

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
April 9, 2024
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. PROCLAMATIONS, RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez called the roll at 6:44 pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Ray Garcia, and Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez. Councilmember Marilyn Ruano was present via Zoom. Mayor Cid arrived at 8:40 pm. The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inganzo, arrived at 8:55pm.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Minister Kenny Medina from Ministerio Garcia Sin Limites led the prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Austin Ochoa.

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

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

Town Manager Edward Pidermann deferred Item 9B to the May Regular Council Meeting. Vice Mayor Fernandez moved Item 13A to after Public Comments.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After Item 13A was heard, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to reopen the Order of Business. Town Manager Pidermann asked to defer Item 9A to the May Regular Council Meeting. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion to reopen.

Councilmember Garcia then asked when Mr. Aden Perry's family would be speaking and Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez stated during Item 8A, the Neighborhood Improvement Committee report. Vice Mayor Fernandez then added he may reopen the Order of Business later in the evening if Mayor Cid cannot make it when they get to his items.

The motion made by Councilmember Collazo passed 5-0.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (23:40)

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

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed during public meetings.

Vice Mayor Fernandez recognized Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller, Mr. Juan Fernandez Barquin, and stated that he would like to address the council. Vice Mayor Fernandez added that he would like to extend Mr. Fernandez Barquin as much time as he needs.

Miami-Dade County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller, Mr. Juan Fernandez Barquin, then came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that he wanted to loop the town in on a couple things that are going and have initiated in his office. First, he stated that they have extended hours in two of their satellite courthouses, the Joseph Caleb Center, and the South Dade Justice Center. He added that they have implemented a payment plan portal, developed in-house. He stated that they have Operation Green Light starting April 10th, 2024, to April 30th, 2024. This will waive the collections fees for traffic or parking tickets in collections. Lastly, he explained that there is a property fraud alert system which is completely free.

Ms. Zoe Van Torino, accompanied by legal students from Miami Lakes Middle School, came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She presented her policy for the creation of a Youth Advisory Board that will focus on legislative processes and policy making. She explained that a major part of the proposed policy is having the Youth Council Members shadow the Councilmembers to mentor the youth and learn legislative processes. She added another major part is having a Board Liaison to guide them. She then urged the Council to vote in favor of fostering civic engagement among the youth of the council.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is in support of the removal of excess leaves done by the town and loves the idea of a question-and-answer type of public comments session as well as the reforestation item. She then stated that she is not in support of the Street Zoning Overlay on NW 154th Street. She emphasized that instead of focusing on growing, changing, and bringing more amenities, the Council should focus on maintaining what we have and enforcing deed restrictions.

Ms. Carolina Cuba, accompanied by students from Miami Lakes Middle School, came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained why she would like the Town

Council to implement a Youth Advisory Board and stated it would allow for youth representation, future leadership development, and enhanced decision making. She stated that it is important that they invest in civic education projects. She emphasized the need for adult input and advice on government issues. She then urged the Town Council to carefully consider implementing a Youth Advisory Board.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that unnecessary amenities in the Town are at the cost of the Miami Lakes taxpayer. She stated that she is not in support of the \$25,000 budget for K9 Cove. She emphasized that the plans for the 154th Street Overlay will only create more traffic within Miami Lakes. She then stated that the Council should step back and address the true priorities of the town which include sidewalks and conditions of the streets.

Ms. Vanessa came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She came to present a unique point of view from the local business side, specifically Main Street. She explained that she believes there is more the town can do by partnering with the businesses to liven it up a little. She stated that she would like to propose a plan to help Main Street reach its full potential. She also stated that we can support our local businesses through community events for both locals and outsiders to support our economy in Miami Lakes.

There being no further public comments, public comments were closed.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

No appointments were read into the record.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Neighborhood Improvement Committee

Vice Chairperson Jesus Mendoza presented the committee report on behalf of Chairperson Rudy Lloredo. He went over the initiatives and events that the committee has been working on. He presented the committee report and went over the initiatives and events that the committee has been working on. He then explained a future project for consideration, the Adel Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative, which has been approved by the NIC. He then introduced Ms. Sarah Perry who presented an overview of the Aden Perry Hero Life Ring Initiative. She explained the initiative's purpose to implement life rings as well as the price proponent. She then pleaded to the Town Council for the Town of Miami Lakes to join her mission and proposed installing them by bodies of water.

Councilmember Collazo stated that he would like to sponsor one at the lake he lives on.

After discussion, Councilmember Collazo moved the item and directed staff to see if a program can be created for sponsorship opportunities for members of private HOAs and residents to sponsor these life rings throughout town in public and private areas. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

After discussion, the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Vice Chairperson Mendoza then finished up the report by outlining the other future projects and considerations. Vice Chairperson Mendoza then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

B. Economic Development Committee

Chairperson Matthew Casamayor presented the committee report and updated the council on attendance, banners and pins, networking events, and the next small business bootcamp. He then explained that he's been speaking with many businesses throughout the year when it comes to Main Street and what they want to do to liven it up. He spoke about the Main Street Merchants group and how many business owners do not know what that group is. He then asked, on behalf of the EDC, if it is possible for the EDC to hold a mediation meeting or something along those lines to get the Main Street Merchants, business owners, and the Town's Communications Department together.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then asked Town Manager Pidermann what action is needed for him to facilitate the request and Town Manager Pidermann stated he can have the Communications Department coordinate a plan of action with the EDC to present.

After further discussion, Town Manager Pidermann answered a question posed by Chairperson Casamayor regarding presenting again.

9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

A. School Crossing Guards 10 Years of Service (Yanes)

This item was deferred to the May Regular Council Meeting.

B. Introduction of Ms. Annabelle Urrea-Guzman – Office of Miami Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava (Pidermann)

This item was deferred to the May Regular Council Meeting.

C. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for FY2022-2023 (Grant)

Chief Financial Officer, Kay Grant, presented the Town of Miami Lakes Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. She explained that the independent audit for the Town was conducted by the firm of Garcia, Espinosa, Miyares, Rodriguez, Trueba & Co. LLP. Chief Financial Officer Grant stated that for the 8th consecutive year there have been no findings to report and for the 11th consecutive year, they have received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for last year's audit report.

Partner of the GEMRT firm, Mr. Gerry Donates, and Audit and Assurance Services Manager, Ms. Francis Cabrera Yec, were present. Mr. Donates briefly went over the audit's outcome and results of the audit for the Town of Miami Lakes.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Fernandez. The motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

A. Approval of Minutes

- March 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting
- April 3, 2024 Attorney-Client Executive Session

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TOWN'S FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE NO. 23-318; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance in first reading.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to move the item. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AMENDING TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE CHAPTER 13, AMENDING ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 1, SECTION 13.2107, "RESTRICTIONS FOR SPONSORSHIP"; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi read the title of the ordinance in first reading.

Mayor Cid made a motion to move the item and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez, called the roll and the motion passed 4-1; Councilmember Ruano was in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:

None.

13. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, CREATING A YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD: AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained that he believes Councilmember Dieguez met with the students. He added that he is not sure if Councilmember Dieguez would like to proffer any edits and therefore, yielded the floor to him. Councilmember Dieguez stated he had a productive conversation with the students in which he relayed his concerns, and he got a better sense of what they are envisioning.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Garcia seconded.

Councilmember Dieguez explained that the verbiage in Section 7, number 3, states that members of the Youth Council shall be given opportunities to shadow the council members and he does not have a problem with councilmembers that want to give the opportunity to shadow; however, he believes the way it is worded is too broad and would be better written as "may". Councilmember Dieguez then stated his first amendment would be to propose that Subsection 3 of Section 7 be amended to read, "members of the Youth Council may be given opportunities to shadow the council members". Councilmember Garcia seconded the amendment and the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Dieguez went on to explain that the second item he wanted to discuss and a concern he had was that as a formal body, as opposed to an informal group similar to the Youth Council at the Spot, they are subject to sunshine law. He wanted to discuss with his colleagues and the Town Attorney regarding the level of risk.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi stated that at one point he attended one of the Youth Activities Task Force meetings and stressed to them Florida Law and the Government in the Sunshine Act and himself or Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella can do that with this group. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella also stated that he does not believe there will be an issue. He added that their role is advisory, and they will be providing ideas. He stated it gets sticky if they are not talking about anything budgetary or planning events because they are minors and not of age to vote on things that are budgetary.

After discussion on Councilmember Dieguez's concern, Councilmember Dieguez stated that if they want to be subject to the sunshine provision along with committee rules then he would leave it alone. He also stated that the group talked about meeting on the dais; however, he added that like all other committees, they would meet in the community conference room. Vice Mayor Fernandez added that he believes the idea is to open this up community wide and have participation from different schools so then their role becomes providing the forum and format to do so.

Councilmember Dieguez then added that he is fine having a representative from each school, but it could be a limiting factor if they have to have one from each school. Vice Mayor Fernandez added that it's not going to be a rigid structure of one representative from each school, just organically. Councilmember Collazo added he disagrees and would want one from each HML, Goleman, MLK8, Miami Lakes Middle, Bob Graham, Miami Lakes Educational Center, and Our Lady of the Lakes, to have equal representative from all the youth. He proposed for each of the schools to have an election at the school to vote in their representative instead of appointing.

After discussion, Councilmember Collazo stated he would like to rethink unlimited terms. He mentioned those were his two concerns; to set term limits and to make sure all the schools were adequately represented.

Councilmember Collazo then made a motion in the form of the following: on the Composition and Terms of Service, he would like there to be one representative from every school, HML, Barbara Goleman, Miami Lakes K-8, Miami Lakes Middle, Bob Graham, Miami Lakes Educational Center, and Our Lady of the Lakes being the seven organizations and he wants to discuss term limits.

Councilmember Collazo believes it shouldn't be indefinite and there should be some type of term limits whether it be four years or some other structure. Vice Mayor Fernandez added that part of the intent is to be active students so once they graduate, they resign. Councilmember Garcia added that he agrees with his colleagues and thinks the students should vote on someone to represent them every year. Councilmember Dieguez then seconded the motion made by Councilmember Collazo.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo added he is fine with yearly term limits. Councilmember Garcia added that he can't speak for the teachers or students, but he believes they would like the opportunity to vote every year and reward one student that can represent their school. Councilmember Dieguez stated that if Councilmember Collazo would like to amend his amendment to include that he is more than happy to second. Councilmember Collazo stated yes, he is completely fine with it. On the amendment made by Councilmember Collazo, the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Dieguez then added that he would prefer having a requirement that they have to be Miami Lakes residents. He stated if they are opining on issues affecting taxpayers, the taxpayers would want them to be people that live in the town. He stated that would be his amendment. Councilmember Collazo seconded. After discussion, the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Ruano asked Vice Mayor Fernandez to shed light on how the committee will give Town Council feedback. Vice Mayor Fernandez explained the idea would be for them to report orally at every council meeting; however, they can make it in line with other committees. Councilmember Dieguez stated that if they are approved as a formal body, they are subject to committee rules and reporting twice a year. Vice Mayor Fernandez added he would also like a written report to be provided to the Town Council on a monthly basis and Councilmember Dieguez added they can do so but it does not have to be added to the resolution.

After discussion regarding reports, Councilmember Ruano asked what are the matters that they will be including in their report, is it every item or youth related items? Vice Mayor Fernandez answered that the original intent was for them to give the youth perspective on all new business items.

After discussion on the committee's roles, Councilmember Ruano pointed out that Section 6 speaks about councilmembers serving as liaisons. She added that it states, "highly encouraged" and she would like to remove that. She also asked where the funding would come from for a staff liaison. Town Manager Pidermann stated that he does not believe a huge amount of money would be needed but they would probably need some budget amendment to fund but it would be minimal. Councilmember Ruano then asked if they can meet less frequently, perhaps quarterly, for purposes of quorum and so the funding of the liaison could be less. Ms. Diarza, a teacher at Miami Lakes Middle School, then spoke and added that these students are very dedicated and does not see an issue with meeting monthly.

Councilmember Dieguez pointed out for the record, in line with what Ms. Diarza stated with respect to getting the youth involved, he recommended they work on preparing mock elections at the school. He added that he would be fine adding this to their mandate that they organize mock elections for presidential and congressional cycles.

Councilmember Ruano then asked if there is a possibility to have this committee sunset and add it to the resolution so that they can revisit it. She added she would like it to be revisited and revoted by the council on a yearly basis. Vice Mayor Fernandez added that the council typically changes composition every two years, so he suggests revisiting every two years. Councilmember Ruano then made a motion to include in the resolution a sunset provision two years from its approval date. Councilmember Garcia seconded and the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Ruano then made another motion to remove the councilmembers being liaisons to the committee. Councilmember Dieguez seconded, and the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

On the main motion as amended, the Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, REQUESTING CHIEF JUDGE NUSHIN SAYFIE OF THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR MIAMI DADE COUNTY AND PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE § 102.141, TO APPOINT A STANDBY COUNTY JUDGE TO THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES' CANVASSING BOARD FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES RUNOFF SPECIAL ELECTION ON APRIL 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TOWN CLERK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Councilmember Garcia made a motion to move the item and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Juan Escobar (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and directed the Town Manager, with the carryforward funds, to adjust Mr. Juan Escobar's salary moving forward. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Councilmember Garcia asked the Town Manager to go over what he has been reviewing regarding salaries in the Town of Miami Lakes. Town Manager Edward Pidermann explained the Town Council gave direction to develop a pay plan and that they have been working on a pay plan, which will be laid out for council's consideration during the normal budget process. He explained the pay plan will consider longevity pay, differentials for night shifts, and a market analysis with neighboring municipalities.

Councilmember Garcia stated he would be willing to go ahead and vote for this item with an amendment that we do it for all the employees and make sure it is done the most even way possible, to ensure we are rewarding loyalty.

Councilmember Garcia then made a friendly amendment "that while in the process of what the Town Manager is doing, to include what was spoken about, and eventually include Mr. Escobar in consideration for raising his salary in the study that the Town Manager is doing".

Town Manager Pidermann stated that the managerial practice of individually making adjustments for members of the staff from the dais he believes is problematic and not a good managerial practice. He added that he believes the adjustment of individual salaries for staff members falls under the control of the town administration and Town Manager is within the purview of the Town Manager and by Town Charter, not within the purview of the Town Council. Mayor Cid stated that he believes they have had discrepancies on how administration should work, and that COLAs have created a culture that he is not in favor of, because everyone is treated the same and he cherishes longevity in the organization. He added that changes within line items are within the purview of the Town Council and if the Town Manager decides not to give the money to an individual that is in his purview.

After further discussion, Councilmember Garcia added that he would prefer, instead of COLAs, a merit-based raise for those employees working consistently. Councilmember Garcia then proffered an amendment to include employees like Juan Escobar in the Town Manager's study, to be open to that and have it equally across the board for all employees.

Councilmember Garcia then asked the Town Manager when would his pay plan be implemented, and Town Manager Pidermann stated his plan is to develop the pay plan to put it before the Town Council during the budget process and adopt it for the next fiscal year starting October 1. Town Manager Pidermann added that if this item were to pass as stated in the memo, there is no money to fund this item and some type of budget amendment would have to pass to fund this item.

Councilmember Garcia stated that he would be willing to vote for this with an amendment that they start moving toward more merit-based evaluations and pay. After discussion, Councilmember Collazo stated he would like to see the Town Manager's report first, and if they would like to reward it retrospectively to everybody, then they can have that conversation, but awarding it to one employee now and leaving the others behind until they see the finished product, he believes is bad governance.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 1-5; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Ruano, and Vice Mayor Fernandez voted in opposition.

B. Speeding Detail and Educational Campaign (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented the item and explained that he has witnessed excessive speeding along Fairway Drive. He stated that he is requesting a speeding detail along with an educational campaign through the marketing department, to let residents know what can happen when you speed and the costs. After further explanation, Councilmember Garcia asked his colleagues, if it's possible now or in the carryforward, to add the Fairway Drive detail. Councilmember Garcia then made a motion to add the traffic detail to Fairway. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

Town Manager Pidermann asked Councilmember Garcia if he's moving to have the traffic detail and Vice Mayor Fernandez stated the way he understood it is that they're going to add the traffic detail to the list of things they will consider with the carryforward. Town Manager Pidermann stated that the carryforward was before them today and died due to a lack of second. After discussion regarding the carryforward, Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that they should add this speeding detail to the list. Town Manager Pidermann stated the traffic details are already on the list and an area targeted with the overtime is Fairway Drive.

Councilmember Garcia then asked Major Gonzalez, regarding the education process, if he has anything about speeding in place with the communications department. Town Manager Pidermann suggested that the motion should be, if he doesn't mind, for the Major to work with the Communications Department to use the resources that already exist within the Miami-Dade Police Department for different campaigns surrounding the speeding issue and see if there is a way of focusing on Fairway and it not it'll be townwide. Councilmember Garcia then stated that would be his motion.

After discussion regarding the current educational process of speeding, Mayor Cid asked the Town Clerk to repeat the motion and Town Clerk Inguanzo repeated the motion suggested by Town Manager Pidermann which Councilmember Garcia incorporated.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk stated Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the original motion and then asked Vice Mayor Fernandez if he also seconded the motion communicated by the Town Manager and he stated yes.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

C. Emergency Medical Services (Fernandez)

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and requested that they look at regular operations, large town events, sports programming and other recreational programming and look at emergency services response and capabilities to see if there is an appetite or

need for either off duty rescues or some other form of emergency medical personnel on standby.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion directing the Town Manager to do this leg work and come back with some recommendations and cost options on doing this. Councilmember Garcia seconded.

After discussion, the motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

D. Three Way Stop Sign (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that a resident brought this to his attention. He stated that on 149th and 77th there is a stop where it's very hard to see if you are making a left due to an electrical box and new buildings being built. He added that he went out there and it is a little dangerous making a left there. He stated that he informed the resident that he is not sure if it is feasible to do a three way stop but he would put it on the agenda.

Mayor Cid made a motion to have staff go out there, check it out, see if it's feasible then come back to the council with their findings. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Fairway Drive Lighting (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that Fairway Drive is highly used and since they have already made some improvements to safety with the crosswalks, adding bike lanes, he would like to consider this more for safety than aesthetics. He added that the lighting poles are very far with few in between so there's a lot of dark areas and they are higher up and covered by the tree canopy. He also added that the canopy is beautiful on Fairway and he would hate to see any trees or branches cut down.

Councilmember Garcia then stated he would like to consider how they can perhaps, in the future, start adding the low gaslight looking lights that are all over town on Fairway. He stated that this would improve safety and the aesthetic look to the town. He added that perhaps they can get state funding, grant money, or private funding for the lighting. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded Councilmember Garcia's explanation for discussion.

Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that for a while they have discussed entering into an agreement with FPL for the management and maintenance of the existing light poles throughout the town and getting a price and agreement for doing that is a big ask. He added that maybe what they can do short-term is explore using Fairway as a pilot for that kind of program, to start learning how that process goes and see if it is something that is wanted townwide.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that when they explored it with FPL, they explored all of the lights so what he'll do is approach them to see if they would consider doing a pilot program for the Fairway Drive conversion. He added that if they do not want to do that approach, they'll go out and get a price to report back for their consideration. Vice Mayor Fernandez asked that both be done in parallel to compare.

After discussion regarding FPL response time, Vice Mayor Fernandez added that something to consider would be smart monitoring of the lights. Town Manager Pidermann stated that they'll explore both options and report back.

Mayor Cid then asked what the motion is, and Councilmember Garcia repeated the motion, "which is to explore the possibility of FPL as a pilot program, replacing the lights currently on Fairway Drive with the gas light looking lamps and also making sure that there's a smart monitoring system in place and what the costs would be". Vice Mayor Fernandez added it is also directing the Town Manager to explore a non-FPL option as a comparison. The motion passed unanimously.

F. NW 154th Street Zoning Overlay (Fernandez)

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained there are some businesses and established on 154th -mainly the two hotel properties- that are kind of bringing about a certain set of issues to our community, so he's spoken to business owners in the adjoining shopping center. He explained that after conversations, he began to think of the two hotel properties on 154th, the best possible use for the town and how compatible they are with the rest of the community and what they can do to encourage a change in their use. He stated that the current zoning for that area is RO-50, which prohibits retail.

Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that the genesis of this is starting the process to come up with an idea for a zoning overlay that they can do on 154th to encourage something like a specialty grocer. Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion to enable him to work with the Town Planner to come up with options and parameters to bring back a zoning overlay for 154th. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Councilmember Garcia stated that those areas are higher in crime and residents have shown him the lack of maintenance of these hotels. He suggested that maybe the Major can speak to the hotels on 154th. He then asked the Major Gonzalez if the amount of crime has been more than usual and Major Gonzalez stated he would have to do an analysis of the calls there to get an accurate report, but that they haven't had anything significant recently, except for apprehending a vehicle involved in an armed robbery.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo stated that he would also like to see what is not overlay. He added he would like to see not just a planner focused solution, but to go back with Town Staff and see different options of what we can do. He added he would be open to that if it's not a caveat just limited to zoning.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then restated the motion which is, for him to work with the Town Planner on the zoning overlay and to explore non- zoning overlay solutions to some of the problems discussed. The motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

G. Public Comments Q & A (Cid)

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that this was a resident item brought to his attention. He stated that some people suggested a process that when public comments are closed, the Town Council take 4-5 minutes to acknowledge some concerns brought forward and have a moment for Town Staff and Town Council to address some issues brought forward. Mayor Cid clarified that it's not to go back and forth, it's for residents to come up, ask questions, and once public comments are closed, for the Town Council to take 5-10 minutes to address some of them.

Mayor Cid stated he wants to amend the rules, to allow that in a uniform fashion where people can ask questions, once it's closed, they address them and then continue with the meeting, he then stated that this is his motion. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded for discussion.

Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that for somebody that doesn't know the process, the process seems cold because they come up, get their 3 minutes, and move on. He added that sometimes they may not realize that they may discuss it later in the meeting or who the right person to contact is; however, a lot of times it happens organically. He stated that he doesn't want to create an incentive to move items ahead and he does not want it to become a back and forth and he does not want it to be required.

After discussion regarding hesitations, Councilmember Garcia asked if perhaps his colleagues would be amenable to having the Town Clerk research other councils and towns across the country to see if they have implemented something like this to see if it has worked or been repealed. The Town Clerk, Gina Inguanzo stated she can reach out to the Town Clerk's Association in Miami-Dade County and in Broward County, to see how they do this and how they handle this. Councilmember Garcia clarified -not just Florida, but perhaps other small towns across the country and report back to us. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded Councilmember Garcia's thoughts as an amendment. On the amendment made by Councilmember Garcia, the Town Clerk called the roll and the amendment failed 3-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

After discussion regarding the current process, Councilmember Dieguez proposed a strike all amendment that instead of having a Q & A, just a general policy of this Town Council directing Town Staff, that anytime there is a question related to a service request or something, staff automatically has to engage them to get their information. Councilmember Collazo added he is fine with that to ensure some type of follow up, he just does not want a back and forth.

After discussion, Councilmember Dieguez restated the motion "to strike all and have a standing policy that staff, whenever a question is asked, would have to engage them whether by giving an answer or getting their information to get back to them. Councilmember Collazo seconded. After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the strike all amendment passed 4-2; Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then added that he would like to add something either through an amendment or administratively, for the information that staff is going to take down with the residents such as contact information and their issue is, if it can also be sent to the council following the meeting, so they may reach out. Town Manager Pidermann stated that Town Staff does this already. He added when somebody has a complaint, they handle it; however, if they would like feedback regarding the complaint, they can recap it and Vice Mayor Fernandez stated he would appreciate that.

H. Landscaping to Remove Excess Leaves (Garcia)

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained there are some areas, especially during this season, where leaves fall and block the entire sidewalk.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion to direct Town Staff to see if during this time, to focus on certain areas -especially in front of Optimist Park along the wall of 67th- that accumulate more leaves, to see if we can do something to mitigate that especially during the times leaves fall which is 2-3 times a year, to focus on those areas and make sure they are passable.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that the crews on 67th Avenue, for instance, maintain the medians and every time they go out there, they do sweeps of the entire area and pick up a bunch of leaves. He then asked if this would entail during those 2-3 times of the year that the leaves are falling, doing additional sweeps to pick up leaves in certain areas. He added that they will get an idea of what it'll cost and come back and report it to the council for them to act on.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion for the Town Manager to look at that and bring back the costs of doing additional leaf sweeping. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

I. Monthly Operated Outreach Town Videos (MOO-TV) (Fernandez)

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained he is under the impression that the Communications Department is already working on kind of like a monthly video series. He believes their original focus is more community and event focused and to create awareness and promote events. However, Vice Mayor Fernandez added that he thinks there's an opportunity to do something like a smaller and quicker version of the state of the town video, where each department shares information. He would like to do these videos like that, for the different operational departments, the ones that have the most resident contact points, but really to give all the different departments on a rotating basis, the opportunity to talk in a short format, maybe 90 seconds to 2 minutes max.

Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that is essentially his motion, to kind of piggyback on the efforts that they're already undertaken, to produce this community and event related video series, but to incorporate more operational aspects of the town to inform the residents of the happenings in the town. He expressed again that this is his motion and Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez stated, as a comment to Town Staff, that last time this was proposed, there was a restriction placed on the videos that it could not include elected officials and he just wanted it noted, that restriction still stands. Vice Mayor Fernandez stated he was fine with that.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

J. Reforestation Program Safety (Fernandez)

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the waiver and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained that for the West Lakes Reforestation, the focus has been a wholistic approach to go section by section to replace all the undesirable trees and plant the new planting for that area.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion to direct staff to prioritize, before we continue cutting all the trees on a block and replacing them all, and shift our strategy to try to focus on planting trees in all the available spots and to exhaust all the opportunities to plant trees in those voids first and once we've exhausted all those opportunities to plant new trees, then we can go back into neighborhoods to replace less desirable trees. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

A. Tree Canopy Miami Lakeway South

Mayor Cid made a motion to move the waiver and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Dieguez voted in opposition.

Mayor Cid explained that he had a meeting with a resident to discuss missing trees in certain areas of Miami Lakeway South, so to be in line with the reforestation strategy presented by Vice Mayor Fernandez, he would like to place underutilized trees in areas that trees are missing. He added that he would bring back this item as a follow-up.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:

A. Monthly Police Report (Major Gonzalez)

Major Gonzalez presented the monthly police report and answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding the feedback from the police survey.

B. Monthly Infrastructure Report (Santos)

The Public Works Director, Omar Santos, presented the monthly infrastructure report and highlighted a few projects. Town Manager Pidermann answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding the hiring of the Capital Improvements Project Manager position.

C. K9 Cove – Maintenance & Public Input Process Report (Bajdaun)

The Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, presented this report and explained it is a cumulation of two different items from earlier this year regarding K9 Cove. One aspect of the report looks at enhancing and improving some of the conditions at the park while the other item looks at recommendations for seeking and receiving public input for later budget decision making. He then went over the recommendations for both aspects and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

The Town Attorney, Mr. Raul Gastesi, presented the Attorney's Report and stated that he has reached out to the opposing counsel regarding the mediation and has not received a response; however, he will relay the response when he gets one.

Councilmember Collazo then stated that absent of there being a response, there was a number negotiated that will have a significant impact on budgeting. He added that he knows they did not pass the budget item tonight, but at a minimum, they need to have a workshop to start prioritizing what they will do with the carryforward.

Councilmember Collazo then made a motion to set up a workshop date that they all will be at for planning purposes that include budgeting for future litigation expenses and the items that they didn't move forward on the budget. Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

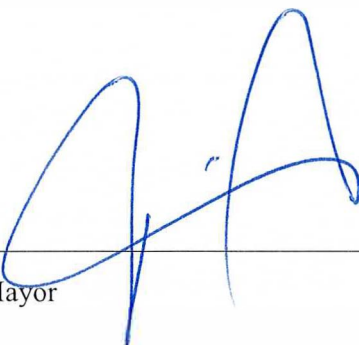
18. ADJOURNMENT:

Prior to adjournment, the Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, gave an update on what occurred at the Canvassing Board Meeting. She stated that Mr. Bryan Morera will be going to the run-off election scheduled to take place on April 30th and that Mr. Hector Abad and Ms. Esther Colon's results are very close, so the Canvassing Board Members will convene on Friday, April 12th at 9:00 am, at the Elections Department, to proceed with a potential recount. She stated that the Canvassing Board Members will oversee the automatic recount process and that it is open to the public.

Prior to adjournment, Councilmember Collazo asked for a point of personal privilege to recognize Lucas Collazo for coming after his baseball game and celebrating his first triple play.

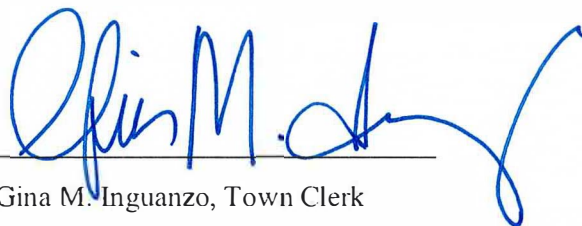
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 pm.

Approved this 14th day of May 2024.



Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk