



## ***City of Miami Springs, Florida***

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 14, 2022 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 7:00 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Jacky Bravo

Councilman Bob Best

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

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Councilman Bob Best  
**Pledge of Allegiance:** Audience participated in leading the pledge.

- 3. Agenda / Order of Business:**

Mayor Mitchell stated that she would like to introduce the following Resolution. She requested

**Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Urging The Florida Legislature To Pass Legislation Modifying The Tourist Development Tax ("Bed Tax") So As To Create A More Fair Apportionment Of Related Funding To Municipalities In Miami-Dade County; Urging The Miami-Dade County Board Of County Commissioners To Review The Possibility Of Equitably Distributing A Portion Of The Bed Tax To Municipalities Within Miami-Dade County Based On Their Rate Of Collection; Providing For Transmittal; And Providing For An Effective Date

The City Council gave general consensus to consider the item as 11C under New Business.

- 4. Awards & Presentations:**

A) City Hall Lobby Artist of the Month for February 2022 – Students from Miami Springs Senior High School

**Ms. Beth Goldstein, the Miami Springs High School Department Chair, introduced herself and the High School principal, Mr. Alfred Torossian to the City Council. Ms. Goldstein provided some background information on the students presenting their artwork in the lobby. She also recognized two students, Zaid Rugana and Julia Carvajal for their excellence in art. She thanked the City Council and City Administration for the opportunity to present the students artwork.**

**5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Arlene Hawks Esperon, 549 Payne Drive; Marc Chavers, Miami-Dade Fire Operations Division Chief.**

**6. Approval of Council Minutes:**

- A) January 18, 2022 – Workshop
- B) January 24, 2022 – Regular Meeting

**Councilman Best moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022 of the Council Workshop and January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Best, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

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

**8. Public Hearings: None at this time.**

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

**10. Old Business: None at this time.**

**11. New Business:**

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving A Collective Bargaining Agreement With The Florida State Lodge Fraternal Order Of Police, Inc. On Behalf Of The City Of Miami Springs Lieutenants Collective Bargaining Unit Covering Fiscal Years 2021–2022 Through 2023-2024; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.**

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

B) **Ordinance – First Reading** – An Ordinance Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Amending Chapter 35, “Retirement Systems,” Article Ii, “Police And Fireman

Pension Plan” Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances By Amending Section 35-51, “Definitions” Pertaining To “Average Monthly Earnings”; Amending Section 35-53 “Benefit Amounts And Eligibility” To Exclude Members In The Rank Of Lieutenant And Below Retiring Or Entering The Drop After December 14, 2021 From The Provisions Relating To Frozen Accrued Benefits; Providing For Conflicts; Providing For Severability; Providing For Codification; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Ordinance by title.**

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

C) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Urging The Florida Legislature To Pass Legislation Modifying The Tourist Development Tax (“Bed Tax”) So As To Create A More Fair Apportionment Of Related Funding To Municipalities In Miami-Dade County; Urging The Miami-Dade County Board Of County Commissioners To Review The Possibility Of Equitably Distributing A Portion Of The Bed Tax To Municipalities Within Miami-Dade County Based On Their Rate Of Collection; Providing For Transmittal; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.**

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

## **12. Other Business:**

A) Update by Mayor Mitchell on Tallahassee Dade Days and Florida League of Mayors

**Mayor Mitchell stated that she and several members of the City Council joined the City Manager in Tallahassee for the annual Dade Days event. She stated the event ran for two days from February 2-3 and were able to meet with the Cities state representatives, Representative Bryan Avila and Senator Manny Diaz, Jr. on City priorities. Councilman Fajet stated it was his first time attending and said that it was very valuable and a great experience overall to see our legislators at work. Vice Mayor Bravo also said that was her first time at Dade Days and said it gave her a different perspective on government and the City’s representation in Tallahassee. City Manager Alonso expressed that the City’s items are moving forward and have not been voted down, the City will know by mid-March on the proposed items for State approval. Mayor Mitchell continued to state that she also participated in the Florida League of Mayors events in Tallahassee as well the week following Dade Days. She updated the City Council on items discussed during the FLM events, such**

**as, short-term vacation rentals, and bed-tax issue.**

B) Update by Mayor Mitchell on Miami-Dade County League of Cities Board meeting on February 10th at the Miami Springs Country Club

**Mayor Mitchell stated that the last Miami-Dade County League of Cities Board Meeting was held at the Miami Springs Country Club on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Best stated that the Mayor's presentation on the "Bed Tax" issue was flawless and to the point. Councilman Vazquez stated he was happy to be there and participate at the event. Mayor stated that it was also the City Manager's birthday that night, it was nice to celebrate all together.**

**13. Reports & Recommendations:**

A) City Attorney

**City Attorney Haydee Sera stated that it is nice to be back in person with the City Council. She updated the City Council with the FactoryTown Holdings litigation.**

B) City Manager

**City Manager William Alonso the City Council of the Council Workshop on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. He also stated that masks will not be mandatory, but optional. Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero provided a verbal list of upcoming City meetings and events, which may also be found on the City's website.**

C) City Council

**Vice Mayor Bravo had no report at this time.**

**Councilman Vazquez had no report at this time.**

**Councilman Fajet shared that is was very valuable to be in Tallahassee to advocate for the City's needs. He addressed the resident who spoke during open forum on FPL.**

**Councilman Best also addressed the resident who spoke under open forum in reference FPL. He reported that the American Legion has deposited a large donation for the proposed War Memorial. He reminded everyone the River Cities Festival is March 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the Pelican Playhouse will have a Shakespeare production coming up soon. He thanked those**

**Mayor Mitchell thanked Representative Avila, Senator Diaz, and Representative Fabricio, for their time at Dade Days. She heard that the Daddy Daughter Dance was a huge success, she reminded the public that the Farmers Market is still going on up until the start of the River Cities Festival.**

**14. Adjourn**

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC  
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on  
This 28th day of February, 2022.

  
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.