



City of Miami Springs, Florida
City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 28, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers at City Hall
201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:05 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Xavier M. Garcia
Vice Mayor Billy Bain
Councilman Bob Best
Councilman Jaime A. Petralanda
Councilwoman Roslyn Buckner

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
Assistant City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria
Recreation Director Omar Luna

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Mayor Garcia

Salute to the Flag: Students from Miami Springs Elementary School lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag

- 3. Awards & Presentations:**

A) Presentation of Certificate of Completion to Councilwoman Roslyn Buckner by Commissioner Katy Sorenson, Founder of Good Government Initiative, for the Successful Completion of Leaders of Excellence Program

Former County Commissioner Katy Sorenson presented Councilwoman Buckner with a Certificate of Completion for her successful completion of the Leaders of Excellence Program.

B) Officer of the Month for February 2016 presented to Officer Brian S. Nickerson

Chief Guzman gave a few opening remarks and then introduced Sgt. Sandoval who read his nomination letter for the Officer of the Month award for February 2016. Sgt. Sandoval presented the Officer of the Month Award to Officer Nickerson. Officer Nickerson thanked the Sergeant for his recommendation; he also thanked his family and the Council for their support.

C) Recognizing longtime resident Charles "Chuck" Delongchamp on his 92nd Birthday

Mr. Delongchamp accepted his award and thanked the City for the recognition. He briefly spoke about how he ended up living in Miami Springs sixty-seven years ago.

D) Presentation by Fire Chief Dave Downey, Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department, Regarding the Department's Accomplishments and Services to the City of Miami Springs

Miami-Dade County Fire Chief Dave Downey presented the annual report for 2015 and a review of the services that were provided to the City by Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue. He reported that Station No. 35 responded to 86% of the calls; there are seven fire stations within five miles of the City with more than 43 firefighters on duty every day and the response time within the City is 6 minutes, 6 seconds.

E) Legislative update by the City's Lobbyists Jose Fuentes and Jose Bermudez, Becker & Poliakoff

Jose Fuentes and Jose Bermudez addressed the Council on the latest legislative session. They both indicated that a lot of the projects that were presented for consideration were later vetoed by the Governor. They are optimistic that the next session will be more favorable to the City and to the rest of the County.

F) Yard of the Month Award for April 2016 – 531 Hunting Lodge Drive – George Fitzpatrick and Mary Lamberts

Ms. Mary Lambert was present to receive her Certificate of Recognition for her yard being selected as the April Yard of the Month.

4. Open Forum:

The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Mara Zapata, 272 Cherokee Street, Donna Hernandez, 769 Pinecrest Drive, Robert Sami, 340 Payne Drive; Laura Pilgrim, Chuck Adam, Robert Ruderman.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

A) March 14, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Vice Mayor Bain moved to approve the minutes. Councilman Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bain, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Buckner, Councilman Petralanda and Mayor Garcia voting Yes.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions: None at this time.

7. Public Hearings: None at this time.

8. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted)

motion, which carried 4-1 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bain, Councilman Best, Councilman Petralanda and Mayor Garcia voting Yes; Councilwoman Buckner voting No.

11. Other Business: None.

12. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Seiden updated the Council on the Red Light Camera lawsuits will be heard in May for our district. He will keep Council up to date on the issue as it progresses.

B) City Manager

City Manager Gorland addressed the raccoon issue. He stated that the City will place the trappings on hold. He said that they are causing a lot of expensive damage to the Golf Course and turf. The City Manager stated that the trapping program will not continue and that administration will continue to look for other solutions.

C) City Council

Councilman Best thanked administration for their recent response on the raccoon issue. He understands that it is an issue and more of an ethical issue at that. He also thanked Laura Pilgrim and Robert Ruderman for their statements earlier on the issue.

Vice Mayor Bain had nothing to report at this time.

Councilwoman Buckner attended the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday and she thanked the recreation staff for putting on an awesome event this year.

Councilman Petralanda also thanked the administration for halting the raccoon trappings. He also thanked Omar Luna and staff for the Easter Egg Hunt event. He expressed concern that parents are rushing into the egg hunt and suggested a more orderly way for kids to enjoy the hunt.

Mayor Garcia also addressed the Easter Egg Hunt event. He requested that staff look into possibly have a professional photographer taking pictures for the event. He recognized the individuals that expressed their concerns on the raccoon issue. He received calls from both sides, those that were in favor of the raccoon removal and those who were not. He thanked the City Manager for his response on the issue as well. The Mayor addressed the playground outcome and he wanted to point out that the Council and public needs to have faith in our staff.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on
This 11th day of April, 2016.


Zayier M. Garcia, Mayor

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