



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12, 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 Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

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

Planning Director Chris Heid (via Zoom)

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Councilman Bob Best

Pledge of Allegiance: The audience participated in leading the pledge.

- 3. Agenda / Order of Business**

- 4. Awards & Presentations:**

A) Swearing-in Ceremony for Alexander M. Alvarez, Miami Springs Police Department, by Chief Armando Guzman

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Chief Guzman to the meeting. Chief Guzman proceeded to swear-in new police officer Alexander M. Alvarez. Officer Alvarez thanked the Chief, City Administration and the City Council for the opportunity and the support.

B) Introduction by the newly appointed Miami-Dade County Fire Chief Raied S. Jadallah

Mayor Mitchell recognized Fire Chief Raied Jadallah. He took a moment to introduce himself and stated his recent appointment as the new Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Fire Chief. He stated he looks forward to continue meeting the needs of

the City and working with the community on services. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to present himself at the meeting.

C) Yard of the Month Award for July 2022 – 1281 Heron Avenue – Kevin and Jessica Mulet

Mayor Mitchell announced the Yard of the Month for July 2022, Mr. and Mrs. Mulet at 1281 Heron Avenue, the Mulet’s were present to receive the award. Mr. and Mrs. Mulet thanked the Mayor and Council, and the City for the recognition.

D) Recognizing the City Hall Lobby Artist of the Month for September 2022 – Joan Cavalier

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Mrs. Joan Cavalier to the meeting. Mrs. Cavalier thanked the City Council and Administration for allowing her to present her artwork in the City Hall Lobby.

5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Jorge Fors, 1415 Algeria Avenue; and Jorge Santin 1249 Heron Avenue.

6. Approval of Council Minutes:

- A) August 15, 2022 – Workshop Meeting
- B) August 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Best moved to approve the minutes of August 15, 2022 Budget Workshop and August 22, 2022 Regular Meeting. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Fajet, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

7. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

A) Re-appointing Board Member Wendy Anderson-Booher to the Ecology Board

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria provided information on the process of re-appointing a board member after three consecutive terms. It was the general consensus of the City Council to reappoint Ms. Anderson-Booher to the Ecology Board.

8. Public Hearings:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting The Proposed Millage Rate For Fiscal Year 2022-2023 In The Amount Of 6.9900 Mills, Which Is 5.35% Higher Than The Roll-Back Rate Of 6.6352 Mills, To Balance The General Fund For Fiscal Year 2022-2023; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title and explained that the millage rate is currently set at 6.9900 with a deficit of \$148,142, and having a \$151,858 for Council allocations. He stated that the following items have been added, the River Cities Festival increased, communications city-wide phone app, subsidy for the Historic Society requests, movie nights throughout the year, approving a limit on donation requests from civic groups and local schools, and adding funding to City Attorney's budget for City Code revisions. He stated that staff would need direction on the recent proposal made by Councilman Best on allocating an additional 2% COLA to those General employees earning \$50,000 or less. He provided a breakdown on the number of employees that will be receiving the additional benefit and which departments it would affect. The City Manager further stated that the batting cage area is in dire need of repairs due to safety concerns and will require \$30,000 of updating, he also provided millage rate options for the City Council to consider with the additional funding and the request by Councilman Best.

Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing; there were no speakers. The public hearing closed.

After much discussion, Vice Mayor Fajet moved to approve a millage rate of 6.9100. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 3-2 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Fajet, Councilwoman Bravo, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Councilman Best and Councilman Vazquez voting No.

B) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting A Tentative Budget For The Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2022, And Ending September 30, 2023; Confirming Date Of Second Public Hearing; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title, Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing; there were no speakers. The public hearing closed.

There was no further discussion. Vice Mayor Fajet moved to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 4-1 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Fajet, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Councilman Best voting No.

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

A) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving The Issuance Of A Purchase Order To Ovas & Co, LLLC For Citywide Asphalt Patching Services On An As-Needed Basis In An Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000; Providing For A Waiver Of Competitive Bidding; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero read the Resolution by title.

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

B) Resolution - A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving An Agreement With CivicPlus, LLC For The Seeclifix 3-1-1 Service Request Management Application Application; Authorizing The City Manager To Issue A Purchase Order To CivicPlus, LLC For The Seeclifix 3-1-1 Service Request Management Application In An Amount Not To Exceed \$15,263.70 For Fiscal Year 2022-23 And Budgeted Funds In Future Fiscal Years; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero read the Resolution by title. Michael Nicholson and Andrew Shetty from CivicPlus provided an audio and visual presentation.

After some discussion, Councilman Best moved to approve Item 9B. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Fajet, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

10. Old Business: None at this time.

11. New Business:

A) Ordinance – First Reading – An Ordinance Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Amending Section 31-11, “Purchasing, Procurement, And Sale Procedures” Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances To Update The City’s Procurement Provisions; Providing For Conflicts; Providing For Severability; Providing For Codification; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title and the staff memo for the record.

After some discussion, Councilwoman Bravo 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 Fajet, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, [Approving/Denying] A Variance Application By Juan A. Calvo For Property Located At 400 Park Street To Provide A 10’8” Front Yard Setback Where Section 150-060(E) Of The Code Requires A Minimum Required Front Yard Of Not Less Than 30 Feet Or The Average Depth Of The Front Yard Of The Lot Or Lots Next Adjacent Thereto On Either Side, Whichever Is The Lesser Of The Two; Providing For Conditions; Providing For Violations; And Providing For An Effective Date

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

- C) Discussion on the 100th Year Celebration Committee process

City Manager William Alonso read the staff memo for the record. He stated that the recommendation would be that the City Council appoint one member to the committee, establish a scope of work for the committee, and create a timeline for the committee to complete their work and report to Council. The City Council expressed an interest in hiring an event coordinator or event production company, they also stated that the most fitting Council member to liaise the committee is Councilman Vazquez. He shared his ideas and hopes to be a part of a great event in the upcoming years. City Attorney Haydee Sera explained that she will finalize the draft resolution and provide a final resolution at the next meeting for Council consideration.

12. Other Business: None at this time.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

- A) City Attorney

City Attorney Haydee Sera stated that there are no further updates as of now on the annexation Interlocal Agreement. She stated that she will keep the City posted as soon as something comes about.

- B) City Manager

City Manager William Alonso had no report at this time. Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero announced all the upcoming City events and stated that more information is available on the City website.

- C) City Council

Vice Mayor Fajet thanked the City Manager for his work on the budget process; he stated that his thoughts were with the 9/11 commemoration yesterday. He also announced that Dr. Rolando Montoya, former Miami Dade College President, will be at AIE at 7:00 p.m. speaking on “Pedro Pan” which is hosted by the Miami Springs Historical Museum, he encouraged the community to come out and support the event and Museum.

Councilman Vazquez gave his heartfelt thoughts and prayers to those that perished in the 9/11 tragedy.

Councilwoman Bravo stated that the meeting was quite productive and being able to help the residents of the City during the budget process this year is always nice. She gave her deepest condolences to the Lucy Fernandez family, as her funeral services were held today and is praying for the three girls that are in critical condition that were in the same accident as Ms. Fernandez.

Councilman Best also gave his heartfelt prayers to the victims and the surviving victims of the 9/11 tragedy.

Mayor Mitchell reminded the community that the Farewell Evening honoring Commissioner Sosa's years of service to Miami-Dade County Board of Commission and most of all for to the City of Miami Springs, is on September 28th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; a cocktail reception will be held at the Curtiss Mansion, and stated that tickets are limited and encourages everyone to reserve a ticket. Mayor Mitchell congratulated all of the City Council on a successful budget process, and working to once again lowering the millage rate without affecting City services.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on
This 26th day of September, 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.