



City of Miami Springs, Florida
City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 13, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers at City Hall
201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:08 p.m.

Present were the following:

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

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
Assistant City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
Chief of Police Armando A. Guzman
City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

2. Invocation: Councilwoman Buckner

Salute to the Flag: Students from All Angels Academy led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag

3. Awards & Presentations:

A) Swearing-in Ceremony for Police Officer Jason Collado

City Manager Gorland read a memorandum explaining a new procedure whereby each new Police Officer will be sworn-in during the City Council meetings.

After welcoming remarks, Chief of Police Armando Guzman administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Jason Collado.

B) Unit Citation Award presented by Chief Armando Guzman

Chief of Police Armando Guzman presented the Unit Citation Award to the midnight shift supervised by Sergeant Frank Perez for their excellent police work that resulted in the apprehension of a residential burglary suspect and recovery of several pieces of jewelry, computers, cash, collectables and property from two other residential burglaries. He commended Sergeant Perez and Officers Sandoval, Estok, Dweck and R. Castillo.

C) Presentation of Certificate of Sincere Appreciation Plaque to Suzanne Hitaffer in Recognition of 22 ½ Years of Dedicated Service to the City of Miami Springs

Mayor Garcia presented a Certificate of Sincere Appreciation plaque to Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer in recognition of her service to the City from November 2, 1992 to April 30, 2015.

On behalf of the Administration, City Manager Gorland presented Ms. Hitaffer with an engraved crystal vase and City Clerk Gonzalez-Santamaria presented a bouquet of flowers.

Ms. Hitaffer thanked the Mayor, Council and the Administration and introduced her husband who was present.

D) Yard of the Month – April – Dee and Ninett Hernandez – 130 Flagler Drive

Dee and Ninette Hernandez were not present to receive their Certificate of Recognition.

4. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Tony Lima of 841 Wren Avenue, Kim Werner of 1016 Meadowlark Avenue, and Cristina Medina of 260 Nahkoda Drive.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

A) March 23, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Bain moved to approve. Councilman Petralanda seconded the motion, which carried 3-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Bain, Councilman Petralanda and Mayor Garcia voting Yes. Vice Mayor Best and Councilwoman Buckner abstained.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

A) Board of Adjustment – Approval of Actions Taken at their Meeting of April 6, 2015 Subject to the 10-day Appeal Period

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

7. Public Hearings:

A) Ordinance – Second Reading – An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs Creating Code Of Ordinance Section 97-06; Long Term Resident Senior Citizen Tax Exemption; By Establishing An Additional Homestead Tax Exemption Available To Qualifying Senior Citizens; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict; Directions To Codifiers; Providing An Effective Date
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing to anyone wishing to speak.

Tony Lima of 841 Wren Avenue addressed the Council regarding this item and Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Alonso will provide Mr. Lima with information in order to address his concerns.

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

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve. Councilman Petralanda seconded the motion.

(Mayor Garcia called recessed the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:01 p.m.)

After discussion, the motion carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilman Bain, Councilwoman Buckner, Councilman Petralanda and Mayor Garcia voting Yes.

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

A) Approval of City Attorney's Invoice for March 2015 in the Amount of \$13,520.25

B) Recommendation by the Police Department that Council authorize the issuance of a Purchase Order to Lou's Police Distributors, Inc., utilizing the City of Hallandale Beach Bid #FY2012-2013-008, Uniform Purchase, in the amount of \$22,000.00 for a 12-month period, for police uniforms as funds were approved in the FY 14/15 Budget, pursuant to Section 31.11 (E)(5) of the City Code

C) Recommendation by Finance that Council approve an expenditure to the Miami Springs FOP Lodge #11 in the amount of \$2,000, for the April 24, 2015 Charles B. Stafford Memorial Golf Tournament as funds were approved in the FY14/15 Budget

D) Recommendation by Finance that Council approve an expenditure to the River Cities Festival in the amount of \$5,000, for the April 10, 2015 River Cities Festival as funds were approved in the FY 14/15 Budget

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve consent agenda items 8A, 8B and 8C. Councilman Bain seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilman Bain, Councilwoman Buckner, Councilman Petralanda and Mayor Garcia voting Yes.

Councilman Bain moved to approve consent agenda item 8D. Councilwoman Buckner seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

9. Old Business:

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

There were no appointments at this time.

10. New Business:

A) Ordinance – First Reading – An Ordinance Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs Amending Code Of Ordinance Section 35-14, Membership In Retirement System; To Provide Any Newly Appointed Department Directors The Option Of Joining The City Employees Retirement System; Determination Of Retroactivity; Repealing All Ordinances Or Parts Of Ordinances In Conflict; Effective Date

City Attorney Seiden read the title of the ordinance.

Attorney Seiden stated that newly appointed City employees to the positions of City Manager, Assistant City Manager, or Department Director following the enactment of this ordinance shall have the option of membership in the City Employees' Retirement System or any other City approved retirement plan. He asked Staff to send the ordinance to the attorney for the Retirement Board for his review.

Councilman Bain moved to approve. Vice Mayor Best seconded the motion.

After discussion, Councilman Bain agreed to withdraw his motion and Vice Mayor Best withdrew his second and the item was tabled until the next meeting.

B) Consideration of the Board of Parks and Parkways Recommendations for the Yard of the Month Awards for May, June, July, and August 2015

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

11. Other Business: None

12. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Seiden welcomed back Vice Mayor Best and newly elected Councilwoman Buckner. He also welcomed Mayor Garcia, Councilman Bain and Councilman Petralanda who were re-elected to office. He wished them luck and encouraged Council to call him with any questions.

B) City Manager

City Manager Gorland congratulated everyone and said that he looks forward to working with the new Council. He said that it is all about communication and he is always available to address any questions. He thanked River Cities Festival Chairman Tom Curtis for a successful festival event that went smoothly with no issues. He pointed out that the new graphics were on the police car parked in front of City Hall.

C) City Council

Vice Mayor Best thanked the people responsible for electing him to office again. He likes to represent people and is fortunate to have good health that allows him to do this. He said that the Administration for the City of Miami Springs is one of the strongest teams out of the 37 municipalities in Miami-Dade County; he is very proud and honored to be working with a team like this and ready to move forward.

Councilman Bain asked the Administration to look into the possibility of having the City's engineering firm re-evaluate the flood zones in the City, which could result in a savings to the residents. **By consensus, Council agreed.**

City Attorney Seiden informed Council that the City had not agreed upon a contract with the engineering firm and a survey will be conducted to determine if the hourly rates are in line with what other cities are paying.

Councilman Bain wants to pursue a better way to get the Council meeting out to the community; a full Council meeting with no excerpts or anyone picking and choosing quotes. He said this election proves that a lot of people do not get the proper perspective of the Council meetings and what is presented here. He said that we might have to do it ourselves or give a team like the FIU people who do this and report for the City on a volunteer basis. Council has discussions and comments are made and when you go back and read the paper, there is only one sentence out of what was said that is presented. The entire Council's discussion should be presented so that people are aware of what really happens so that misinformation is not sent out to the public. This is something he wants to pursue for the next two years with the help of Public Information Specialist Carol Foster who might be able to do something or prepare something, but we can explore other avenues to come in here and report the Council meeting and get it out to the people.

Councilman Bain extended congratulations to the Council and wished everyone a good evening.

Councilman Petralanda thanked the residents and said that he is humbled and honored to be elected for another two years. He is not considered a rookie anymore. He looks forward to working with the rest of the Council and the two new elected officials. He thanked Tom Curtis for doing a wonderful job over the weekend with the River Cities Festival and looks forward to next year.

Councilwoman Buckner thanked everyone for their faith in her and said that it would be a learning curve for the first couple of months. She asked everyone to bear with her and said she would do the best she can. She looks forward to working with the other Council members.

Mayor Garcia welcomed the newly elected Council members. He said that his closing remarks are for the residents and his supporters that were standing side-by-side with him and supporting other Council candidates which might have been elected to office or not. This is not the type of job where you can say "something passed on Council but, oh yeah it passed, but I didn't vote for that." Whether we like it or not, this is like a family; you might not like all your family, but you love the job you do and you love your family. At the end of the day, everyone has one common goal and that is to do what is in the best interests of all of the residents of Miami Springs, not just for today, but also for the future. Not just the

employees of the City, not just the residents, but everyone across the board. We need to make sure we are doing a good job for everybody. Regardless of differences of opinion, Council sits together as colleagues and he is hoping that by the end of the first term together, he can call everyone friends as well, because there is a better understanding of what Council does as elected officials. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Mayor once again.

13. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk

Adopted by the City Council on
This 27th day of April, 2015.


Xavier M. Garcia, Mayor



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