



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes (Corrected)

Monday, May 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

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

Virtual Council Meeting using Communications Media Technology Pursuant to
Governor's Executive Order 20-69

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:02 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Victor Vazquez, Ph.D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Haydee Sera

Police Chief Armando Guzman

Recreation Director Omar Luna

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Pledge of Allegiance: Audience led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.

- 3. Agenda / Order of Business:**

Mayor Mitchell moved up Item 11B, Resolution on the Woman's Club street co-designation, to follow after open forum.

- 4. Awards & Presentations:**

A) Presentation by Miami-Dade County Corrections Director Daniel Junior on the jail replacement

Corrections Director Daniel Junior gave an oral and PowerPoint presentation. He updated the City Council on the future plans on the replacement jail that will be located in west Miami-Dade.

B) Presentation of Certificate by Sharon Ragoonan, FCCMA District V Director and Assistant City Manager of the City of North Miami Beach recognizing the City of Miami Springs on the City's anniversary of becoming an ICMA recognized Council-Manager form

of government

Ms. Ragoonan presented the City Manager, Mayor and City Council with a certificate recognizing the City as a Council-Manager form of government.

C) Recognition of Marcos Alvarez, City Hall Featured Artist of the Month of May

Mayor Mitchell welcomed artist Marcos Alvarez to the meeting and thanked him for participating in the City Hall artist of the month. Mr. Alvarez thanked the Mayor and the City Council for their support for local artists and is very grateful for the opportunity.

5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Kathy Doyle, 2085 Miami Springs Avenue; and Carrol Gordon, 251 Hibiscus Drive.

6. Approval of Council Minutes:

A) April 26, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 26, 2021 Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

7. Reports from Boards & Commissions: None at this time.

8. Public Hearings:

A) **Ordinance – Second Reading** – An Ordinance Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Amending Section 35-53, “Contributions” Of The Police And Fireman Pension Plan Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances Pertaining To Monthly Retirement Benefits; Providing For Conflicts; Providing For Severability; Providing For Codification; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Attorney Haydee Sera read the Ordinance by title. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing, there were no speakers at this time.

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the Ordinance as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

9. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted): None at this time.

10. Old Business:

- A) Update on Fourth of July Events

City Manager William Alonso read the memo for the record. Omar Luna, Recreation Director, addressed all of the City Council's questions.

Councilman Fajet moved to approve the event for the Fourth of July, but to replace the "Family Fun Celebration" with a modified parade. Vice Mayor Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 4-1 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, ~~Councilman Vazquez~~ and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Councilman Vazquez voting No.

11. New Business:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving A Contract and Contract Addendum With Fireworks Displays Unlimited, LLC/Fireworks Displays Unlimited, Inc. For The City's 2021 Fourth Of July Fireworks Display In An Amount Not To Exceed \$16,000.00; Waiving Competitive Bidding Procedures; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date *(This item requires a 4/5 vote of Council per Section 31-11(E)(6)(g) of the City Code).*

City Attorney Haydee Sera read the Resolution by title.

Councilman Fajet moved to approve the Resolution as read. Vice Mayor Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Co-Designating The Portion Of Park Street Between Westward Drive And Hibiscus Drive As "Miami Springs Women's Club Way"; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

- C) Request for Annual Stafford Golf Tournament funding

City Manager William Alonso read the Staff memo for the record.

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the recommendation by staff for additional funding for the event. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 4-1

on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Councilwoman Bravo voting No.

12. Other Business:

A) Appointment of Representative and alternate Representative to the Miami-Dade County League of Cities

Vice Mayor Best nominated Councilman Fajet as Representative and nominated Councilman Vazquez as alternate for the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Board of Directors. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) Update on 2021 State Legislative Appropriations request for South Royal Poinciana project, East Drive project and Senior Meals

City Manager William Alonso read the staff memo for the record. He stated that the following items were approved for funding by the State: Senior Center Supplemental Meals and Services, \$215,000; South Royal Median, \$1,000,000; and East Drive Stormwater & Road Improvements, \$1,500,000. The City Council thanked the City Lobbyists, City Manager and the Mayor for actively pursuing funding for major priorities for the City.

C) Summary report from the Council Workshop on May 5th

City Manager William Alonso summarized the items that the Mayor and City Council discussed during the workshop and listed several priorities that include the following: East Drive project; for Recreation, all cabana replacement, Community Center exterior painting, and racquetball court construction, acquire quotes for bollard lighting along walking path at Stafford Park; for Golf Course, acquire quotes for replacing golf greens; for Public Works, allocating \$50,000 to the City-wide sidewalk project; for Police, adding one new Police Officer position and additional officers on wish list; for City-wide, look into the creation of a City Economic Development Board, Nuisance Abatement Board and acquire quotes for revision of the City Zoning Code. Several members of the City Council thanked Mayor Mitchell for requesting a workshop so quickly and allowing the members to prioritize various projects.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Haydee Sera updated the Mayor and City Council on the Airport Diner and stated that the case will be heard by the Unsafe Structure Board in the upcoming weeks.

B) City Manager

City Manager William Alonso provided updated information on the upcoming vaccination site at the Recreation Center. He stated that it was very moving to see all the folks that attended the street designation today for the “Sebastian Ortiz Way” on Curtiss Parkway and Pinecrest Drive. He reminded the public that the food drive will continue every Thursday until the end of May.

C) City Council

Councilman Vazquez in encouraged to hear that the issue with #onation will be looked into and a possibly resolved. He stated that he was able to attend the co-designation event this morning for the Sebastian Ortiz family. He met the Ortiz family and was also very touched to see many people there to support the family.

Councilman Fajet was saddened that he was not able to attend the street designation for the Ortiz family event in the morning. He stated that the designation is a wonderful reminder of Sebatian Ortiz, to honor him and keep his legacy alive. He then thanked the rest of the Council for the workshop recently, he stated that it was very productive and informative.

Councilwoman Bravo stated that she attended the “Sebastian Ortiz Way” street designation. She said it was beautiful, but a bitter sweet event since today is Sebastian’s and his mom’s birthday as well. She was content to hear that the City Attorney is looking into the Nuisance Abatement Board and the Economic Development Board. She also agreed that the workshop was very helpful and allowed for discussions on a variety of items.

Vice Mayor Best expressed his condolences to former Councilwoman Rosie Buckner for the loss of her grandson. He also expressed his condolences to the Bithorn family for the loss of his friend Paul Bithorn who recently passed. He requested that from the Mayor and City Council to recognize Father Alfaro from Blessed Trinity at the next meeting, who is being reassigned to another church. The Council conceded on his request. He announced that the Miami Springs High School Baseball won the District Championship and the Regional Championship, and then off to State Championship. Vice Mayor Best also thanked the Mayor for requesting the workshop at the beginning of her administration, it was very beneficial.

Mayor Mitchell expressed her condolences for the loss of Paul Bithorn. She also expressed condolences to the family who lost a father/husband at the Recreation

Center while playing basketball last week. She mentioned the flag display and stated that the City Manager and City Attorney are working on an Administrative policy that will clear up any future situations such as this. Mayor Mitchell stated Florida Department of Transportation reached out recently on meeting, she stated that the 36th Street project is very important because the project calls for expansion of the roadway. She expressed her condolences to former Councilwoman Rosie Buckner for her loss. She stated that she attended the street designation this morning for Sebastian Ortiz; it was remarkable to see how he is an inspiration to our community.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*



*Adopted by the City Council on
This 24th day of May, 2021.*


Maria Puente Mitchell, 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.