



City of Miami Springs, Florida
City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 7, 2023, 6:00 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 Mayor at 6:30 p.m.

Present were the following:

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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
Finance Director Chris Chiocca
Golf Director Paul O'Dell
Pro Shop Manager Mason Kegley
Golf Course Superintendent Laurie Bland
Public Works Director Lazaro Garaboa
Public Works Assistant Director Lizzette Fuentes
Planning Department Silvia Vargas (via Zoom)
Code Compliance Officer Rosemary Novo
Building Official Ulises Fernandez

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Vice Mayor Jorge Santin
Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

- 3. Workshop on Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget**

- I. Opening Remarks by Interim City Manager Tammy Romero

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero introduced the upcoming workshop and stated that the upcoming budget discussions offers Council various options and decisions required to finalize the FY2023-2024 budget. She presented a statement based on the proposed millage rate of 6.9900. The proposed budget reflects at the recommended millage rate a deficit of \$594,603.00. The new proposed budget includes a proposed COLA increase of 4% for all General Employees and 3% for Police; includes adding a new part time code

compliance officer; Health Insurance is increasing by 8.5%; Property insurance increases of 140% totaling \$419,000; includes Police retirement payouts for \$159,000; includes City Lobbyist for \$45,000 and \$36,000 for the grant writer; increasing Senior funding to \$210,000; Public Works tree planting for \$50,000 and tree trimming for \$100,000. The 2023-2024 budget includes a \$35,000 funding request from CMI for next fiscal year, \$14,000 for the River Cities Festival, \$6,000 request from the Historic Museum for storage costs.

II. City Council

Finance Director Chiocca stated that the budget shows a decrease in the Council proposed budget. Council budget includes \$35,000 for the Curtiss Mansion, \$14,000 for the River Cities Festival and \$6,000 for the Historic Museum's museum storage costs and the installation of a new fence.

Presentation made by Juliana Arias for River Cities Festival, she requested the funds including the \$14,000 for this year; also for CMI on the Curtiss Mansion and the request for \$35,000; in addition to the funding requested by the Centennial Committee in the amount of \$125,000. There were no further actions taken at this time. Further discussion ensued, and the City Council did not take further action at this time.

III. City Clerk

The City Clerk's budget is \$21,040 more than last year. The increase is mainly due to the 2025 City Election and salary/insurance costs. There were no further changes to the Clerk budget.

There were no other questions or comments on this portion of the budget.

IV. Police Department

Mr. Chiocca commented that the Police Department budget has an 11.6% increase than last year. The increase includes \$137,600 of equipment purchases.

Police Chief Guzman answered Council's questions to their satisfaction. There was no further action on this section of the budget.

V. LETF Fund

The proposed budget is \$173,800 for the upcoming fiscal year. The Community Policing Office, except for personnel, is funded by the Law Enforcement Trust Fund based on federal forfeitures and guidelines, according to Chief Guzman. There were no changes in this portion of the agenda.

VI. IT Services

The budget is \$2,756 less than the current year, according to Mr. Chiocca. I.T. Director Jorge Fonseca answered Council's questions and there were no changes to the proposed budget.

VII. Planning

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero stated that this department will be present at the next budget workshop on August 21st.

VIII. Parks and Recreation

i. Administration

The total budget includes an increase of \$1,143 this upcoming fiscal year. This portion of the budget, Administration is \$136,499 lower than the previous year. The budget includes the State's minimum wage increase to \$12.00/hr. for all part time staff, health costs, and COLA. The Pelican Playhouse will receive a subsidy of \$31,400 for the upcoming year.

Parks and Recreation Director Luna and Finance Director Chiocca answered the Council's questions.

ii. Pool

Mr. Chiocca stated that the proposed budget for the Pool is approximately \$46,518 higher for the new fiscal year. Increase is due to the minimum wage increase state-wide to \$12.00/hr., health costs, and COLA.

Parks and Recreation Director Omar Luna answered Council's questions.

iii. Tennis

Finance Director Chris Chiocca stated that the Tennis operation is \$151 less; budget includes \$20,000 for resurfacing of two tennis courts. There were no questions regarding this budget.

iv. Park Maintenance

The Park Maintenance budget is approximately \$620 less than the current year. Budget includes \$25,000 for laser-grading parks. There were no further actions on this portion of the agenda.

IX. Senior Services

Finance Director Chris Chiocca stated that the Elderly Services budget is approximately

\$188,426 higher than the previous year. This includes costs for the additional staffing, health, fitness and art instructors.

Recreation Director Omar Luna answered Council's questions to their satisfaction. There were no further discussions on this section of the budget.

X. Finance

Finance Director Chiocca stated that there was a 42.4% increase, \$208,661, due to the new Finance Director position, COLA and health insurance costs for the department. This section of the budget also includes the Professional Services budget. He explained that the budget is lower this year, \$77,506 or 28% approximately; grant writer continues to be outsourced and includes a new application communication.

There were no further changes to the budget.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*

*Adopted by the City Council on
this 28th day of Augsut, 2023.*

Maria Puente Mitchell, Mayor

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