



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **REGULAR MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 28, 2013, 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 Jennifer Ator
- Councilwoman Grace Bain
- Councilman Bob Best
- Councilman George Lob

Also Present:

- City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
- Assistant City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso
- City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
- Chief of Police Peter G. Baan
- Comptroller Alicia E. González
- Planning and Zoning Director James H. Holland
- Building & Code Compliance Director H. "Tex" Ziadie
- Public Works Director Thomas Nash
- Administrative Assistant Aly Paz
- Deputy City Clerk Suzanne S. Hitaffer
- Clerical Assistant Elora R. Sakal

2. Invocation: Councilwoman Bain offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: Students from the Academy for International Education Charter School led the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and Mayor Garcia presented Certificates of Recognition to the students who participated.

3. Awards & Presentations:

3A) Proclamation – Mary Ann Goodlett-Taylor Day

Mayor Garcia presented a proclamation to Mary Ann Goodlett-Taylor for her thirty years of service to the Historic Preservation Board.

Senator René Garcia presented a proclamation from the Florida Senate and he said that it is great when a community has a historian with knowledge. It is always important, especially for the younger children, to know their history because it gives them a sense of direction on where they are going. He thanked Ms. Goodlett-Taylor for what she has done for the community of Miami Springs and for protecting the Curtiss Mansion.

County Commission Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Goodlett-Taylor. She said that history is written because of important people like Mary Ann who have dedicated many hours to the City. She commended the City of Miami Springs and its residents and thanked everyone on behalf of Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Giménez and the Board of County Commissioners. She congratulated Ms. Goodlett-Taylor and stated that she will never be forgotten.

Vice Mayor Ator presented a bouquet of flowers to Ms. Goodlett-Taylor for her service on the Historic Preservation Board. She commented that her grandfather, who passed away a year ago, attended one of the tours of the historical homes and he commented that the City has such a great treasure and that Mary Ann knows so much about the City. She thanked her for providing those memories to her grandfather and the services to the City and its citizens.

Mayor Garcia presented a plaque to Ms. Goodlett-Taylor with a key to the City for her service as the City Historian and Chairwoman to the Historic Preservation Board. He said that since he has been on Council, he has never witnessed anyone receiving a key to the City and she deserves it.

Ms. Goodlett-Taylor said that Miami Springs is a special town that is an oasis in the middle of the County. She decided to put together the history because the City did not really have any record of it and she encourages everyone to visit the Historical Museum. She thanked everyone for the recognition.

(Agenda Item 3C was discussed at this time, followed by Agenda Item 3D).

3B) Presentation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Néstor Caballero of Albèrni, Caballero and Company presented the audit of the September 30, 2012 financial statements. The City was issued a clean, unqualified opinion on the financial statements; they performed the auditor and government auditing standards and there are no findings to report.

Chris Chiocca of Albèrni, Caballero and Company stated that the Management's Discussion and Analysis is shown on pages three through nineteen, which he encourages everyone to read thoroughly. On page eighteen there is a General Fund unrestricted surplus chart which shows the history of the City from 1998 to 2012.

Mr. Caballero commented that the chart shows that in 2002 there was a General Fund Unrestricted deficit, which has gone up and now they are seeing an incline. Reserves are up and the use of those reserves has been budgeted. At some point in time, the City passed a minimum requirement for the reserve fund balance which is 25% of next year's expenditures. The City is currently at 25%, which is very conservative.

Mr. Caballero said that the Government Finance Officers Association recommends 10% for the minimum fund balance, but that is nationwide and they do not face the hurricanes that Florida faces. Having a healthy fund balance reserve is important and the City has taken positive steps by passing an ordinance to keep a minimum level.

Mr. Chiocca mentioned that the Statement of Net Assets is on page twenty, which is on the full accrual basis of accounting, while the General Fund is on a modified accrual basis. The total assets of the City are \$35.2MM and there was a decrease of \$2.2MM from the prior year. The total liabilities were \$7.5MM and there was a small decrease of \$800,000 from the prior year. The total net assets of the City were \$27.6MM with a decrease of \$1.5MM from the prior year.

Mr. Chiocca stated that the City's unrestricted net assets decreased only \$450,000 out of the \$1.5MM. The reason for that was because there were also some increases. The Road and Transportation Fund restricted amount in the prior year was approximately \$900,000 because the money for Local Option Gas taxes was moved into the General Fund.

Mr. Caballero commented that the new line item called Investments in M.S. Properties Inc. relates to the tax credit entities that were created.

Mr. Chiocca explained that page 21 is the statement of activities on a full accrual basis. The total revenue for the City was \$17.2MM. The total expenses were \$18.7MM for a \$1.5MM decrease and the reasoning for that was because there was a decrease in the capital grants and contributions column of approximately \$1MM related to the General Obligation Bond (G.O.B.) money received in previous years for the Curtiss Mansion restoration project that was not received in 2012.

Mr. Chiocca said that on pages 22 through 24 are the financial statements which will show the General Fund and other funds that are restricted for their use such as the Law Enforcement Trust Funds (LETF) and the capital projects fund. There is \$5MM of assets in the General Fund and \$600,000 in liabilities with a total fund balance of \$4.3MM. There was a slight decrease in the unassigned fund balance of \$200,000 and a decrease in committed funds of \$280,000.

Mr. Chiocca stated that the \$3.4MM is the unassigned fund balance which is 25% of next year's operating expenditures and transfers.

Mr. Caballero commented that the federal government has audited the LETF funds and the City received a clean report with no findings, which is rare.

Councilman Best asked about the State investment pool funds and what the status was on receiving some of the funds that were due to the City.

Mr. Caballero responded that the City had not received the funds because if they were taken out of the account now, the City would have to take a large loss. He recommends that the City keep the money in the fund until it starts to recover.

Mr. Alonso said that he would cover the topic when he presents the interim budget report. The current unrealized loss is \$1,500 and there is still \$89,000 on deposit with the State.

Mr. Chiocca referred to the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance on page 24. Total revenues for the General Fund were \$13.6MM which was an increase of approximately \$700 from the prior year. Total expenditures were \$14MM and there was approximately a \$200,000 increase from the prior year. The net change in fund balance was \$509,000. A significant increase from last year was the public safety line. There was approximately a \$470,000 increase mainly due to an increase in pension costs, workers compensation claims and some other fees related to claims.

Mr. Chiocca explained that the total assets for sanitation and storm water funds were \$4.3MM which is a \$300,000 decrease from the previous year. There was \$556,000 in liabilities which is approximately a \$90,000 decrease from the previous year. The overall total net assets are \$3.7MM which is a \$200,000 decrease from the previous year. The revenues and expenses related to those funds are on page 27. The operating revenues were approximately \$2.4MM which is \$150,000 less than last year. The operating expenses were \$2.6MM which is approximately a \$200,000 increase from the previous year.

Mr. Chiocca explained that overall the funds decreased \$230,000 that was also around the budgeted loss for those funds. It was anticipated to have a small loss in the storm water and sanitation funds this year. The notes to the basic financial statements are on pages 29 through 54 which go into detail and give an explanation of the numbers. There is a significant new footnote on page 53 regarding the Curtiss Mansion restoration and redevelopment project.

Mr. Chiocca commented that on page 56 is the budget versus the actual for the general fund. It gives in detail the original and final budgets as well as the actual numbers. There were some over expenditures in certain departments, but overall the total expenditures were \$140,000 less than budget. On page 56 is the budget versus the actual for the net change in fund balance. It was an anticipated decrease of \$590,000 and the City came out at \$509,000 which is approximately \$80,000 less than what was budgeted for.

Mr. Chiocca said that pages 68 through 86 include statistical information which gives more details in the numbers and historical, demographic and operational information that is required as part of the CAFR certificate program. Pages 87 through 92 are the auditor reports and findings which in the City's case were none as Mr. Caballero previously stated. Pages 89 and 90 include the Management Letter under the Rules of the Auditor General that discusses recommendations and testing that the auditors did regarding investments of public funds. He thanked Mr. Alonso and Controller Alicia González for their hard work.

Councilman Best thanked Mr. Caballero and Mr. Chiocca for their services.

3C) Certificate of Recognition to Alfreda M. Felton

Mayor Garcia presented a Certificate of Recognition to Alfreda M. Felton upon the occasion of her retirement after 35 years with the U.S. Postal Service and 27 years at the Miami Springs Post office. He stated that Ms. Felton has done a great job serving the residents of Miami Springs.

Ms. Felton thanked the City of Miami Springs for sharing, caring and showing love for her. She thanked her customers and her family members who were present. She said that out of her 35 year career, the 27 years she worked in the Miami Springs Post Office were enjoyable and she will miss everyone.

3D) Presentation of Co-Officers of the Month Award – January 2013 – Harry Mayer and Justin Robbins

Chief of Police Peter G. Baan asked Harry Mayer and Justin Robbins to come forward to receive their award for Co-Officers of the Month for January 2013.

Sergeant Gurney read the nomination letter summarizing the excellent work of Detective Mayer and Officer Robbins. She explained that Detective Mayer cleared three residential burglaries by arrest on the same day, and he cleared a burglary that occurred in October 2012 in which numerous firearms were taken.

Sergeant Gurney added that Officer Robbins is diligent in his police duties, while maintaining a positive attitude and he is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that the job is done correctly.

Chief of Police Baan stated that both officers are veteran police officers and have done a great job. Officer Robbins is the top producer in the patrol division almost every year and Detective Mayer is a top detective that knows how to get confessions. Both have a “rookie enthusiasm” and have never lost that enthusiasm for their job.

Officer Robbins said that their success was a perfect example of teamwork. It is unfortunate that three homes were burglarized, but it is also great to catch the subjects right after they committed the crimes. He thanked the Mayor and Council.

Detective Mayer also thanked everyone for the recognition.

(Agenda Item 3G was discussed at this time)

3E) Power Point Presentation by Public Works Director Tom Nash Regarding Trees in Urban Settings

City Manager Gorland reported that there had been many complimentary calls to City Hall since Raydel was selected for tree trimming and landscaping services. People who have not seen tree trimming in many years are now seeing it take place and some have been in question regarding that matter. He explained that the tree trimming can look odd to some people because the nature of what has to be done and the most common cut is the V-cut under the power lines.

City Manager Gorland said that the V-cut weakens the trees but there is nothing that can be done about it. He has spent time with Public Works Director Tom Nash and viewing Raydel’s work to see what the benefits were and he thought it would be an excellent time to inform Council of what should be done, how it is being done and why.

Mr. Nash put together a PowerPoint presentation since there have been some concerns as to how some of the trees are trimmed. The tree canopies are too low and there is a considerable amount of damage being done to vehicles and the trees. Miami-Dade County recommends twelve feet over the sidewalks and eighteen feet over the roadway which the picture of the tree shown does not have.

Mr. Nash explained that the City's Public Works Department is obligated to provide safety and quality of life to the residents. A picture was shown of a resident who has to endure a City tree to enter and exit his vehicle when leaving their property. He said that Public Works receives complaints from the Miami-Dade Fire Department due to damages to their ladder trucks and hose equipment while responding to calls and Miami-Dade County Transit has sustained damages to their buses. He noted that countless delivery trucks have sustained significant damage to the roofs of their trucks while making deliveries and there are also residents with RV's and boats that travel the City.

Mr. Nash mentioned that there are clearly obstructions and the canopies need to be raised to accommodate the large trucks and vehicles. He presented a picture of an eight-foot Oak tree limb that has grown over a resident's driveway. The tree may be acceptable for the current resident, however there is a significant sized limb that would have to be removed should the request ever be made. The separation point from the trunk to limb is approximately 15 inches in diameter which makes up approximately 30% of the tree and to remove the limb, he would have to consider removing the entire tree because of the impact that it would cause to the tree.

Mr. Nash stated that water sprouts, dead wood, crossing limbs and low hanging branches are a number one issue since Hurricanes Wilma and Katrina. Since October, there have been approximately 688 trees trimmed in the City. The sprouting is one of the major concerns with the roadway obstructions, the sidewalks and the low visibility. Water sprouts most often are in clusters and when removed they open up large areas within the canopy and gives the overall effect that the tree has been "over lifted". This is one of the concerns raised.

Mr. Nash commented that trees produce water sprouts for a number of reasons, including stress of root loss or damage, loss of branches due to storms and topping or hat racking. Once sprouts are removed from the base of a tree, the aesthetics will gain approximately twelve-feet overall height on the trunk of the tree. He noted that just because the tree is green, it does not mean that it is healthy. He presented pictures of some trees that have interior limbs that have decayed or rotted and need to be removed.

Mr. Nash presented a picture of a tree on Hammond Drive that was low over the roadway and was struck by a truck and had already been corrected. He showed a picture of another tree on Hammond Drive that encroaches on the roadway and the swale and was intruding into the backyard and over the roof of a home. He presented a picture of the tree after it was trimmed, explaining that the trimming involved opening up the roadway and clearing the swale area that was also impeding the alley way access, the sidewalk area and the roof.

The power company provides an essential service and it is not their responsibility to trim trees; it is Public Works' responsibility, according to Mr. Nash. The power company comes and makes the trees safe and Public Works comes afterwards to perform the restoration and corrective cuts.

To answer Councilman Best's question, Mr. Nash replied that he prefers to monitor Raydel's work in order to prevent issues and he has approximately four site visits a day with the company. He wants to ensure that the City is getting what they pay for and that the company is working properly. Raydel has approached him with regards to certain situations that they have come across.

Mr. Nash stated that another concern is the obstruction of road signs and pedestrians due to the vegetation from the bottom of the trees. He noted that Miami Springs is not the only community that has to maintain the tree canopies to accommodate large vehicles. Mr. Nash read the following from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS):

"Choose trees that suit the area. Large trees need a large rooting zone. Tree roots extend 3-5 times the diameter of the canopy. If the planting area is small or the yard is small, choose a tree that naturally stays small. Avoid planting trees near septic systems, pools, sidewalks, driveways, utility lines and buildings. Tree trunks and roots expand in girth as they age. Know the mature height and width of the tree, and take this into account when choosing the planting site.

Trees with thick canopy should be thinned. Avoid removing more than 25-30% of the foliage per year. Most trees do not need to be pruned each year. Thin canopy when it becomes thick (hard to see through). Some interior branches should be removed to allow wind to go through the canopy.

Buy good quality trees and trees that are adapted to South Florida. Florida Fancy or Grade #1 are the optimum for quality. These trees have one trunk and need little additional training to form a good quality tree."

City Manager Gorland asked if Raydel could trim 1,000 trees per year and Mr. Nash responded that they are averaging approximately 250 trees a month which is approximately fourteen trees a day.

City Manager Gorland asked Mr. Nash who some of the authorities were that he works closely with.

Mr. Nash responded that regarding the inquiries he had received, he contacted Joy Kline with the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources which used to be known as DERM. He sent her pictures of the areas that Raydel has trimmed including Curtiss Parkway, the Circle, Esplanade Drive and North and South Melrose Drive. She replied to him explaining that the tree trimming that was done by Raydel looked fine in her opinion.

Mr. Nash stated that Public Works and Raydel are working to do what needs to be done to repair the damage to the trees and make the community safe for the residents and for the larger vehicles that drive throughout the community.

City Manager Gorland commented that the trees are in great hands and he invited Council to go out with Mr. Nash to see the work.

City Attorney Seiden clarified for Councilman Best that the City specifically requires Mr. Nash be the head person for this work because Raydel wanted to have their own arborist on staff and they were denied that request. From a liability standpoint, it is really important that the trees are maintained in a proper manner.

Mayor Garcia has heard many good things about Raydel and he asked if they have had any minor incidents occur that he has been able to rectify immediately and Mr. Nash replied that they have not had any issues that he has witnessed other than one issue that was taken care of immediately. The biggest issue Raydel has is the flow of traffic and people not respecting their work space.

3F) Near-Term Redevelopment Activities of N. W. 36th Street, Airport, Golf and Downtown Areas by Planning and Zoning Director James H. Holland

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland stated that he challenged Planning and Zoning Director Holland to determine what could be done to redevelop the Abraham Tract, 36th Street and the Golf District without a budget.

Planning and Zoning Director James H. Holland identified several activities that could be done with a limited budget and resources. He said that the first aspect of the near term development activities focuses on the regulatory environment, specifically the commercial zoning districts, including N. W. 36th Street, the Abraham District, the Airport Golf District and the Central Business District (CBD).

Mr. Holland noted that the Abraham District regulations were adopted by Council in August 2012, and the development is coming to fruition with a six-story, 135 room Hyatt Place Hotel that will be coming to the Zoning and Planning Board on Monday, February 4th. In addition, the Bennigan's site has been sold to a hotel developer and he expects activity in the very near future.

Additional work was needed for the N. W. 36th Street District in order to make it more workable and some additional work is needed in regard to the off-street loading provisions and design regulations, according to Mr. Holland. He recommends looking at the entire sign code revision. He referred to the sign code in Doylestown, PA and the Village of Pinecrest Code that have fair regulations and they are not overly restrictive. He said that Council would be making the decisions in the future.

The Airport Golf requires a land use amendment and Comprehensive Plan review by the State. There was a snag with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that can be worked out and by reducing the cap for the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to 2.0 versus 3.0. For example, the Hyatt Place Hotel has a FAR of 1.3 on a very compact site of approximately 1.2 acres. There is one residential project coming in that creates some urgency to effect the Airport Golf regulations.

Mr. Holland explained that the CBD permitted land uses, bulk regulations and parking needs to be looked at in order to determine what encourages development. There is no specific urgency at this time and if a project happens to come forward, the Administration can respond.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden stated that he and Mr. Holland would be meeting with the attorney that was hired to write the adult related uses. He reviewed her work in detail and it is well thought out, well supported and it will close the loop on the Abraham District. He said that two ordinances were developed; one is a zoning ordinance for the Abraham District and the other will replace Chapter 135 in the Code regarding adult related businesses. Section 119 of the Code was developed that deals with the regulation of businesses and he is very happy with the results. It should be finalized with one meeting since it is already in the proper format and it should be approved by this Council before the April election.

City Attorney Seiden commented that Council will participate in the process to make the zoning ordinance viable in terms of a potential challenge. Council will have to state for the record that they have reviewed the studies and have determined that they agree with the nature and findings of them.

The next near term activity would be the cataloging of properties by ownership and land area, according to Mr. Holland. The information is available in several different places and the object is to have it in one place with mapping capabilities that can be integrated. The ownership patterns are essential when considering land assemblage, which should be the case in the Downtown.

Mr. Holland explained that the next related activity is site suitability assessment which is looking at specific land uses in specific land areas. All parcels are not conducive to hotel or retail development and the larger sites should be reserved for larger scale developments and the smaller sites for more traditional development such as "Mom & Pop" operations. He added that commercial real estate is not always advertised and there have been many inquiries about properties that he did not realize were on the market.

Mr. Holland stated that he will further pursue a dialogue with the Greater Miami Board of Realtors and they can help with identifying available properties. In some instances properties may not be on the market, but the owners will sell if they are offered the right price; there is one large site on 36th Street where this is the case.

Mr. Holland suggested that properties with the most development potential should be identified and these include structures that are in substandard condition or functionally obsolete. This approach would involve updating the 1995 Finding and Necessity for Redevelopment study and to proceed from there.

Another activity would be assisting the sellers in the preparation of their marketing materials, according to Mr. Holland. He cited one property on 36th Street that could use better marketing information and technical expertise. The City could cooperate or participate in the development by vacating certain streets or alleys when appropriate in order to further consolidate the properties. Another activity would be to identify and explore non-monetary incentives to developers such as expedited permit processing and waiver of certain permit fees.

Councilman Best thanked Mr. Holland for identifying seven points that are development rich in terms of not spending a lot of funds. He knows the City is not in the land business.

Mr. Holland explained that the City should assume the position of expediting development instead of deterring development in Miami Springs. Many developers had no interest in coming to Miami Springs because of the anti-growth environment and hopefully that will change.

Mayor Garcia commented that the position on development had already changed and this change was facilitated by the Administration who deals with people on a day-to-day basis. He said that once the hotels are finished he would suggest acquiring a testimonial letter from the developers that could be added to the City's marketing material.

City Manager Gorland felt that the time for 36th Street has finally arrived with the expansion of the airport and the City should do a better job of letting people know what property is available in Miami Springs. There are three tracts on 36th Street with more than three acres and one 4.5 acre tract in the Airport Golf District.

Councilman Lob asked how long it would take before Council addresses the Airport Golf District and Mr. Holland replied that it could be next month or at the first meeting in April because there is an interested developer.

3G) Presentation from the Miami Springs Senior High Stroke Awareness Team by Cesar Castillo, Member of the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission

César Castillo of 831 S. E. 7th Place, Hialeah, Member of the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission, presented information on stroke awareness, heart disease and their Stroke Awareness Team at Miami Springs Senior High School. They visit schools, churches and different events to spread the awareness of stroke and heart disease.

Luis Blanco of the Stroke Awareness Team explained that strokes predominantly affects Hispanics and African American people. They have received recognition from The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL). He continued stating that there is a lack of awareness in Miami-Dade regarding strokes and heart disease and the team is doing everything they can to spread the awareness.

Andrea Olivera said that this is her first year with the Team. The Team wants to make the community aware of certain risk factors that increase a person's chances of having a stroke such as smoking, alcohol, eating unhealthy and not exercising regularly.

César Castillo commented that they have been working with different organizations throughout the County. They have created an idea to host a walk to bring the community together and spread the awareness about strokes and heart disease. He would like to host this walk in collaboration with Commissioner Sosa and the City Council.

(Agenda Item 3B was discussed at this time)

4. Open Forum:

No speakers.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

5A) 01-14-2013 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the January 14, 2013 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

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

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

6A) 10-17-2012 – General Employees Retirement System – Minutes

Minutes of the October 17, 2012 General Employees Retirement System meeting were received for information without comment.

6B) 10-17-2012 – Police and Firefighters Retirement System – Minutes

Minutes of the October 17, 2012 Police and Firefighters Retirement System meeting were received for information without comment.

6C) 11-01-2012 – General Employees Retirement System – Minutes

Minutes of the November 1, 2012 General Employees Retirement System meeting were received for information without comment.

6D) 11-01-2012 – Police and Firefighters Retirement System – Minutes

Minutes of the November 1, 2012 Police and Firefighters Retirement System meeting were received for information without comment.

6E) 11-19-2012 – Board of Appeals – Minutes

Minutes of the November 19, 2012 Board of Appeals meeting were received for information without comment.

6F) 01-09-2013 – Golf and Country Club Advisory Board – Minutes

Minutes of the January 9, 2013 Golf and Country Club Advisory Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6G) 01-10-2013 – Board of Parks and Parkways – Minutes

Minutes of the January 10, 2013 Board of Parks and Parkways meeting were received for information without comment.

6H) 01-15-2013 – Education Advisory Board – Minutes

Minutes of the January 15, 2013 Education Advisory Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6I) 01-17-2013 – Historic Preservation Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the January 17, 2013 Historic Preservation Board Meeting was received for information without comment.

6J) 01-22-2013 – Ecology Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the January 22, 2013 Ecology Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6K) 01-24-2013 – Code Review Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the January 24, 2013 Code Review Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6L) 02-04-2013 – Board of Adjustment – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the February 4, 2013 Board of Adjustment meeting was received for information without comment.

7. Public Hearings:

None.

8. Consent Agenda:

None.

(Agenda Item 10D was considered at this time)

9. Old Business:

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

Mayor García **appointed** Caridad Hidalgo to the Education Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending on May 31, 2013.

Councilman Best **appointed** Bob Calvert to the Board of Adjustment/Zoning and Planning Board for an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2015.

Councilman Best announced that he is removing Art Rábade from the Revitalization and Redevelopment Ad-Hoc Committee as he is going to step down from the board. Art is involved in a new venture that everyone will soon learn of. He thanked him for his service.

10. New Business:

10A) Recommendation from the Board of Parks and Parkways

City Manager Gorland stated that based on the action taken at the Board of Parks and Parkways meeting on January 10, 2013, the board members are recommending that Council approve 900 Quail Avenue as the Yard of the Month for February 2013.

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

10B) Resolution No. 2013-3569 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Providing for the Second Amendment to FY2012-2013 Budget; by Appropriating Funds from Undesignated Reserves and From Re-appropriation of General Fund Budget Revenues to Cover Authorized and Approved General Fund Expenditures; Providing Intent; Specifying Compliance with Budgetary Processes and Procedures; Effective Date

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

Attorney Seiden stated that the resolution was amended to state “designated and undesignated” in the title and in the third “Whereas” clause. The Assistant City Manager/Finance Director will further explain the items listed in the second “Whereas” clause.

Mr. Alonso said that he intends to make the budget amendment document clearer in the future in order to show what is coming from the designated and undesignated fund balances. In this particular case, \$60,120, \$3,000 and \$25,760 are from the designated fund balance, which Council approved two meetings ago. The only item coming from the unreserved fund balance is \$41,126 for pool operations and this is because when the budget was prepared, the budget was reduced because the pool was expected to close for 4-5 months during repair. Subsequently, it was determined that the pool would not close this year and the expenses must be placed on the books. The net amount is actually \$45,595 for expenses less \$4,469 in revenues generated from the pool, and the \$41,126 will come from the unreserved fund balance.

Vice Mayor Ator said that she requested information to show how the amounts related to the designated and undesignated fund balance. She asked if the amount shown on page 35 of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) would still be the same today and Mr. Alonso answered affirmatively.

Vice Mayor Ator noted that \$3,000 for the Westward Median bike path is going to Southeast Design. She asked if the \$85,880 for Golf Course improvements is for the storage tank.

Mr. Alonso clarified that \$60,120 is for the Country Club roof replacement and \$25,760 is for the storage tanks. He added that \$45,595 would come from the unreserved fund balance and at the end of the fiscal year there is usually a savings, less 25%, that can be designated. If there is a shortage, Council may have to reduce the pool improvements or the hurricane contingency. He said that he would have to show Council the designated fund balance left over, which is for pool improvements and hurricane contingency and take the \$45,000 from one of those categories.

Vice Mayor Ator understood that the pool improvements were postponed because the amount was more than the original funds that were set aside.

City Manager Gorland clarified that the pool improvements involved a larger amount and the Administration is in the process of selecting an engineering firm who will be able to provide the correct numbers and prepare the specifications needed for the Request for Proposal (RFP).

Councilman Best moved to adopt Resolution No. 2013-3569. Councilwoman Bain seconded the motion which was carried 4-1 on roll call vote, with Vice Mayor Ator casting the dissenting vote.

10C) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure to Florida Shredding, the Lowest Responsible Quote, in the Amount of \$2,700.00, for Twelve Quarterly Shredding Events over a Three-year Period, Pursuant to §31.11 (C) (2) of the City Code

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland stated that this item is a recommendation for approval of an expenditure in the amount of \$2,700.00 to Florida Shredding. It is also recommended that Council approve an expenditure to All Digital Printing in the amount of \$534.00 for two banners and 1,000 event flyers and an expenditure of \$1,500.00 to the River Cities Gazette for advertising for a three-year period, pursuant to Section 31.11 (E) (6) (c) of the City Code.

City Manager Gorland explained that the purchase of these services and materials would provide for the implementation of a quarterly Police sponsored "Community Shred Day" for a three-year period for the residents and businesses of Miami Springs. The total cost is \$4,734.00 and funds are available from Law Enforcement Trust Funds (LETF). He added that communities are sponsoring this activity as a security measure in order to protect personal information.

Chief Baan explained that the City Manager presented this idea to him and this activity is also done by Miami-Dade County Crime Watch, which is a program that is traditionally sponsored by government entities to allow residents to dispose of their secure documents. The program is for three years and the first time will be a pilot program to see how it works; if there is enough participation, it will be continued on a quarterly basis at the Community Center, with dates and times to be determined. He added that the City could also take advantage of shredding their records.

Chief Baan clarified that the 3-year program is an approved use of the City's Law Enforcement Trust Funds.

City Manager Gorland commented that this type of industrial shredding turns paper into confetti and residents can shred entire boxes. If the program works for the residents, it can be extended to the commercial sector and it is successful in many communities.

To answer Councilman Lob's question, Chief of Police Baan explained that the City is charged a flat fee of \$100.00 per hour for the three-hour unit. The City will actually receive four quarterly events for the price of three, regardless of the amount they shred. Residents can show proof of residency with a utility bill or driver's license.

Councilman Best asked where the event would be held and the Chief said that it would be held in the pool parking lot.

City Manager Gorland added that the event would start at the pool parking lot and subsequently could be moved to different locations in the City.

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

10D) Code Revisions Priority Discussion

Building and Code Compliance Director Harold "Tex" Ziadie presented list of priorities for code revisions, explaining that his presentations on commercial vehicles and signs are ready.

Mayor Garcia asked how long before the presentations would be ready for all the recommendations and he suggested that Council could hold a workshop meeting, while the commercial vehicles and signs could be addressed at a regular meeting.

Mr. Ziadie said that most of the revisions are fairly simple and he would be able to have something ready as soon as Council requests it.

Mayor Garcia asked Mr. Ziadie and the City Manager to begin the preparation of the Code revisions and when they are completed, the recommendations will be placed on the next available agenda or Council can hold a workshop meeting if they agree.

City Attorney Seiden asked for clarification on whether Council wanted final recommendations or just alternatives for the various codes so that a workshop can be scheduled to discuss them all at the same time.

Council directed the Administration to bring back alternatives for the various code revisions that will be addressed at a Workshop meeting.

11. Other Business

11A) Presentation of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 First Quarter Budget Report (Unaudited)

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso reported that he could not make an intelligent projection as to how the year would end and he directed Council's attention to the financial dashboard on page three. He noted that expenditures are right on budget at 28%, compared to 30% last year for revenues and 34% for expenditures.

Mr. Alonso explained that the State Board of Administration (SBA) account that Councilman Best inquired about shows an unrealized loss of \$1,511.00 and most of the funds remaining in that account have been recouped, while the unrealized loss is reduced with time. The percentage of recreation expenditures collected in fees is 15.9% for the first quarter, compared to 13.4% last year. This is a sign that the Community Center revenue is increasing. The Golf Course loss for the first quarter was approximately \$96,000 compared to \$89,000 for the same period last year and this is due to maintenance costs for the winter preparation.

Councilman Lob asked if recent activity would impact the final outcome of the Golf Course operations and the City Manager responded that the necessary steps are being taken that will hopefully not impact the Golf Course operation.

Mr. Alonso added that daily revenues are being monitored at the Golf Course and there has not been a drop in revenues that are ahead of last year. He clarified that there has been no impact on revenue side.

Mr. Alonso stated that there is a surplus for the Building and Code Department of approximately \$51,000 for the first quarter, compared to \$12,000 last year due to increased building permit activity.

Mayor Garcia asked about the increase in permit activity and what percentage is for residential and commercial permit activity.

City Manager Gorland said that the Administration could provide the breakdown for commercial and residential permit activity. The activity log is checked daily and today approximately thirty people signed in, which is a mix of commercial and residential. This is an indication that permit activity has increased, especially in the residential area.

Vice Mayor Ator asked about page 17 in the CAFR that shows a reduction of \$60,120 that Council approved on November 19, 2012, and she commented that the budget resolution approves that action.

Mr. Alonso clarified that all the expenses in the budget amendment resolution have been pre-approved by Council, with the exception of the pool issue.

12. Reports & Recommendations:

12A) City Attorney

None.

12B) City Manager

"Yoga in a Chair"

City Manager Gorland reported that "Yoga in a Chair" takes place every Tuesday and Thursday at the Community Center. Anyone interested should call the Senior Center at 305.805.5160.

Art Classes

City Manager Gorland announced that art classes for kids age three to twelve are currently being offered at the Miami Springs Community Center every Tuesday afternoon beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Flu Shots

City Manager Gorland reminded everyone that the Miami Springs Circle Pharmacy is offering flu shots and the flu and it is not too late to get one.

Farmers Market

City Manager Gorland urged everyone to attend the Miami Springs Farmers Market at All Angels Episcopal Academy.

Grant Program

City Manager Gorland reported that County Commissioners Rebeca Sosa and José Pepe Diaz are making the "Mom & Pop Grant Program" available to small business owners in their respective districts. The deadline is February 4th and applications are available at www.miamidade.gov/district06/home.asp.

Adult Basketball Registration

City Manager Gorland announced that the Recreation Center Adult Basketball League registration starts Monday, January 28, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. and runs until February 27th. This is a great activity that is a lot of fun.

Dog Park Etiquette

City Manager Gorland informed dog owners that on Saturday, February 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. there is an interesting class on dog park etiquette and there has been a problem with un-neutered male dogs that are prohibited in the park. Chris Norris is a certified dog trainer that owns the business Miami Paws LLC, who will conduct the presentation.

Relay for Life Fundraiser

City Manager Gorland reported that the Relay for Life will hold a special Groundhog Day fundraiser on Saturday, February 2nd from 8:00 a.m. until noon at Woody's West End Tavern, 600 Payne Drive, which is a yard sale featuring new, re-gifted or gently used items for sale.

Soccer Fundraiser

City Manager Gorland mentioned that the Miami Springs/Virginia Gardens Soccer Club is hosting a movie night fundraiser at Virginia Gardens' field. Participants will be able to purchase food, drinks, popcorn and candy, etc. The movies to be shown are "Wreck it Ralph" and "Hotel Transylvania."

Curtiss Mansion Tour

City Manager Gorland announced that on Saturday, February 9th at 10:30 a.m., the Tour and Slide Show on the "Four Lives" of the Curtiss Mansion will be held at the Mansion. Saturday tours will be conducted on January 12th, February 9th, March 9th and April 13th. The cost of the tour and slide presentation is \$5.00 per person.

All Angels Silver Ball

City Manager Gorland reminded everyone of the All Angels Silver Ball on Saturday, February 9th that will have a Parisian theme this year and will be held at the Miami Springs Country Club.

"Taste of the Springs"

City Manager Gorland reported that the "Taste of the Springs" would be held at the Miami Springs Optimist Club on Sunday, February 10th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Daddy/Daughter Night

City Manager Gorland announced that the fabulous Annual Daddy and Daughter Date Night will be held on Saturday, February 16th, which is sold out and there is a waiting list.

12C) City Council

High School Soccer Team

Councilwoman Bain congratulated the High School Girls Soccer Team for winning their regional game. She said that they will hold the next regional game on Tuesday in Melbourne and hopefully they will continue to the State competition.

Shredding

Vice Mayor Ator emphasized what the Chief of Police said about the benefits of shredding because when she and her husband filed her taxes this year they received a note from the IRS informing them that their taxes were already filed by someone else. She encouraged everyone to shred their personal papers.

Advisory Board Meetings

Vice Mayor Ator has noticed that City Staff was not present at the advisory board meetings, including the Golf and Country Club and the Education Advisory Board meetings. She spoke with the City Manager before about having Staff at the meetings who can answer questions. She has attended meetings when the board members had questions and she would then have to contact the City officials to provide the answers.

Johnny's Match Program

Vice Mayor Ator went to Johnny's on Sunday night for the distribution of the proceeds from the Match Program. The Woman's Club and CATS received over \$2,000 and she accepted the check for the Optimist Club. The Miami Jackson Baseball Team and Mu Alpha Theta Math Club also received checks and many groups were pleased to receive a donation. She thanked Johnny's for sponsoring the program.

Pelican Playhouse

Vice Mayor Ator announced that the Pelican Playhouse is starting a new session that Councilman Best can speak about. Her son attends and enjoys it so now is the time to join the program and be in the next show.

Little League

Vice Mayor Ator said that the Little League is gearing up and will be holding their Opening Day on Saturday, March 2nd. The sign-ups and practices for boys and girls are starting and anyone interested should get in touch with the Miami Springs Little League, whose motto is "Where Every Kid Gets to Play."

Movie Night

Vice Mayor Ator reported that All Angels' Movie night was a big success last weekend with the food trucks and many people who had a great time. Movie Nights will continue and Mother Keedy could submit a request within the next few weeks to move the event back to the Circle.

All Angels Silver Ball

Vice Mayor Ator mentioned that the annual Silver Ball will be held on Saturday, February 9th.

League of Cities Dinner

Vice Mayor Ator announced that she cannot attend the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Installation Dinner that will also take place on Saturday, February 9th, as she will be attending the Silver Ball.

"Taste of the Springs"

Vice Mayor Ator noted that the "Taste of the Springs" would be held on Sunday, February 10th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., not 1-8 p.m. as shown on the list of events. The event will be held at the Optimist Club and the Chamber of Commerce is the co-sponsor. Tickets can be purchased at Johnny's or by contacting Chamber President Jim Borgmann.

"Taste of the Springs"

Councilman Best received notification that the tickets for "Taste of the Springs" are being sold at Johnny's and that the event will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Little League

Councilman Best announced that the Little League Opening Day would be held on Saturday, March 2nd.

Pelican Playhouse

Councilman Best commented that the Pelican Playhouse held the first meeting and at least twenty-five new people attended. Director Ralph Wakefield asked everyone to get up and tell their story, which was interesting. He is really proud of the Community Center and what was accomplished.

Good Meeting

Councilman Best commented that the meeting tonight was good.

Pelican Playhouse

Vice Mayor Ator asked what was Councilman Best's favorite line in the last show and Councilman Best replied that it was his monologue in the "Trials of Robin Hood". He relayed a story about his first production, which was "Girls to the Rescue" in 1999-2000 when a cast member forgot their lines, nothing was said for three minutes and how the actor recovered.

Message from Marli

Councilman Lob attended the Message from Marli Walk on Saturday, January 26th that was well attended, with good food on a beautiful day.

Poker Tournament

Councilman Lob reported that the annual Rotary Club Poker Tournament fundraiser was held and Councilwoman Bain made the final table, placing seventh in the tournament.

Movie Night

Councilman Lob commented that the food trucks at the All Angels Movie Night had excellent food.

Mary Ann Goodlett-Taylor

Mayor Garcia reiterated that it was great to recognize Mary Ann Goodlett-Taylor who has a lot of memories of the City's history and she always has a different story to tell. He will try to find a company that can sit with a person and record their information so that it can be electronically archived, which he hopes to do for Mary Ann.

Mayor Garcia thanked Commissioner Sosa and Senator Garcia for recognizing Ms. Goodlett-Taylor on the County and State levels.

Poker Tournament

Mayor Garcia reiterated that Councilwoman Bain placed seventh in the Optimist Club Poker Tournament, but the incredible story is about Sydney Garton who was released from the hospital the same day, had her hair done and finished second place in the tournament.

Senior Tax Exemption

Mayor Garcia mentioned that he, the Property Appraiser and Commissioner Sosa will be hosting a workshop seminar for seniors to inform them of the State and County requirements for the additional Homestead Exemption.

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso added that he was working on a Fact Sheet for the seniors with questions and answers, including a copy of the application.

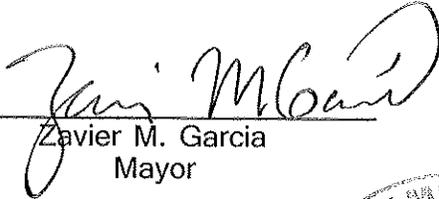
Mayor Garcia will have the Property Appraiser's office call Mr. Alonso so that the information about the seminar can be sent to the River Cities Gazette.

Commercial Development

Mayor Garcia commented that there are great reports on the improvements in the commercial areas with the new hotels coming in line.

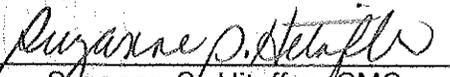
13. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



Xavier M. Garcia
Mayor

ATTEST:



Suzanne S. Hitaffer, CMC
Deputy City Clerk



Approved as written during meeting of: February 11, 2013

Transcription assistance provided by Elora R. Sakal.

Words ~~-stricken through-~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes. All other words remain unchanged.