

MINUTES
Special Call Minutes
April 30, 2020
7:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None.

2. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

3. ROLL CALL:

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

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Marcos Gutierrez led the invocation.

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

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Dennis Brenes led the Pledge of Allegiance

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

Councilmember Dieguez asked for Item 17A to be heard right after Public Comments. Vice Mayor Rodriguez asked to be a co-sponsor of Item 14B and 14C.

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the new Order of Business and Councilmember J. Rodriguez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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

Nancy Rogers called to listen to the meeting.

Megan Rodriguez called to speak in support of Item 14B.

After the discussion of Item 17A, Orlando Duque, Jakey's dad from Jakey's Army, called and joined the meeting. He called and shared the good news about Jakey's MRI results and stated that the hospital was discharging them. Mr. Duque was happy to share the good news and invited the Town Council to celebrate Jakey's birthday on May 8th. He asked for assistance from the Police Department for traffic purposes. The Town Council and the Town Manager stated that the Town of Miami Lakes will provide assistance to make his birthday caravan experience a safe one.

8. APPOINTMENTS:

None

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. CONSENT CALENDAR:

None

11. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING:

None

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS – ORDINANCES- SECOND READING:

None

13. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING SPECIAL RULES FOR VIRTUAL QUASI-JUDICIAL MEETINGS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

The Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella presented the item and explained that these rules are to be used via the platform zoom, for all the quasi-judicial proceedings meetings. He explained that Quasi-Judicial proceedings require the notices to be mailed out to the applicant and to the neighbors near the applicant, and exhibits to be provided to the Town Clerk 5 days in advance and that Town Hall Council Chambers will be opened for live

testimony of participants that need to testify and need to be sworn in. The Town Clerk will be in Council Chambers to swear the participant during quasi-judicial proceedings.

After the explanation provided by the Deputy Town Attorney, Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the recommendations put forth in the Quasi-Judicial Rules. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo and all were in favor.

14. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Reemployment Benefits Resolution (Cid)

Mayor Cid explained that the state of Florida made the benefits already retroactive to March 9th. Mayor Cid made a motion to ask the state of Florida to put in place what the state of Georgia did, which was to allow the people in the service industry, to collect full unemployment benefits even if they start collecting their weekly wages. He asked for the Deputy Town Attorney to work on the resolution attached and make the appropriate changes. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. All were in favor.

B. Honoring Miami Lakes High School Seniors for Graduation (Collazo)

The Town Clerk stated for the record that emails from Mrs. Annette Riveron and Mrs. Ditas were received in support of this item and that the emails were shared with the Town Council.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to have banners line up in the streets, recognizing high school seniors and to honor them; for people to nominate and place a banner up recognizing high school seniors and for this idea to be worked with the collaboration of the EAB and for this to be budget neutral, to work on sponsorships. Councilmember Ruano seconded this motion and all were in favor.

C. Resuming Council Meetings in Council Chambers (Ruano)

Councilmember Ruano stated that she would like to have public meetings to take place in Council Chambers soon. She asked the Deputy town Attorney to explain if this could happen soon.

The Deputy Town Attorney stated that no more than 10 people shall gather on a public street, alley, public way, sidewalk or government facility open to the public in Miami Dade County and he explained that is the reason why all municipalities are conducting their public meetings via a zoom platform. He explained that until there is further notice from Governor DeSantis, zoom meetings are the platform that we need to continue using.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to immediately resume meetings in Council Chambers, once the orders are lifted, but also to direct the Town Attorney to prepare a resolution, asking Governor DeSantis and Mayor Gimenez to permit local governments to resume meetings in their government facilities, as soon as possible. This motion has two parts, first asking the Governor DeSantis and the mayor of Miami Dade County, to lift the restrictions as soon as possible and then, once lifted, for our meetings to take place in Town Hall. Councilmember Ruano seconded this motion.

It was discussed that the Town Councilmembers would sit on the Dais, and maybe the Town Charter Officers sit on the floor in front of the Dais, and Town Staff to be at their offices or at home and attend the meeting via zoom. Councilmember Dieguez added that the intent of the motion is for the 10 person requirement in local government to not apply to the residents because the residents would still be able to contribute thru remote public comments as they have done before; it would be geared to the legislative body and to allow them to be in Council Chambers during the meeting, with proper guidance and social distancing. All were in favor.

15. REPORTS:

None.

16. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

None.

17. MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Economic Development Committee Recommendations

The Town Manager provided detailed feedback on the 8 measures that were adopted on April 21st Regular Council Meeting by the Town Council, from the list of requests by the Economic Development Committee. After explaining the 8 measures, the following participants spoke:

Alex Ruiz, resident and business owner stated that he participated in the County Advisory Group for real estate and retail, and he stated that retail guidelines regarding re-opening for small businesses, workplaces and small manufacturing that were not already covered under the essential business will be shared in the next two days. He stated that the Mayor Gimenez has not given a timeframe yet for lifting the County's Order, which supersedes anything the individual cites can do.

Chair Eddie Blanco thanked the Town Staff for their hard work. He stated that he has received a lot of feedback from business owners. He also stated that Mayor Gimenez created many groups, around 10 groups in order to get feedback and ideas from medical professionals and business professionals. Chair Blanco gave his input on the detailed feedback that was provided by the Town Manager.

The Town Council then decided to go over all the 8 recommendations one by one and to make separate motions for each one. The first recommendation considered was the one of re-opening of small businesses.

Mayor Cid made a motion to pass a resolution asking Miami Dade County to follow Governor DeSantis lead to open small businesses on Monday, May 4th. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano. It was emphasized during the discussion of this motion, that Mayor Gimenez should use all the documentation he has received and to open sooner than later, that the Town of Miami Lakes should be seen individually, that we have a small number of cases in the town and that our residents have been quarantined and following social distancing, as requested. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Collazo made a motion to reach out to our local, state and federal representatives asking for their support in requesting for more Testing Sites and to add the language that local pharmacies are willing to do the testing at their sites and to request rapid testing results or speed testing. Also, to include Congressman Rick Scott, as well. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to open up the discussion of the item regarding the proposed sales tax suspension from the EDC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano. After discussion, Councilmember J. Rodriguez made a motion to deny the petition from the EDC regarding the suspension of the collection of sales tax. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez and all were in favor.

Motion by Councilmember Collazo for EDC to send out letters to local groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and trade organizations and create a collaboration and communications between other town and other organizations and ask them, or encourage them, or suggest for them to suspend the collection of dues and to extend free memberships to new and existing businesses throughout the end of the year; highlighting our successes and not dictating them what to do. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The Town Manager concluded by saying “asking them what to do without being overt”. All were in favor.

Councilmember Dieguez moved to adopt the Town Manager’s recommendations to relax the standards for BTR’s by sending warnings and extending the time to come into compliance thru July 31st. This motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo and Vice Mayor Rodriguez. All were in favor.

Councilmember J. Rodriguez made a motion to change new and pending application for changes in use, to pay mobility fees in a payment schedule over a six-month period and not lumpsum. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion.

Councilmember Collazo made an amendment to the main motion for it to allow the extension of 6 months to pay and not issue the Certificate of Use until payment of the mobility fee is paid in full. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the amendment and all were in favor. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the motion failed 2-4, with Councilmember Ruano, Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Mayor Cid voting in opposition.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion and the motion failed, with Councilmembers Collazo, Dieguez, Ruano and Vice Mayor Rodriguez voting in opposition.

Motion for the Town Manager to work with the Deputy Town Attorney and bring back a proposed ordinance, to incorporate the preference for all produces procured by the services to be made within the town limits if available. Cost neutral language to be added in the ordinance. The motion was made by Vice Mayor Rodriguez and seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

Motion by Councilmember J. Rodriguez for the EDC, in conjunction with the Town of Miami Lakes, via the Town Liaison, to continues coordinating local business chambers and trade groups, with weekly educational outreach trainings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo and all were in favor.

Motion to have a Sunshine Meeting for the EDC, the Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council and Town Staff to be able to sit and discuss transparency, communication and collaboration and discuss the allocation of funds to the Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Ruano made the motion and Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Deputy Town Attorney drafted the resolution that the Town Council had requested regarding small businesses and it was shared via email with the Town Council and via zoom, for their kind review. The Town Council asked the Town Attorney to include at the end of Section 2, the following language: “the Executive Order 20-112, effective May 4th, 2020”

18. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

None.

19. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 pm.

Approved this 30th day of April 2020

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inganzo, Town Clerk