



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **REGULAR MEETING** in the Rebecca Sosa Theater at the Community Center on Monday, November 28, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

The following were present:

- Mayor Zavier M. Garcia
- Vice Mayor Dan Espino
- Councilwoman Jennifer Ator
- Councilman George V. Lob

Absent: Councilman Bob Best

Also Present:

- City Manager James R. Borgmann
- Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
- City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
- Chief of Police Peter G. Baan
- Elderly Services Director Karen Rosson
- City Clerk Magali Valls
- Deputy City Clerk Suzanne S. Hitaffer

2. Invocation: Vice Mayor Espino offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: Students from the Miami Springs Middle School led the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Garcia presented baseball caps to the students who participated.

3. Awards & Presentations:

3A) Proclamation – “Anchor Club Day”

Vice Mayor Espino made the presentation of the proclamation on behalf of Mayor Garcia

Co-Sponsor Kathy Doyle, thanked Council and introduced the new Sponsor Ms. Madruga and Assistant Sponsor Ms. Martinez.

Vice Mayor Espino welcomed Miami Springs Senior High School’s new Principal Ms. Rodriguez.

3B) Presentation by Anchor Club Members Regarding Ovarian Cancer Awareness

Anchor Club Member Fernanda Chow stated that they will be working with Miami Springs resident Marlene Wolff and will be making kites for her and she hopes that the community will get involved in helping. For every \$30.00 they receive, the donator receives a kite to decorate. Their goal is to raise enough funds to fly 200 kites.

Anchor Club member Yuritza Hernandez explained that they are members of the Medical Academy at Miami Springs Senior High and they have chosen ovarian cancer as the main health subject in order to increase awareness of the disease, which is the ninth leading cause of death among women. She gave a brief presentation about what ovarian cancer is and encouraged women to be aware of the disease and take the steps needed to ensure their health.

Anchor Club member Fernanda Chow invited everyone to join them in the Ovarian Cancer Walk on January 28th and 29th and to help raise funds for the cure of this disease.

Yuritza Hernandez stated that Message from Marli is a foundation they are sponsoring and this was their inspiration for the project.

3C) Presentation from Christina Espino regarding the Relay for Life

Relay for Life Chair Christina Espino introduced Vice Chair Kathleen Howard. She stated that this is the fifth year of the event and in the past four years they have been able to raise almost \$400,000 in the fight against Cancer and to help the American Cancer Society.

Ms. Espino explained that participating in Relay has been a life changing event for many people and it allows an opportunity to honor the survivors, to grieve with people who have lost someone and to work hard in the fight against cancer. Last year the overnight event raised more than \$87,000 with 350 people fundraising. The goal this year is to raise more funds and to also increase participants. The 2012 Relay will take place on March 3rd and 4th, from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.

Ms. Espino reported on previous events that have been hosted such as the 5K Walk/Run, Bark for Life, a Fundraiser at JR's Gourmet Burgers, and a Shop for the Cause at the Optimist Club. She thanked the Mayor and Council and those in the community that have participated in the events.

Ms. Espino honored Don Howard of Virginia Gardens and Miami Springs Middle School teacher Julie Lopez Donolan as the King and Queen of Relay for being Cancer survivors. She added that someone from the community is selected to be the Honorary Chair who works hard for the cause and this year they had the honor and privilege of selecting Vice Mayor Dan Espino.

Ms. Espino stated that many events are planned in January and February that will be publicized in the River Cities Gazette and on Facebook. She invited Council to the Annual Holiday Party at Holleman's on December 8, 2011.

4. Open Forum:

No speakers.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

5A) 11-14-2011 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the November 14, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

Councilman Lob moved the item. Vice Mayor Espino seconded the motion which was carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

Recess to conduct Executive Sessions with City Council at 7:29 p.m.

Council Meeting was reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

6A) 11-14-2011 – Board of Appeals – Minutes

Minutes of the November 14, 2011 Board of Appeals meeting were received for information without comment.

6B) 11-17-2011 – Historic Preservation Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the November 17, 2011 Historic Preservation Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6C) 11-22-2011 – Ecology Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the November 22, 2011 Ecology Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6D) 11-24-2011 – Code Review Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the November 24, 2011 Code Review Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6E) 12-20-2011 – Education Advisory Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the December 20, 2011 Education Advisory Board meeting was received for information without comment.

7. Public Hearings:

7A) Second Reading – Ordinance No. 1028-2011 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Amending Code of Ordinance Section 96.05, Street Numbers; Display; to Provide Clarified Provisions and Requirements Related to the Display of Street Numbers on Structures in the City; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Effective Date (First Reading: 11-14-2011 – Advertised: 11-17-2011)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the second reading and there had been no revisions since the first reading.

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak. There were no speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Ator moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1028-2011 on second reading. Councilman Lob seconded the motion.

In discussion, Councilman Lob said that he had an issue with making people change their house numbers.

Vice Mayor Espino does not want Code Enforcement to enforce this issue so strongly, when there are more pressing issues.

Mayor Garcia stated that there has to be a house number. He noted that there also may be a color issue. Some residents have the house numbers in the same color as their house and the numbers are not visible.

Councilman Lob reiterated his concern about enforcement. He said that as long as the numbers are visible during the daytime and at night and are a separate color from the house, then it should not matter.

Mayor Garcia commented that based on the code, there has to be a specific size to the house numbers.

Councilwoman Ator feels there must be a size limit. She noted that the Chief recommends three-inches and she believes that it is a good size limit to go by. She wants to support the ordinance as written.

The motion was carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

7B) Second Reading – Ordinance No. 1029-2011 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Amending Code of Ordinance Section 70-10, Parking Restricted in Certain Areas; to Provide Clarified Provisions on Permitted Parkway Parking, Prohibited Parkway Use; Prohibited Parkway Parking Exceptions, Enforcement and Signage; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Effective Date (First Reading: 11-14-2011 – Advertised: 11-17-2011)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the second reading and public hearing. There was a revision under subsections A and B to include Westward Drive and subsection A (4) was added.

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak.

Nery Owens of 332 Payne Drive asked why there is no provision included for a time limit. She suggested that people could park on the parkways and can have a time limit of no more than two hours. This would solve the initial problem of having people parking on the parkways persistently or overnight.

City Attorney Seiden responded that there must be signage to restrict parking to certain times and Council was unanimous about not wanting to have signage on the parkways. He noted that it would be impossible to enforce.

There were no additional speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Lob moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1029-2011 on second reading. Vice Mayor Espino seconded the motion.

Councilman Lob stated that some people do not want parking on Westward at all because it damages the grass.

Mayor Garcia said that nobody knows that there is no parking allowed on these parkways, although it has never been enforced.

Councilwoman Ator reported that she has heard concerns about parking on Westward Drive. She recently paid more attention to cars parked in the median and saw many cars parked there. She agrees that some concerns are valid and the ordinance should be reconsidered.

Vice Mayor Espino said that if parking is permissible it should be responsible. He stated that Council should pass the ordinance and make adjustments later as needed. He does not feel that leaving the ordinance the way it was before will be a good idea.

Councilman Lob agreed with Vice Mayor Espino in passing the ordinance and making adjustments later as needed.

Councilwoman Ator does not agree with passing the ordinance now and adjusting it later if needed. She would like to hear from City Staff and the Police Chief about their concerns regarding traffic and safety. She believes that this ordinance would open a door for future anger and misunderstanding.

Vice Mayor Espino asked if the current ordinance prohibits parking on Westward Drive and City Attorney Seiden responded that Westward Drive is not included in the current ordinance.

Councilwoman Ator clarified that Code Enforcement does enforce it and knocks on doors to find out who the car belongs to and asks them to move their car from Westward Drive.

City Manager Borgmann said that the Police normally will not enforce parking because there is no signage that states that it is prohibited to park on Westward Drive.

Councilwoman Ator stated that to her understanding, the Police are never going to enforce the local ordinance because it costs so much to do so when it gets to the courts.

City Manager Borgmann replied that the City is in an agreement with the State Attorney's office for them to prosecute any ordinance violations and their services are utilized approximately every two months.

City Attorney Seiden commented that the police cannot be involved because there is no signage.

To answer Vice Mayor Espino's question, City Attorney Seiden said that the first draft of the ordinance did not specifically mention Westward Drive and being the way the ordinance was drafted before, he clarified the language to say that Curtiss Parkway, Morningside Parkway and all other parkways shall not be used for any other purposes unless specifically authorized. There are provisions to prohibit parking in the medians.

City Attorney Seiden stated that even though parking on Westward Drive is allowed, it is restricted so that it must be done in a proper manner. He noted that the grass topic may still be an issue.

To answer Councilwoman Ator's question, City Attorney Seiden replied that people who park on Westward would get a Code Enforcement violation notice and it would be issued based on the license plate of the vehicle.

Assistant City Manager Gorland said that Code Enforcement does not have the ability to track license plates.

Mayor Garcia said that there are more cars parked on the weekends. There are problems with the current ordinance and it is an enforcement issue. He noted that Westward Drive does not look bad now and cars have been parking there for years.

Councilwoman Ator said that the ordinance only allows parking on Westward Drive.

Mayor Garcia stated that there are more pressing things for Code Enforcement to be doing instead of enforcing whose car is parked on Westward Drive.

Councilwoman Ator stated that Code Enforcement will still have to make sure people are parking parallel and not perpendicular. The ordinance does not solve anything; it only allows parking on Westward Drive and she believes it is a bad idea.

The motion carried 3-1 on roll call vote with Councilwoman Ator being the dissenting vote.

7C) Second Reading – Ordinance No. 1030-2011 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Repealing Chapter No. 134, Weapons; which Includes Code Section 134-01, Firearms and Air Rifles; Discharge Prohibited; 134-02, Careless Exhibition of Weapons; 134-03, Forfeiture of Weapons and Arms; 134-04, Return of Weapons and Arms and Forfeiture on Failure to Receive Same; 134-05, Disposal of Weapons and Arms; and 134-06, Taking Possession of Weapons and Arms; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Directions to Codifiers; Effective Date (First Reading: 11-14-2011 – Advertised: 11-17-2011)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the second reading and public hearing. This repealing ordinance takes care of all the code provisions regarding firearms and ammunition in the current code. This is in response to Florida House Bill 45 that amends the provisions of Florida Statutes 790.33 and provides for state preemption of all regulatory control of firearms in the state.

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak. There were no speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Council Lob moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1030-2011 on second reading. Vice Mayor Espino seconded the motion which carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

Vice Mayor Espino reported that Miami-Dade County League of Cities is supporting legislation to prohibit weapons in playgrounds, community centers and parks.

(Agenda Item 10A was considered at this time)

8. Consent Agenda:

None.

9. Old Business:

9A) Appointments to Advisory Boards by the Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Garcia **re-appointed** Francisco Fernandez to the Board of Adjustment/Zoning and Planning Board for an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2012.

9B) Extension Agreement for Phase I of the Management and Operation Agreement for Curtiss Mansion Property

City Attorney Seiden stated that as requested and directed by the City Council, he prepared an Extension Agreement for the Phase I operations of the Curtiss Mansion property with Curtiss Mansion, Inc. (CMI). The agreement relates to the continuation of all the activities listed within Phase I, that is basically fundraising and the continuation of the rehabilitation and renovation of the project. In the future, it would be appropriate to deal with operational activity depending on whether or not the City enters into a historic tax credit.

City Attorney Seiden added that he chose a date of February 1, 2012 for the extension date and if the activities are not completed the agreement can be further extended.

Vice Mayor Espino moved to approve the Extension Agreement with CMI. Councilman Lob seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

9C) Consideration of Settlement Proposal for Meridian Management, LLC v. the City of Miami Springs

City Attorney Seiden stated that in accordance with their discussions during the executive session both the last time and this evening, the City Administration and he jointly are requesting Council's authorization to continue the settlement agreement review. He said that there are additional items that he needs to make sure are in the revised agreement.

City Attorney Seiden is asking for the City Council's authorization to allow the administration to enter into the settlement agreement with Meridian Management, LLC in this lawsuit, subject to review and approval by the administration and himself, that the final settlement agreement meets all the terms and conditions, requirements and restrictions that have been discussed in the executive sessions.

Vice Mayor Espino moved the item. Councilman Lob seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

Councilwoman Ator added that the City Attorney should look at the current ordinance and make a recommendation for changing it in order to avoid these types of issues in the future.

10. New Business:

10A) Notification to Council that a Purchase Order has been Issued to Wrangler Construction in the Amount of \$36,020 for the Senior Center Improvements

City Manager Borgmann stated that a grant was received from the State in January 2009.

City Manager Borgmann further explained that the work was put out to bid and because the bids came in too high there were not enough funds to provide a match. The total grant was \$42,511.00 for the purpose of constructing the handicap drop-off and accessibility to the rear of the building with a covered ramp.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the work is on schedule and since the deadline is December 31, 2011, a purchase order was issued. He stated that it would be appropriate for Council to confirm the action.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that Council is being asked to approve and confirm the actions of the City Administration in selecting Wrangler Construction and awarding a contract for \$36,020.00, which is the lowest quote of the five quotes received.

City Manager Borgmann added that Wrangler Construction had previously done work in the City on the sidewalks and their quote was \$10,000 lower than the next lowest quote.

To answer the Mayor's question, the City Manager responded that the funds are derived from the grant, with the exception of a \$6,000 cash match and the in-kind services of Public Works.

Vice Mayor Espino moved to ratify the actions of the Administration. Councilman Lob seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote.

10B) Ficus Plantings – Discussion Regarding Code Section 150-013 – Residential Plantings, Fences and Walls

City Manager Borgmann stated that at the last meeting Council asked the Administration to come back with a report on ficus plantings in regard to the recent Board of Appeals case in which a property owner replaced a section of his existing hedge. The property owner was asked to remove the ficus plantings when they were small and now they have grown to the same size as the remaining hedge.

City Manager Borgmann said that the discussion indicated that Council would like some leeway in order to be able to make reasonable accommodations for certain types of plantings. Assistant City Manager Gorland and Building and Zoning Office Supervisor Ziadie prepared a memorandum that is included in the agenda packet.

City Manager Borgmann mentioned that Arborist Tom Nash indicated that the worst offender is the Ficus Benjamina because the roots are very invasive to structures, sidewalks, asphalt and sewer lines, whether they are planted as hedges or single trees; the roots continue to grow regardless of the pruning.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that one possible solution is to change the code to allow replacement plantings, provided that a certain percentage of the yard area already has ficus plantings. There was a lot of discussion regarding the matter and based on Council's suggestion, the new language might be the solution.

Councilwoman Ator stated that she reviewed the information in the packet and asked the City Clerk to research all documents related to ficus hedges. She said that it is clear that there was a lot of discussion that supports changing the code to prohibit ficus. She would like to hear from Arborist Tom Nash on the impact of ficus hedges on the sewer system.

Councilwoman Ator explained that research shows that the matter was considered by the Board of Parks and Parkways and was discussed by Council in 2003, before it was sent to the Code Review Board. She would like the City Clerk to provide a copy of the information for the entire Council so that there is a better understanding of the history. The documents indicate that the ficus roots make an impact on the sewer system and it would be very reactionary to change the code based on an individual who was cited for replacing his hedges.

Councilwoman Ator commented that the man who filed the appeal was upset because he had replaced the hedges and after two years they had grown in and he felt it was not fair to remove them. She asked Council not to consider reactionary legislation until they have the entire story and hear from Arborist Tom Nash and also the Board of Parks and Parkways.

Vice Mayor Espino suggested tabling the item until Council receives a full presentation from Arborist Tom Nash.

Councilman Lob did not feel that he is being reactionary to the one particular case; he is looking at the issue in a broad sense because other property owners have this type of hedge. He said that if someone loses a small percentage of their existing hedge and they are not allowed to replace it, it will be an eyesore.

Mayor Garcia said that this is only a proposal, not an ordinance and in his opinion there is no tabling of the issue. Council can continue the discussion, move forward with the amendment and have the first and second reading of the proposed ordinance at which time Mr. Nash can give his opinion.

The Mayor added that is not an isolated problem because of the Board of Appeals case; he is considering all the other residents in the City that could have similar issues. He would like to proceed with amending the ordinance and it should apply to the entire yard in general.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden stated that the basic premise was that ficus hedges should not be replaced after they die under any circumstances. In this particular case, it was a very large hedge around the entire property, and because of the situation and the way the plants died, the Board of Adjustment might have granted a variance, but he waited 2-1/2 years to request a variance.

City Attorney Seiden commented that if Council is serious in taking some action and still maintain the integrity of the Code, the most that Council should do is set a percentage of the hedge or location on the property. It does not matter if the hedge is in the front or rear; it would only apply to the location of the hedge and the impact on the property must be considered. He can draft an ordinance with the proper direction.

Mayor Garcia would like the City Attorney to move forward with drafting the amendment to the ordinance and then hear from Arborist Tom Nash and the residents. He emphasized that it does not apply to City property, only private property.

City Attorney Seiden said that the problem with ficus hedges and trees is that the roots spread everywhere outside of the property line, including water and sewer lines.

Mayor Garcia understands that the roots spread based on the height of the plantings.

City Manager Borgmann stated that Mr. Nash is debating the issue of the roots spreading based on the size of the plants. He recalled an incident when a past hurricane destroyed ficus trees and the roots spread underneath his house, while the tree was ten feet from the house.

Councilwoman Ator mentioned that ficus roots seek water and intrude into the sewer lines, which causes a serious problem that is bad for the environment. The City Attorney's point that the trees are bad is well taken. She has hedges with mixed plantings and the fact that they are all not the same does not make them look bad.

City Attorney Seiden will draft an amendment to the ordinance for further debate when Tom Nash is present.

10C) Recommendation that Council Approve an Award to Harlequin, the Lowest Responsible Bidder, in the Amount of \$3,262.97 for a Portable Dance Floor for the Pelican Playhouse, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (C) (2) of the City Code

City Manager Borgmann stated that this is a continuation of a grant that has already been received and a portion of the funds have been spent for the acoustical tiles in the theatre. Part of the grant was the purchase of a dance floor and there is \$7,781 in grant funds remaining.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the dance surface is harder than sponge rubber but it allows some cushioning for dancing, instead of dancing on the hard floors. Council must approve the expenditure because the matching funds are coming from the Community Center designated fund balance.

Vice Mayor Espino moved the item for approval and Councilman Lob seconded the motion.

Councilman Lob asked if the floor can be moved and used in other places.

City Manager Borgmann responded that transporting the floor outside of the building would be an issue.

Pelican Playhouse Director Ralph Wakefield stated that the dance floor is for the theatre, not the playhouse. The floor will allow dance companies to use the theatre and there is one scheduled to come in on December 11th. The floor is 24' x 30' and is in three eight-foot sections; more sections could be purchased if needed.

Councilwoman Ator asked if the floor could also be used for yoga.

Mr. Wakefield responded that yoga is more stretching, not jumping and the dance floor is different than a yoga mat.

Councilwoman Ator was concerned about the Jazzercise participants that use the room downstairs and she would like to accommodate them in the theatre.

Mr. Wakefield explained that the floor in the multi-purpose room has the same floor as the theatre; there is more space downstairs and the dance floor would not be large enough to accommodate all the participants. He added that the theatre rentals are increasing with nine rentals in December and a dance company is scheduled for December 11th that is hoping to use the new floor.

The motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

11. Other Business:

11A) Cancellation of Last Meeting in December

By consensus, Council canceled the last meeting in December.

12. Reports & Recommendations:

12A) City Attorney

None.

12B) City Manager

Santa at the Circle

City Manager Borgmann reminded everyone that Santa at the Circle will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., beginning with a parade at 5:45 p.m. at City Hall to the Circle. There will be snow and 400 wristbands have been distributed to children in order to be able to participate in the snowball fight.

Gym Floor

City Manager Borgmann reported that the gym floor was resurfaced and the gym was closed for a couple of days. The after school activities were moved to the Senior Center.

Tim Conlon

City Manager Borgmann announced that former Miami Springs Police Officer and Public Works employee Tim Conlon passed away. A funeral service will be held at Blessed Trinity Church on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Business Tax

City Manager Borgmann clarified that the City had collected 75% of the business tax renewals. After the end of December there will be a sweep of those businesses that have not responded.

Strategic Plan

City Manager Borgmann announced that all the public strategic planning meetings were held and Staff will meet with Mr. Busutil on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Hopefully Mr. Busutil will have significant findings to report at the December 12th Council meeting.

Police Activity

City Manager Borgmann forwarded a spreadsheet to Council that was prepared by the Chief of Police as it relates to burglaries and police activities. He said that Staff is moving forward in an effort to reinstate crime watch. Also, door hangers will be distributed encouraging people to contact the Police Department and become active in the program. He urged anyone who sees suspicious activity to call the Police.

Red Light Cameras

City Manager Borgmann reported that the red light traffic cameras will go live on January 9, 2012, and an educational program has begun with a notice in the last issue of the River Cities Gazette.

Joint Meeting

City Manager Borgmann announced that a joint meeting of the Architectural Review Board and the Revitalization and Redevelopment Ad-Hoc Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 7th to receive a presentation from Calvin Giordano & Associates regarding signage prior to their presentation at the Council meeting on December 12th.

Abraham Tract

City Manager Borgmann stated that Calvin Giordano & Associates will be coming back to the Council meeting on December 12th to present a final review of the Abraham Tract.

12C) City Council

Optimist Tree Sale

Councilwoman Ator reminded everyone to purchase their Christmas tree from the Optimist Club.

Breakfast With Santa

Councilwoman Ator announced that the All Angels Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday morning, December 3rd. She will be attending since she is on the Board of Trustees and she urged everyone to bring their kids to enjoy the breakfast and entertainment.

Holiday Hometown Shopping

Councilwoman Ator reported that the Chamber of Commerce is holding their Holiday Hometown Shopping event this week and businesses are encouraged to stay open until 9:00 p.m. They are holding a drawing and entry cards are available at participating businesses.

Strategic Planning Meetings

Councilwoman Ator attended the last two strategic planning meetings and was surprised to see many business owners at the last session, including those on N. W. 36th Street, the hotels and large businesses who found out about the meetings from the mailing. She felt that the advertising for the last two sessions was much better than the first time and hopefully the opinions from the larger businesses will help in the planning process.

Tim Conlon

Councilman Lob extended condolences to Suzanne Conlon Wolar and her family in the passing of her brother Tim Conlon.

Optimist Tree Sale

Councilman Lob reported that the Optimist Club Christmas tree sales are going strong; many trees have been sold and they hope to sell many more. He urged everyone to support the organization by purchasing their trees from the Optimist Club. Trees are available in all sizes from table top to 10-feet.

Thanksgiving

Councilman Lob hopes that everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving

Vice Mayor Espino also hopes that everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Shop for a Cause

Vice Mayor Espino commented that the Relay for Life Shop for a Cause did exceptionally well raising almost \$300.00.

JR's Gourmet Burgers

Vice Mayor Espino congratulated JR's Gourmet Burgers for competing in the third annual "Burgy" awards. They did not win, but considering that the business did not exist one year ago it is an honor to be in competition with other established burger restaurants.

Legislative Agenda

Vice Mayor Espino mentioned that the Miami-Dade County League of Cities has completed its legislative agenda and he will provide copies as soon as they are available.

Best Practices Conference

Vice Mayor Espino reported that the Miami-Dade County League of Cities will be hosting its Best Practices Conference on Friday, December 2nd in the City of Doral. It will be an all day event to bring forward the best practices that municipalities are using in order to address various issues that they are experiencing.

Tim Conlon

Vice Mayor Espino extended his deepest sympathy to the Conlon family for their sudden tragic loss. Tim was the brother of Suzanne Wolar and also Kathleen Howard who spoke this evening about the Relay for Life, despite of everything she is going through. He will attend the service tomorrow and his heart goes out to a family that gives a lot to the community.

Tim Conlon

Mayor Garcia extended his sympathy to the Conlon family, a wonderful family and great pillars of the community. The family will be in his thoughts and prayers.

Christmas at the Gazebo

Mayor Garcia reported that 500 snow bracelets were distributed to children in Virginia Gardens and Miami Springs who will be enjoying the snow at Christmas at the Gazebo.

Christmas Ad

Mayor Garcia announced that every year the City places a Christmas ad in the River Cities Gazette. He is hoping that the entire Council will attend Christmas at the Gazebo so that a group photograph can be taken for the ad.

Breakfast with Santa

Mayor Garcia said that there are still tickets left for the All Angels Breakfast with Santa. It is very important to support the community.

Pet Kingdom

Mayor Garcia reported that people can take their pets to Pet Kingdom to have a picture taken with Santa.

Special Events

Mayor Garcia urged residents to pick up a flyer in the Gazette, at the Community Center or one of the local restaurants, or log on to www.miamisprings-fl.gov to find out about events taking place in Miami Springs.

Thanksgiving

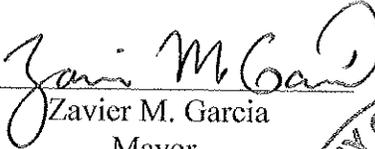
Mayor Garcia hopes everyone had a very happy Thanksgiving.

Workshop Meeting

Mayor Garcia looks forward to the Workshop meeting on Wednesday, November 30th when Council will be making important decisions.

13. Adjourn.

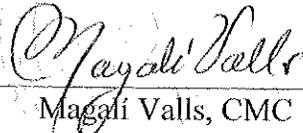
There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 p.m.



Zavier M. Garcia
Mayor



ATTEST:



Magali Valls, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as written during meeting of: 12-12-2011.

Transcription assistance provided by Suzanne S. Hitaffer.