

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**June 11, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

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

Mayor Cid presented the key to the Town of Miami Lakes to Mr. Steven Monroy for his heroic efforts in saving a woman whose car was submerged in a Miami Lakes canal. He thanked Mayor Cid and the Town Council for this honor.

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo called the roll at 6:36pm with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Ray Garcia, Bryan Morera, Marilyn Ruano, Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez and Mayor Manny Cid.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Councilmember Ray Garcia led the prayer.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Marilyn Ruano.

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

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

Mayor Cid pulled Item 10F from the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Collazo pulled Item 10C from the Consent Calendar and moved Item 13C to be discussed prior to Items 11A and 11B. Councilmember Dieguez deferred Item 14A to the next Regular Council Meeting.

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

After the Blasting Advisory Board Committee Report was presented, Item 8C, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to reopen the Order of Business to consider Item 13C, 11A, and 11B prior to the Consent Calendar and Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (12:43)**

*(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.

Ms. Hallie Prieto came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that she is the deputy director of Virtutem Populo, a nonprofit organization that fosters civic engagement among students. She thanked Mayor Cid and his assistant Joseph Sosa for hosting the Mayor For A Day event. She also thanked Vice Mayor Fernandez for attending the Virtutem Populo's Civic Excellence Gala. She then thanked the Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, for her assistance in coordinating events for Virtutem Populo.

Ms. Patricia Laura came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that she is a member of the Blasting Advisory Board for the City of Miramar. She further explained that the Board has been in contact with White Rock Quarry, the mining company responsible for the blasting within the Miami Lakes area. She stated that the Board has tried to contact the CFO of the company to lower the blasting limit. She asked the Town Council for their assistance in resolving this issue.

Mr. Michael Puchardez participated in pre-recorded Public Comments. He explained that he is on the Board of Directors for the Silvercrest Homeowner's Association. He stated that he is in support of the Blasting Advisory Board's agenda. He explained the effects that blasting has had on property value and taxes within Miami Lakes. He stated that he finds Florida Statute 552.36 unconstitutional. He urged the Town Council to conduct further research to take potential legal action against the state regarding blasting laws.

Ms. Mildred Martinez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that she is in support of the Blasting Advisory Board's agenda. She explained that she has spent over 100,000 dollars in repairs to her home because of damage caused by blasting. She further explained that blasting has damaged her privately owned clinic. She urged the Town Council to take legal action regarding this issue.

Mr. Rizwan Pala came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that his property has suffered sufficient damage caused by the blasting. He urged the Town Council to take legal action regarding this issue.

Ms. Maria Cardoso came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained her concerns regarding the blasting in the Miramar area. She explained that her

property has suffered sufficient damage caused by the blasting. She urged the Town Council to take action regarding this issue.

Ms. Dorothy Brown came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that she was an original member of the Blasting Advisory Board for the City of Miramar. She stated that she is in support of item 8C. She also stated that she strongly supports blasting levels being reduced. She urged the Town Council to take legal action regarding this issue.

Ms. Tiffany Marquez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that she is a former resident of Miami Lakes and a former member of the City of Miramar Blasting Advisory Board. She stated that she is in support of item 8C. She explained that her property has suffered sufficient damage caused by the blasting. She urged the Town Council to take legal action regarding this issue.

Mr. Mauricio Ocampo came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is in support of item 8C. He explained that the effects of blasting have sufficiently damaged his property over the past four years. He urged the Town Council to take legal action regarding this issue.

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

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Ms. Rhodora “Dory” Caplin to the Elderly Affairs Committee by Councilmember Bryan Morera.

Ms. Julie Padron to the Special Needs Advisory Board by Councilmember Luis E. Collazo.

Ms. Alicia Jimenez to the Education Advisory Board by Councilmember Bryan Morera.

Mr. Carlos Andres to the Public Safety Committee by Councilmember Luis E. Collazo.

Ms. Maria Borges to the Elderly Affairs Committee by Councilmember Bryan Morera.

Ms. Geraldine Amandola Elderly Affairs Committee by Councilmember Luis E. Collazo.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. Sports Hall of Fame**

Chairperson Jim Hamilton presented the committee report and went over the initiatives and events the committee has been working on. He explained that four individuals were inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 2023. He thanked Mayor Cid for his introductory remarks at the ceremony and he thanked Councilmember Dieguez for attending the ceremony. He also

thanked the previous chairperson, Mr. Ryan Holland, for his dedication and effort to the committee. He explained that this year's induction ceremony has been moved to the second week of December. He stated that the deadline for nominations to the Sport's Hall of Fame is August 1st.

## **B. Veterans Committee**

Chairperson William Perez presented the committee report and went over the initiatives and events the committee has been working on. He explained that they were able to provide seven veteran families with a \$2,000 a dollar scholarship for higher education. He also mentioned that the \$5,000 dollars the committee raised for the Veteran Relief Fund, has been utilized to repair a veteran's car. He shared the progress the committee has made regarding the park QR code project. He also explained that the committee is currently raising funds to build a memorial for veterans at Veterans Park. Chair Perez then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

## **C. Blasting Advisory Board**

Chairperson Rudy Blanco presented the committee report. Chairperson Blanco and Secretary Steven Herzberg presented the committee report and went over the plan of action to resolve the issue of blasting. Chairperson Blanco explained the negative ramifications that blasting has had across Miami-Dade County. Secretary Herzberg explained that their plan of action has 4 pillars, Legislative Efforts, Administrative Efforts, Education and Awareness, and Potential Legal Action. They stated that they recommend that the TOML take legal action and argue that Florida Statue 552.36 is unconstitutional. They answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to adopt the report without taking action on the items but accepting the statements and opinions within the report. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct staff to prepare a resolution requesting the counties and municipalities in affected areas offer support and resources relating to rock mine blasting regulation reform and liaison with the mayor's office and the Blasting Advisory Board relating to efforts to push for reform during the 2025 Florida Legislative Session. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct staff to seek resources and support from the Miami-Dade League of Cities to lobby and support legislative reform to bring regulation of lime rock blasting back to local government and support legislation that provides relief to residential areas affected by lime rock blasting. Vice Mayor Ferandez seconded the motion. Councilmember Collazo amended the motion to include the Florida League of Cities. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct the Town's lobbying team to prioritize legislative reform that seeks to provide relief to residential areas affected by lime rock blasting in their lobbying efforts. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct staff to work with the Blasting Advisory Board to plan a present a proposal for a multi municipal workshop and provide an estimate of cost for such a workshop, as suggested under item five on page six of the Blasting Advisory Board's report. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct the Town staff to prepare a resolution requesting the State Fire Marshall to offer support and resources relating to blasting reform and to liaison with the mayor's office and the Blasting Advisory Board, relating to efforts to push for reform during the legislative session. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct the Town Attorney to provide a legal opinion on whether the Town may have legal standing to challenge the constitutionality of Florida statute 552.36 and to permit the Town Attorney through the Town Manager to seek proposals for engagements from outside council, should they be required in the Town Attorney's opinion. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Morera created a motion to direct the Town Attorney in the event that the standing question is answered in the affirmative, to provide a legal opinion on whether the Town has a valid basis to argue that Florida Statute 552.36 denies residents or the town itself access to the courts in violation of the Florida constitution or any other viable legal challenge. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Member Eladio Jose Ernesto explained the Blasting Defendants Impunity Act. He stated that mining companies should be responsible for all property damage caused by blasting. He thanked the Town Council for their service to the Town. Chairperson Rudy Blanco and Secretary Steven Herzberg answered questions posed by the Town Council.

## **9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

## **10. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Vice Mayor Fernandez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed unanimously.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - May 14, 2024 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 CONTRACTS FOR RLI 2024-16, WITH CROWN CASTLE FIBER, LLC, AS THE HIGHEST RANKED PROPOSER AS THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR, AND TO COGENT COMMUNICATIONS, INC, THE SECOND HIGHEST-RANKED PROPOSER, AS THE SECONDARY CONTRACTOR FOR INTERNET SERVICES UPGRADE FOR AN AMOUNT OF NINETEEN THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$19,164.00) PER ANNUM; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; 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 ITB 2024-18 FOR THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR GENERATOR AUTOMATED TRANSFER SWITCH (ATS) TO TAW POWER SYSTEMS, INC., DBA INTEGRATED POWER SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Collazo asked the Town Manager what funds are going to be used to pay for this item. Town Manager Pidermann stated that this item will be paid for from the Sinking Fund. He also explained that a generator of this capacity, to power this entire building is very expensive. He explained that only the transfer switch is what failed. He stated that everything was installed in 2016, it had a 3-year warranty and it recently failed.

After the explanation provided by the Town Manager, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to pass the item, as presented on the agenda. Councilmember Collazo emphasized that he pulled the item to show once again, the sinking fund is alive and breathing and that he thinks it is mis funded and that we need to make sure there are funds for future generations. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.

- 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 CALTRAN ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MONTROSE ROAD DRAINAGE IMPORVEMENTS PROJECT; FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE DOLLARS AND 95/100 (\$39,285.95), MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 23-318; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS;

PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS;; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN OFF-SYSTEM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN INCREASE OF THREE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$320,000.00) FOR CONTRACT 2021-06, TO HDR ENGINEERING, INC., TO PROVIDE RELOCATION SERVICES FOR 5951 NW 151 STREET BUILDING; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar. Mayor Cid stated that he is voting against it.

Councilmember Ruano moved the item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Collazo.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that this project started years ago -that both him and Public Works Director, Mr. Santos, were not employees at the time. He explained that the value of the Right-of-Way Consultant Services Contract was dictated by appraisers that calculated a certain number of tenants in that building. Once Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella and other outside counsel got involved in this project, things came to light and there were more than double the number of tenants in that building, that were originally calculated. Town Pidermann explained that this has been embedded in the budget for a long time – this is the upgrade of a contract of the right-of-way, who now they are in the process of relocating tenants. He explained the contract needs to be upgraded to allow the consultant to complete their work, so we can move forward with this project.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll, and the motion passed 4-3. Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Fernandez and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

- G. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION INTO THE MIAMI LAKES SPORTS HALL OF FAME; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

**11. ORDINANCE- FIRST READING:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE TOWN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; REDESIGNATING 9.445 +/--ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF COMMERCE WAY AND N.W. 146TH STREET, AS MORE PARTICULARY DESCRIBED AT EXHIBIT "A", FROM THE MEDIUM HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL CATEGORY, TO THE INDUSTRIAL AND OFFICE CATEGORY; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION FROM CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was not heard. The Town Council deferred Item 13C; thus, Item 11A and IIB are moot.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO REZONE A 9.445 +/--ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF COMMERCE WAY AND N.W. 146TH STREET, AS MORE PARTICULARY DESCRIBED AT ATTACHMENT "A", FROM THE RM-36, MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, REVERT BACK TO THE IU-C, INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, CONDITIONAL DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSION FROM CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was not heard. The Town Council deferring Item 13C; thus, Item 11A and IIB are moot.

- C. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA APPROVING, ADOPTING, A NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS; APPROVING, ADOPTING AND RATIFYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT RATES FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURITY GUARD AND MULTIPURPOSE MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney Raul Gastesi read the title of the Ordinance in 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Item 11C.

Councilmember Morera moved the item and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the item for discussion.



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

Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks & Recreation Director, presented the item and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the Ordinance in 1<sup>st</sup> reading passed 6-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

## **12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND READING:**

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AMENDING TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES CODE CHAPTER 16, AND CREATING ARTICLE V., SHOPPING CARTS, 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 second reading.

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

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and explained the changes made to the ordinance, from 1<sup>st</sup> reading to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Councilmember Dieguez explained that when this ordinance first came before the Town Council, the initial goal was to allow the TOML to remove the shopping carts from public areas that are an eyesore, instead of relying on the County to do it for us. Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to approve the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and Councilmember Morera seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez explained that he worked on this item with the Deputy Town Attorney, and he explained the new duties the new ordinance imposes. He stated that the new duties the ordinance imposes can be found in section 16-73 and items C, D and F. He explained that this new ordinance puts adjacent owners on notice that they must make sure that they store the cart away and report it as missing, or otherwise dispose of the cart, instead of just letting the cart sit there. He explained that this puts on them an affirmative obligation to remove the cart and contact the TOML, so we can recover it and contact the owner and either return it or dispose of it. Councilmember Dieguez stated that the entire town needs to maintain high standards.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading passed, 7-0.

- 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 second reading.

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

Mayor Cid moved the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and it was seconded by Councilmember Garcia.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading passed, 6-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

- C. 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 second reading.

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

Councilmember Morera moved the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item. He explained that based on the recommendations provided by the Town Council from the Budget Workshop and the vote on the ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> reading, he incorporated the recommendation into the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. The Town Manager did request for the following amendment to take place -to move item for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, \$10,000, to the MKLP item of \$65,479.

Councilmember Collazo made an amendment motion to move the 4<sup>th</sup> of July line item to the MLOP line item. Councilmember Morera seconded the amended motion. The amendment passed 7-0.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading passed 4-3; Councilmember Garcia, Vice Mayor Fernandez and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

### **13. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING A FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR THE PROVISION OF LOCAL POLICE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item. He explained this item is the culmination of discussions that the TOML started with the Miami-Dade Police Department, way back when

the Sheriff's Office was first getting closed. He stated that this contract will expire in September 2024. He then mentioned that the legislature has brought into focus what the Sheriff's Office is going to be compromised of. He further explained that the new sheriff will have to retain the contract cities under contract, for at least three years. So, he explained that this gives the TOML 5 years. He then asked the Town Council to approve this contract -that this will extend the current agreement with no other changes, other than the time frames- all the way to 2029. He then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Dieguez moved the item, and it was seconded by Councilmember Morera.

The Town Attorneys answered questions posed by the Town Council.

The motion passed 7-0.

B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, SUNSETTING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SHERIFF ORDINANCE AD-HOC REVIEW COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and the genesis of this committee. He explained that the Legislature has cleared up completely and eliminated any questions as to what the capabilities will be for the new sheriff and what the capabilities are or are not of the county, following the election of the new sheriff.

Town Manager Pidermann reported that the Sheriff Ad Hoc Committee last met around 8 months ago, and at that meeting, they requested funding for a study to explore the idea of the Town of Miami Lakes establishing their own Police Department. He reported that the Town Council has chosen not to prioritize this during the carryforward amendment, so since the sheriff's question is cleared up and we have now extended the agreement with the Miami-Dade Police Department through 2029, he stated that the mission of the Sheriff's Committee has been completed. He stated the committee did a great job and asked the Town Council to consider sunsetting the committee.

Mayor Cid stated that he recommends the committee to stay in place until January 2025, because perhaps there is an opportunity with the new sheriff, to make the police contract better. Mayor Cid asked for the Sheriff Ad Hoc Committee to meet one more time in January 2025, for the committee to make recommendations as to how improve the contract. Mayor Cid then made a motion to have the sunset date for this committee be February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion.

During discussion as to whether the Ad Hoc Committee should provide feedback on the police contract and bring value to the table now, Councilmember Collazo commented that having this committee provide the Town Council feedback on that contract is a good best practice to follow and perhaps these recommendations should take place now and not wait until February. Councilmember Dieguez proposed that since they are advocating for getting the study done, maybe they can already start working with staff on designing the scope of work of that study. He stated that he believes the committee members should continue working. Mayor Cid then added that it should be given to their Town Liaison. Councilmember Ruano stated that she was under the impression that the Ad Hoc committee was created for a specific purpose and that the committee served that purpose already. She

recognized the committee did a wonderful job but that the Town Council had no appetite for the recommendation given at the time. She also added that there will be a whole new Town Council in November, and she mentioned that perhaps that new council can decide what direction they want to go with this. She added that she is inclined to sunset the committee now and maybe the new council can create a new committee. During the discussion amongst the town council, no formal amendments to the main motion were made but there was consensus amongst town council for the Ad Hoc Committee to continue meeting until Feb. 2025.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll and the motion passed 6-1; Vice Mayor Fernandez voted in opposition.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, CONSIDERING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT AND REZONING OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY WITH FOLIO NUMBER 32-2022-068-0010, LOCATED AT 14650 OAK LN, MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA 33016, FROM MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, RM-36 TO INDUSTRIAL-OFFICE, IU-C; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella presented the item. He stated that in 2017, the Town Council approved a change due to the Future Land Use Map and Zoning designations, of certain areas of nine acres, on 1460 Oaklane. He explained that this was part of the Senior Village Project, and a particular component was the residential area. He explained that the FLUM change required, that if certain permits had not been obtained and construction had not begun, that the Town Council “shall reconsider the zoning back from RM-36 (residential zone) to IU-C (Industrial Use Conditional). He also explained that by that ordinance, the Town Council is required to consider whether you wish to rezone and change it back to IU-C (its original designation) or to keep it as it is now, RM-36. The Deputy Town Attorney emphasized that this item is just for the Town Council to make a consideration. He explained that if the Town Council decides to revert to its prior designation, then we will move to the ordinance phase, and this item will become a quasi-judicial item.

Councilmember Dieguez moved the item for discussion purposes and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Morera.

Mr. Javi Vazquez, on behalf of the Graham Companies, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Luis Martinez answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Susana Alonso, Principal Town Planner, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo made a motion to keep it as it is now, a RM-36. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. He then asked Mr. Javi Vazquez to provide information about this item to the Town Council. Town Attorney Gastesi explained that the Town Council needs to consider it but not vote.

After some further discussion, Councilmember Collazo withdrew his motion to consider the RM-36 and he motioned to table the item. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion to table the item passed 7-0.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that by the Town Council deferring this item, the ordinances, Item 11B and 11C, are moot.

#### **14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

##### **A. Honoring Senator Bob Graham (Dieguez)**

This item was deferred to the July Regular Council Meeting.

##### **B. School Zone Signage (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that he would like to ask Town Staff to look at our private schools and daycares to make sure that they are getting the same amount of school signage and safety measures that public schools provide. He would like them to see if we have that authority and to see what we can do as a town to maximize everything we can do around daycares and private schools, to have the same type of signage or precautionary measures when it comes to drop off and pick up.

Councilmember Garcia then made a motion for Town staff to look at that and see if there is anything they can do. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez then stated he would like to be reflected as a cosponsor.

The motion passed unanimously.

##### **C. Business Toolkit (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained that a member of the Chamber of Commerce approached him to try and get a business toolkit together that the Town can offer digitally and in person at Town Hall. He added that as part of that, he would include basic information on starting a business as well as other resources. While doing research, Councilmember Dieguez found that other municipalities in Florida and California have some versions of this.

Councilmember Dieguez stated he would like to direct Town staff to come up with a business toolkit modeled after the examples provided, such as the City of Miramar, City of Melbourne, and the City of Sacramento; to enhance what we currently provide and even offer things in person.

In essence, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to direct staff to go ahead and develop a business toolkit largely in conformance with what he stated. Councilmember Morera seconded.

After discussion regarding how this is different than the current Miami Lakes business website, Councilmember Dieguez stated that the idea is to encourage staff to look at what other cities have that we don't have to try and incorporate that as well as some kind of packet to be picked up at Town Hall.

Vice Mayor Fernandez stated he does not want to scrap what we have and develop a similar one, but he added that he would be inclined to support giving staff the opportunity to look at what they currently have and see where those gaps are and to come back next meeting with a plan. Councilmember Dieguez added that in essence, that is what he was proposing, to supplement what we have, not scrap it.

Mayor Cid added as part of this he would like to see the elimination of the occupational license process. Councilmember Dieguez stated he has no problem exploring that as part of a separate discussion down the line.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **D. Gigi's Playhouse MOU (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that Ms. Clarimar Zeledon, the founder of Gigi's Playhouse, told him on his podcast, that she dreams of opening Gigi's Playhouse in the Town of Miami Lakes and that she would love to work with the Town on an MOU, where at some point we can start off with internships and maybe evolve to a job in the Town, where we would have the first Down Syndrome employee.

Mayor Cid then made a motion to direct staff to start that conversation with Gigi's Playhouse, bring it back to the Town Council for discussion, but it would simply direct staff to start having that conversation with Gigi's Playhouse where the ultimate goal is to have a member of our Town via internship, paid internship, or employee, who is a member of Gigi's Playhouse and has Down Syndrome. He added he would love staff to just start coming up with that MOU and bring it back to us and go from there. Councilmember Dieguez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Filling of Councilmember Vacancies (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained that recently, they went through a very contentious, at times, process, with the filling of an unexpected vacancy. In an effort to avoid similar problems in the future, especially when we have an idea that we're going to have a vacancy, he heard the input his colleagues and the public had which was having an election. He added that he is proposing a Town Charter amendment to be added to the November ballot as there is no longer time to add this to the August ballot. He added he would like to add this to the November ballot so that going forward, when we know we are going to have a vacancy because one of the members of this Town Council resigns to qualify for another political position, there is ample time to be able to add that position to that November's ballot without having to incur the costs of a Special Election.

Vice Mayor Fernandez stated he wanted to make this change so that the Town Charter change would've gone to the voters in the August election; however, he stated that is no longer possible because they missed the deadline, but he thinks it's a good practice and change going forward so he would like to put this charter amendment on the November ballot. Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that was his motion and Councilmember Garcia seconded for discussion.

After discussion on the timeline and the way the amendment was written in the memo, Vice Mayor Fernandez suggested the language should include the word scheduled rather than held. The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, stated they need to game plan it out.

After further discussion, Councilmember Dieguez added that as he has stated earlier this year, he views this as a question, because they are so close to the Charter Review Commission, that is better left to them. Mayor Cid added that he is in support of this item and other items going on the November ballot.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 3-4; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Morera, and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

#### **F. Adopt a Road/Park Program (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that both he and Councilmember Dieguez had the pleasure of meeting with local boy and girl scouts a month and a half ago and they were proposing ideas of how they can get involved in the town. They brought up an idea of adopting a road, park, or other areas in the town that they can volunteer and help maintain those areas.

Councilmember Garcia added that he would like to see if they have or had an adopt a park or road program that they can extend it to adopt different areas in the town where they can come in and volunteer; he directed Town staff to work into that, making it an easy process, just areas of the town that need manpower and get them involved in the town. Councilmember Morera seconded Councilmember Garcia's explanation.

Councilmember Morera asked if it is okay with Councilmember Garcia, he would like to be reflected as a co-sponsor. Councilmember Garcia stated absolutely. Councilmember Dieguez stated he would also like to be reflected as a co-sponsor and Councilmember Garcia stated yes.

After discussion, Mayor Cid stated that he is good with this but traditionally does not work because it gets abandoned. He added that if they can come up with MOUs with the main organizations to tie them in, that would be powerful.

Councilmember Garcia added that the great thing about the scouts is that they are required to meet with local officials to get their badges so it's a requirement for every new scout that comes up in the ranks to do this and we can come up with an agreement, partner with them, and take care of some areas that need taking care of.

Councilmember Garcia then amended his motion to include putting something together, an agreement, with the scouts and something that is tangible that we know there's a follow up and we can see how that's going and make sure it's happening. Councilmember Morera seconded the amendment.

After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **G. Enhanced Code Enforcement (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained that there has been a proliferation of ads he has noticed on the next-door app and other places that are specifically advertising efficiencies for rent in Miami Lakes. He stated he wants Code to be more proactive in screening for ads that specifically identify an efficiency for rent in Miami Lakes and additionally, for the Town Manager to implement some other strategy for insuring that, for example, driveway projects after they've been finalized that the owner doesn't later come in and modify the project again. He added that whether through visual means, GIS, or Google Maps, he thinks the goal is to have the Town Manager come back with some strategies that specifically deal with the proliferation of those ads and ensure that other code issues are being complied with. Councilmember Dieguez stated that is the intent of the directive and he asked for its adoption and moved it. Councilmember Morera seconded the explanation.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **H. Budget Process (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item.

Vice Mayor Fernandez explained that during the budget process, the Town Council goes through many workshops and he stated that if the Town Council is considering to adopt the rollback rate, he would want the Town Council to make the decision early in the process, so that they don't go thru workshops thru the lens of the current millage rate and then at the last minute, go to the roll back rate. Vice Mayor Fernandez explained that he would prefer to go through the entire workshop and budget process with a clear expectation as to what are the preferences of the Town Council, as to setting the millage rate. He would like to start the discussion early in the process rather than late. He stated that he would like to take the temperature of his colleagues today or at the next meeting, for what their positions are. When he finished the explanation, he stated that was the spirit of his motion. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cid.

Discussion amongst the Town Council was held.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we will get the certified value of the tax base and that is what you will use on your decision on the millage rate cap. He stated that at the July Council Meeting, staff will present to the Town Council, a proposed budget with a flat tax rate and he explained that the proposed budget is just as a point of reference, that the only thing the Town Council does at the July meeting is set the millage rate cap.



Vice Mayor Fernandez then clarified that from the initial budget process, he wants a budget based on the roll back rate; that he wants it from the onset, from the initial budget that is stapled on the setting of the millage; that he wants that budget to be based on the rollback.

Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez provided explanations regarding the budget process and millage rate and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

After more explanation provided by the Town Manager, Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that if there's a compliance requirement that you need to present a budget that matches the millage cap number that we are going to use, he then amended his motion and stated for that to be done and simultaneously, present another budget based on the assumption of the roll back.

Budget Officer Melissa Hernandez provided further explanations regarding the budget process and millage rate and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then emphasized that he wants to start the budget process with the rollback budget as a starting point. He stated that he is willing to set a higher cap, not setting the rollback cap, but to do that, he wants to start and go through the budget process with the rollback assumption as the starting point. He added that he is willing and open to entertain add-ons, but he emphasized that to do that, he wants to work off the rollback assumption budget.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that the setting of the millage in July, the only thing the Town Council is doing, is the setting of the millage rate cap and that the budget attached is to only give you a point of reference, that the Town Council is not approving the budget. Town Manager Pidermann then stated that in the first workshop, staff can provide different options, different scenarios, such as one with the roll back rate, one with today's millage rate, one with a little higher millage rate.

After some further discussion, Vice Mayor Fernandez emphasized that as we go through the workshops, he wants the workshop proposals that are brought to the Town Council, to reflect the rollback assumption. He explained that he wants to carve out what would be funded under the rollback rate and then consider everything additional to that, "a la carte". He went on to explain that he wants a proposal based on the rollback and in a box, to include add-ons and we can pick and choose.

Town Manager Pidermann then stated that at the budget workshops, the Town Council will give directions about what to do. Vice Mayor Fernandez then stated that if the approach is, as we go through the budget process, these are the numbers and these are the things based on the roll back, and these are the add-ons, he stated that he is comfortable moving in that direction. Mayor Cid then stated that he was ok with having a rollback rate budget and for every item that is "a la carte", to have an actual millage number attached to it.

The motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Dieguez voted in opposition.

**I. Adhering to the Posted Time for Publicly Noticed Meetings (Collazo)**

Councilmember Collazo presented this item and he stated that when they are recognizing someone, the Council Chamber is full of people, and he explained that it is unfortunate that those celebratory opportunities sometimes push them away from the business they are tasked to do. He added that he does not want to put any parameters that push too far away from all or nothing. He emphasized that does not want to have a meeting that is publicly noticed at 6:30pm and then for the meeting to start at 8:00pm. He's okay with at least recognizing one individual but if they will have an extended recognition period, he's more than happy to come on an alternate date or starting earlier. Mayor Cid stated that is a fair point and when there are a lot of them, he will start at 5:30pm. Councilmember Collazo stated he is fine with that as long as the meeting starts at 6:30pm.

No motion was made; however, consensus between Councilmember Collazo and Mayor Cid was made.

**J. Lighting and Safety Improvements around 7851 NW 165th Street Cell Tower (Morera)**

Councilmember Morera presented this item and explained that this was brought to his attention by a resident that lives nearby. He explained that there is a large cell tower bordered by 165<sup>th</sup> Terrace to the North and 165<sup>th</sup> Street to the South and it has a Town park adjacent to it on the East. He further explained that the park acts as a pedestrian walkway between those two streets and the main concern there is that there is next to no lighting in the swale area on either side of the cell tower. He stated that as a result, people who do not what to be seen use this area to park and do things they should not be doing.

Councilmember Morera then made a motion to direct Town staff to go to the area, conduct an observation, and come back with proposals on either lighting, curbing, or any other creative ideas that may be available to try and avoid this situation. Councilmember Collazo seconded.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then stated that he spoke about this with the Town Manager during his briefing. He explained that there are some code compliance issues with the tower itself and the aesthetics of the area withing the fenced portion of the tower, so he wanted to make sure that Town staff also look at that when they go on site. Councilmember Morera stated that he would take that as a friendly amendment.

Councilmember Garcia then asked what company owns the tower and to reach out to them to see if they are willing to put up a light in order to not spend money on lighting. Town Manager Pidermann then stated they will explore all options but to first let Town staff assess it, to see what structural changes can be made and then report back on their recommendations.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

## **K. Artificial Turf (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained that there is a lot of artificial turf popping up everywhere in the town and a lot of the uses where it's popping up is not compliant with the Code, but it should be. He stated there's plenty of areas where grass doesn't grow and there's areas where the aesthetic of artificial turf is far better now than they were in the past. He added that it is also undeniable that the materials and installation techniques for artificial turf are technologically and aesthetically far superior to some in the past. He added there are things that over time we have to take another look at and that's what he aims to do with this item. He then stated that he would like to take another broader look over the uses that are currently allowed, where artificial turf is allowed, to see what parameters for artificial turf are, and shore up the Code, based on these new materials and new trends so that we can come up with something that is fair and meets the needs of the residents but still balances and protects the aesthetics of our neighborhood. He added that he has seen tons of uses that he would not entertain incorporating into the Code such as artificial turf in the swales. He also added that he thinks they need to take a fresh deeper look into this and come back and see what recommendations can be made. Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that is the spirit of his item and Councilmember Morera seconded the explanation for discussion.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to reopen public comments and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia came before the Town Council and participated in Public Comments. He handed the Town Clerk, Gina Inguanzo, pieces of artificial turf to pass around to the Town Council. He explained to the Town Council why and how he installed artificial turf on his property. He added that the artificial turf should be of the highest quality if they are going to do it.

A lady approached the podium and did not state her name for the record and she came before the Town Council and participated in Public Comments. She expressed a similar opinion from Mr. Cuadra Garcia and stated that if the ground does not cooperate and you have done everything possible with it, then alternatives should be looked into.

Another lady approached the podium and participated in Public Comments and did not state her name. She added that they're looking for alternatives to artificial turf, if it does not pass.

After discussion, Councilmember Morera stated that there has to be a very properly set forth set of regulations on standardizing, because he does not want to see different kinds of turf which may look ugly. He stated he doesn't know if it has to come down to the level of approving a specific brand and strand or just a set of descriptions and he added that they need to set standards on the substrata underneath.

Councilmember Dieguez then stated that himself, Principal Town Planner Susana Alonso, and Deputy Town Manager Tony Lopez met about this in reference to his New Business Item from November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, which he read into the record. He added that the biggest issue was that the method he thought they could rely on to mandate, which is a permit, is not applicable in the situation.

Principal Town Planner Susana Alonso added that there is no building permit requirement for artificial turf, so they have to rely on a zoning permit which is very difficult to enforce.

She added the town is also constrained by County regulations which do not mention artificial turf in anything, so they are not allowed to create regulations that are less restrictive than County regulations. She stated that the County does not allow artificial turf to replace landscape materials. She added they are allowed to use artificial turf to replace non-landscape areas which are areas you'd be allowed to pave such as driveways and your backyard, 3 ft from the property line. She stated you cannot put artificial turf all the way to the property lines, you cannot go past the tie line, and you cannot put it in the front yard because you are not allowed to pave.

After further discussion, Vice Mayor Fernandez stated that hearing Councilmember Dieguez's feedback was good because he realizes they're closer to the solution than he thought they were. He added that what he would like to do is go back to Town staff and if Councilmember Dieguez would like, they can have a sunshine meeting to do that with staff. Councilmember Morera asked Vice Mayor Fernandez that when staff gives that recommendation, that there be a proposal maybe through the Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun, or the Town Arborist, that as part of the application process one of the features is that an arborist has to go out to the site to see that the area cannot grow grass and it's warranted.

After further discussion, Councilmember Ruano added to the record her reasons for being a no on this matter. Councilmember Dieguez stated that his concerns for opening the moratorium longer is that it creates the false impression that the Town continues to permit it. He added that his suggestion to those that plan to support this, as a friendly suggestion, would be to allow the Town to at least issue notices of violation informing them there is a moratorium in place and that they need to contact the Town so the Town can inform them. At least some sort of warning.

After further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-3; Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Dieguez, and Councilmember Ruano were in opposition.

#### **L. Senior Voting Information Session (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained this is simply asking the Elderly Affairs Committee to host a workshop at some point between now and the next election that would remind the elderly that they need to renew their requests for absentee ballots, explain to them how to properly fill it out and also to help them update their signatures if need be to ensure their vote counts in the upcoming election. Councilmember Morera seconded.

Town Manager Pidermann asked if this would be for before August and Councilmember Dieguez stated as soon as practical.

Councilmember Garcia then proffered a friendly amendment that besides the elderly, he thinks a lot of people are confused, so if anything can be put in our town website as well to get the word out to everyone, also schools, not just limited to the Elderly Affairs Committee. Councilmember Dieguez added that he is right, but his thinking was that the elderly are the most vulnerable and not up to speed. He added that this was targeted for them, but he has no problem incorporating that as some kind of directive to staff to look at another opportunity, separate from the elderly population, to try an offer some kind of community

information session on how to properly register to vote, register absentee, fill it out, and ensure their signatures are updated.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Collazo was absent, and Mayor Cid has recused himself.

Mayor Cid stated he has recused himself because he is a candidate for the August election.

#### **M. Wall of Heroes (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and asked what the Council's thoughts were of putting a wall of heroes inside the Council Chamber, where all of our retiring officers from the town, all retiring fire fighters from station 1 and station 64, and any Miami Lakes resident that is retiring from the armed services, we'll put up a small picture with their name on it. He added that it's a nice way to recognize all our folks that serve the community and if they need a sponsor, he will locate one, but he wanted Town staff to start working on that. Mayor Cid stated his motion is to install a wall of heroes in the Council Chamber and Councilmember Garcia seconded.

Councilmember Dieguez made a strike all amendment and his proposal is to keep the spirit of the item, but rather to give Town staff the flexibility of deciding where to best place it, in a visible location to be sure, but to let them come back to the Town Council with recommendations. Councilmember Dieguez stated that would be his strike all amendment and Councilmember Ruano seconded.

Vice Mayor Fernandez asked Mayor Cid if he would be open rather than a fixed installation, to doing something digital like digital signage with a rotating display. Mayor Cid stated that the challenge that he has is that the Hall of Fame at the Optimist works so well, that he thinks it could be something similar with a yearly ceremony for all those folks that are retiring to do everyone at the same time. Vice Mayor Fernandez stated he loves the idea but is just concerned that there are probably thousands of people. Mayor Cid stated that's fine, and they'll just vote for this, and Town staff will come back.

On the strike all amendment, the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition.

Councilmember Garcia added his points on the record and Mayor Cid stated that Town staff will bring it back.

#### **N. Canal Bank Stabilization (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item.

He stated that many councilmembers witnessed firsthand some of the issues of the canal stabilization phase 1 and 2 during the site visit held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. He stated that it appears to many of them that there are parts of the stabilization system that are failing. He stated that he would like to bring an engineering firm that can conduct an analysis and for this engineering firm not be aligned with or recommended by whoever designed the project, whoever installed the project. He emphasized he wants someone completely impartial, and

he added he would like the engineering firm to look at what extent -if any- the blasting has exacerbated the damage.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion directing staff to begin the process of getting an estimate of what those services would cost to procure, so that Town Council can take a look at it for the next budget and to fund it. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion. Councilmember Morera then asked Vice Mayor Fernandez if the motion included phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3. Vice Mayor Fernandez responded in the affirmative.

Councilmember Collazo asked the Town Manager to look if the project would allow the Town Council to hire a consultant from the phase 3 funding -that is currently going on now, and do less than phase 3, so that it does not have to come out of general fund. The Town Manager responded in the affirmative.

Omar Santos, Public Works Director, answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to re-open the Public Comments, to allow Mr. Angelo Garcia Cuadra to speak on this behalf. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Mr. Angelo Garcia Cuadra came before the Town Council to speak regarding the canal stabilization phase 1 and asked for a moratorium to be put in place, until the engineering firm gets hired, to fix phase 1.

The Town Council asked the Town Attorney whether a pause could be placed in phase 3, if there would be any contractual complication. The Deputy Town Attorney stated that they would look at the contract and to the commitment that the TOML has to the State appropriations. Director Santos stated that completion of the project is expected to be in January 2025. The Deputy Town Attorney stated that he will meet with Director Santos to talk about means and methods, so the TOML does not incur in liabilities with the contractor of phase 3. The Deputy Town Attorney asked the Town Council to give him time to look into this and come back at the next meeting.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella answered questions posed by the Town Council. Councilmember Morera then stated that he would recommend for now, the Town Council to vote on requesting for the proposal for the engineer, but to hold off until next meeting, on the moratorium – until Town staff and the Town Attorney get back to the Town Council. Vice Mayor Fernandez agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **O. Request for Information – Barbara Goleman (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and asked Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun, to come up and walk through to everyone, the meeting between the Miami Lakes United Soccer Club, Miami Lakes Optimist Club, School Board Member Roberto Alonso, Councilmember Collazo, and himself to update everybody on what was proposed from that meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Bajdaun stated that aside from contract clauses and agreement terms, the major item discussed, mainly by School Board Member Alonso, was

the interest in the school sites to create more of a community-based use. Some items discussed were Barbara Goleman, which the town already has a standing JUA with, along with potential new sites being Hialeah-Miami Lakes and American Senior High School. He added that these two ideas went about it was through RFIs -Request for Interest. Councilmember Dieguez added that these Requests for Interest are not binding, they are exploratory.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to direct staff to go ahead and issue an RFI related to the Barbara Goleman site in particular, to see what kind of interest we have to renovate those fields and be primarily for the community but with an option, per what they discussed, for Miami Lakes United and Miami Lakes Optimist Club to also move some of their programming to there, from time to time, to free up space at Miami Lakes Optimist Park. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

Councilmember Garcia then added that he would be amendable to this as long as Miami Lakes Optimist Club and Miami Lakes United Soccer Club have the right of first refusal, and he also added he would be against any exclusivity of these fields. Councilmember Dieguez stated he does not know about the right of first refusal, although they already have in their contracts that they can reject using the fields, but he is open to the non-exclusivity aspect. After discussion, Mayor Cid stated that his only challenge with Goleman is the utilization for year-round sports. He added that the field underutilized and best field is at Bob Graham Education Center.

After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**P. Beautification Improvements at Town Managed Guard Gates (Cid)**

Mayor Cid made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that a couple of residents asked him how much it would cost to put the pavers that we have down Miami Lakeway South, at the entrance of the guard gates, he said he did not know but put it on the agenda for informational purposes for staff to come back and show the Town Council that cost. He added that he does not think it's contemplated in their Beautification Master Plan but maybe it's something they should add in the future.

Mayor Cid made a motion to direct staff to look into it, bring back the costs in a report, doesn't mean they will take an action on it or not, but maybe it is something they add into their Beautification Master Plan in the future. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

Councilmember Collazo stated that they should get a price per square foot on what pavers would cost for anywhere in the town and then have that conversation.

There being no further discussion, the motion passed 7-0.

**Q. Committee Membership (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented the genesis of the item.

He stated that he has spoken to some committee chairs, and some have expressed that perhaps some committees are too large, or that they do not have enough members, or that they are not being able to meet quorum, etc. He stated that he would like to go through all the committees, analyze their mission and determine if it's still viable and relevant; if there are opportunities to consolidate some committees or perhaps eliminate some committees. Also, he stated that perhaps there are opportunities to lower or increase the size of some of these committees. He also mentioned that this should be done via a combination of staff working with the Town Council; perhaps a small working group or focus group consisting of a member or two of the Town Council and somebody from staff and perhaps, some of the committee chairs.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then motioned to form a working group to conduct a wholesale review of all the committees, their composition, their current mission and to report back to the Town Council with a list of recommendations brought forth on how to optimize. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

**15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

None.

**16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

**A. Landscaping to Remove Excess Leaves Report (Bajdaun)**

Parks and Recreation Director, Jeremy Bajdaun, presented this report. He explained that it came from the April Council Meeting where they were told to investigate ways of managing the heavy leaf fall between the fall and winter months. Director Bajdaun then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

**B. Monthly Police Report (Major Gonzalez)**

Major Gonzalez presented the monthly police report and answered questions posed by the Town Council

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

Public Works Director, Omar Santos, presented this report. He presented the monthly infrastructure report and answered questions posed by the Town Council. Councilmember Dieguez requested Director Santos to list the full amount of unfunded infrastructure needs in the Town.



**17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

The Town Attorney, Mr. Raul Gastesi, presented the Attorney's Report.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

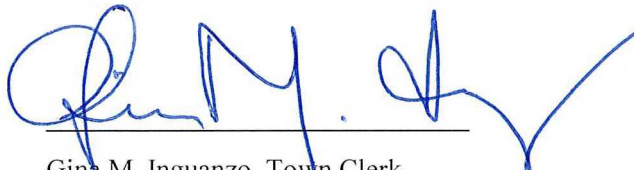
Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2024.



\_\_\_\_\_

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk