

MINUTES
Special Call Meeting
August 19, 2019
7:30 P.M.
Council Chambers
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Town Clerk, Gina Inguanzo, called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Luis Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez and Marilyn Ruano, and Mayor Manny Cid. Carlos Alvarez joined the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilmember Josh Dieguez Collazo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Councilmember Luis Collazo led the invocation.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Former Mayor Wayne Slaton came to the Town Council and praised the Town Attorney for his presentation, spoke about the historical context of the two bridges, stated that back during the 2000's, Miami-Dade County and both cities, Hialeah and Miami Lakes, were in total agreement and on the same page, when the Interlocal Agreements were entered into; he added that at the time, Commissioner Seijas acknowledge that 170th did not need to be opened, and took 170th out of the 20 year Metropolitan Planning Program, to widen 170th; and supported the Town Council 100% to preserve the Interlocal Agreements.

Esperanza "Hope" Reynolds came to the Town Council to speak about Channel 23's Erika Carillo's traffic issues report, taxation without representation, Special Taxing District charges, the removal of two lanes from 826 and the bridges of NW 154 and NW 170th.NW

Alex Ariano came to the Town Council to speak about the struggle to address issues with local/county governments, \$23 trillion in debt at the federal level, traffic issues and gridlock and express lanes on the Palmetto and mental health as the most important issue today.

Ed Carrera came to the Town Council to thank the elected officials about fixing the traffic gridlock on 154. He also spoke about the situation of bridges on NW 154 and 170th

James McGrath came to the Town Council to speak about the bridges of NW 154 and 170th.

John Roberts spoke about the great quality of life of the Town of Miami Lakes, the South Florida Autism School and about the bridges of 154 and 170th.

Derek Cintron came to the Town Council and spoke about the bridges of 154 and 170th, the possible ramps on these roads and about the litigation with respect to the bridges

JC Fernandez came to the Town Council and stated that he is against the opening of both bridges and urged the Town Council to proceed with the litigation.

Lillian Leon Gonzalez came to the Town Council and spoke about the traffic situation and the good quality of life of the Town of Miami Lakes. She stated that she is against the opening of both bridges.

Susana Herrera came to the Town Council and spoke about the possibility of building ramps to give access to I-75 on 170. She showed her design and a copy of her design was submitted to the Town Clerk.

Roger Goren came to the Town Council and spoke about the recent constructions around Town Hall and the traffic congestion on 154.

Jorge Gerena came to the Town Council and spoke about the good Town Attorney's presentation and about the public safety issue regarding traffic congestion on 154.

Hector Aleman came to the Town Council and spoke about good Town Attorney's presentation, traffic congestion and signal light coordination on 154, the mega mall and the traffic situation in the Town of Miami Lakes, and he supports the construction of a linear park on 154.

Claudia Lucas came to the Town Council and thank Councilmember Ruano for speaking against the statements expressed by Mayor Hernandez, about the repercussions that the Town of Miami Lakes will feel, if the bridges are opened and about commercial trucks riding over those bridges.

Mirtha Mendez came to the Town Council and stated that the issue with the bridges needs to be dealt with now.

Jose Mijares came to the Town Council and stated that he misses the cows in Miami Lakes and that the problem of traffic is due to the overbuilding taking place. He also stated that the Town Attorney did a good presentation.

Andres Suarez came to the Town Council and stated his concern about the traffic congestion, if the bridges were to open. He states that the Town of Miami Lakes should not have to pay for the mistake done by the City of Hialeah.

Maribel Balbin came to the Town Council and thanked Councilmember Ruano for speaking against the statements expressed by Mayor Hernandez, about the importance of the Interlocal Agreements signed by the two cities, about the fact that Commissioner Diaz and Commissioner Bovo neither live in Miami Lakes – yet they make decisions regarding the two bridges, and about her request to FDOT, to start the express line one mile from its current position, so that the residents of Miami Lakes could have an option to use the express lane.

Diana Raines came to the Town Council and stated about the traffic congestion on 170 and that her neighbors and her do not want the bridge to open.

Celia Rocco came to the Town Council and stated the Town Attorneys' presentation was very good and solid, about the lack of planning from the City of Hialeah and about the good quality of life in the Town of Miami Lakes.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Bridges of 154 & 170th (Collazo)

Mayor Cid expressed his desire for the Town Attorney to present his PowerPoint presentation on the bridges and all the facts of the case and allow the public to be fully informed first, and once the PowerPoint Present concludes, the Public Comments section of the Agenda will take place. All were in favor.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the NW154th & NW 170th Bridges and the Conflict Resolution.

Councilmember Ruano stated that the Town Council as a whole, would like to request from the Honorable Mayor of Hialeah, Carlos Hernandez, a public apology to the residents of Miami Lakes for the remarks he recently said about our residents.

Councilmember Collazo introduced the item.

Councilmember Dieguez motioned to direct the town administration, for the Town Attorney to begin the dispute resolution procedures with respect to the 170th bridge and to authorize the Town Attorney to pursue litigation with regards to both bridges, using their discretion. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Councilmember Collazo expressed his wish for the town administration to review Ms. Susana Herrera's design and for Town Administration to provide a clear, definite answer regarding her design, which is to provide access and connectivity from 170th to I-75. Councilmember Collazo then amended the original motion, for it to state that Ms. Susana Herrera's design should be analyzed and explored as an alternative and for Town Staff to report back to the Town Council. All were in favor of Councilmember Collazo's amendment to the original motion. Then, the Town Clerk called the roll on the original motion as amended, passed unanimously.

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to consider starting the construction of the bridge lineal park, on its initial portion of 154. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

After some discussion, Councilmember Rodriguez amended his motion for it to read as follows: I want to direct town staff to start phase 1 of the 154th bridge park and as a separate authorization, I direct town staff to look into alternatives at 170th. The amendment was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and all were in favor.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the original motion as amended, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Cid called for a recess at 10:12 pm.

Mayor Cid called the meeting back to order 10:25 pm. The Town Clerk, Gina Inguanzo called the roll with the following Councilmembers present: Luis Collazo, Josh Dieguez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Nelson Rodriguez and Marilyn Ruano, and Mayor Manny Cid. Carlos Alvarez left the meeting at 10:20 pm.

B. Needs Assessments of Special Needs Population (Cid, Collazo, Ruano)

Mayor Cid made a motion to approve the partnership with FIU Jorge M. Perez Metropolitan Center, to do the Needs Assessment of the Special Needs Population in the Town of Miami Lakes. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez.

After some discussion, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to move this item to next Tuesday's meeting and to get input from the Special Needs Advisory Board Committee and also let them know that most likely, for this year, the funds to pay for the proposed assessment will come from the Committee and that next fiscal year, the Council will look at other ways to fund the assessment. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion. After some discussion, Councilmember Dieguez withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to amend the original motion, to state that the Town Council will commit to funding at the very least, \$10,000 for the Special Needs Advisory Board Committee in the next coming fiscal year, year 2020. Mayor Cid seconded the

amendment to the original motion. Councilmember Rodriguez added that he agreed with the amendment, but that the time to address when or how we are going to get those funds is next Tuesday. Town Manager Pidermann added the following comment to the amendment “as long as there is nothing in the Resolution that created the Special Needs Advisory Board that would prevent us from allocating money to the Committee”. The amendment to the original motion passed 5-1, with Councilmember Dieguez voting in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

The Town Clerk called the roll and the original motion as amended, passed unanimously.

C. Manager’s Report

Strategic Planning, Performance and Innovation Manager, German Cure, presented the item. He explained that in early August, the company called Drone Training School USA approached the Town of Miami Lakes to provide an in-kind, unsolicited drone footage and marketing video service for the Town.

Mr. Cure explained that the drone footage would be captured by staff from the Drone Training School as well as students from Kidworks USA, which is an after-school program center. Drone Training School provides a drone training program at Kidworks to children 4-13 years of age and is partially funded by the Children’s Trust Foundation. In the case of the Town of Miami Lakes, the drone footage will showcase areas of the Town, such as streets and roads, canals, parks, etc., that are a part of the Miami Lakes Imagine 2025 strategic plan.

Mayor Cid made a motion to approve the partnership program with the Town. Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion and all were in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Approved this 10th day of September, 2019.

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

Gina Inguanzo, Town Clerk