



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Rebeca Sosa Theater, 1401 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida

In-Person/Virtual Council Meeting

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 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

Police Chief Armando Guzman

Public Works Director Lazaro Garaboa

Assistant Public Works Director Lizette Fuentes

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Mayor Maria Mitchell
Pledge of Allegiance: The audience led in the pledge.
3. **Agenda / Order of Business:** None at this time.
4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) Recognizing Miami Springs Little League Softball Team for winning the District and Sectional Titles presented by League President Fred Gonzalez

Mayor Mitchell recognized Little League President Fred Gonzalez. The City Council acknowledged the Softball champions with certificates of recognition, medals and championship banners.

B) Recognizing Poster Contest Winners hosted by the Community Policing Unit presented by Officer Janice Simon; winners Joaquin Nolan (Winner Age Group 5 - 6), Penelope Valido (Winner Age Group 7 -8 Age Group), Ben and Lucas Espino (Brothers) (Winners Age Group 9 - 10 AND Overall winner), Sienna Daniel (Winner Age Group 11 -12)

Mayor Mitchell recognized Miami Springs Officer Janice Simon, who then announced the winners for the poster contest held over the summer. The City Council thanked the students for their magnificent artwork and announced that the artwork is displayed

at the City Hall Lobby.

- C) Yard of the Month Award for August 2023 – 464 LaVilla Drive – Ramona Pino

The Mayor recognized Ms. Ramona Pino for her Yard of the Month Award for August. Ms. Pino was not present to receive their award. City Clerk Erika Gonzalez stated that the award will be delivered to Ms. Pino.

5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Tomas Lopez, 101 Pinecrest Drive; Victor Anchipolovsky, 115 South Royal Poinciana; Matthew Gonzalez, 1101 Swan Avenue; Lynne Brooks; Frank Fernandez, 289 Shadow Way; Carlos Corderi, 90 De Leon Drive; Thad Ovarich; and Dr. Manuel Garcia Estrada.

6. Approval of Council Minutes:

- A) August 7, 2023 – Budget Workshop
- B) August 14, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Fajet moved to approve the minutes of August 7, 2023 Budget Workshop, August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting. Councilwoman Bravo 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) Re-appointment of Board member (Ecology Advisory Board)

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez stated that Ms. Anderson-Booher continues to be interested in serving on the Ecology Board. She also stated that after three terms the City Council must approve the re-appointment in order for the Board member to continue serving. Councilwoman Bravo moved to approve the re-appointment. 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.

8. Public Hearings:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving A Final Plat Application By 4649 NW 36 Street, LLC For Property Located At 4601-4649 NW 36th Street (Folio Numbers 05-3119-010-4040 And 05-3119-013-3930); Providing For Conditions; Providing For Violations; Providing For Authorization; Providing For Recording; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Attorney Roger Pou read the Resolution by title. City Clerk Erika Gonzalez swore those giving testimony. Silvia Vargas, City Planner, gave her analysis based on her staff report. The Applicant was available for questions. The Mayor opened the public hearing, there were no speakers at this time.

Councilman Fajet made a motion to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 4-1 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Vice Mayor Santin 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 For Rental Of Undercover/Unmarked Police Vehicles To Royal Rent-A-Car Systems Of Florida, Inc. In An Amount Not To Exceed \$41,359.11 By Utilizing The Terms And Conditions Of Miami-Dade County Contract No. FB-01293 Pursuant To Section 31-11(E)(5) Of The City Code; Providing For Authorization; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Selecting Standard Insurance Company For The City's Group Life And AD&D Insurance Coverage For Employees In An Amount Not To Exceed \$46,695.00; 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, Approving The Submission Of A Resilient Florida Program Grant Application To The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Relating To The Implementation Of The Esplanade Canal Hardening Project; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

Mayor Mitchell Pulled Item C from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Councilman Fajet made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items A and 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.

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero read Item C, Resolution, by title.

After some discussion and clarification, Councilwoman Bravo made a motion to approve the Resolution. 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.

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business: None.

12. Other Business: None.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Roger Pou stated that Haydee Sera will be returning on September 5th. He thanked the City Council for their support throughout his time filling in for Haydee. He stated that he will still remain assisting the City in other capacities. He had no further report at this time.

B) City Manager

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero wished a warm welcome to new City Manager JC Jimenez and had no further report at this time.

C) City Council

Vice Mayor Santin requested consensus for an additional budget workshop to further discuss the millage rate. After some discussion, there was general consensus that a workshop was not necessary moving forward.

Councilwoman Bravo stated she understands that lowering the millage rate is important, but realizes that the balancing the budget and providing continued services is just as important. She also inquired if the nuisance abatement ordinance is still being utilized as a tool for issues stemming from NW 36th Street, if not, she suggested we should revisit the ordinance. Councilwoman Bravo thanked Mr. Pou for being so helpful throughout his time of service to Council.

Councilman Fajet thanked City Attorney Roger Pou for taking over so seamlessly for Haydee, for his hard work and dedication to the City. Councilman Fajet also thanked Tammy Romero and recognized her for her outstanding work during her tenure as Interim City Manager. He encouraged everyone to come out and attend the September 11th meeting where the budget and millage will be discussed.

Councilman Vazquez also thanked Roger for stepping in and working diligently with the City. He also thanked Tammy Romero for her hard work and dedication to the City. He stated that he attended the Boys Scouts Court of Honor recognizing two Eagle Scouts; he stated that his son did the invocation during the ceremony on Saturday.

Mayor Mitchell stated that the millage rate impacts all homes differently throughout the City where perhaps longer owned property owners see less taxes on their bill versus the newer property owners whom may see more taxes. She stated she understands the difficulty of making hard decisions, but it is their duty as elected officials to make these types of decisions. The Mayor thanked Roger Pou for serving as City Attorney, she recognized his expertise, his patience and thoroughness on a variety of matters. Mayor Mitchell, along with Chief Guzman and Tammy Romero met with several NW 36th Street hotels, individually, the past month. The intent of the individual meetings was to collaborate on ideas to reduce the calls on police services;

hotels were quite receptive. She also indicated that as part of those meetings, the hotel managers and owners were hoping to meet as a group in order to share information amongst themselves as well.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*

*Adopted by the City Council on
This 11th day of September, 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.