

MINUTES
Sunshine Meeting on Proposed Budgets
for Security Guard and Lake Maintenance NSD'S
July 31, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Councilmember Collazo called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

The following Councilmembers were present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Tony Fernandez, Ray Garcia, and Marilyn Ruano. Vice Mayor Carlos O. Alvarez and Mayor Manny Cid were present via Zoom.

The following Town Staff members were present: Town Manager Edward Pidermann, Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez, Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez, Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun, Town Clerk Gina M. Inguanzo, Deputy Town Clerk Victoria Martinez, Town Attorney Raul Gastesi and Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella.

Councilmember Fernandez presided over the meeting and stated that at the July Regular Council Meeting, the Town Council discussed the NSD Budget, and he understood that the Town Council needed to take a deeper dive into these matters. He stated that he had a meeting with both Ms. Melissa Hernandez, the Budget Officer, and with Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, the Parks and Recreation Director, to drill the NSD Budgets. He stated that he called this Sunshine Meeting with the intention of having a discussion with his colleagues, as well as to have members of the NSD's and members of the public, to give the Town Council additional feedback before a final decision on these budgets.

Councilmember Fernandez also explained the format of this meeting and he mentioned that he wishes to go through every NSD Budget and for members and Town Staff to be able to ask questions regarding these budgets. Councilmember Ruano asked if public comments were allowed in this meeting and Councilmember Fernandez responded in the affirmative and emphasized that this meeting was all about public comments. The Town Council chose to follow the order of the NSD Budgets, as established in the agenda packet.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (1:28:07)

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

Miami Lakes Section 1-

Mr. Boris Forster came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. He spoke about the Neighborhood Services Districts and his concerns with the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She spoke about the Neighborhood Services Districts and her concerns with the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Ms. Maribel Balbin came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She spoke about the Neighborhood Services Districts, she stated that she is a Committee Member of the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Committee, and she stated that she volunteers in this committee with the best intention.

Ms. Helen Costa addressed the Town Council and participated in public comments via zoom. She spoke about the Neighborhood Services Districts, she stated that she is a Committee Member of the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Committee, and she stated that she volunteers in this committee with the best intention.

Mr. Renard Amaro came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. He spoke about the Neighborhood Services Districts, he stated that he is a Committee Member of the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Committee, and he stated that he volunteers in this committee with the best intention.

Councilmember Ruano, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked all the individuals that volunteer in the NSD Committees. She reminded everyone that they (Town Council) are the governing body and that they are the ones that ultimately approve of the budgets and that it is their responsibility to get everything right. She also thanked them for all their work and time as volunteers, she stated that there should be no stress on their end; that the Town Council is trying to go over the ordinances and that the Town Council appreciates all their hard work and time.

Councilmember Ruano then read into the record the written public comment from Ms. Georgina Luces. Her public comments were about the Neighborhood Services Districts, and she expressed her concerns and issues with the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Councilmember Ruano then read into the record the written public comment from Ms. Maria Santelices. Her public comments were about the Neighborhood Services Districts, and she expressed her concerns and issues with the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Ms. Tina Gallinar came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She spoke about the Neighborhood Services Districts and stated that she was 100% in agreement with the previous public comments. She asked about the original ordinance and asked about the procedure the NSD Committee Members follow, as to whether they agree or disagree with adding items to the budget. She asked for the community in general to be heard about these matters.

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

Ms. Melissa Hernandez, Budget Officer, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She spoke about the Committee Rules and about the Miami Lakes Section 1 contingency reserve.

Mr. Keith Halpin came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. He provided feedback and clarification regarding the issue of projection after the end of the year builds; he also mentioned that with purchase order method, the Town should have a good sense of the money that is going out.

Ms. Esperanza Reynolds came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She emphasized that the funds of Miami Lakes Section 1 should not be co-mingled and that there should be a checking account in place; that every invoice should be seen by the public and that a citizen's audit should be allowed to take place.

Ms. Helen Costa participated in public comments via zoom. She mentioned that she is a member of ML Section 1 NSD and that it is not an easy job; she also acknowledged the role and leadership of the Town Council; she mentioned that when the committee took over, things were not working well; the guard gates were always broken, the guards were always missing, the trees looked horrific and there was very poor lighting. She invited the public to attend the ML Section 1 NSD meetings and she emphasized that the committee has never had extra money. She also mentioned the reasoning why street humps are recommended by the NSD committee and how to stop the arms from being down and in operation.

Mr. Boris Foster came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. He spoke about the reserves, that the budgets are well below what is being projected, and that they are being left the same in order to store more money.

Councilwoman Ruano summarized that regarding Miami Lakes Section 1, that 10% reserves not are not to accumulate; no place for placeholders' line for future repairs and for future repairs to come out of contingency.

Ms. Irene Gutierrez came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She stated that she resides in Royal Oaks East. She mentioned that her community is not getting the service they pay for.

Ms. Lydia Hernandez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She mentioned her concerns regarding the Royal Oaks guard gate. She also expressed her concerns with the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Mr. Marcus Gutierrez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He expressed his concerns and issues regarding the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Ms. Melissa Hernandez, Budget Officer, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Keith Halpin came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He expressed his concerns regarding the 10% reserves and the Loch Lomond NSD Budget.

Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks and Recreation Director, and Ms. Melissa Hernandez, Budget Officer, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Keith Halpin came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He expressed his concerns regarding the overhead costs within the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget. He mentioned that the police budget should be reviewed.

Mr. Dayan Jimenez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He expressed his concerns regarding the Royal Oaks Guard Gate. He also mentioned his concerns regarding the Miami Lakes Section 1 NSD Budget.

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in Public Comments via Zoom. He expressed his issues regarding the costs within the Royal Oaks NSD Budget.

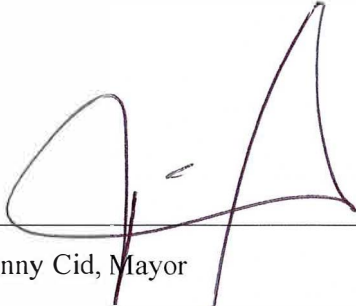
Ms. Esperanza Reynolds came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She suggested that the Town Council remove security from the Royal Oaks Guard Gate. She explained that there are already cameras placed at the gate that record the cars entering and leaving the neighborhood.

Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks and Recreation Director, and Ms. Melissa Hernandez, Budget Officer, answered questions posed by the Town Council regarding all the NSD Ordinances and budgets.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

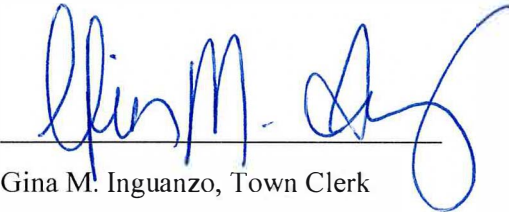
There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm

Approved this 12th day of September 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Manny Cid', written over a horizontal line.

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gina M. Inguanzo', written over a horizontal line.

Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk