



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

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

In-Person/Virtual Council Meeting

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Vice Mayor at 7:00 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Jorge Santin

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Victor Vazquez. Ph.D.

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Roger Pou

City Attorney Eduardo Martos

Police Chief Armando Guzman

Public Works Director Lazaro Garaboa

Assistant Public Works Director Lizette Fuentes

Human Resources Director Bill Collins

Finance Director Chris Chiocca

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Mayor Mitchell
Pledge of Allegiance: The Boy Scouts Troop led in leading the pledge.

3. **Agenda / Order of Business:**

4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) Swearing-in Ceremony of Police Officer Gustavo Miranda by Police Chief Guzman

B) James Fulton of the Optimist Club – Janessa Montilla is the South Florida District Runner-Up (2nd Place) Oratorical Winner

Mayor Mitchell called upon Mr. James Fulton,

C) Recognizing the Miami Springs Virginia Gardens U18 Girls Soccer Team – Allan Pacheco

This item was deferred to a future Council Meeting.

D) Presentation by Mr. Rob Gordon awarding the City of Miami Springs the STEM City of the Year Award for the City's consistent support of STEM activities at the Recreation Center over the last 10 years

Mr. Gordon was not able to attend and will present his award at a future meeting.

E) Announcing the City Hall Lobby Artist of the Month – June 2023 – Miami Springs Senior High School AP Cambridge Art Students from Ms. Beth Goldstein's Class; 3D Artwork and Sculptures on display

Mayor Mitchell recognized the Yard of the Month. The resident was not available to accept the award; City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria stated that she will get the award to the resident.

5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: No speakers at this time.

6. Approval of Council Minutes:

A) May 22, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Vazquez moved to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023 Regular Meeting. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Santin, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

7. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

A) Report by Historic Preservation Board on City Entry Signs for East Drive and Curtiss Parkway

Chairman Jim Watson presented the City Council with proposed renditions of the entrance signs at Curtiss Parkway and East Drive locations. After some discussion, the City Council thanked the Chairman and the Board for their hard work and requested that they look into more renditions of entrance signs and additional locations. The City Council stated they look forward to more concepts and designs from the board.

8. Public Hearings: None at this time.

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 A First Amendment To A Ground Lease Agreement With MetroPCS, Florida, LLC, To Extend The Term Of Agreement And Increase The Base Rent; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs,

Florida, Establishing Rates For Collection Of Garbage, Trash And Recycling For Residential And Commercial Customers Effective October 1, 2023; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date

C) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving A Fourth Extension Of The Lease Agreement With Westward Partners, LLC For A Police Department Substation At 274 Westward Drive; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

D) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida Providing For The Fourth Amendment To The Fiscal Year 2022-23 General Fund And Special Revenue Fund Budgets; And Providing For An Effective Date

E) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving The Purchase Of Native And/Or Florida-Friendly Trees From Distreebutors, Inc. In An Amount Not To Exceed \$50,000 Utilizing The Terms And Conditions Of Miami-Dade County RTQ-02029 Pursuant To Section 31-11(E)(5) Of The City Code; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

F) Recommendation by Golf that Council approve an increase to the City's current open Purchase Order #230081 (Attachment "A") with Howard's Fertilizer & Chemical, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, for soil amendments and fertilizers for growing in the newly planted grass related to the Golf Course Revitalization Project CP#2201 as funds were budgeted in the FY22/23 Budget pursuant to Section §31.11 (F)(5)(11)(C) of the City Code

Vice Mayor Santin pulled Item A and Councilwoman Bravo pulled Item B for further discussion.

Councilman Fajet made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda excluding pulled Items A & B. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Santin, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

The following Consent Agenda Items were pulled and considered further:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving A First Amendment To A Ground Lease Agreement With MetroPCS, Florida, LLC, To Extend The Term Of Agreement And Increase The Base Rent; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

After some discussion, Councilman Vazquez moved to defer the Resolution to the June 29, 2023 Council Meeting. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Santin, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Establishing Rates For Collection Of Garbage, Trash And Recycling For Residential And Commercial Customers Effective October 1, 2023; Providing For Implementation; And

Providing For An Effective Date

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

10. Old Business:

A) Presentation by Tere Garcia, Public Information Director and Jose López Director of Environmental Engineering of Bermello Ajamil on Vulnerability Assessment Inundation Modeling; Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grant

Ms. Tere Garcia and Mr. Jose Lopez provided a visual and oral presentation on sea level rise and the effects of it on critical assets. They recognize five critical assets, City Hall, Community Center and Adult Center, Stafford Park and Regan Park, Golf Course and Melrose Canal. Mr. Lopez indicated that this is the first phase of the study, identifying the critical assets and the next phase is the action plan which determines how to improve the protection of these identified assets from sea level rise. Both Ms. Garcia and Mr. Lopez answered all of the City Council's questions.

11. New Business: None.

12. Other Business:

A) Request by Suzanne Wolar of the Woman's Club to close the Circle in October for event hosted by the Woman's Club

Mayor Mitchell stated that Ms. Wolar was not able to attend the meeting.

B) Request by Vice Mayor Santin to discuss the selection and appointment of the City Manager at the June 29th Council Meeting, instead of July 19th

Vice Mayor Santin stated that he would like to make the selection of the City Manager earlier than the scheduled date of July 19th. He said he understands that making a decision the evening of the interviews on June 29th would be too soon, but perhaps to look at some other dates. City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria indicated that the week of July 10th is a viable week to meet; after further discussion, the City Council stated that they will meet on July 20th at 5:01 p.m. for the millage rate cap and the selection of the City Manager. Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria stated that the location of the meeting will be at the Rebeca Sosa Theater.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Roger Pou had no report at this time.

B) City Manager

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero provided an update on the Town Center project. She explained the timeline of the project and how far it has gotten thus far. She explained the additional infrastructure improvements on Canal Street that the developer will be doing throughout the project, such as stormwater drainage and sidewalk improvements. She indicated that Canal Street will be open within two weeks or so. She also introduced Alex David and Silvia Garcia from the new Planning Firm, Calvin Giordano and Associates, that will be utilized for any Planning and Zoning departmental services, issues and projects. She answered the that the provided events taking place in the City. More information is available on the City's Official Website. Interim City Manager Tammy Romero stated that Stafford Park will be closed during the summer season for maintenance.

C) City Council

Councilman Vazquez had no report at this time.

Councilman Fajet inquired if the City will provide an additional event in lieu of the July 4th fireworks. Interim City Manager stated that there will be several events that will be offered for residents to enjoy. He stated that he is still looking for anyone that will be able to take part in the Ecology Board and be a member. He encouraged the City Council to come prepared for the Strategic Planning Workshop with Goals and objectives and to let the City Staff take over the strategies and indicators of measuring the objectives.

Councilwoman Bravo stated that she also has a vacancy on the Ecology Board and inquired from the City Clerk as to what would happen to the board if seats are not filled. The City Clerk indicated that the board cannot meet without a quorum, therefore no meeting can be scheduled. The City Clerk explained to the City Council that it is up to them to decide which boards to maintain and which ones to sunset.

Vice Mayor Santin thanked the Interim City Manager for the Town Center project update. He inquired if the City can implement a process to clean up the permitting process when public improvements are part of the project. It was consensus of the City Council to bring this item up for further consideration at a future Council meeting.

Mayor Mitchell stated that she appreciates all the residents that make suggestions on how to improve the City and its services. She indicated that the resident's input is invaluable and very appreciated; she encouraged residents to continue reaching out to the Council for ways on bettering the City. The Mayor welcomed the new members of the Planning Department to the meeting and stated that she looks forward to working with them.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*



*Adopted by the City Council on
This 12th day of June, 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.