

MINUTES
Virtual 2nd Budget Hearing
September 22nd, 2020
7:30 p.m.
Government Center
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, Florida 33014

1. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

None

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Manny Cid called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, called the roll with the following Councilmembers being present: Carlos Alvarez, Luis Collazo, Jeffrey Rodriguez, and Mayor Manny Cid. Vice Mayor Rodriguez joined the meeting at approximately 7:38 pm, Councilmember Marilyn Ruano joined the meeting at approximately 7:38 pm. Councilmember Josh Dieguez joined the meeting at approximately 7:46pm.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Deputy Town Manager, Tony Lopez, led the prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of the Allegiance was led by Parks and Recreation Director, Danny Angel.

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

Mayor Cid moved to add Item 8b and reminded everyone that both Committee Reports would be discussed after the Manager's Reports. Councilmember J. Rodriguez pulled Item 13B. Councilmember Collazo moved to accept the new order of business and the motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez. All were in favor.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Town Clerk, Gina M. Inguanzo, 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.

Mr. Carlos Fernandez Guzman, expressed his concern over any possible consideration for the reduction of the millage and reduction of services; he stated that the Miami Lakes has had a high standard of living for many years; that he had served as the president and treasurer of the Optimist Club; that he served the community well, that the Town of Miami Lakes has provided good infrastructure and protection at high levels that have been envied by many other communities, that a reduction of the millage rate will only put in jeopardy the ability to provide those services and skills that are necessary by the community; he stated that he is the CEO of a local bank and that he does not want the town to sacrifice now and to have to catch up later; he recommended not to increase the millage rate but to continue at the current rate, to maintain and protect our residents and our infrastructure.

Mr. Eddie Blanco stated that he believes in fiscal conservatism; that the prudent thing to do is to keep the way it is ; that the Town of Miami Lakes has the fourth lowest millage rate in the country and that he would like to see us keeping our taxes low, but to roll back is concerning; sidewalks, replanting trees and drainage systems all need to be taken care of; he expressed his concern over the possibility of not getting the projections from the state funds and the impact from covid-19; to watch the budget as much as we can but leave the millage rate as is.

Written Public Comments:

Ms. Mirtha Mendez sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Ms. Bonnie Cintron sent a written public comment regarding taxes and expenditures in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Ms. Hope Reynolds sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Mr. Albert Aguiar sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Ms. Daissys Estrada sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Mr. Angel Gonzalez sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Mr. Jorge Llerena sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Lina Cantero sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Darlene Estevez sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Mr. Andres Rodriguez sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Ms. Rocio Garcia sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Mr. Ocasio Aguiar sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Mr. Alexander Ariano sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

Ms. Pilar Dalmau sent a written public comment in opposition of the proposed millage rate and asked for the rolled back rate of 2.2094.

7. APPOINTMENTS:

None

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Economic Development Committee

Chairman Eddie Blanco spoke on behalf of the EDC and asked the Town Council for approval of two different matters.

On the first item, Chairman Blanco explained that the EDC would like to host a Candidates Forum/Debate to take place during the second week of October; the Debate to include the four candidates running for office in the Town of Miami Lakes Municipal Election and also to include in this debate, the four candidates that are running for the State Representative Seats #103 and #110. Chairman Blanco explained that the debate would be free of cost. Mayor Cid made a motion to approve the EDC hosting the debate and Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. Councilmember Dieguez asked Chairman Blanco to consider partnering with the Miami Lakes Bar Association due to the fact that the Bar Association had already mentioned that they wanted to host a debate in October. Chairman Blanco acknowledged to reach out to the Bar Association.

The Town Attorney recommended for Councilmember Ruano to recuse herself from voting, due to the fact that she is a candidate for the Municipal Town of Miami Lakes elections.

The motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Ruano recused herself from voting.

On the second matter, Chairman Blanco explained the EDC would like to do a Scavenger Hunt, from November 12th to November 28th, to promote small businesses in our town. The funding source would come from an existing line item from the Communications Department, to promote economic development and the App to be purchased, will be able to be used for other committees as well. Vice Mayor Rodriguez motioned to allow the Scavenger Hunt and it was seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Blanco mentioned that EDC member Andrea Rechichi was the person who came up with this idea and thanked her for it.

B. Cultural Affairs Committee

Chairman Neil Robinson thanked the councilmembers who were instrumental in making the private sponsorships happened and thanked JC Fernandez and SFM for donating funds towards the case that will be bought and for making it possible, for the articles to be displayed in Town Hall.

Chairman Robinson presented his first item. He explained that the CAC would like to work collaboratively with the Hialeah Women's Club to advertise the Children Art Competition for the youth of the Town of Miami Lakes – to include all students in public, charter and private schools in K-12, and that it would be funded by that grant. Chairman Robinson explained that the CAC is requesting the authorization from the Town Council to accept the funding from Hialeah Women Club. The total amount of the grant is \$40,000. Mayor Cid motioned to approve the authorization and it was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. All were in favor.

Chairman Robinson presented another item. He explained that CAC would like to work with the Hialeah Women Club to identify a historical sight in Miami Lakes and for Historical Marker to be placed in the town. Councilmember Collazo moved to approve the CAC request and it was seconded by Mayor Cid and Councilmember J. Rodriguez, simultaneously. It was discussed that the Town Council is welcomed to be involved in identifying the sight of this historical marker. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Robinson presented a third item. He explained that the CAC would like to recognize the Hispanic Heritage Month by hosting a "Hispanic Family Dinner Drive-thru Afternoon". Mayor Cid made a motion to approve and establish the Hispanic Family Dinner Drive-thru for only families of the town.

Mayor Cid made a motion to extend the Budget Meeting to 11:20 pm. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 5-2; Councilmember Alvarez and Dieguez voted in opposition.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR:

None

10. ORDINANCE – FIRST READING:

None

11. ORDINANCE – SECOND 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.

The Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi read the title of the Ordinance 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 and fifty-five thousand, and seven hundred twenty-two dollars (\$3,636,955,722). The proposed millage rate will generate seven million, nine hundred ninety thousand, 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 is 4.68% above the roll back rate of 2.2094.

Councilmember Alvarez moved to approve the millage rate at 2.3127. The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-1; Councilmember Ruano voted in opposition.

- 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.

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

The Town Manager, Edward Pidermann, presented the item.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to adopt the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo.

After some discussion, Councilmember Collazo made an amendment to the main motion to take \$100,000 earmarked to the PTP monies and allocate it to immediate infrastructure projects, so that the monies would be delivered for infrastructure lighting, for pedestrian crosswalks improvements that both Councilmember Alvarez and Councilmember Dieguez have been advocating for; that is, Councilmember Collazo re-stated the motion for \$100,000 earmarked

to the PTP monies, to be added to the budget for capital expenses. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez.

After some discussion, Councilmember Ruano made a motion to amend Councilmember Collazo's motion and stated that she would like to allocate \$250,000 from the line item of the PTP funding and to earmark it for the 83rd Place drainage project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. After further explanation from Town Staff, Councilmember Ruano withdrew her amendment to the motion.

The Town Clerk called the roll and Councilmember Collazo's amendment to the main motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember J. Rodriguez then asked the Town Manager to provide the Town Council, at the next meeting, a reasonable solution to fix the 83rd Place drainage problem and to determine how much will be the cost of the project and what funds will it come from, so that an educated decision could be made.

Councilmember J. Rodriguez then made a motion to take the \$100,000 that was moved from the PTP monies, and instead take them from the contingency reserve fund that we have in a mobility fee trust account funds, and take it from \$295,000 to \$195,000 and then repay those PTP funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ruano. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to allocate \$238,000 from contingency and move it to capital fund for drainage of the 83rd Place project and \$100,000 be moved from the 59th avenue PTP project to the drainage of the 83rd Place project. Councilmember J. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and it passed unanimously.

Councilmember Dieguez made a motion to amend the budget so that the \$15,000 of the travel budget line item, the \$2,000 of the National League of Cities line item and the \$3,000 of Holiday Banner line item are rolled into the savings fund. The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez.

Councilmember Collazo made an amendment to Councilmember Dieguez' motion, and stated that he would like to insulate the mayor's portion – leave the Mayor's portion intact for him to travel- and for all the other 6 councilmembers to forego their portion of the travel budget; for the \$15,000 budget line item to go down to \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 4-2, with Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Councilmember Dieguez voting in opposition. Town Attorney Raul Gastesi advised Mayor Cid to recused himself on this vote. Mayor Cid recused himself.

The Town Clerk called the roll on Councilmember Dieguez' motion, as amended, and the motion passed 5-1; Vice Mayor Rodriguez voted in opposition and Mayor Cid recused himself.

Councilmember Ruano made a motion to put on hold the tree planting and replacing of trees for this new fiscal year – because it is an uncertain year- and wait and see how the year progresses with regards to the state revenue sharing and if the funding is there and available, then move forward to revisit at a later date and leave it "as is"; she also suggested putting those monies into the fund balance. Councilmember Dieguez seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion did not pass 3-4; Councilmembers Alvarez, Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Mayor Cid voted in opposition.

The Town Clerk called the roll on the main motion to adopt the budget, as amended, and the motion passed unanimously.

12. RESOLUTIONS:

None

13. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Vote of Confidence (Cid)

Mayor Cid made a motion for a vote of confidence to be given to the Town Manager, Ed Pidermann and the motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-1; with Councilmember Ruano voting in opposition.

Mayor Cid made a motion for a vote of confidence to be given to the Town Attorney, Raul Gastesi and Deputy Town Attorney, Lorenzo Cobiella and the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Cid made a motion for a vote of confidence to be given to the Town Clerk, Gina M. Inganzo and the motion was seconded by Councilmember J. Rodriguez. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Cid made a motion for a vote of confidence to be given to the Town Police Department and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Cid made a motion to extend the meeting for 10 more minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collazo and all were in favor.

Mayor Cid made a motion for a vote of confidence to be given to the entire Town Staff and the motion was seconded by the entire Town Council. The Town Clerk called the roll and the motion passed 6-0; Councilmember Alvarez was absent.

B. Lake Katherine Special Taxing District (J. Rodriguez)

This item was pulled by Councilmember J. Rodriguez.

14. MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

None

15. MANAGER'S REPORTS

A. Amending the FY 20-21 Budget to Transfer \$3,000 from Contingency Line for Economic Development Committee Budget

Town Manager Pidermann reminded the Town Council that in the last Regular Council Meeting, they took a vote to move the \$3,000 that was allocated to the Miami Lakes Chamber of Commerce from the Economic Development Committee and to move it to Administration, for the Town to pay it as a membership.

Town Manager Pidermann also reminded the Town Council that on the last Regular Council Meeting, the Town Council spoke about potentially reallocating \$3,000 additional funds to the Economic Development Committee from the Contingency Account. Town Manager Pidermann reminded the Town Council, that they voted to have a discussion regarding the \$3,000 at the 2nd Budget Hearing.

Town Manager Pidermann explained that after the discussion held during item 11B, the funds in the Contingency account will now be allocated for the 83rd Place Drainage project.

After some discussion, Councilmember Collazo made a motion for the Town Council as a whole, to come together and get private sponsorships and contribute to the \$3,000 that the EDC is requesting, and try to leverage this amount on their behalf, since the Town Council will use the contingency funds for other things; maybe each councilmember can try to get \$500 in commitments and try to bridge that gap. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Dieguez. All were in favor.

B. Seeking Private Sponsorship for Cultural Affairs Committee Request

Councilmember Dieguez acknowledge and thanked resident JC Fernandez, who stepped up and gave \$1,500 sponsorship to buy the case to be able to display the artifacts in Town Hall. Councilmember Dieguez thanked him and stated that he is a Miami Laker who loves our town and who wants to commemorate the history of our town. The Town Council thanked Mr. Fernandez.

Councilmember Collazo added that he was able to gather the remaining \$1,500 from a private sponsorship donated from SFM. Councilmember Collazo thanked SFM and Mr. Christian Infante for the donation and for understanding the importance of preserving these artifacts. Councilmember Collazo summarized that by the donation of JC Fernandez and SFM, the total cost of the case to preserve the artifacts has been covered.

The Town Council thanked both private sponsors.

16. ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

None

18. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 am.

Manny Cid, Mayor

Attest:

Gina M. Inganzo, Town Clerk