

**MINUTES**  
**Virtual First Budget Hearing**  
**September 8, 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 p.m.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inganzo, called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Luis Collazo, Joshua Dieguez, Jeffrey Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez, and Mayor Manny Cid. Councilmember Marilyn Ruano connected at 7:40 PM. Carlos Alvarez was absent.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

Councilmember Josh Dieguez led the invocation.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mayor Cid stated that the Veteran's Committee Report, Item 8A, was to be discussed after all the budget items. Councilmember J. Rodriguez motioned to move the order of business and it was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

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

Ms. Teri Olivert stated that she would like the Mayor and Councilmembers to help her connect with the appropriate contacts for the Windmill Gate community. She wants to see if there is a possibility of revamping the Windmill Gate private parking area.

Written Public Comments:

Ms. Hope Reynolds submitted several public comments via email. They were regarding the following: regarding an email sent by Mirtha Mendez, emails sent to the property appraisers offices and Miami Dade County commissioners.

Ms. Mirtha Mendez sent several public comments via email regarding the millage rate and budget hearing.

Ms. Bonnie Citron sent a public comment via email regarding the roll back rate.

**7. APPOINTMENTS:**

None.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

A. Veteran's Committee

Chairman Angel Vazquez of the Veterans Committee proposed to do a Virtual September 11<sup>th</sup> remembrance event at Picnic Park West.

Councilmember Ruano motioned to approve the event and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**9. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

None.

**10. ORDINANCE-FIRST READING:**

A. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE OF THE TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, PURSUANT TO SECTION 200.065, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO TAX COLLECTOR; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

Town Attorney read the title of the ordinance for item 10A into the record.

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, read into the record the following statement: the proposed millage rate for Fiscal year 2020-21 is 2.3127 the same rate as the current fiscal year. The gross taxable value for operating purposes is three billion, six hundred and thirty-six million, nine hundred fifty-five thousand, and seven hundred and twenty-two dollars (\$3,636,955,722). The proposed millage rate will generate seven million, nine hundred ninety thousand and six hundred and twenty-eight dollars (\$7,990,628) in ad valorem revenue budgeted at 95% collection rate. The proposed millage rate of 2.3127 4.68 % above the roll back rate of 2.2094.

Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez moved to approve the millage rate at 2.3127. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez.

After discussion, the Town Clerk called the roll on the motion to approve item 10A in first reading. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition and Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

B. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021; PROVIDING FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CARRYOVER OF FUNDS; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ADOPTED CAPITAL BUDGET AS THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

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

The Town Manager introduced the item.

Councilmember Dieguez proposed several suggestions. He made no motion to adopt these suggestions. He would like the Town Council to consider the following suggestions: cutting the travel budget for Mayor and Councilmembers, cutting the Florida League of Cities membership, repurposing the run-off election funding to unlock savings account, cutting the Halloween event budget, and cutting holiday banner funding. He also proposed cutting the Neighborhood Improvement Committee's Bike Rides in the Fall and re-evaluate the possibility of holding them in the Spring 2021. He stated all committee budgets should be re-evaluated due to not being able to hold events during COVID-19.

Town Manager Pidermann stated all the committees' have either cancelled or re-vamped certain events. The committees are proposed to receive the same budget they received last year.

Vice Mayor N. Rodriguez, Councilmember Dieguez and Councilmember Ruano questioned why there was an increase to Parks and Recreation salaries. Town Manager Pidermann, along with Parks and Recreation Director Danny Angel, explained these employees were hired before COVID-19 and have all been repurposed.

Vice Mayor N. Rodriguez and Councilmember Dieguez asked about the possibility of lowering our health insurances rates and asking Cigna for rebates as most employees have not been able to visit their doctors. Town Manager Ed Pidermann stated he would investigate this.

Councilmember Ruano questioned if our park facilities generated any savings during the park closures due to COVID-19. Town Manager Pidermann explained there were primary savings regarding utilities and janitorial cost.

Councilmember Collazo questioned what stage the Town was moving forward with Par-3 park. Town Manager Pidermann stated the Graham Companies were at a standstill with Miami Dade County DERM.

Councilmember J. Rodriguez moved to hold a Sunshine Meeting to discuss cuts and re-purposing of funding before the second budget hearing. It was agreed for this meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM. Councilmember Collazo seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Councilmember Collazo then moved to approve item 10B to second reading. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the ordinance in first reading passed 6-0, with Councilmember Alvarez being absent.

## **11. 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 FOR SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURITY GUARD AND MULTIPURPOSE MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Pidermann)

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

The Town Manager introduced the item.

Councilmember Ruano asked staff to clarify if the Neighborhood District meetings were taking place virtual. Town Manager Pidermann clarified that all the meetings had taken place virtually.

Councilmember Collazo asked if mailing notifications of these meetings had been done because there was a budget line item for mailings. Parks and Recreation Director Danny Angel stated that mailing notifications done. Mr. Angel stated that signs were posted about these meetings along with the Town Clerk's publications in the newspapers and in the Town Website.

Deputy Town Attorney Lorenzo Cobiella stated that the clerk's office had done proper notification of these meetings based on Florida Statute. He clarified that the Town is not required to due mailing notifications.

Councilmember Collazo moved to approve item 11A in second reading. Mayor Manny Cid seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll, and the ordinance in second reading passed 5-0, with Councilmember Alvarez and Vice Mayor Rodriguez being absent.

## **12. RESOLUTIONS**

None

**13. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Hunger Action Day (Collazo)

Councilmember Collazo moved to recognize Feeding South Florida and the HOPE United Methodist Church. He would like to light up Town Hall in orange and for Town Staff (voluntarily) wear orange on September 10th. In addition, he would like to present a proclamation to both of these organizations whom have made it their mission to combat hunger during these very trying times, at the next Regular Council Meeting, scheduled to take place on September 15<sup>th</sup>

Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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**14. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORT:**

None

**15. MANAGER'S REPORT:**

None

**16. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

A. Pizzi v. Town of Miami Lakes

Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi, requested to schedule an Executive Session on September 16, 2020 at 8:30 AM.

Town Manager Pidermann stated the session will take place in council chambers and that the open session of this meeting would be live-streamed.

**17. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

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Gina Inguanzo, Town Clerk