



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

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023 at 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 George V. Lob

Councilman Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Haydee Sera

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero

Police Chief Armando Guzman

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

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

3. **Agenda / Order of Business: None at this time.**

4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) City Hall Lobby Artist of the Month for February 2023 are the Miami Springs Adult Community Center Seniors – On display is the watercolor medium taught in Joan Cavalier's Art Class

**Mayor Mitchell welcomed Miami Springs Senior Center Art Teacher Joan Cavalier. Mrs. Cavalier stated that the Seniors enjoy painting and learning to work with different art mediums. She further explained the assignment that the students were tasked to work with watercolors.**

B) Proclamation presentation to the Miami Springs Procurement Department for "Public Procurement Month" for the month of March 2023, for the delivery of goods and services for the City

**This item was deferred to the next Council meeting.**

C) Presentation of the Yard of the Month Award for February 2023 – 730 Swan Avenue – Maria S. Gonzalez

**Mayor Mitchell announced Yard of the Month for January 2023. The resident was not available to receive the award; City Clerk Erika Gonzalez stated that the award will be sent to the homeowner.**

D) Invitation by Fred Gonzalez to the Miami Springs Little League Opening Day Ceremony on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at Prince Field

**Mayor Mitchell welcomed Mr. Gonzalez to the meeting. Mr. Gonzalez invited the Mayor and City Council to the Little League Opening Day Ceremony on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that he looks forward to seeing everyone there.**

E) Introduction by newly elected President of the Miami Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Raul Pestonit

**City Manager William Alonso stated Mr. Pestonit was not able to attend this evening.**

**5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Nestor Suarez, 550 Wren Avenue.**

**6. Approval of Council Minutes:**

A) January 23, 2022 – Regular Meeting

**Councilman Best moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2023 Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Lob, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet 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):**

**A) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Authorizing The City Manager To Negotiate And Execute A Contract With Pike Creek Turf, Inc. For The Purchase And Installation Of Tifway 419 Bermudagrass, Tifgrand Bermudagrass, Tifeagle Bermudagrass, And Platinum Paspalum Grass For The Golf Course Revitalization Project In An Amount Not To Exceed \$410,582.94; Providing For A Waiver Of Competitive Bidding; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date (Requires 4/5 Council Vote)**

**B) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Accepting A Coral Protection And Restoration (CPR) Program**

Grant In The Amount Of \$2,000,000; Approving A Grant Agreement With The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Relating To The Oakwood Drive Stormwater And Road Improvement Project; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

C) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Ratifying A Site Access Agreement With Cellco Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless For Site Investigations Which Are Necessary Prior To The Installation, Maintenance, And Operation Of Communications Equipment Upon The Property Located At 25 S Hook Square, Miami Springs, Florida 33166; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date

**Councilman Best pulled 9C for further discussion.**

**Vice Mayor Lob moved to approve Item 9A and 9B of the Consent Agenda. Councilman Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Lob, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

**Assistant City Manager read Consent Item 9B Resolution by title. After further discussion, Councilman Best moved to approve Item 9C of the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Lob seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Lob, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet 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 Chapter 150, Zoning Code,” Article II, “Signs” Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances To Address Current Case Law Requirements And To Establish Specific Standards And Regulations Related To Signs And Renumber Other Sections; Providing For Conflicts; Providing For Severability; Providing For Codification; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Attorney Haydee Sera read the Ordinance by title.**

**The following amendments were offered: *Line 713; explaining “technology” in the reference; Line 721 should indicate City Manager or designee; Line 725, clarification of conformity/non-conformity; Line 745, “removal” enforcement clarification; Line 783, adding “pedestrian,” Line 831, add five “political” type signs; Line 871, provide for optional “Special Event” allowances during a specific timeframe; Line 888, replacing of banner if faded;* After much discussion, Councilman Fajet moved to approve the Resolution as amended on first reading. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Lob, Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

**B) Ordinance – First Reading** – An Ordinance Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Amending Section 34-16, “Leave” Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances To Update The Bereavement Leave Policy; Providing For Conflicts; Providing For Severability; Providing For Codification; And Providing For An Effective Date

**City Attorney Haydee Sera read the Ordinance by title on first reading. Human Resources Director Bill Collins was available to answer any of the Council’s questions.**

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

**12. Other Business:**

**A) Request by Councilman Bob Best to recommend Pelican Playhouse Founder Ralph Wakefield for the Wall of Fame**

**Councilman Bob Best requested consideration from the City Council to approve Ralph Wakefield for the Wall of Fame at the Recreation Center, for years of service to theatrical performances and productions. The City Council gave consensus and requested that the City inquire that if Nancy Wakefield name be included in the Wall of Fame dedication.**

**B) Request by Mayor Mitchell to discuss the City’s tree canopy and City Code**

**Mayor Mitchell explained that the Public Works Department has done a phenomenal job with oversight of the tree removal requests. She recommends that the process and regulation of tree removal be reviewed by the Parks and Parkways Advisory Board for recommendations on updating the current City Tree Code. She stated that it is a growing concern and the Board will be tasked to review the tree removal mitigation fees, to review the tree removal process, which trees can be removed, and what circumstances that a homeowner can remove a tree. Public Works Director Lazaro Garaboa and Liz Fuentes, Administrative Assistant, were available to answer the City Council’s questions.**

**C) Request by Councilwoman Bravo to discuss changes to the Tree Ordinance**

**Councilwoman Bravo stated that she is thrilled to hear that everyone is on board on updating the Tree Ordinance. She provided background information on tree ordinances around Miami-Dade County. Councilwoman Bravo She stated that she will be attending the Parks and Parkways Advisory Board meetings to guide the Board further.**

**D) Request from Councilwoman Bravo for consensus from the City Council to direct the City Manager to survey the City’s property owners as well as the City’s**

~~business owners on their support for annexation~~ (Withdrawn by Councilwoman Bravo)

**No action taken on this item.**

E) Recreation Director Omar Luna reporting the introduction of Pickleball at the Tennis Facility.

**Recreation Director Omar Luna provided an update on Pickleball being available at the Tennis Center possibly starting in March. The courts are expected to be available to Pickleball players from opening up every day until 4:00 p.m. until the Tennis program commences at that time. He stated that the court will be available, additionally, on Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday for Pickleball, and the use of the courts will be free.**

F) Reminder of Town Hall Meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Adult Community Center; to encourage the public to attend and provide input on the BEDTF report

**Mayor Mitchell stated there will be a public Town Hall/Workshop Meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Business and Economic Task Force on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Miami Springs Adult Center. She stated that it is a public workshop and encourages everyone to attend. She stated that this is a forum for residents and business owners to hear the recommendations in the Miami Springs Business and Economic Task Force Final Report and to provide their input and vision for the future of Miami Springs.**

**13. Reports & Recommendations:**

A) City Attorney

**City Attorney Haydee Sera had no report at this time.**

B) City Manager

**City Manager William Alonso stated that we should keep Commissioner Rebeca Sosa in our prayers during some health concerns she is experiencing currently. Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero gave a list of City events for the upcoming weeks. She stated that more information and details on the events are available on the City's official website.**

C) City Council

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

**Councilwoman Bravo wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and had no report at this time.**

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

**Vice Mayor Lob had no report at this time and stated that “may the good news be yours.”**

**Mayor Mitchell thanked the City Council for a very productive meeting. She also wished City Manager William Alonso a very Happy Birthday as he is celebrating a milestone birthday.**

#### **14. Adjourn**

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC  
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on  
This 27th day of February, 2023.



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.