor Cid seconded the motion. After discussion and

clarification on phase 1, the motion on Item 16B passed 6-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

On Item 12A, the following discussions and motions were made regarding other items for the Town Council's consideration:

On the Grants Support item, Councilmember Garcia made a motion to move Option 3 and Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Fernandez and Vice Mayor Alvarez voted in opposition.

On the Biennial Townwide Community Survey item, Councilmember Dieguez moved to deny; Councilmember Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano seconded simultaneously. The motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Garcia and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Veterans Park Playground Lighting item, Councilmember Fernandez moved to deny; Councilmember Collazo and Councilmember Ruano seconded simultaneously. The motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Garcia and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Pickleball Courts at Barbara Goleman HS item, Councilmember Fernandez moved to deny; Councilmember Collazo and Councilmember Ruano seconded simultaneously. Mayor Cid then made an amendment to move forward with the proposal from Item 15D's presentation. The motion to amend failed due to lack of a second. The main motion passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Additional Funding for Police Overtime Initiatives item, Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to approve and Councilmember Dieguez and Vice Mayor Alvarez seconded simultaneously.

Councilmember Collazo then made an amendment to add an additional \$20,000 to this line item, to include any public school's safety measures that may need to be included with the additional police overtime and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the amendment. Councilmember Dieguez asked if this was for K-8 specifically, and Councilmember Collazo clarified that it would be for public schools in general.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a friendly amendment, to raise to \$100,000 rather than \$20,000, totaling \$150,000 for this line item and Mayor Cid seconded the amendment. Councilmember Fernandez clarified his amendment and explained that \$50,000 would be for funding police overtime and \$100,000 instead of \$20,000, as proposed by Councilmember Collazo, for school safety and security, to be split amongst the six schools.

After some discussion, the Town Clerk called roll on Councilmember Fernandez's amendment, and the motion failed 3-4; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Ruano, and Vice Mayor Alvarez voted in opposition.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Alvarez then made a motion to allocate additional dollars and allow the Town Manager to bring back to the Town Council what the costs of an additional officer will be for this budget year. Mayor Cid seconded the motion. Vice Mayor Alvarez then

withdrew his motion but asked the Town Manager to come back to a future Council Meeting with an approximate cost of one additional officer. The Town Manager agreed.

On the amendment made by Councilmember Collazo to add \$20,000 to this line item, Councilmember Collazo explained that he would like for the Town to have the resources and enough money to address this until the end of the school year, whether it is MLK-8, Barbara Goleman, and for the school to make some additional requests, such as the buzzer at the door. He clarified that he wants the Town Manager and the Police to have resources to address whatever school they feel needs immediate implementation of safety measures to help relieve the parents' fears, for the remainder of the school year. The Town Manager then stated that he will ask Major Ruiz to speak to the school principal and to the school board police in charge of this area, and for them to strategize on the best way to spend it. Once these conversations take place, the Town Manager stated that he will report back to the Town Council at the May Regular Council Meeting. Councilmember Collazo agreed to the Town Manager's statements and the amended motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

Councilmember Dieguez then stated that in the mornings, there are two officers that direct traffic on the west side of Town and in talking with Major Ruiz and Town Manager Pidermann, he would like to try a pilot program through the end of the school year, to have two officers in the afternoon as well. Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to increase this line item by \$28,000 for this pilot program to be through the end of the school year and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion for discussion. The motion passed 4-2 with Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Fernandez voting in opposition and Councilmember Collazo being absent.

The main motion as amended, to approve the Additional Funding for Police Overtime Initiatives item, passed 6-0 with Councilmember Collazo being absent.

On the Beautification Masterplan Update item, Councilmember Dieguez moved to deny it; Councilmember Ruano and Councilmember Fernandez seconded simultaneously. The motion passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Senior Citizens Tax Relief Program item, Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve, and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

On the Disability Tax Relief Program item, Councilmember Fernandez moved to approve, and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

On the Townwide Crosswalk Improvements item, Vice Mayor Alvarez made a motion to deny all phases and Councilmember Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Garcia and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Facility Renewable Energy Feasibility Study, Councilmember Fernandez motioned to deny, and Mayor Cid seconded. After discussion, the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, and Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

On the Veterans Park Bike Trail item, Councilmember Fernandez motioned to deny; Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Collazo seconded simultaneously. The motion passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Veterans Park Outdoor Exercise Equipment item, Councilmember Fernandez motioned to deny, and Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Collazo and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

On the Right of Way/Swale Area Parking at K-9 Cove item, Councilmember Fernandez motioned to deny, and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion failed 3-4 with Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Alvarez, and Mayor Cid in opposition. Mayor Cid then made a motion to approve the item and Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 4-3 with Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Fernandez, and Councilmember Ruano in opposition.

On the Bird Sanctuaries at Parks item, Councilmember Collazo motioned to approve; Mayor Cid and Councilmember Dieguez seconded simultaneously. The motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Fernandez voted in opposition.

On the Traffic Calming (Speed Humps) item, Councilmember Garcia motioned to add an additional \$30,000 to the speed humps item, totaling \$100,000 and Mayor Cid seconded. The motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Fernandez, Councilmember Ruano, and Vice Mayor Alvarez in opposition.

On the SNAB Liaison item, Councilmember Fernandez motioned to approve and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. Town Manager Pidermann then stated they can move this position to the General Fund to cover it with existing salary savings from filled positions. He added that they do not need carryforward monies to cover this expense and that the motion should be to move the position from the SNAB line item to the General Fund's Administration line item. Councilmember Garcia then amended the motion to follow Town Manager Pidermann's recommendation, which is to move it from the SNAB line item to the Administration line item; Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano seconded simultaneously. The amendment passed 7-0.

Councilmember Collazo proposed that if none of these projects get done within this fiscal cycle, that the remainder of those monies go back into the MLOP fund. He explained that this will start a six-month clock to get these projects initiated and if not done the money will go back to the MLOP fund. Councilmember Fernandez seconded Councilmember Collazo's proposal.

Councilmember Dieguez asked for clarification to define initiated, and Councilmember Collazo explained the projects should at least go through the procurement process, get assigned to someone, and be in the process of awarding.

After discussion, the motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Ruano in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

On the remainder of the carryover funds which is \$874,467, Councilmember Fernandez moved to transfer those funds to the MLOP Capital Improvements Fund and Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 6-0 with Vice Mayor Alvarez being absent.

On the main motion as amended, to pass the Ordinance in 2nd reading, the motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, NAMING PICKLEBALL COURTS LOCATED AT MIAMI LAKES OPTIMIST PARK IN HONOR OF FORMER VICE MAYOR JEFFREY RODRIGUEZ; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Councilmember Fernandez moved the resolution, and it was seconded by Mayor Cid.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella presented the item and he explained that this resolution is coming back to the Town Council in the May Regular Council Meeting. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Community Partnerships for Senior Center Build Out (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo presented this item and explained it came forward during Dade Days discussions. He explained that one of the community-based organizations there named Little Havana Activities Center spoke about different opportunities to partner with the Town. One idea was to possibly leverage different partners like the Older Americans Act providers or other healthcare providers who might be interested in helping with the senior center build out. He added that the senior center build out legislative priority did not look promising in Tallahassee; therefore, he would like to shift gears and look at all possible solutions that might bring additional revenue to help with the build out.

Councilmember Collazo then made a motion to look at community partnerships comprised of the Older Americans Act providers and the private sector for the senior center build out. Councilmember Dieguez seconded.

Mayor Cid asked if the senior center is already fully funded and Town Manager Pidermann stated yes, based on the original estimate.

After further discussion regarding how the senior center would be run, the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

B. Street Designation for James William Baker, Bill (Alvarez)

Vice Mayor Alvarez began by recognizing Councilmember Paul Hernandez from the City of Hialeah who is present this evening. He then presented this item and outlined the biography of James William Baker (Bill).

Vice Mayor Alvarez motioned to designate Seagrape Terrace in his honor and Councilmember Fernandez seconded.

Ms. Barbara Baker spoke about the designation for her husband, Mr. Bill Baker, and thanked the Town Council.

Mr. Paul Hernandez spoke about Bill Baker, his past, and how much his neighbors looked up to him.

The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

C. Traffic Signal Boxes (Cid)

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

D. External Communications and Marketing Consultant (Fernandez)

Councilmember Fernandez presented this item and made a motion to solicitate for an external communications and marketing consultant to help the Town's communications and marketing team improve their outreach and strategy for social media marketing. He explained that this would be part of next year's budget process. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez then asked what the role is envisioned for this person and Councilmember Fernandez explained the role is to have the person come in and do an initial study of the department and report back to the Town Council with recommendations on how best to improve.

After further discussion amongst the Town Council on this initiative, Mayor Cid stated he would've preferred allowing the Communications and Community Affairs Director to have more flexibility to hire a third-party company that manages the mundane tasks and then allow her staff to be more creative and create unique content.

Councilmember Fernandez then added that could be a possible scenario; however, he stated he wants the consultant to do a deep dive into the department, conduct an assessment of individual strengths and weaknesses and then, tailor a plan to that. He also added that as part of this analysis, he wants to look at how complementary the committees, liaisons, and communications and marketing are and possibly, bifurcating the department.

After discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

E. Park Pavilion Rentals (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented the item and made a motion directing Town Staff to do an inventory of Town parks to see if there are more opportunities to add park pavilion rentals. He added they are extremely popular and would like Town Staff to do an assessment to see if there are opportunities for more. Councilmember Garcia seconded.

Councilmember Fernandez then stated that based on Ms. Claudia Luces' comments, can Town Staff also look at the cost to install ceiling fans in the existing pavilions. Town Manager Pidermann stated they will explore this.

The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

F. Marlins Park Speech (Fernandez)

Councilmember Fernandez presented this item and made a motion to approve the language that protects free speech and free political speech, as stated in the resolution that the Deputy Town Attorney hand delivered to the Town Council during the meeting. Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion simultaneously. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez absent.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion to extend the meeting until midnight and Councilmember Collazo seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Vice Mayor Alvarez were absent.

G. Intergovernmental Priorities (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and made a motion to direct Town Staff to come back to the Town Council with County legislative priorities that can be presented to the Town's County Commissioner on a yearly basis.

Town Manager Pidermann asked what time of the year Mayor Cid would like this presented and Mayor Cid stated about 3 months prior to their budget process - sometime in the summertime. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

For purposes of clarification, Councilmember Collazo noted that the memo states other intergovernmental bodies and he would like to make sure they include all bodies. Councilmember Collazo amended the motion to include not just intergovernmental organizations but also pass through organizations that manage money for government. Mayor Cid agreed, and Councilmember Fernandez seconded the amendment.

The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Vice Mayor Alvarez were absent.

H. Volunteer Appreciation Month/Event (Fernandez)

Councilmember Fernandez presented this item and explained that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month.

Councilmember Fernandez then made a motion directing the Town Manager to organize a volunteer appreciation event hopefully before the month of April is over, if not the first couple days of May. He stated that a Saturday breakfast is probably the most appropriate. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Vice Mayor Alvarez were absent.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

A. Update on Golf Carts (Ruano)

Councilmember Ruano presented the item.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella presented the item and spoke about House Bill 949. He emphasized that HB 949, enhances safety by requiring a Florida Driver's License, or at least a learner's permit, to operate a golf cart on a municipal road. He stated that House Bill is requesting the installation of seat belts and he clarified that the Town Council would be requesting for them to require the use of seat belts. That way, the Police Officers would be able to enforce safety on golf carts. He answered questions posed by the Town Council. Thus, the Deputy Town Attorney stated that the resolution he drafted in this regard, is in support of Bill 949 as it pertains to requiring a drivers license and requiring that seatbelts be required to be used.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the resolution and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Fernandez. The motion passed 6-0; Vice Mayor Alvarez was absent.

B. Daddy-Daughter Dance (Cid)

Mr. Mauritz Acosta gave a report on the Miami Lakes Daddy-Daughter Dance, an initiative through the Mayor's Office. He reminded that the event would take place on April 28th and funds are towards promoting civic engagement in the youth across the town and in the County.

C. Education Advisory Board – Miami Lakes School Board District Booklet (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented the item. He stated that the Village of Palmetto Bay does a great job, thru their Education Advisory Board, in promoting their schools to their residents. He explained that the Education Advisory Board of the Village of Palmetto Bay created a pamphlet documenting their schools and their academic programs. Mayor Cid stated that he would like this pamphlet to be presented to the Town of Miami Lakes EAB, for their consideration.

D. Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Committee Report (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented the item. He mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce and the EDC met with a group that will be presenting to the Town Council tonight. He then called the EDC

Chairperson, Matthew Casamayor, and he introduced Ms. Soledad Cedro, from World Paddle Center.

Ms. Cedro spoke about paddles and presented the services her company provides. She answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Fernandez made a motion to waive Section 6.7 and 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed 6-0 with Councilmember Dieguez absent.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Monthly Police Report (Ruiz)

Major Ruiz presented the report and stated that there has been some increases in homicide and some increase in the theft of catalytic converters and a decrease in numbers of larcenies. He reported that an LPR has been added to 67th Avenue and 167th Street. He answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mayor Cid mentioned that the LPR in Section 1 takes too much time and that it often breaks. Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, answered questions regarding the LPR in that area.

B. Broadcasting Equipment Report (Cure)

This Item was moved up and discussed during the discussion of Item 12A.

C. Report on Floating Solar (Santos)

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the report and responded to questions posed by the Town Council. He explained that he analyzed the possibility to work with FRPL, commercial businesses and state and local entities, to introduce a program utilizing floating solar as a revenue source for the Town.

He explained that he contacted Miami-Dade County Office of Resilience, and he was told that the County did a feasibility study and received a technical assistant grant through the Department of Energy. He was told that other additional grants are available, for the TOML to explore further. Director Santos spoke with the County, and he was told that to install a floating solar it would be on a water body that is directly adjacent to a county facility that would benefit, due to metering policies that are in place.

Director Santos also met with FPL, and he presented the solar energy programs available. He presented to the Town Council the three options that customers can use to benefit from solar energy. He ended his report by stating that installing a floating array is an option but that the location must meet certain requirements. Based on the Staff's investigation, the Optimist Park Club House, is a potential site for a floating array installation, because it is adjacent to the Park's Marina.

D. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)

Director of Public Works, Mr. Omar Santos, presented the report and responded to questions posed by the Town Council.

E. Monthly Report on MLOP (Bajdaun)

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

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi provided information on the Pizzi case. He explained that the Town's Motion for Summary Judgment and Michael Pizzi's Motion for Summary Judgment were heard, and that the judge asked each party to present proposed orders on the issue of liability. He explained that they are waiting for the judge's ruling. Town Attorney Gastesi explained that if the judge rules in favor of their Summary Judgment, the case is over; if the judge denies them both, which means they would need to go to a trial just for the issue of liability and then another trial for the issue of how much; if the judge grants Pizzi's motion, then there would be a trial for the issue of how much.

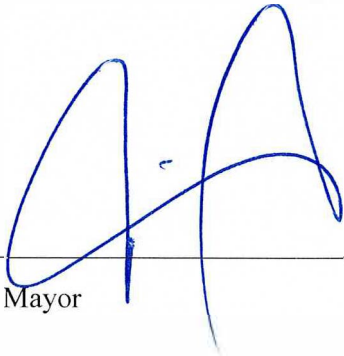
Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella provided an oral presentation on Short-Term Rentals.

The Town Council asked for a moment of personal privilege and gave the condolences to the family of Aida McCarthy and to the family of former Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez, who lost his father a few days ago.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51p.m.

Approved this 9th day of May 2023.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk