

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

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

Councilmember Josh Dieguez presented a proclamation to members of the Florida State Guard. He explained that the Florida State Guard assisted Texan officials in protecting the U.S Southern Border and handling illegal immigration. He further explained that the Florida State Guard has protected our country from approximately 2700 criminals charged with dangerous crimes such as child endangerment, terrorist threats, and drug related charges. On behalf of Mayor Cid, he proclaimed Tuesday July 9th, 2024, as Florida State Guard Day in the Town of Miami Lakes.

The Former Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez presented a proclamation to Mrs. Anna Garcia, for her years of service as Principal of Monsignor Edward Pace Highschool. He explained she is retiring with a combined 50 years of service in Catholic Education. He further explained that Garcia began her career at Pace over 25 years ago working with special needs students. He explained that she became the Principal of Pace in 2004, establishing the Spartan Sword and Shield Honor's Program and the Spe Salvi program for children with intellectual disabilities. On behalf of Mayor Cid, Former Vice Mayor Rodriguez proclaimed Thursday July 11th, 2024, as Anna Garcia Day in the Town of Miami Lakes. Mrs. Garcia thanked Former Vice Mayor Rodriguez, the Mayor, and the Town Council for this recognition.

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented a proclamation to Dr. Diony Antigua for his years of service to the Town as the head of Antigua College International. He explained that Antigua College International provides students with a personalized educational experience based on the individual needs of each student. On behalf of Mayor Cid, Vice Mayor Fernandez proclaimed Friday July 12th, 2024, as Antigua College International Day in the Town of Miami Lakes. Dr. Antigua thanked the Mayor and the Town Council for this recognition.

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented a proclamation recognizing the month of July as Parks and recreation month. The Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Bajdaun explained that parks are an integral part of the community. He thanked the Parks and Recreation staff members for their continued dedication to the parks in Miami Lakes. On behalf of Mayor Cid, Vice Mayor Fernandez proclaimed Wednesday July 10th, 2024, as Parks and Recreation Day in the Town of Miami Lakes.

Major Gonzalez presented a certificate of recognition to Detective Rodriguez and Sergeant Gonzalez for protecting Main Street from an armed criminal. Detective Rodriguez and Sergeant Gonzalez thanked Major Gonzalez and the Town Council for this recognition.

## **2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:44 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Bryan Morera, Marilyn Ruano, and Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez. Councilmember Ray Garcia arrived at approximately 6:55 p.m. and Mayor Manny Cid was absent.

## **3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Town of Miami Lakes summer intern, Lya Quintana from Jose Marti Mast 6-12 Academy led the prayer.

## **4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town of Miami Lakes summer intern, Melany Alvarez from Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School.

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

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

Councilmember Dieguez withdrew Item 14A and Councilmember Morera combined and pulled Items 10F, 10G, and 10I from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move the Order of Business and Councilmember Morera seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Garcia and Mayor Cid were absent.

After Public Comments, Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to reopen the Order of Business to move up Item 14G and Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion to move up Item 14G to after the Consent Calendar and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (1:13:26)**

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

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

Mr. Nelson Rodriguez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that the most important part of the Budget is public safety and he stated that keeping the current millage rate would include budget cuts to police overtime, traffic enforcement, and burglary prevention and a big reduction in park maintenance. He further explained that going to the rollback rate would include worse service, budget cuts to the Town Committees, Veterans Parade and Fourth of July Event. He urged the Town Council to fund the Town properly.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that the Town Council must find room in the Budget to fund police overtime services. She also stated that instead of implementing more speed bumps to reduce speeding within the Town, police officers should be handing out more speeding tickets. She stated that she is not in support of item 14C, and she thinks that this town is already overdeveloped. She stated that Live Local intends to limit their freedoms.

Mr. William Perez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is in support of item 10C, naming Pavilion B in Veterans Park in honor of Gary Cardenas and stated many of Mr. Cardenas' accomplishments. He explained his concerns regarding the Town Budget and going to the rollback rate. He stated that the Town's Budget must keep up with the level of inflation, because the cost of everything is going up.

Ms. Marie Whittington came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She explained that prior to 2007 residents of Lake Martha on a dry lot or lake view had access to the Lake. She further explained that in 2007 an ordinance was established preventing residents of Lake Martha on a dry lot or lake view from accessing the lake. She urged the Town Council to investigate this ordinance to provide lake access to those residents living on a dry lot or lake view.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She stated that the condition of the Roberto Alonso Community Center is unacceptable. She explained that the AC Unit at the Community Center has been broken for months and has yet to be replaced. She stated that the Town Council should focus on maintaining the Town's current projects instead of developing new projects. She also spoke about a door in the Community Center that it covered with black craft paper; she asked if the TOML could not afford a bottle of black paint to paint the door. She spoke about the NSD's and the LPR's and why the residents of Section 1 need to pay for the LPR's that the entire town benefits from. She urged the Town Council to focus on the necessities of this Town; new projects are additional costs that the TOML needs to take care of.

Mr. Harry Bolinger came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He stated that he is in opposition of item 12A. He explained that property owners of NSD Section 1 should have a right to vote to control their taxes. He stated that the board should be abolished and left for property owners to decide taxes.

Town Clerk Inguanzo read the names of the individuals who sent her written public comments, and she acknowledged their emails. She stated that all the emails were in opposition to Item 12A, in opposition to the NSD Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. These individuals submitted written public comments: Ezperanza Hope Reynolds, Boris Foster, Harry Bolinger, Bonnie Cintron, Maria

Santelices, Andrea Hurtado, Rocio Garcia, Yovan, Silvia Gonzalez, Tina Gallinar, Georgina Luces and Esther Colon.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she received an email requesting her to read into the record, those emails that were sent to the Town Clerk. Councilmember Ruano then read the emails into the record.

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

Councilmember Morera motion to re-open Public Comments and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Abel Fernandez participated in remote Public Comments and stated that he is happy with the work performance of the Town Manager and stated that Mr. Pidermann is very receptive and answers his calls and emails regarding flooding issues. He spoke about the LPR's, he stated that he does not believe that special taxing districts should be paying for cameras that benefit the entire community. He stated that it is unfair that a special taxing district has to pay for the lease of these cameras, when they benefit the entire community.

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

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Vice Mayor Fernandez announced the following appointments:

Mr. Dayan Jimenez to the Youth Activities Task Force by Councilmember Bryan Morera.

Ms. Esther Colon to the Blasting Advisory Board by Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. Special Needs Advisory Board**

Chairperson John Rogger presented the committee report and went over what the committee has been working on. He outlined some past initiatives, upcoming events, and future projects. Vice Chairperson Vivian Levy also spoke about the recent Fourth of July event that took place.

### **B. Mental Health Task Force**

Mental Health Task Force Member, William Perez, presented the committee report and outlines upcoming initiatives and events for the committee. He also went over some future projects/events that the committee plans to do soon. MHTF Member Perez then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

## 9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

## 10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilmember Dieguez moved to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morera. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

- A. Approval of Minutes
- June 11, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- B. A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AWARDED RFP 2024-17, TO BANKUNITED, NA; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE ARTICLE XII, DIVISION 2, NAMING A PARK PAVILION AT VETERANS PARK IN HONOR OF GARY CARDENAS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TOWN MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- D. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO ALLOW FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW STREETLIGHTS ALONG THE INTERSECTION OF N.W. 154th STREET AND N.W. 79th COURT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS; 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, PURSUANT TO CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREED TO WITH ATC ENGINEERING, INC FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROYAL OAKS FIRST ADDITION DRAINAGE

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION 2023-1926, A CHANGE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY ONE DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$22,791.00); AUTHORIZING, PURSUANT TO CERTAIN AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION SERVICES AGREED TO WITH 300 ENGINEERING, FOR ROYAL OAKS FIRST ADDITION DRAINAGE PROJECT AUTHORIZED BY RESOLUTION 2023-1927, A CHANGE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIVE DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$18,505.00); AUTHORIZING A CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) FOR ANY UNFORSEEN EXPENSES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CHANGE ORDERS; AUTHORIZING LINE ITEM BUDGET MODIFICATION; 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 SEEKING SUPPORT FROM MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND ALL AFFECTED MUNICIPALITIES TO PUSH FOR BLASTING REGULATION REFORM DURING THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLERK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar and combined with Items 10G and 10I.

Councilmember Morera stated that the reason he pulled Items 10F, 10G, and 10I was to explain that he revised the language of these resolutions to closely fit the original motions considered and passed at the last Regular Council Meeting. He added that when he made those motions, he made specific references to items in the BAB report so following up on that, in making the revisions, he cited some wording used in the BAB report, to make it more neater and powerful, and he emphasized that these are resolutions that we are sending out to other municipalities and other counties and to government entities, and he emphasized that he does not want to send out poorly formatted resolutions.

Councilmember Morera then made a motion to move Items 10F, 10G, and 10I as amended for consideration. Councilmember Dieguez seconded for discussion.

The Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella answered questions posed by the Town Council and he stated that he met with Councilmember Morera and that he agreed with the revised language proposed by Councilmember Morera.

The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

- G. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA SEEKING SUPPORT FROM THE FLORIDA AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES IN ORDER TO ADVOCATE FOR ROCK MINE BLASTING LEGISLATIVE REFORM; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLERK; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar and combined with Items 10F and 10I. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

- H. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA INSTRUCTING THE TOWN'S LOBBYIST TO PRIORITIZE ROCK MINE BLASTING LEGISLATIVE REFORM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

- I. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA SEEKING SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S FIRE MARSHAL; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLERK; PROVIDING INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar and combined with Items 10F and 10G. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

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

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 18, SECTION 18-2, TITLED "DEFINITIONS", AMENDED CHAPTER 18, SECTION 18-124 TITLED "COMMUNITY CENTER(S) RULES AND REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to accept the ordinance in first reading and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

- B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; APPROVING THE MODIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ORDINANCE 07-91, TO REMOVE CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE RELOCATION OF PROPERTY LINES FOR A 0.9+/- ACRE PARCEL DIVIDED INTO TWO TRACTS WITH FOLIO NUMBERS 32-2023-001-0473 AND 32-2023-001-0474. PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi read the quasi-judicial public hearings instructions. He then read the ordinance in first reading into the record.

The Town Manager presented the item.

Town Clerk Inguanzo swore in the following individuals:

Mr. Peter Philippou Panayi was sworn in via zoom as well as Town Staff.

The following elected officials disclosed their Ex-Parte Communications Disclosure Forms. Councilmember Collazo, Councilmember Ruano, Councilmember Garcia, Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Morera and Vice Mayor Fernandez, all stated that no one had communicated with the applicants. Mayor Cid was absent.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella presented the item and explained the history of this item and the legality of this item. He presented a PowerPoint Presentation consisting of the Town of Miami Lakes Official Zoning Map, Section 13-856 Boundary of the GU Interim District of the Town of Miami Lakes, Ordinance 07-91 of the Town of Miami Lakes, Section 13-308 Platting of the Town of Miami Lakes Code. He explained that this property was never properly zoned as RU; he explained that this property was zoned GU. He stated that the applicant, Mr. Panayi desires to build a property, and the Town of Miami Lakes welcomes that but in order to do so, he explained that the property needs to be zoned properly and in order to do this, the property needs to be properly platted.

The Senior Town Planner, Susana Alonso, presented the item and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, provided information on the item.

The Deputy Town Clerk, Victoria Martinez, swore in Mr. Javier J. Laffont and Ms. Eva M. Laffont. She also sworn in the applicant, Mr. Naji, via zoom.

Mr. Soufiane Naji spoke presented and spoke on behalf of his case.

The Town Council asked questions and the Senior Town Planner, and the Deputy Town Attorney answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Mr. Javier J. Laffont addressed the Town Council and provided information on this item, and he responded to questions posed by the Town Attorney.

After further discussion, Councilmember Dieguez moved to approve the application with Town Staff's conditions, and he directed Town Staff to work with the two homeowners to get to a solution that works for all parties. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morera. The Deputy Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in 1<sup>st</sup> reading passed 6-0.

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

- A. 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.



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

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item and answered questions posed by the Town Council.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to approve the Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. Immediately thereafter, Councilmember Collazo made an amendment to his main motion, to approve the Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading only for Loch Lomond, Royal Oaks East & Section One, Lake Hilda & Lake Patricia and not for Miami Lakes Section 1. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

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

During discussion, Councilmember Ruano motioned to remove the LPR Line Item for all the NSD's and to remove the flowers. The motion died due to lack of a second.

After further discussion, Councilmember Collazo elaborated on his motion and stated that he wishes to move forward with the spirit of the proposal, but that the LPR issue needs to be cleared up; that it is legal, but it does not feel right. He explained that he is comfortable moving forward with the ordinance and letting the residents know that we are working on some kind of path to bring some kind of relief. After some further clarification, Councilmember Collazo withdrew his amended motion.

Town Clerk Inguanzo called the roll, to approve the Ordinance in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, "as is" and the motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

### **13. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA DECLARING, AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES, THE TOWN'S PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE, ROLLED-BACK RATE COMPUTED PURSUANT TO 200.065(1), FLORIDA STATUTES, AND THE DATE, TIME, AND PLACE AT WHICH PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO CHANGE BUDGET HEARING DATES IF NEEDED; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO SERVE THIS RESOLUTION ON THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to move the item and it was seconded by Councilmember Morera.

Town Manager Pidermann presented the item. He explained that Town Staff were asked to provide 2 different scenarios: one scenario is leaving the millage rate flat, and the other scenario would be to consider the rollback rate.

During discussion, Councilmember Ruano made a motion to set the cap at 2.4666 mills and to work on workshops to try to trim it and to clean it as much as possible. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion failed 3-3; Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Garcia and Vice Mayor Fernandez voted in opposition. Mayor Cid was absent.

Councilmember Dieguez then motioned to approve the recommended rate, which is the flat tax of 2.0732 mills. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-2; Councilmember Morera and Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition and Mayor Cid was absent.

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

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

This item was withdrawn.

##### **B. Future Flood Mitigation Planning (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented this item and explained he would like to have a conversation with his colleagues to direct the Town Manager to also offer sandbag distribution in advance of unnamed storms, when it was known in advance that substantial rainfall would be coming and directed further to bag additional sandbags to have enough for these storms.

After questions to the Public Works Director, Omar Santos, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to direct the Town Administration to, again as mentioned earlier, allow sandbag distribution for unnamed storms as we do for named storms and to review its communications strategy in these situations. Councilmember Morera seconded.

After discussion, Councilmember Morera asked what sort of emergency planning the Town has and Deputy Town Manager, Tony Lopez explained the emergency planning management process, predominantly focused on hurricane and tropical storm planning, in which every department plays a role. He added that the Town has a hurricane plan which is updated every year and when there are unnamed storms, they stay in constant communication with the county's emergency management department.

Councilmember Morera then made an amendment to the main motion, to include, as well as what Councilmember Dieguez moved, adding portions to the existing emergency management plan for unnamed storms above a certain criterion. He added they can use the June 12<sup>th</sup> storm as a model. Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Collazo seconded simultaneously, the amendment, and the motion passed 4-0; Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

After further discussion, the main motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

### **C. Review of Live Local Act and Potential Impacts to Town Development (Collazo)**

Councilmember Collazo presented this item and explained that seeing the impact that the Live Local Act has had on planning efforts, inspired this item and some of his concerns. He explained that the Live Local Act is basically an act that takes away the planning process from the hands of the city and allows developers in areas that are not zoned for residential living to build up to 40% higher in height, denser floor to area ratio for residential units, as long as they promise to make them affordable living. He added that he felt it was time they took a comprehensive look at it, see what the impact could be, what areas would be affected, and give the town an opportunity to respond to Live Local. He stated that at a minimum, they need to be educated on the topic. He added that he wants to go ahead and start the process which is outlined in his memo and which includes a workshop, recommendations from Town Staff, and possible future ordinances. Councilmember Collazo then stated that his explanation is his motion and Councilmember Garcia and Councilmember Morera seconded simultaneously.

After further discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

### **D. Time Capsule (Cid)**

Councilmember Collazo stated that for Mayor Cid's items that are not time sensitive, he would like to give Mayor Cid the opportunity to bring them forward. He added that seeing as the time capsule item is not time sensitive, he'd like to defer the item.

Councilmember Dieguez then made a motion to defer the time capsule item, Item 14D, to the next meeting. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Garcia voted in opposition and Mayor Cid was absent.

### **E. Freebee Vehicles to Increase Civic Engagement (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that they have all talked about participation and wanting more people to come to meetings, especially for public comments. He stated that he knows that there is a cap on the time Freebee is running but Public Comments usually happens the first 15-20 minutes of the meetings, and he wants to know if there is any way they can talk to Freebee especially on Council Meeting nights and certain meetings that we can use Freebee and the electric bus, to bring more people to at least participate in Public Comments and then they can take the Freebee home after. He'd like to try to encourage another way of getting to the meetings.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that the Freebee has a 7pm cutoff and anything additional would be an added cost. Councilmember Garcia stated sure, and they can even market the idea to let people know that during meetings, the Freebee can pick up and drop off by a certain time, perhaps 8pm, 1 additional hour.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that they can explore different ways of making this happen, have conversations with Freebee, and bring it back in a Manager's Report in a month or two explaining what they discovered, the outcomes, and allow the Town Council to give direction. Councilmember Garcia asked to also see what it entails for Committee Meetings as well.

Councilmember Garcia then stated that everything explained is his motion and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

Vice Mayor Fernandez then stated that as the Manager looks at that, to also look and make sure the Freebee is available those days of early voting and election day, 7am – 7pm. Town Manager Pidermann added that they'll explore that as well.

Councilmember Collazo then added that he not only looked at it from a civic engagement perspective, but in a way of how the service can be modified to fit the needs of the community. He added that in the spirit of the motion, he'd like to give the manager the autonomy to look at the Freebee service in general.

After further discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

#### **F. Accessibility Improvement Permit Fee Elimination Program (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented the item and he explained that he would like for the Building Department to have a program that provides relief to residents that are seeking to pull permits for improvements to their homes, that are necessary for accessibility reasons and/or doing it because it is based on conditions of the special needs population, or the elderly population, the disabled veterans and first responders. Vice Mayor Fernandez gave directions for Town Staff to do research on this matter and come back with options and present to the Town Council a report with options and limitations.

During the discussion of the item, Councilmember Collazo recommended for Town Staff to look at state funding that perhaps is available, such as the Alliance for Aging, which is a state agency home modification program that has funding and would pay for the permits for home modifications. He recommended the Town Staff to go ahead and look at this and also, he also stated that resident Mr. Michael Salem could be helpful with this matter.

Councilmember Morera mentioned that perhaps charging the full fee and then later provide a full rebate; he explained this deposit is a way to make sure the work is done per Code and ensuring quality workmanship. Vice Mayor Fernandez agreed with these thoughts, and he stated that he does not want this to be prone to abuse.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and it passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

#### **G. Lake Access via Parks (Morera)**

Councilmember Morera made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano and all were in favor.

Councilmember Morera presented the item. He stated that a resident brought to his attention that our Code currently prohibits access to the Town's lakes for residents living on a dry lot thereby preventing non-lakefront residents from using the lakes. He also stated that the resident lives in a lakefront home and that she is asking this for the benefit of those residents that do not have lake-front homes.

During discussion, Councilmember Morera stated that he would like for Mr. Jeremy Bajdaun, Parks and Recreation Director, or someone from his team, to meet with the resident, get a better understanding of the issue and come back to the Town Council with some options – whether it be perhaps converting one of the 4 parks around Lake Martha into a beach park or whether it be some sort of ordinance changing the Code.

The Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella answered questions posed by the Town Council. He stated that as a municipality, we are not here to enforce HOA rules. He stated that HOA rules are different documents and that they are governed by different statues and that municipalities do not have authority to interpret them, because they are private property. He emphasized that our role is to enforce our Town ordinances and that we have our own public parks and some of them abut lakes. In those public parks, he stated that our Town ordinance does not allow vessels to be launched due to liability reasons. The Deputy Town Attorney also stated that our Town ordinance is regarding Town property, not regarding private property. He also stated that the Town ordinance is very restrictive regarding what can be done on parks that abut lakes. He stated the ordinance can be changed and that is to the will of the Town Council.

The Town Manager stated that public parks can be enjoyed by the people but that they are not allowed to go swimming and that vessels can't be launched at those public parks.

Councilmember Collazo mentioned that some residents are interested in the Holiday parade, Councilmember Morera then mentioned perhaps the TOML can issue a temporary easement or a special permit so that they can enjoy the lake and use it, but he emphasized that he does not want to create unintended consequences.

Councilmember Morera then made a motion directing Town Staff to work with the legal department and analyze what can be done, and to work with the HOA; for Jeremy Bajdaun to meet with the resident and gather information. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo, and it passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

#### **H. Removal of Metal Barriers along NW 79th Avenue (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and explained that now that the Safe Routes to School program on NW 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been completed, he requested for Town Staff to remove the metal barriers that were installed along NW 79<sup>th</sup> Ave, as part of the project and also asked Town Staff to remove the same barriers that exist along 154<sup>th</sup> Street. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion.

During the discussion of the item, the Vice Mayor mentioned that by removing the railings for cosmetic reasons, he does not want any potential exposure. Thus, he asked the Town Manager to look at other ways of mitigating potential exposures in that area, so that the TOML is not liable. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

**I. Traffic Signal Box Wrap Honoring the Men & Women of the Miami Lakes Police Department (Cid)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to move the item forward, to direct Town Staff to begin the process of wrapping a traffic, signal box on Miami Lakes Drive, honoring the men and women of the Miami Lakes Police Department and for the sponsor of the wrap to be South Florida PBA. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Ruano and Mayor Cid were absent.

**J. 5G Tower Notification and Beautification Program (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented the item, and he mentioned that in the future, before anything goes up in the town, we should have an opportunity for public input. He emphasized that before any 5G antenna goes up in our town, an opportunity for public input -at least for residents to know that something is going on in their vicinity- so that those applicants can improve the products that are eventually constructed. Councilmember Garcia seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dieguez stated that he had an amendment to tack on the spirit of the item, because although the spirit of the item is specific to the 5G Towers, it's ultimately to amend our legislative priorities. So, in that spirit, he explained that he would like for the NSD's to have elections and he stated that he found a vendor who does electronic elections for HOA's at a low cost. He emphasized that the data, including how people vote, is not private. So, Councilmember Dieguez requested to add to our legislative policy priorities, -to request State Representative Fabricio and Senator Avila, to keep that data private- if NDS's choose to utilize this data for surveys, for election data. Councilmember Dieguez stated that he would request -as part of our legislative priority items, to get that public records exemption, that would allow us or any other community to go ahead and have these elections without having to go through the Department of Elections and incurring in substantial costs. After the explanation given, Vice Mayor Fernandez accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

**K. Business Directory (Morera)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez moved to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Councilmember Morera presented this item and explained that at the last meeting Councilmember Dieguez brought up the Business Toolkit New Business Item and it got him thinking it'd be great to have a centralized location, likely online or possible a print version as well, where you have a directory of all town businesses. He added that he would think a good starting point is to look at the BTR and utilize it to create the foundation of this directory. Councilmember Morera stated that for now, at this early stage, he thinks what he would move for is to have Town Staff look at what other municipalities have done on this effect, work with him on that, and see what to bring back and propose to the Town Council. Councilmember Dieguez seconded this explanation.

After further discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

**L. Dais Seating (Dieguez)**

Councilmember Dieguez presented the item and made a motion to amend the Town Council procedures, so that all Town Charters officials, the three Town Charter officers always remain seated together. He explained that they are the top officers in our town, so they need to be in constant coordination and be an easy reach of one another to consult and answer questions for one another. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-1; Vice Mayor Fernandez voted in opposition and Mayor Cid was absent.

**M. Traffic Signal Box Wrap Honoring our Firefighters & EMTs (Cid)**

Councilmember Morera moved the item, and it was seconded by Vice Mayor Fernandez.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that Captain Blanco is a candidate for office, so that he can sponsor but in his official capacity and not through his campaign funds. Councilmember Dieguez then suggested imposing a condition as an amendment, that we can only accept the sponsorship if it comes directly from him and not from his campaign funds. Councilmember Morera seconded the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously and the main motion, as amended, passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

**N. Valley Gutter Slope Pitch (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained he had a conversation with Public Works Director, Omar Santos, that in a lot of these streets where they have done drainage projects, part of the scope is that in the areas where they have added additional catch basins for drainage, they didn't necessarily include re-sloping all of the valley gutters so that they slope in the new direction of these newly created drains. He added that the water would have a more efficient path sloping in the direction of the new drain, so he thinks that should be a consideration for all new projects going forward and he would want to direct public works to back into some of these projects.

After further explanation, Vice Mayor Fernandez made a motion to direct staff to look into reconstructing the valley gutters during all new projects where appropriate, and then doing an analysis of all existing recently completed projects. Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Mayor Cid was absent.

**15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

None.

**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

**B. 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.

**C. Opioid Settlement Annual Implementation Plan (De Cardenas)**

Communications and Community Affairs Director, Clarisell De Cardenas, presented this report. She explained that the purpose of the plan is to raise awareness and educate the community. She further explained that the Town has received \$5,000 dollars to fund the Opioid Settlement Annual Implementation Plan. She then answered questions posed by the Town Council.

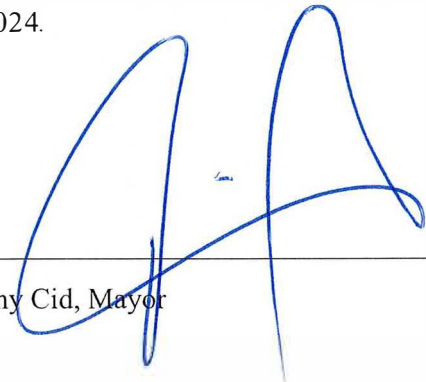
**17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, presented the Attorney's Report.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

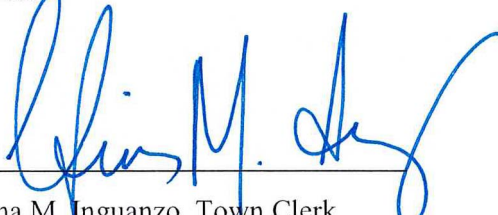
Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.



\_\_\_\_\_

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk