

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
November 12, 2019
6:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

Special Presentations took place prior to the commencement of the Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Cid and the Town Council presented a recognition to Mr. Michael Huffaker, for his contribution serving as the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee.

Mayor Cid and the Town Council recognized and thanked the following sponsors for their participation at the State of the Town Address: Nick Mastrovito, Music Director from Mater Lakes Academy, Eddie Escobar from Guachos Gourmet Market, Teacher and Chef David Nunez from Miami Lakes Educational Center Culinary program, and Mara Falero for Jetstream Financial Credit Union.

Councilmember Ruano and the Town Council recognized Jorge Quintero from Eastern Signs for his in-kind service in assisting the Town of Miami Lakes by moving the military banners at the last minute after the vendor installed the banners incorrectly.

Mayor Cid asked Chairman Tony Fernandez from the Youth Activity Task Force to come up to the podium and recognize Ariana Rejas and the members of the Orchestra for the Limitless Love Project. Tony Fernandez called up the members and read each certificate. The entire Town Council recognized them.

Mayor Cid asked Luis Reyes to come up to the podium and he spoke about Movember, and his work raising awareness this month as an organization that supports foundations that support prostate cancer and mental health. He explained that November is the month to create more awareness and get your friends and family members tested.

Mayor Cid asked the Special Needs Advisory Board members to come up and for them to call up the sponsors, after the Gala Video was played. The following sponsors were thanked and recognized: Fantasy Designers, Bacardi, Sergio's Cuban Café & Grill, Hope Foundation, Miami Dade Firefighter Local 1403, Popular Bank, Ana G. Mendez University, DraftPros, Joshua Hertz Law Firm, BankUnited, Stratwell Real Estate, Hialeah Park Racing & Casino, Commissioner Esteban Bovo Jr. District 13, Layer 8 Solutions, Sun City Strategies, Lake Orthodontics, Graham Companies, The Therapy

Labs Body 4 Yoga, Amerant Bank, Golden Corner Jewelry, Sharp Insurance, Vicky Bakery, Tower Pest Control, Miami Lakes Auto Mall, Disorderly Blondes, Hatuey Beer, Power 96, Oliva Cigars,, Events by Eli, Bustelo Café, Miami Luxury Auto Rent, Video Creations, MVP Advertising, Glenda Anders, SalsaSon Quintet, Light FX Pros, Azucar Ice Cream Company.

Mayor Cid asked the Town Manager to present the Proclamation to Eliezer Palacio, for his leadership and contributions as the Building Official of the Town of Miami Lakes.

Mayor Cid introduced the Property Appraiser of Miami Dade County, Mr. Pedro Garcia, who addressed the Town Council and spoke about his legislative priorities and how well the properties are doing in Miami Dade County. He also stated that he wants to sit down with the School Board and find a way to increase the salaries of the teachers but not to impose a tax increase from the residents of Miami Dade County.

Mayor Cid introduced Kevin Valido, who presented a Powerpoint on his Children's Story Book titled "Know me for my Ability Not My Disability".

Vice Mayor Rodriguez introduced the Civil Air Patrol group, who addressed the Town Council about encouraging to establish a squadron of the Civil Air Patrol division in the Town of Miami Lakes.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

The Town Clerk, Gina Inguanzo, called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis Collazo, Joshua Dieguez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez, Marilyn Ruano and Mayor Manny Cid. Councilmember Carlos O. Alvarez was present via conference call.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Richard Hubbard led the invocation.

Ariel Fernandez was present via video and presented his meditation video from "Better You Minute".

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Troop 584 from Miami Lakes did the Presentation of Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR:

The Town Council submitted their ballots to the Town Clerk and the Town Clerk read the ballots out loud, thereby casting their votes for Vice Mayor.

Councilmember Nelson Rodriguez received 4 votes, Councilmember Collazo received 1 vote, Councilmember Dieguez received 1 vote and Councilmember Ruano received 1 vote.

Thus, Councilmember Nelson Rodriguez became the Vice Mayor.

6. ORDER OF BUSINESS (DEFERRALS/ADDITIONS/DELETIONS):

Mayor Cid requested from his colleagues to allow Mr. Pedro Garcia, the Property Appraiser, to give his presentation before Public Comments; also, Mayor Cid requested to move up, Item 14H and the Royal Oaks HOA Board and Item 14F to be heard after Public Comments; Vice Mayor Rodriguez requested for the Civil Air Patrol group to speak after item 14F. Councilmember Ruano motioned to adopt the Order of Business and it was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. All were in favor.

Before Public Comments, Mayor Cid asked for Order of Business to be re-opened. Vice Mayor Rodriguez moved it and Councilmember Collazo seconded. All were in favor. Mayor Cid then pulled Item 14D of the Agenda and stated that he will bring back this item in a future meeting. He stated that he wants feedback from the Economic Development Committee and that he will bring it back in a future date. Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to move it and it was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. All were in favor.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Town Clerk, Gina Inguanzo, read the instructions of proper decorum that are to be respected and followed in the Council Chambers of the Town of Miami Lakes.

Bonnie Cintron came before the Town Council to speak in favor of Item 14C; however, she asked the Town Council to be reminded that newly elected officials usually get sworn in during the December Council Meeting, so she recommended for the Swearing-in Ceremony to take place a few days after the elections.

Mirtha Mendez came before the Town Council to speak about the recent election of the Vice Mayor. She read a section from the Town Charter pertaining to the election of the Vice Mayor and stated that this title should be for a year and that the next year, somebody else gets to be vice mayor. She expressed that the intent was to rotate it and

not to keep it in somebody's hand forever. She told the Town Council that the recent Vice Mayor election was wrong.

Claudia Luces came before the Town Council to recognize the Veterans Day Parade Committee for all their work and congratulated Chairman Hassan for his leadership and an outstanding event. She stated that for her, this is the best event in the TOML and that she is very happy that the Town Council was able to find a way to fund it for the next year. She also expressed her concern with #palante campaign from Item 14D and she asked the Town Council to remember that taxpayers have invested time and money on the Growing Beautifully Campaign Logo and that the TOML should focus on this Logo, and on repaving 82nd Avenue. She stated that when this item is brought back to the Town Council, they need to remember how the town has been branded and that words can have a significant impact on this town and on our property values and she stated that we need to continue pushing forward "Growing Beautifully" and not reinvent the wheel.

8. APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Cid recused himself because one of the appointees, Mr. Diuego Cifuentes, works for him at the Mayors Café. He asked Councilmember Collazo to preside the meeting on his absence.

Xiomara Castillo to the Elderly Affairs Committee, by Vice Mayor Rodriguez

Gaby Pineda to the Elderly Affairs Committee, by Mayor Cid

Larry Borman to the Veterans Affairs, by Vice Mayor Rodriguez

Diego Cifuentes to the Elderly Affairs Committee, by Councilmember J. Rodriguez

David Garces to the Elderly Affairs Committee, by Councilmember Alvarez

Rosario Navarro to the Elderly Affairs Committee, by Councilmember J. Rodriguez

Ruben Miguel to the Veterans Affairs, by Councilmember Alvarez

Nancy Matos to the Youth Activities Task Force by Councilmember Alvarez

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to approve the Committee Appointments. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Safety Committee Report

The Chairwoman of the Public Safety Committee, Ms. Nancy Rogers, read the names of all the committee members. She presented to the Town Council the budget for 2019-2020, which was included in the Agenda.

B. Neighborhood Improvement Committee Report

The Chairman of the Neighborhood Improvement Committee, Mr. Rudy Lloredo, provided the Town Council with an update and stated that the NIC will be voting on the last proposal of the designs pertaining to the wrappings of the electrical boxes and he also added that the NIC will be deciding on the company that will be doing the designs of the wrappings of such electrical boxes.

Mayor Cid called Ms. Lynn Matos to speak on behalf of the World Kindness Day. She explained that last year, from the funds of the Food & Wine Festival, the Town Foundation presented a check to Bob Graham Education Center, for the “Throw Kindness Like Confetti” initiative. Ms. Matos stated that the new hashtag is #Drink wine, be kind”.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Vice Mayor Rodriguez made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 3, 2019 Special Call Meeting
- October 8, 2019 Regular Council Meeting
- October 15, 2019 Workshop
- October 22, 2019 Attorney-Client Executive Session

B. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN MANAGER PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OF ORDINANCE 17-203, TO ACCESS THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH CONTRACT 2017-039-JC FOR PLUMBING SERVICES AS LONG AS BUDGETED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THESE SERVICES; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPENDED BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

- C. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, MODIFYING THE BUDGET APPROVED BY ORDINANCE NO. 18-230 AND AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 19-237 and 19-243; MODIFYING BUDGETED LINE ITEMS; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

11. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING:

A. 8 FOOT FENCES (Cid)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO PERMITTED FENCE HEIGHTS FOR SINGLE-FAMILY AND TWO-FAMILY BUILDINGS; AMENDING CHAPTER 13, “LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE”, AT ARTICLE V, “ALLOWABLE ENCROACHMENTS INTO THE REQUIRED YARDS AND EXCEPTIONS TO THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED HEIGHTS”, AT SECTION 13-1509, “FENCES, WALLS AND GATES,”; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION INTO THE CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Cid)

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, read the title of the ordinance into the record.
The Town Manager presented the ordinance.

Mayor Cid made a motion to approve the ordinance in first reading and Councilmember Dieguez seconded. The Town Clerk called the roll and ordinance in first reading passed, 6-0, with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

12. ORDINANCE – SECOND READING:

None

13. RESOLUTIONS:

None

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. 20% Reserves (Dieguez)

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to amend the reserve ordinance and change the unassigned reserves balance from 15% to 20% of the budget and to do this

gradual increase over the next three fiscal years. Councilmember J. Rodriguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mayor Cid stated that he would like to see a model similar to the one in the City of Altamonte Springs, which is the most healthy financially speaking city in the state of Florida.

B. Neighborhood Service Districts Capital Improvement Straw Ballot (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to request a straw ballot question of the residents residing within the district, when a capital improvement project within that district is proposed, which will exceed 15% of the operating budget for that specific district. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

It was discussed, that the straw ballot question would be sent to the people paying into the district. It was also stated that during the budget process, during the end of the third quarter, the straw ballot question would be mailed out. The cost of the straw ballot question is to be funded from their own district budgets. Mayor Cid stated that he would like each district committee (each Board) to decide and vote this item up or down. After the discussion, the motion passed 5-1, with Mayor Cid voting in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

C. Change Council's Month Off (J. Rodriguez)

Councilmember Rodriguez motioned to have a regular council meeting in the month of August and instead, not have a regular council meeting during the month of December. Also, he motioned to have the regular council meetings of July, November and January during the third Tuesday of the month. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion.

After some discussion, Councilmember J. Rodriguez re-stated his motion and stated that he would like to amend the Special Rules or Order, for there to be a regular council meeting during the month of August, for no regular council meeting to take place during the month of December and for the regular council meetings to be moved to the third Tuesday's of every month effective January 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. Mayor Cid requested for the March 2020 and July 2020 Regular Council Meeting to stay during the 2nd Tuesday and Councilmember Rodriguez accepted his request. The motion passed 6-0, with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

D. Main Street Movie Theater (Cid)

This item was pulled during the New Order of Business Section of the Agenda.

E. Neighborhood Service Districts Budgeted Reserves (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo made a motion relating to the Neighborhood Service Districts, to set a threshold limiting yearly reserves to no more than 15% reserves in our neighborhood service districts. Councilmember Ruano seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-1, with Mayor Cid voting in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

F. Girls Scouts Event at Miami Lakes United Methodist Church (Cid)

Mayor Cid introduced the Girls Scouts Troop 472 and asked them to present the item. Victoria Cuervo explained that the four members worked on their Silver Knight Award. She explained what the Silver Knight Award is and stated that their idea was to create awareness to anti-bullying and so they organized a color run race at the Methodist Church. Rebekah Tannehill stated that her role was financing and graphic design and mental bullying. Yazmin Leon stated that she was the pledge collector and she spoke about physical bullying. Aranza Yanes stated that she was the contact adviser and she was in charge of speaking about the different types of cyber bullying and their effects.

Mayor Cid made a motion to officially endorse this yearly Color Run to happen at the Methodist Church. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The motion passed and they were all in favor. Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

G. Hire a Veteran (Ruano)

Councilmember Ruano made a motion for Town Staff to diligently work in having a Veteran Hire Policy and for Town Staff to reach out to the Economic Development Committee and ask them to help us achieve this goal. The Town Manager explained that Ms. Alejo has been diligently working in making a better impact with hiring more veterans and that she has been training to make the Town of Miami Lakes into a more veteran friendly town.

H. Royal Oaks East & West (Cid)

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to waive the Special Rules of Order, Councilmember Rodriguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mayor Cid made a motion to combine Royal Oaks Guard Gate District East & West under one umbrella. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. Mayor Cid stated that members from the HOA Association were present in Council Chambers and that they wanted to address the Town Council.

The Following individuals from the HOA addressed and answered questions posed by the Town Council:

William Garciga, resident for 20 years from the Royal Oaks East came before the Town Council and stated that Royal Oaks Association “owns” (applies) to 53% of all the homes of the community; he explained that it has been very challenging to find quorum for the Royal Oaks West and he mentioned that he believes that by combining both the East and the West under one umbrella, they would get better negotiating power from the vendors and that it would make the decision making process better; that by having a single special taxing district for both, he proposed it should be composed of 4 members of the HOA and in addition, 3 members of the non-HOA, totaling 7 members. He also stated that he believes it would help the decision-making process and reduce the political battles among different groups, and that it would enhance the area.

Homero Cruz, resident of Royal Oaks, agreed with the statement given by Mr. Garciga. He did mentioned that he would suggest maybe increasing the number from 7 to 9 members and explained that the Royal Oaks Association Board has 5 members, and that he would like all 5 members to be part of the Special Taxing District and then bring on 4 non-HOA members (2 from the East and 2 from the West) and have these 9 members be part of the combined Special Taxing District. Mr. Cruz also acknowledged that the Special Taxing District only makes recommendations and that the final decisions are to be made by the Town Council. He also stated that there are 1,250 homes in the Special Taxing District and 666 homes are in the Royal Oaks Association; so, about 53% of all the homes are in the Royal Oaks Association.

Maria Barreto, from the GRS Management, Inc. explained that the Royal Oaks Association is composed of 666 homes and about 10 of them do

not belong to the Special Taxing District.

After the discussion, Mayor Cid summarized his motion the following way: Motion to combine the East and the West and become one committee, for Town Staff to come back in December with a resolution for the Town Council to approve or not approve. Town Manager added that staff will come back with an equitable distribution between HOA residents v. Non-HOA residents, and an equitable distribution between the west residents v. east residents and a fair process for selecting all these individuals.

All councilmembers were in favor.

15. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Mayor Cid gave a detailed report on his trip to Tallahassee.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to withdraw the EOC Appropriations Request and the NW 87th Avenue Ramp Request from consideration of the Legislative Priorities. Palmetto expansion and the underpasses and to make it a Legislative Priority.

Councilmember Collazo made an amendment to include as part of our Legislative Advocacy, the removal of the Express Lane and to add that we are in full support of the Speaker and of several representatives that are trying to have the Palmetto Express lanes removed. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

16. MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Egan Lane Street Closure & Safety Update

Carlos Acosta, Public Works Director, explained the Egan Lane Street Closure issue and the steps that the Town has taken to improve the safety in that road, by installing the traffic safety signs and by installing speed bumps in that area.

Full road closure report was rejected by the County. Partial closure of the road is what the consultant is looking into and town staff is looking into these options now.

B. Town Manager Monthly Police Report

Town Major, Javier Ruiz, provided the monthly crime report to the Town Council. He stated that the Police team has been providing extra protection to the shopping centers and provided assistance at the Halloween Event and the Veterans Parade.

17. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, stated that regarding the Pizzi case, they are working again on the discovery phase and that they will be taking a deposition of Mr. Pizzi and following up on the Attorneys Fees expenditures.

Regarding the Bridge litigation, the County will be responding by November 15th.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Approved this 10th day of December.

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

Gina Inguanzo, Town Clerk