



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **SPECIAL MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 5:01 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:01p.m.

The following were present:

- Mayor Xavier M. Garcia
- Vice Mayor Bob Best
- Councilwoman Jennifer Ator
- Councilman Dan Espino
- Councilman George V. Lob

Also Present:

- City Manager James R. Borgmann
- Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
- City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
- Chief of Police Peter G. Baan
- Finance Director William Alonso
- Human Resources Director Loretta M. Boucher
- City Planner James H. Holland
- Recreation Director Omar L. Luna
- Programs Supervisor Patricia A. Bradley
- Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

2. Invocation: Councilman Espino offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

3. Approval of the City Attorney's Invoice for June 2011 in the Amount of \$12,717.00

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Councilman Lob moved the item. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

4. Resolution No. 2011-3518 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Setting the Tentative Operating Millage Levy for Fiscal Year 2011-2012; Setting Time, Date and Place for Public Hearings on the Proposed 2011-2012 Budget and Tentative Millage Rate

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the first part of the resolution.

Finance Director Alonso explained that Council must set the tentative millage levy.

To answer Mayor Garcia's question, Mr. Alonso stated that the Administration is recommending a tentative millage rate of 6.92 as outlined in the memorandum dated July 20th. This millage rate is lower than last year's rate of 6.9408 and creates a shortfall of \$405,000. He referred to a listing of items that would cover the deficit in addition to alternative items to be considered during the budget workshops.

Councilman Espino asked how the slight increase that people will experience could be neutralized.

Finance Director Alonso responded that 6.8 mills would create a deficit of \$508,000 or an additional \$103,000 and this would be a zero increase for homesteaded properties.

City Attorney Seiden reminded Council that once the tentative millage rate is set it cannot go higher, but it can be reduced.

Vice Mayor Best asked if the additional \$91,000 that was required for the operation of the Community Center was factored into the budget.

Finance Director Alonso responded that the additional personnel for the Recreation Department are already factored into the budget.

Councilman Espino said that there had been a slight increase in property values. The roll back rate generates the same amount of funds and people will see an increase in the property taxes. He wanted to know what the millage rate would be in order for the residents to pay the same as last year.

Finance Director Alonso clarified that property values increased 1.5%.

City Manager James R. Borgmann referred to a fund balance analysis prepared by the Finance Director.

Finance Director Alonso explained that the calculations do not take into account any budget savings the City may experience at the end of the fiscal year. He was asked to provide a rough estimate of what the fund balance would be and he estimated \$288,000. This is not a savings; it is a reduction of the fund balance that has already been appropriated.

Vice Mayor Best stated that he appreciated the analysis provided by the Administration, but the financial times are not going to get better over the next budget year and he would like to reduce the tentative rate by at least 1/10th of a mill over the recommendation.

Councilman Lob explained that Council is going to be discussing ways to reduce the millage rate and that 6.92 is a good starting point.

To answer Councilwoman Ator's question, Mr. Alonso confirmed that last year's tentative millage rate was set at 6.9628.

Councilwoman Ator moved to set the tentative millage rate at 6.9628. Councilman Lob seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Ator stated that she would agree to reduce the millage rate and 6.9628 seems like a good starting point.

Vice Mayor Best would like to set the tentative millage rate so that it is a message to the residents that Council's intention is to reduce taxes in some fashion.

Mayor Garcia added that Council's intention is to try hard to reduce taxes without jeopardizing the quality of life and the quality of services.

Councilman Espino stated that even though the tentative millage rate can be lowered, he would not want to expand it so much so that it allows too much flexibility. He said that setting the millage rate at 6.9628 would allow the possibility of going above the roll back rate and he would vote against the motion on the floor. He is committed to lowering the millage to 6.8 and to ensure efficiency without cutting services.

Vice Mayor Best was in full accord with Councilman Espino's opinion and will also vote against the motion.

To answer Councilwoman Ator's question, Mr. Alonso stated that the roll back rate is 6.9208. He said that the tentative millage rate will be proposed on the tax bill that goes out to the residents in 30 days. The County has lowered its millage and the residents will see a savings; a tentative millage rate of 6.9628 would really be higher than the current 6.9408 and residents will see a slightly higher increase on their bill for the City side.

Mayor Garcia asked what would be the amount of the increase if the millage is set at 6.9628.

Finance Director Alonso responded that the average increase would be \$21.00 versus \$15.00.

Mayor Garcia asked Councilwoman Ator if she would consider retracting her motion.

Councilwoman Ator said that someone could suggest an amendment to her motion, but she was not interested in retracting.

The motion failed 1-4 on roll call vote with Vice Mayor Best, Councilman Espino, Councilman Lob and Mayor Garcia casting the dissenting votes.

Councilman Espino moved to set the tentative millage rate at 6.9200, or the roll back rate, with the intention of setting it below that rate. Vice Mayor Best seconded the motion.

Mayor Garcia stated that Council is going to work hard to reduce the millage rate and he would like to set the tentative millage so that there is no increase to the residents on the proposed tax bill.

Councilman Lob stated that Council is committed to reducing the millage rate but he does not want to set the tentative rate too low. He felt that 6.9200 is fine.

To answer the Mayor's question, Mr. Alonso stated that setting the millage rate at 6.8 would increase the deficit to \$508,000 instead of \$405,000. The Administration has provided a list of \$900,000 of potential reductions for various items.

Councilman Espino suggested setting the millage rate at 6.8600 and work down from that point.

Councilwoman Ator commented that the tax bill includes other taxing authorities, although the residents look at the bottom line.

Mayor Garcia would like to send a clear message that Miami Springs is lowering the millage rate and the City's tax is only one portion of the bill.

Councilman Espino said that Council has an obligation to reduce the millage rate and not to hide increases within the other reductions. If the County and the School Board have reduced their millage rates, the City should be able to do the same.

Finance Director Alonso stated that the County lowered their millage rate to the 2009 levels and the City's millage rate in 2009 was 6.7992.

Assistant Superintendent Helen Blanch with Schools of Choice, Miami-Dade County, stated that the School Board set the tentative operating millage levy at .472 mills and capital outlay millage levy of 1.600 mills. The State established and required local effort millage levy was set at .693 mills and a debt service levy of .240 for a total millage levy of 8.005 mills.

Councilman Espino withdrew his motion. He moved to set the tentative millage rate of 6.8600. Vice Mayor Best withdrew his second and seconded the amended motion.

Councilwoman Ator stated that she very much approves of lowering the tax rate for the residents, but she would not vote to set it lower than the Administration's recommendation before the workshop discussions.

The motion carried 4-1 on roll call vote, with Councilwoman Ator casting the dissenting vote.

City Attorney Seiden read the resolution in its entirety.

Councilwoman Ator moved to adopt the resolution. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

5. Presentation by Miami-Dade Public Schools Regarding a Charter School to be Opened at the Old Glenn Curtiss Elementary School

City Manager Borgmann stated that Council requested a presentation and it was determined that this meeting would be the appropriate time since time is of the essence.

Helen Blanch, Assistant Superintendent for School Choice, Miami-Dade County Public Schools of 13660 S. W. 100 Avenue, 33176 and Vera Hirsh, President of the Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation, Inc. of 10270 S. W. 109 Street, 33176 introduced themselves for the record.

Ms. Blanch stated that the budget discussions began approximately six months ago and their elected board gave very direct instructions to the Superintendent that the end result at the close of the school year would be a smaller school system without touching the classrooms or firing any teachers. She explained that there was a resolution for a complete reorganization of the District and a reduction on district level operations by \$13.7MM through salary reductions, demotions and the loss of some jobs.

Ms. Blanch said that she currently oversees 91 charter schools and there will be 109 schools beginning this year and they are the most popular and rapidly growing choice option for parents. She said that the Superintendent's goal is for all parents to have more than one option. By Charter law, as the District has available space, it is offered to charter schools and they would hire the District as the management company. She explained that they are a not-for-profit school and everything must be invested in the school so they had to make sure it is financially feasible for the District.

Ms. Blanch explained that Glenn Curtiss is still set up as an elementary school and will require less time to open. Part of the proposal is to have a very detailed lease and management agreement according to the Statute. This is a Charter School that is being hired to provide services, including security, food, transportation, etc. The school will begin with kindergarten, first and second grades and will be called "The Glenn Curtiss Academy for International Education."

Ms. Vera Hirsh stated that the community is very excited about the school and they have received hundreds of telephone calls. She explained the children will be taught Spanish beginning in kindergarten with a goal of them being bilingual and bi-literate. In the future if the grades expand to twelfth grade they are hoping to have students graduate with a third language. The school will be ready to open on August 22nd and they hope to gain community support. She has met with the Miami Springs Police Department to go over the student drop-off and the school hours will be from 8:20 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Ms. Blanch explained the current application is for a K-8 facility. The school was designed as a K-5. The Foundation would have to come back to the Board to amend the contract if the school was to go to a K-8 and it would also depend on space. For the current year they are hoping for one kindergarten class, one first grade class and one second grade class.

Mayor Garcia informed Council that he has received telephone calls from concerned residents who just found out about the school. He said that there was no outreach or information given to the residents or the elected body and that is disturbing since the City has an education compact.

Ms. Blanch explained that the first notice to the Board was July 13th and there was no discussion allowed outside the school district without approval. They are trying to get the word out as quickly as possible; this is a pilot program and that is why they are starting out very small with minimum impact.

Mayor Garcia continued to explain the resident's concerns about the charter school.

Ms. Blanch stated that next week at the regularly scheduled Board meeting the Superintendent will unveil his new programs for next year, including eighteen new magnet programs, increase in charter schools, etc. She said that hopefully they can work with the City to ensure that the school meets the needs of the community.

Mayor Garcia stated that because the School District owns the property there is not much the City can say about the charter school.

City Attorney Seiden agreed that the School District owns the property, they are not building a new facility and it seems like a logical situation. He hopes that the City's cooperation will be taken into consideration when the City asks for the School Board's cooperation in regard to Stafford Park and other locations.

Mayor Garcia stated that the K-8 potential is a concern for him. He said that there is not much the City can do and he would like to maintain communication and the relationship with the City and the neighboring residents in regard to traffic.

Councilman Lob explained that he also received telephone calls from concerned residents. He would like the City to be informed of any meetings so that the residents or elected officials can attend.

To answer Mayor Garcia's question, Ms. Blanch stated that the City Manager was informed of the agenda item and the meetings are publicly noted as required by the Sunshine Law.

Vice Mayor Best asked if the certification process for the charter school is complete.

Ms. Blanch responded that the contract has been approved by the Board and the final piece will be the approval of the lease agreement for \$1.00 per year and the actual cost of utilities. She said that the classrooms are very big and there cannot be more than 18 children per class according to the class-size amendment.

To answer Vice Mayor Best's question, Ms. Hirsh clarified that the school offers 90-minutes of reading and literature every day as well as mathematics and social studies in addition to other enhancements for learning.

Councilman Espino stated that he is a proponent of charter schools and applauded the efforts of Ms. Blanch and Ms. Hirsh. He received calls from the Springview Elementary School P.T.A. and they are concerned about losing their Vice Principal because the number of administrative positions are based on the number of students.

Ms. Blanch said that the Assistant Principal positions had been set for this year and the allocation is done by a formula based on the size of the school. She said that the conversion to a K-8 is a process that takes an entire year from the time the application is submitted and traffic studies must take place. In this case the application is being developed and it is highly unlikely that Springview will move to a K-8 because the school is at 95% capacity and there are no capital dollars.

Councilman Espino asked about the need for police services and if the charter school would draw from the City's funds.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the Miami-Dade County School Police are not actively involved in traffic control or those types of issues. He said that three classes of eighteen students is not going to generate that much traffic, but if the school grows there will be other issues.

Chief of Police Peter G. Baan stated that when he prepared his memorandum he did not have all the pertinent information in regard to the enrollment or operating hours. There is a significant amount of police response on a daily basis to the schools within the City because Miami-Dade School Police handles everything from the sidewalk to inside the school and Miami Springs handles incidents from the sidewalk out, including traffic problems.

Chief of Police Baan added that the City employs school crossing guards for the existing elementary schools and the charter school might also require a crossing guard. The positions are funded from County funds and any overages would be at the City's expense. He does not feel that three classes will have much of an impact, but future plans for a K-8 will add a significant amount of traffic.

To answer Councilman Espino's question, Chief of Police Baan explained that crossing guards are funded through parking ticket revenues.

Councilwoman Ator stated that she understands that the charter school is hiring the School Board. She would like to know what the agreement would cover.

Ms. Blanch stated that the management agreement covers the operation of the school. The teachers and Principal work for the governing board of the school and the School Board will provide custodial and food services, accounting and payroll assistance and writing grants. The School Board serves as the regional office and the curriculum is the school's responsibility. The school police and teacher training center will continue to occupy a small portion of the building until the school expands.

To answer Councilwoman Ator's question, Ms. Blanch explained that the charter school has a governing board that must publicly notice their meetings. The next meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 4th at the Hialeah campus.

Councilwoman Ator asked if the school has a separate website.

Ms. Hirsh stated that the website address is www.aiecharter.net and she can be reached at 305.883.3900.

Mayor Garcia urged Ms. Blanch and Ms. Hirsh to keep Council and the community informed.

Councilman Lob added that the charter school is invited to attend the Education Advisory Board meetings that are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

City Attorney Seiden advised Ms. Blanch and Ms. Hirsh to advise the City Clerk of any meetings in regard to a K-8 in light of past issues with a proposed ele-middle school.

6. Urban County Qualification for Participation in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Fiscal Year 2012-2014

City Manager Borgmann stated that he is withdrawing this item from the agenda. The Administration is preparing a package; there was a glitch with a resident who tried to participate with the County through one of the programs and it was just resolved two days ago. There was not enough time to get all the information together and the item will be placed on the agenda for the August 8, 2011 City Council Regular Meeting.

7. Discussion Regarding Ad for City Manager's Position

City Manager Borgmann stated that Council received information from Human Resources Director Loretta Boucher regarding the qualifications that will be placed in the advertisement for a new City Manager. Since Councilman Espino called Ms. Boucher with his concerns, the Administration felt that it would be appropriate to bring this to the attention of the entire Council before anything is added or changed.

Mayor Garcia asked Councilman Espino to explain his concerns or recommendations in regard to the advertisement.

Councilman Espino stated that Human Resources Director Boucher had solicited questions or comments from Council and he passed on a few of his comments in an e-mail and any changes should be agreed upon by Council.

Councilman Espino felt that the general requirements section in the notice and advertisement contains a confusing provision since it says "Masters Degree preferred" and that means it is not a general requirement. Personally, he would like this clarified and it does not specify what type of Masters Degree and a Masters Degree should be a requirement in conjunction with some of the qualifying experiences.

Human Resources Director Loretta Boucher explained that most cities that advertise for a City Manager's position list a Masters Degree as a preferred requirement and three years experience for a BA Degree in Public Administration with five years experience. She agreed with Councilman Espino that the advertisement should list that a BA Degree is accepted along with the necessary experience. The requirements say that a Masters Degree is preferred, but it does not specify what type of Masters Degree; it could be Public Administration or Political Science.

Councilman Espino would like to make the Masters Degree a requirement regardless of what type because someone could be well qualified that has a Masters Degree in Business Administration. If it is a general requirement he would like to eliminate "preferred" and leave it open ended with the experience or a BA Degree with the referenced experience.

Vice Mayor Best suggested that "related" experience would cover everything. He agrees that Business Administration, Public Administration and/or Political Science and five years experience is critical.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden asked Councilman Espino to clarify that he is recommending a change from "preferred" to "required".

Councilman Espino explained that he would not say that a Masters is explicitly required, but a Masters with experience or a BA with five years experience.

Councilman Lob said that a Masters Degree with three years experience or a BA Degree in Public Administration with five years experience would be required.

Councilman Espino agreed with Councilman Lob.

Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland explained that he does not have those qualifications.

Mayor Garcia stated that he made some calls to other cities and they use the language “preferred” so it is not mandatory because some City Manager candidates do not possess the qualifications. This would be something for Council to consider if there are two or three candidates and one without a Masters Degree might be better qualified for a number of reasons.

Councilman Espino commented that Council could carve out an exception for Assistant City Manager Gorland.

Mayor Garcia would not want to carve out an exception for one person; there might be other candidates with all the qualifications except for a Masters Degree.

Councilman Espino suggested a Masters Degree with three years experience or a BA in Public Administration with five years experience or a third category with a certain number of years experience in City Administration.

City Manager Borgmann clarified that what Councilman Espino is suggesting is called “progressive experience”.

To answer Councilman Lob’s question, Assistant City Manager Gorland explained that he has a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration.

Councilwoman Ator asked what the objection is to saying “Masters Degree preferred” with five years experience.

Councilman Espino explained that it is confusing because a Masters Degree is listed as a preference under General Requirements. He is trying to separate the categories of qualifications. Someone with business and city experience could be qualified to operate a city. The requirements could be a BA Degree in Public Administration and/or Business Administration.

Human Resources Director Boucher suggested language stating that a Masters Degree is preferred with five years experience in a City Manager or Assistant City Manager position or equivalent administrative experience with municipalities of similar size and complexity.

Councilman Lob clarified that Councilman Espino wants to eliminate “preferred” and say “Masters Degree with three years experience or a BA Degree in Public Administration and/or Business Administration with five years experience.”

Councilman Espino reiterated that “preferred” does not make a Masters Degree a requirement and it should be eliminated from General Requirements. He said most people would be covered by saying “Masters Degree with three years experience or a BA in Public or Business Administration with five years experience.”

Councilwoman Ator explained that someone with a BA Degree or Masters Degree in English could have been a City Manager for ten years; she would not want to limit it to Public or Business Administration.

Councilman Espino suggested creating a third category of a certain amount of years in progressive local government experience. The categories would be a Masters Degree with three years experience; a BA Degree in Public Administration or Business Administration with five years experience, or progressive experience in local government of at least five years.

By **consensus**, Council agreed with the requirements of a Masters Degree with three years experience; or a BA Degree in Public Administration or Business Administration with five years experience, or progressive experience in local government of at least five years.

Councilman Espino continued to explain that there was a discord between the preferred characteristics on the notice and the requirements in the advertising that candidates must possess strong financial management, human resources and communication skills. He asked for a consensus on what the preferred characteristics would be and to include the same in both the notice and the advertisement.

Human Resources Director Boucher explained that she referred to the past Council minutes when the requirements were discussed and incorporated those comments into the preferred characteristics.

Councilman Espino reiterated that the advertisement states that “Candidates must possess strong financial management, human resources and communication skills”.

Councilwoman Ator said that the advertisement would go out globally and the notice of employment would appear on the website. She said that going through the process the notice could be updated with additional characteristics and her concern is the advertisement that the City will pay to publish does not need to include all the preferred characteristics.

Councilman Espino stated that there was a discord between the terms “general”, “must”, “preferred” and “should”. He would like economic development to be one of the top policy objectives. He agreed with Councilwoman Ator that not all characteristics would be included in the ad.

Councilwoman Ator was in favor of including “strong financial management, human resources, and communication skills with economic development closer to the front such as “strong financial, economic development management, human resources and communication skills.”

City Attorney Seiden clarified that “should” would replace “must.”

City Manager Borgmann added that the website could have a very specific job description and the advertisement could refer to www.miamisprings-fl.gov

Mayor Garcia said that Council had to make sure that all the questions were answered before advertising for the position.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the Administration could send the information to Council one more time with the changes that were made.

Councilman Espino expressed his desire to send out the ad if everyone agreed.

Human Resources Director Boucher stated that the advertisement must go out this week in order to be included in the August issue of the Florida League of Cities Datagram.

By consensus, Council agreed to move forward with the advertisement with the appropriate changes.

(Mayor Garcia called for a five-minute recess at 6:45 p.m.)

8. City's 85th Birthday Celebration Discussion

City Manager Borgmann stated that while making plans for the City's 85th birthday celebration a suggestion was made that generated a great deal of discussion among the business community and staff. The purpose of tonight's discussion is to seek direction from Council on how to proceed.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the City is in the economic development mode and the suggestion of bringing in food trucks seemed like an intrusion on the existing businesses in the Downtown area since there are eleven food establishments close to the Circle. He is not for or against the trucks; it is simply a question of whether or not the business community is being interfered with by this suggestion.

City Manager Borgmann commented that the businesses were approached around the Circle, along N. W. 36th Street and the west end of the City and very little response was received because the owners do not want to come to the Circle to set up a food operation on a Saturday night. This left a void as to how the City will be able to prepare food for a crowd, except for being able to eat at the local establishments.

The food trucks are a new and exciting issue for the County and they are a very good experience, according to Mr. Borgmann. The Chamber of Commerce also likes the idea of having the trucks at the proposed "Green Market" in the fall. He asked Council for direction as to how they would like to proceed and if they are interested in five to seven trucks.

Councilwoman Ator provided additional information on how the idea for the food trucks came about and her ideas to bring them to the City. She has been in contact with a representative from Miami Food Trucks and thought of the City's birthday party because she does not want the City to have the additional expense of serving hotdogs or hamburgers. The food trucks are an opportunity to bring people into the City and she presented the idea to Programs Supervisor Patti Bradley.

Councilwoman Ator explained that Miami Food Trucks set aside August 27th for the City and she feels it is important for Council to make a decision. She reiterated that the Recreation Staff should not spend the time or energy to serve food for 750 to 1,000 people. She spoke with the Chief of Police about the potential of attracting 1,200 people and he said that there would not be a problem.

Councilwoman Ator felt that it would be a good potential for the businesses by exposing them to hundreds of people that would not have come into the City otherwise. She said that if the City remains the best kept secret no one will know that they should buy a house, open a business or come to dinner here.

Mayor Garcia said that in checking with some of the businesses he found that some had a problem, others did not care and some welcome the food trucks. The birthday event is proposed for Saturday night from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and other Circle events have not affected the businesses. He hopes to market the events and reach out to the public. He is not opposed to bringing in the food trucks because he spoke with the restaurant owners and they approve of attracting people to the area.

Mayor Garcia would like to see people discover and learn about Miami Springs. He spoke with the Chamber of Commerce to see how they felt about the event.

Donna Wood-Beney of 3971 N. W. 65th Avenue, Virginia Gardens, spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, explaining that the consensus of the Chamber members was that the food trucks would bring an uncomfortable message to the local restaurants. They decided to poll the restaurants to see how they felt about the birthday event on August 27th and most agreed to stay open and provide food service but they would not agree to setting up on the Circle due to the expense. She said that whatever the City decides to do the Chamber is willing to help.

Ms. Wood-Beney stated that she continued checking with the businesses in order to see if they would cooperate by serving food on the Circle and they will not be able to do that. The Chamber likes the food trucks and wants to utilize them for the "Green Market" in the fall.

To answer the Mayor's question, Ms. Wood-Beney said that the Chamber would be willing to put together a card listing the businesses and restaurants so that people that are standing in line at the food trucks can sample some of the food.

Councilman Espino stated that having the food trucks in Miami Springs on the 85th anniversary celebration is a secondary point. The number one issue is to celebrate the anniversary. He said that the food trucks attract more than 1,000 people with lines of more than 45-minutes and merged with the 85th anniversary it will “swallow up” that event and the other activities. Most of the restaurants are within close proximity and they could set up order stands and run the food to the Circle.

Councilman Espino would not be opposed to bringing in the food trucks on another day or during the “Green Market”. He said that the birthday celebration should be held with those people that are interested in celebrating the event. He does not want to bring in 2,000 people that are not Miami Springs’ residents to take away from the birthday celebration.

Mayor Garcia said that he had been to other municipal celebrations and they want everyone to come and see what their cities have to offer.

Councilman Espino explained that he had been advocating for marketing and better public relations for awhile, but the food trucks will attract people who will tailgate and bring their own coolers. Police presence is required and there will be trash all over the place. The 85th birthday is a special event, it should have been better publicized and plans should have been finalized a while back.

Mayor Garcia reiterated that other municipalities have had food trucks for their celebrations in addition to other activities. He said that people who do not want to stand in line will be given a list of all the other restaurants.

Councilman Espino agreed that the food trucks are good for using their social network to bring in people but it does not have to be on the 85th anniversary of the City.

Councilman Lob stated that many times a Circle event is not well known and when people see what is going on it peaks their curiosity whether or not it is a resident or someone just driving through. The food trucks will draw a lot of people and get their interest.

Mayor Garcia explained that the food trucks have followers and most people who refuse to wait in line will have the option of eating at the local restaurants.

Councilman Lob said that most restaurant owners want to be near other food establishments because that is what draws people. This will be a celebration of Miami Springs and a good time to advertise the City. He agreed that some people will come only for the trucks, but they will see what a beautiful City it is.

Councilman Espino thought that the 85th birthday celebration was going to be something special and he is disappointed at the way the plans are going.

Mayor Garcia referred to past Council minutes and the reference to plans to kick off the birthday celebration during the Springs River Festival with a secondary event. To this point, none of this has happened. He said that there is less than four weeks to the date.

Vice Mayor Best thanked Donna Wood-Beney for her efforts in soliciting the businesses in terms of their participation in this event. He said that the City has exercised due diligence in going to the businesses and they have not demonstrated much interest.

Vice Mayor Best also thanked Councilwoman Ator for bringing the idea to Council and thinks it would be wonderful to introduce the food trucks to the 85th birthday. He does not see any difference between the vendors that line the streets of the Springs River Festival versus four hours on the evening of August 27th.

Councilwoman Ator agreed that it is a great opportunity for the restaurants around the Circle to accommodate those people who do not want to deal with the food trucks. She would encourage the Recreation Department Staff to work with the food truck representative to discuss the options for food that will not conflict with the local businesses. She would also encourage the restaurants to stay open and prepare a flyer or card to inform the people of their options for food.

Mayor Garcia was of the opinion that the number one obstacle is for Staff to determine what the activities will be in order to impress and inform people about Miami Springs. He would like Staff to brainstorm ideas that could be presented to Council at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Omar Luna stated that Staff had been waiting for a decision on what to do about food before finalizing plans. They are planning for a concert band that will play music, and a slide show with guest speakers. The decorations will include balloons; there will be face painting and cupcakes among other ideas.

To answer the Mayor's question, Mr. Luna clarified that the food trucks will not cost anything. Public Works can set up the trash cans that will be emptied. The Police service will be the largest cost and they estimate \$1,100 without food trucks and \$1,300 with the trucks.

Mayor Garcia asked the Chief of Police if it is less expensive to close the entire Circle as opposed to leaving one lane open.

Chief of Police Peter G. Baan said that the food trucks will require the closing of the entire Circle earlier and the estimate is \$1,300 for the event that runs from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Mayor Garcia requested another report at the August 8th Council meeting on the plans for the event. He asked what plans there are for marketing the event besides the Gazette, Channel 77 and the marquee.

Mr. Luna explained that posters and flyers are being made for posting in local restaurants and businesses around town.

Chief of Police Baan asked if two hours would be enough time for the food trucks to set up.

Councilwoman Ator said that the food trucks are self-contained and they do not require any set up.

Chief Baan added that there must be plenty of portable restrooms.

Councilwoman Ator clarified that in all her conversations with the food truck representative she emphasized that she is not responsible for the event and she does not want to overstep her bounds. She said that all dealings should be with the Recreation Department Staff.

Chief of Police Baan said that all participants should be notified not to set up prior to 4:00 p.m. or it will create more issues.

Mr. Luna stated that the trucks drive in and are ready to go; they are self-contained and are responsible for cleaning up their own areas.

Vice Mayor Best suggested expanding the event by a few hours since it is the 85th anniversary.

Councilwoman Ator said that she would expand the time by starting at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Best added that some of the activities could begin earlier with the introduction of the food trucks later.

Councilwoman Ator said that starting at 5:00 p.m. would draw family oriented people with young children who normally eat early. Even though the flyers advertise 6:00 p.m. she would not be opposed to starting at 5:00 p.m. and advertising that on the Circle.

City Attorney Seiden advised Staff to obtain as many food trucks as possible with a variety of food. He said that everyone should be told to bring their own chairs and get there early.

Tom Curtis from the River Cities Gazette, 53 Curtiss Parkway, stated that the City's birthday is a celebration and the food trucks will be a great news story. He offered to prepare a special news section with the City's history and restaurant advertisements. He said that the restaurants will benefit by bringing people into the City. He urged one person to be in control of the positioning of the food trucks and determining the variety of food.

Mayor Garcia said that the food trucks are operated by professionals with large restaurant chains and they know their business.

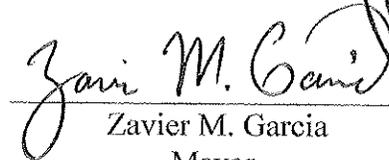
City Manager Borgmann explained that a map has already been prepared for the positioning of the food trucks in anticipation of approval. They will not be parked in front of existing restaurants.

Mr. Curtis reiterated his offer to publish a special section that will be published in the Gazette that goes to all the residents two days before the event with extra handouts for the event. He asked the Administration to keep him informed.

By **consensus**, Council approved of bringing in food trucks for the City's 85th birthday celebration.

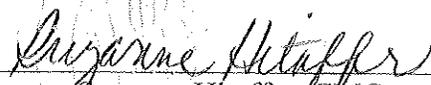
9. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.


Zavier M. Garcia
Mayor



ATTEST:


Suzanne Hitaffer/CMC
Deputy City Clerk

Approved as written during meeting of: 8-8-2011.