

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**August 13, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Government Center**  
**6601 Main Street**  
**Miami Lakes, Florida 33014**

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

Mayor Cid presented a proclamation to the Management staff of VITAS healthcare in Miami Lakes. He explained that VITAS was founded in 1978 and is the United States leading hospice provider. He further explained that the mission of VITAS is to preserve the quality of life for those they care for with dignity and compassion. Mayor Cid proclaimed Tuesday August 13th, 2024, as VITAS healthcare day in the Town of Miami Lakes. The VITAS Healthcare Management staff, Vice President Natalia Hernandez, General Manager Annette Regano and Volunteer Service Manager Maria Hidalgo thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

Mayor Cid presented a proclamation to Board member of the Florida State Assembly of Surgical Technologists and Assistants, Suyapa Soto. He explained that Surgical Technologists provide critical service during surgical procedures. He further explained that Surgical Technologists help prevent life threatening surgical infections by facilitating safe and effective conduct during surgical procedures. Mayor Cid proclaimed Thursday August 15th, 2024, as National Surgical Technologist week in the Town of Miami Lakes. Ms. Soto thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

Mayor Cid presented a proclamation to Tico Casamayor on behalf of Hemisphere Title Company to be recognized for 40 years of service to the Town. Mr. Casamayor thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

Mayor Cid presented a certificate of recognition to Police Explorer Academy Graduates Ryan Perez and Morgan McShan. Cid explained that the Police Explorer's academy is led by Miami Lakes Officer's Carlos Ortiz and Kenny Torres. Officer Ortiz explained that the Police Explorer Academy teaches young adults the expectations of the academy and the values of discipline, respect, and obeying the law. Perez and McShan thanked the Town Council for this recognition.

**2. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll at 6:31 p.m. with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis E. Collazo, Bryan Morera, Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez, and Mayor Cid. Councilmember Marilyn Ruano arrived at 6:36 p.m. and Councilmember Ray Garcia arrived at 6:45 p.m. Councilmember Josh Dieguez was absent.

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

Pastor Ruben Gimenez from Centro Comunitario AFE led the prayer.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Bryan Morera.

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

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

Town Manager, Ed Pidermann pulled Item 10B from the Consent Calendar because it needs to be a public hearing. Councilmember Collazo pulled Item 10D from the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Morera moved Item 7 until after Item 13 to allow his colleagues to arrive. Shortly after Councilmember Ruano arrived and Councilmember Morera withdrew moving Item 7. Mayor Cid pulled Item 10G from the Consent Calendar.

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

After Special Presentation, Item 9A, Mayor Cid made a motion to reopen the Consent Calendar. Vice Mayor Fernandez and Councilmember Ruano seconded simultaneously, and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Mayor Cid then pulled Item 10H from the Consent Calendar for discussion and moved to adopt the calendar. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded, and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez 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. Alejandro Sanchez came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He explained that he has resigned from the Veterans Committee and has been selected as a nominee for the Planning and Zoning Board. He further explained that he is receiving his Master of Business Administration in commercial real estate at the University of Miami, as it is a requirement for the role. He urged the Town Council to endorse him and vote yes when the waiver comes up for a vote.

Mr. Angelo Garcia came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. He presented the issues that have occurred with Engineering Services regarding Canal Bank Stabilization phases 1 and 2. He urged the Town Council to not move forward with the \$31,565 budget to award a work order for Professional Engineering Services. He thanked the Town Council for their time and consideration.

Ms. Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to participate in Public Comments. She urged the Town Council to consider the budget when deciding whether to adopt the University of Wisconsin Contract No. 22-5290. She explained that inflation and higher taxes has residents paying more for everyday essentials such as gas, groceries etc. She urged the Town Council to focus on the essential needs of the Town, especially park maintenance.

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

## **7. APPOINTMENTS:**

Mayor Cid announced the following appointments:

Ms. Maite Robles to the Education Advisory Board by Vice Mayor Tony Fernandez.

Mr. Alejandro Sanchez to the Planning and Zoning Board by Councilmember Bryan Morera.

Mayor Cid stated that Mr. Alejandro Sanchez's appointment requires a waiver of Section 13-203 of the Town Code by supermajority vote of the Town Council.

Councilmember Morera then moved the appointment of Mr. Alejandro Sanchez and Councilmember Ruano seconded.

After discussion, the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Chairperson Roman O. Garcia Jr. presented the committee report and went over the initiatives and events the committee has been working on. He explained that the seventh class will be inducted to the Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, December 14th, 2024. He stated that the committee chose to induct five individuals this year. Garcia also explained that the committee is launching a Sports Hall of Fame Committee podcast.

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the slate of candidates that were proffered by the committee and Councilmember Morera seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **9. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

### **A. Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

Ailette Rodriguez Diaz, the Administrative Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Family and Community Engagement at Miami Dade County Public Schools presented information regarding the Miami Lakes Schools. She explained that this past school year all schools in Miami Lakes were graded as A schools. She further explained that Miami-Dade County provides webinars for parents struggling to navigate the parent portal.

## **10. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

### **A. Approval of Minutes**

- July 9, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

### **B. 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 pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Cid read the title of the resolution.

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

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Garcia seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

### **C. 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 300 ENGINEERING GROUP, P.A. FOR LOCH LOMOND NORTH DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED NINETY SIX DOLLARS AND 50/100 (\$157,996.50) NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE 23-307; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- 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 CALVIN GIORDANO AND ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT OF THIRTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE DOLLARS AND 60/100 (\$31,565.60) NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS; MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 23-318; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY OF TOWN OFFICIALS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR ROUNDING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Councilmember Collazo pulled the item and asked questions to Town Staff.

The Public Works Director, Mr. Omar Santos, answered questions posed by the Town Council. He stated that the item before them is a combination- an inspection that must be done, to see the condition of phase 1. He explained that the Town does not have the resources to do that in house, so he explained that is why the Town is recommending outsourcing. He also explained that the second component of this item is the request from Vice Mayor Fernandez, and once this inspection has been completed, we will have a third-party engineer to do an evaluation of the installations and of the findings.

Councilmember Collazo then asked if once the evaluation is done, and it is determined that maybe the installation was done wrong, can we go after the contractual people and recapture the monies? He stated that he is not in favor of spending \$30,000 and then not being able to recapture it.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained that for the Town to find out what has caused the damage, you need to do the discovery, and you need to figure out what caused the damage. The Public Works Director, Mr. Omar Santos, added that the evaluation will provide a repair procedure for the area of phase 1 only. Councilmember Collazo then stated that the engineering firm is committing to any and all meetings, and he requested that those meetings providing the findings to be a public meeting, for the benefit of those residents who have this issue in their backyards.

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

Councilmember Ruano then stated that the Town Council visited Mr. Angelo Cuadra Garcia's home because we were starting phase 3, and the intent was to catch phase 3 before it was fully installed. She then asked if there is any way that we could delay phase 3 until we have the engineering report, to ensure there isn't anything that we identify in this report that could possibly also apply to phase 3. The Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella responded that per contract, if we do that, there could be some liability to the Town. He added that the contractor may agree to it, but some of that burden and some of the cost of them stopping the work, the Town is going to have to bear the costs.

After further discussion, Town Attorney Raul Gastesi stated that he has no issue with the Town having a conversation with the contractor but asking them to stop the project and then re-deploy, he has an issue with. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that in the contract, if we do anything to stop the project, the Town is responsible for field fees. Town Attorney Gastesi then recommended that a serious conversation be held with the contractor, to tell them that the attorneys will be involved in the conversations because there is some concerns, but not asking them to stop the project.

Mayor Cid asked Mr. Cuadra Garcia his thoughts on this project. Mr. Cuadra Garcia stated that he thinks that spending 30,000 is going to be a waste of money.

After some further discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

- E. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR ITB 2024-19, TO MASTER ROAD FINISHERS CORP IN AN AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY AND 40/100 (\$1,354,290.40) NOT TO EXCEED BUDGETED FUNDS, AND A PROJECT CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY NINE DOLLARS AND 04/100 (\$135,429.04); APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE LINE-ITEM INTO LINE ITEM NO. 402-563800-AR12; 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.

- F. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, FISCAL YEAR 2023, EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING TOWN OFFICIALS TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was approved on the Consent Calendar.

- G. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF TOWN OWNED TRANSIT BUSES TO THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI BEACH, PROVIDING THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY WITH AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Cid added on the record that he wanted to vote no on this item, but it was on consent, so he pulled the item.

Councilmember Morera made a motion to move Item 10G and Councilmember Collazo seconded. The motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

- H. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF PARK BENCHES, TRASH RECEPTACLES, AND BICYCLE RACKS, PURSUANT TO BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO UTILIZE THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN CONTRACT NO. 22-5290, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, DIVISION 2, SECTION 2-157 OF THE TOWN CODE (THE TOWN'S PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE); 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.

Mayor Cid added on the record that he wanted to vote no on this item, but it was on consent, so he pulled the item.

Councilmember Morera made a motion to move the item and Councilmember Collazo seconded. The motion passed 5-1; Mayor Cid voted in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

- I. 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 COW PEN ROAD AND MIAMI LAKES DRIVE; 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.

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

- A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE III, CREATING SECTION 4-43, TITLED "EXEMPTIONS"; 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 moved it, and it was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **12. ORDINANCE IN SECOND 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.

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

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

The item was presented by Vice Mayor Fernandez, and it was seconded by Councilmember Garcia. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **13. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTINGENCY, RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH THE LLOPIZ WIZEL LAW FIRM; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING THE TOWN ATTORNEY WITH AUTHORITY TO OFFER A BINDING SETTLEMENT OFFER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Councilmember Morera moved the item and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

After an explanation of the case, the Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion passed 5-0; Vice Mayor Fernandez and Councilmember Dieguez were absent.

- B. RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES F/K/A THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING RULES AND PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella on behalf of Councilmember Dieguez, asked for this item to be deferred to the next regular council meeting. Mayor Cid then stated the item has been deferred and there was no objection.

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

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

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that there is a time capsule that was put together by the original council that he believes will be opened next year so he wanted to start the process for one of the committees to start doing a time capsule now because it is the tradition that while one is being opened, another does down. He wanted to bring it to everyone's attention so that staff can talk to the committees and see if one wants to take it on.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that Deputy Town Manager, Dr. Tony Lopez, believes that the one in place now won't be opened until 2030. Mayor Cid stated that at some point he just wanted to bring this up and start having discussions with a committee but if it doesn't happen, it is not a big deal.

Councilmember Morera then added he has a recommendation since the one at Royal Oaks Park is a great generic town-wide time capsule, but he believes in the item, Mayor Cid specifically mentioned the Youth Center if he wanted to hand this idea off to the Youth Activities Task Force and make the theme of the time capsule be our youth and make it something for the kids. Mayor Cid seconded the idea.

Councilmember Collazo then stated he has one issue with the idea. He explained that there is actually an artifact at the Youth Center that the town does not even have a contact with the family anymore, it is a stone dedicated to someone. He added that he wanted to make sure that none of these time capsules get forgotten. He would like to find out if there are any other buried or any other artifacts in the town. He stated he plans to bring a New Business Item to see what they can do with that stone at the Youth Center because they never continued the tradition. Councilmember Collazo added that he'd like to see if there are any others out there and it'd be good practice to keep up with them. Mayor Cid stated that is a good idea because there are many around town. He added he'd like to incorporate that into the entire motion.

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

##### **B. Amending the Noise Ordinance (Garcia)**

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that he was approached by owners of establishments on Main Street regarding the noise ordinance because they were receiving letters of complaints. He asked if he was not mistaken, 11 p.m. is the time music must be cut off and Town Manager Pidermann stated that is correct. Councilmember Garcia stated that in order to encourage the businesses on Main Street, which are thriving with live music, he'd like to work with Town Staff, the Grahams, and the Major to change that to hours of operation which he believes is 2 a.m.

Town Manager Pidermann asked if this is only for the Town Center and Councilmember Garcia stated not just Town Center but any shopping center with restaurants open until 1-2 a.m. where they play live music.

Councilmember Garcia stated he would like to ask the council to change the rules to allow live music to be played in shopping centers around town until hours of operation, 2 a.m. Councilmember Morera seconded for discussion.

Councilmember Morera added that he would like to make sure there is a hard stop to this. Town Manager Pidermann stated that he believes the objective of this item is to work with staff, develop any changes, and present the amended ordinance to the Town Council.

Councilmember Ruano then added her thoughts on the record. Vice Mayor Fernandez then asked if this is only for live music and Councilmember Garcia explained it is for any type of music.

After discussion, Mayor Cid stated that in his office he has several interns and one of them wanted to speak on this item. Councilmember Ruano made a motion to reopen Public Comments and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Mayor Cid's intern, Ms. Natalie Maldonado, came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. She stated that she agrees with Councilmember Ruano that live music should be stopped not at 2 a.m. because there is school the following day and kids need adequate sleep to do well.

After further discussion, Councilmember Morera recommended for staff to work with the Major on getting the data on these calls, split them up by time blocks and days of the week and he believes a reasonable compromise is to potentially leave it as is for school nights but to allow business to thrive on weekend nights.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo then restated the original motion made by Councilmember Garcia as well as the friendly amendment made by Councilmember Morera.

Councilmember Morera then moved his amendment and Councilmember Ruano seconded. The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Collazo was in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

### **C. Support for Amendment 5 (Dieguez)**

Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella, stated that Councilmember Dieguez asked him to present the item on his behalf because it is time sensitive. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella explained there are several amendments being presented in the November ballot, one of them is Amendment 5. He explained that Amendment 5 is basically that right now people that have homestead have a cap of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for homestead which is deducted off the homestead cap. He added that what this amendment does is that as time goes by and there are inflationary pressures, it makes sure the homestead cap increases with inflation. He stated this is beneficial especially to seniors and individuals with non-fixed income.

Councilmember Ruano moved the item and Councilmember Collazo seconded. The motion passed 5-0; Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Morera were absent.

**D. 3% Property Tax Cut Requested by the MDC Property Appraiser (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that he knows that the Town Council voted to keep the millage flat, that they are not going to take that vote today on the millage, but the Property Appraiser told him that it is an important exercise to do a 3% cut to insulate the homesteaded residents, who create a major stability in the community, from tax increases coming. He stated that he did the math, and it is about \$289,000 that staff will have to fund so what he'd like to see at the budget workshop is on top of the budget staff is going to present with a flat millage, he'd also like to see an option of what the \$289,000 cut would look like as well. It'll be a secondary option at the budget workshop for discussion.

Mayor Cid then made a motion for staff to bring this as an option at our budget workshop. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded for discussion.

Vice Mayor Fernandez clarified that what they passed was the cap of the millage but there was discussion about some sort of reduced millage. Councilmember Ruano also added along the lines of Vice Mayor Fernandez's comments that they did set the cap but believes they all committed to bring that number down. She stated she agrees with the Property Appraiser, but they already committed to do what Mayor Cid is requesting.

The motion passed 5-1; Councilmember Morera voted in opposition and Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

**E. Solidarity with Venezuelan People (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented this item and explained that this item is to stand in support with the people of Venezuela. He stated that essentially the resolution they have before them is also in support of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz's joint resolution before the Congress recognizing Edmundo Gonzalez as the legitimate President of Venezuela as well as doing several things including demanding the return and immediate release of political prisoners in Venezuela. Vice Mayor Fernandez asked all of his colleagues to support this and ask that it be unwavering and unanimous. Councilmember Ruano seconded.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, then stated for the record that she received an email, a written public comment, from Mr. Rudy Blanco in support of this item and he kindly requested them all to vote in favor of it.

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

## **F. Policing Short Term Rentals (Garcia)**

Mayor Cid made a motion to waive Section 7.2 of the Special Rules of Order for Item 14F and Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded. The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

Councilmember Garcia presented this item and explained that it is in the same vein as the noise ordinance item. He explained that residents have been suffering from the abuse of some short-term rental owners that are not self-policing tenants that throw loud and disruptive parties every weekend. He wanted to ask the Major to create a detail but before he mentions that he wants to ask the Town Attorney to explain the measure in Tallahassee what failed regarding this.

Mayor Cid asked Councilmember Garcia to please make a motion to get into the proper posture.

Councilmember Garcia then stated his motion is to ask the town and staff to work together with the Police Department to be able to police, especially the repeat offenders, and do everything they can do make sure that they're following the established noise ordinance for residents and to do everything in their power to make sure that they're paying the proper fines and are held responsible legally and financially so that they put pressure to stop having the same houses have these bad actors every weekend throwing parties. He added for them to do anything they can to push the owners to be more neighborly. Councilmember Morera seconded.

Councilmember Garcia then asked the Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella to review the law Tallahassee was trying to pass but that did not pass and what it means to the town with being able to police these bad actors. Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated that in the realm of short-term rentals, the governor has stated that some should be regulated by local governments. He added there is still a lot of regulation and preemption, but we do have an ordinance in place. He stated that the problem with the ordinance is that because of all the moving parts, we have not really been able to fully enforce it e believes that they can work with Staff, the Police Department, and Legal to formulate a better way to regulate short-term rentals in the town with the law in place.

Councilmember Garcia then stated he'd like to amend the motion to include being able to register these short-term rentals and then once we know the short-term rentals, establish a detail, call it the quality of life details, to have officers make sure that these repeat offenders are not continuing to do this and destroying the quality of life for the residents and to do whatever they can do to make sure they stop this. He stated that he'd like to add this to the main motion.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella stated they already have the registration process in the ordinance, it is more the mechanics they have to work on, but they will with the Police Department to get it done.

Deputy Town Attorney Cobiella answered questions posed by Councilmember Morera regarding preemption and after further discussion, Vice Mayor Fernandez explained that about two and a half years ago he passed a comprehensive ordinance to deal with Airbnb's because of the ongoing threat of preemption and none of it was implemented but now that it is settled he'd be more than willing to have a sunshine meeting with Councilmember

Garica and Councilmember Morera to go over the ordinance in detail and go over any tweaks before it goes into effect.

Town Manager Pidermann asked Vice Mayor Fernandez to also include the Police Department and Code Enforcement when scheduling this meeting because they are the ones that will be enforcing it. Vice Mayor Fernandez stated yes, and he will also include the Deputy Town Attorney.

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

#### **G. Most Patriotic Town in America (Cid)**

Prior to this item being heard, Councilmember Morera asked for a moment of personal privilege to introduce a gentleman, Mr. Stanley Jean Paul, who just moved into the town two weeks ago. Mr. Stanley Jean Paul then came before the Town Council and participated in public comments. He gave an overview of himself and why he moved into the town.

Mayor Cid presented his item and explained that in his opinion, Miami Lakes is the most patriotic Town in America and spoke about the map and atlas publisher Rand McNally.

Mayor Cid then motioned for Town Staff to work with the Veterans Committee for them to apply for the prestigious designation to name Miami Lakes, The Most Patriotic Town in America. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Garcia and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

#### **H. Trimming of Town Owned Trees Over Residential Property (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented the item. He stated that he loves the Miami Lakes tree canopy and that we also need to make sure trees don't pose any hazard to people's property. He would like to create a more transparent system for residents to know when their neighborhood is due to be trimmed. As a dual-purpose item, he also would like for the people that do request a tree trimming service, to start moving into more technologically advanced ways of dealing with our customers, so the town residents, which are our customers, get a customer relationship management system that keeps our residents updated throughout the process. He stated that if the information was inputted into a streamlined process, it would reduce staff time of doing these menial tasks and they can focus on more important tasks and keep our residents up to date and provide a more accountable level of service. Vice Mayor Fernandez then made a motion directing the Town Manager and Town Staff to come back with ways of improving the tree trimming request for service process and make it a more advanced and friendly process. Councilmember Morera seconded the motion.

Town Manager Pidermann stated that Jeremy and his team will work with German, IT and with Vice Mayor Fernandez to come up with some processes to get this done. The motion 6-0; Councilmember Dieguez was absent.

## **I. Mayors Gala Resolution (Cid)**

Mayor Cid presented this item and explained that he wanted to pass a resolution just preserving the Mayor's Gala for the Special Needs Advisory Board. He knows they've never done this before and he does not believe it is in the Special Needs Advisory Board's resolution, so he just wanted to pass something. He added that the moment himself, Councilmember Ruano, and Councilmember Collazo leave, the priorities change, and he doesn't want it to fall to the wayside because it happened in the past. Mayor Cid stated that he just wants to pass a resolution to that extent to make sure it gets memorialized long-term for the benefit of the Special Needs Advisory Board. Vice Mayor Fernandez seconded.

Vice Mayor Fernandez added that his only concern is how much teeth does a resolution have and how permanent it is. Vice Mayor Fernandez added a friendly amendment to give the Deputy Town Attorney an opportunity to come back with other options, maybe not a resolution, that may be more permanent. Mayor Cid stated that's fine, and they'll roll it into the main motion.

Councilmember Morera added that he loves the Mayor's Gala and the work of the Special Needs Advisory Board, but his only concern is it being permanent. He stated that needs and priorities change over time. He stated that the Special Needs Advisory Board is a need that needs funding but maybe a future Mayor wants it to benefit a different committee. He added that currently the Mayor's Gala is voluntary but the moment they do this, it becomes a mayoral duty and restricts the mayors in the future.

Councilmember Collazo stated that he wholeheartedly supports the gala but what if a different Mayor wants to take a different path or the committee is being fully funded by the town. He stated he completely supports it and memorializing it but wants to make sure they aren't tying their hands because there may be an opportunity to fund other things, and he doesn't want to limit it to that particular group.

Councilmember Ruano stated that she applauds Mayor Cid for bringing this item because she can understand how his tenure is coming to an end and he's concerned about how this important committee will continue to be funded and she shares that concern. She asked if there is anything they can do to establish, perhaps a permit for an annual gala for the Special Needs Advisory Board instead of attaching it to the Mayor's Gala or Mayoral seat per say. She added can they make it more about the committee and their objective versus the Mayor, so they don't have to worry about a future Mayor coming in and perhaps wanting to go in a different direction. She added there would still always be a Special Needs Advisory Board Gala and if the future Mayor wants to call it the Mayor's Gala, they can but the committee will always have an open door to host that yearly gala if they need that funding. She stated maybe they can go in that direction.

Mayor Cid stated that's fine, and all the recommendations will get rolled into the one motion and that the Town Attorney will work on it to bring back the option to the Town Council.

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

**J. Status of Street Lighting Review (Fernandez)**

Vice Mayor Fernandez presented his item. He stated that the Town recently completed two street lighting improvement projects, and he is curious as to what the lessons learned were. He mentioned that he is interested in doing more of these in the future, but he would like first to take a deep dive, because he understands that there were some delays in implementations, and he would like to mitigate some of those short falls in the future. He then made a motion instructing Town Staff to do a thorough post-mortem over those two projects and come up with our own internal best practices for how to roll these projects out in the future. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano. The motion passed 4-0; Councilmember Dieguez, Councilmember Morera, and Mayor Cid were absent.

**15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:**

None.

**16. MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

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

Public Works Director, Omar Santos, presented the monthly infrastructure report which also included reports on the following New Business Items: Guardhouse Paver Enhancements (Cid), Adopt a Road/Park Program (Garcia), and Wall of Heroes (Cid). Public Works Director Santos and Communications and Community Affairs Director, Clarisell De Cardenas, 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

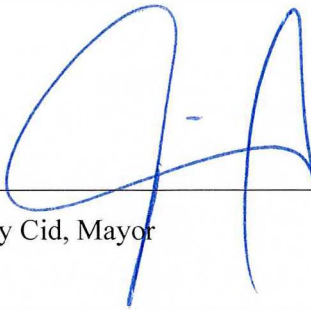
**17. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, presented the Attorney's Report and stated that he will be revising the Attorney Representation Policy for the next council meeting.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024.



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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:



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Gina M. Inguanzo, Town Clerk