



City of Miami Springs, Florida
City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 23, 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 7:04 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Xavier M. Garcia
Vice Mayor Jaime A. Petralanda
Councilman Michael Windrem
Councilman George V. Lob

Absent: Councilman Billy Bain

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:** Mayor Garcia

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

- 3. Awards & Presentations:**

A) Presentation of Bronze Historical Designation Plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Torres to in recognition of their beautiful home known as the "H.O. Goodlett House"

On behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Torres, Mary Ann Goodlett-Taylor accepted the designation plaque from Mayor Garcia. She shared her memories of growing up in the historic house located at 141 Shadow Way.

B) Proclamation – Dr. Stuart A. Bernstein Day

Mayor Garcia read a proclamation proclaiming March 23, 2015 as Dr. Stuart A. Bernstein Day in recognition of his dental practice and his service to the community for more than 50 years. Dr. Elizabeth Marchan Mayo and Dr. Lester Domingo Haidar accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Bernstein family.

C) Officer of the Month for February 2015 presented to Officer Matthew L. Castillo

Chief of Police Armando A. Guzman introduced Sergeant Andres Quintanilla who presented the Officer of the Month award for February 2015 to Officer Matthew L. Castillo for his actions in conducting a traffic stop that led to the recovery of 280 grams of marijuana and the arrest of the suspect who was charged with narcotics distribution.

Sergeant Quintanilla complimented Officer Castillo for his excellent police work during the month of February that also led to the arrest of the "garage sale" thieves, the recovery of a stolen vehicle and under covering information that helped to prevent robberies within the City.

Officer Castillo thanked Sergeant Quintanilla for recognizing his efforts and the citizens of Miami Springs for their help that led to the arrest of the "garage sale" thieves. He introduced his wife, family members and fellow police officers who were present.

D) Presentation by Jose Gonzalez of the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) on Quiet Zone at Train Crossings

Jose Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Florida East Coast Industries gave a PowerPoint presentation on quiet zones at train crossings and the devices that can be installed to prevent drivers from accidentally going into the corridor and colliding with a train. He explained that train horns are safety devices to warn of an approaching train and a process was developed to evaluate crossings to determine what safety improvements are needed.

Mr. Gonzalez said that the train crossing evaluation is the first step in the quiet zone process. The Federal Rail Administration does not promote quiet zones since they feel that the best way to prevent an accident is to blow horns. He explained that because many rail crossings are in Hialeah, the City of Hialeah would have to work with Miami Springs to apply for the quiet zone, along with Miami-Dade County. The request is then sent to the Federal Rail Administration. He said that funding is available from the State of Florida to help pay for the crossing safety improvements.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that Florida East Coast Industries is committed to working with the City Administration to establish a quiet zone and the first step would be an Inter-local Agreement between Hialeah, Miami-Dade County and Miami Springs before the analysis of the crossings and petition to the State.

Residents Joe Buonassi, Nery Owens and Nelson Varona addressed Council regarding this agenda item and Mr. Gonzalez responded to their concerns.

City Attorney Seiden said that the next step would be to request assistance from County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa in coordinating the Inter-local Agreement.

E) Presentation on Museum Relocation Update by Bev Roetz

Miami Springs Historical Society representative Bev Roetz presented an update on the status of the relocation of the historical museum at 501 East Drive. She reported that the architects will be submitting permit applications this week and fundraising efforts continue.

Society representative Jennifer Graham said that she is working on the inventory of items that will be needed in order to renovate the building, bring it up to code and recreate the space so that it is of museum quality.

4. Open Forum:

The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Joe Buonassi and Nery Owens.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

A) March 9, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

Councilman Windrem moved to approve. Councilman Lob seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Petralanda, Councilmen Windrem, Lob and Mayor Garcia voting Yes.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions: None

7. Public Hearings: None

8. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted) None

9. Old Business:

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

Vice Mayor Petralanda appointed Lee Fisher to the Board of Parks and Parkways to fill an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2017.

10. New Business:

A) Ordinance – First 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 read the title of the ordinance.

City Attorney Seiden explained that the statute provides an additional exemption in the amount of the assessed value of any homestead real property for qualified senior citizens who have had legal recordable title to such property so long as the homestead has a just value of less than \$250,000; has maintained permanent residence on the property for not less than 25 years, is 65 or older and whose household income does not exceed the income limitation of \$27,000. The exemption would not go into effect until the 2016 tax roll.

Councilman Windrem moved to approve the ordinance on first reading. Vice Mayor Petralanda seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as

follows: Vice Mayor Petralanda, Councilmen Windrem, Lob and Mayor Garcia voting Yes.

B) Recommendation by Public Works that Council authorize the issuance of a Purchase Order to Jobbers Equipment Warehouse, utilizing Miami-Dade County contract #0924-3/09-3, in the amount of \$27,620.54, for heavy duty drive-on vehicle lift, pursuant to Section 31.11(E)(5) of the City Code.

City Manager Gorland read the recommendation memo. He said that funds would be derived from the contingency fund that was part of the budget.

Councilman Windrem moved to approve the recommendation. Councilman Lob seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Petralanda, Councilmen Windrem, Lob and Mayor Garcia voting Yes.

C) Notification of current status of ATS/Red Light Camera Proceedings

City Attorney Seiden provided an update of the current status of the ATS red light camera proceedings and two major litigations going on at this time. A number of class-action lawsuits were instituted in State Court throughout the State of Florida and both the plaintiffs and the defendants agreed to be tried in front of one tribunal; both agreed to file lawsuits against a number of cities and companies on the procedural correctness of the ATS contract. The City of Miami Springs was granted defense by the Florida League of Cities, Florida Municipal Trust, and the City accepts their representation in this particular matter. He will keep Council advised of the matter as needed; at this point there is nothing further to do.

11. Other Business: None

12. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

The City Attorney had no report at this time.

B) City Manager Gorland urged all registered voters to vote in the Miami Springs General Election. He reminded everyone of the groundbreaking of the Aquatic Facility on March 31st in the pool parking lot.

C) City Council

Councilman Windrem and Vice Mayor Petralanda had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Lob wished everyone a good night.

Mayor Garcia had nothing to report at this time.

13. Adjourn

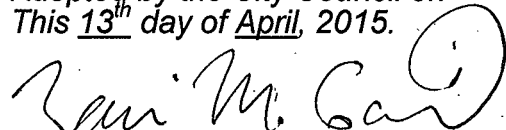
There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Erika González-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on
This 13th day of April, 2015.


Xavier M. Garcia, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE CITY HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE CITY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.