



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 23, 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 6:00 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

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

Police Chief Armando Guzman

IT Director Jorge Fonseca

Recreation Director Omar Luna

Human Resources Director Bill Collins

- 2. Invocation:** Offered by Vice Mayor Jorge Santin

Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

- 3. Opening Remarks and Budgetary Updates from Interim City Manager Tammy Romero & Finance Director Chris Chiocca**

Interim City Manager Tammy Romero made introductory remarks and stated that the City Council received updated information from Staff. She stated that all Department Heads are present to answer any budgetary questions. Finance Director Chris Chiocca stated that at a 6.9900 millage cap, there is a deficit of \$594,603.00 from available fund balance;

at the current millage rate of 6.9100 will create a deficit of \$716,625, which can be funded through the fund balance.

Mayor Mitchell requested that in order to get through the workshop that each Council person discuss which items in the budget possibilities of things to not fund this year or any recommendations on moving forward in the budget.

Councilman Fajet recommended that the City should tap into the excess or unassigned fund balance, which totals \$1.3 million. He is basing his suggested recommendations on the millage of 6.9100. He recommended hiring Calvin Giordano Associates special projects for \$140,000; extra police officer, \$100,000; Police wish-list \$230,000; lower millage rate to 6.8100 and no cuts. He stated that reducing the millage is still possible and would support a reduction of one tenth of a mill.

Councilwoman Bravo recommended for some wish-list funding items such as all of the Police wish-list requests for \$230,000; Parks request for heater, pump and vehicle; CGA special projects and seed money for Centennial Committee. Councilwoman Bravo stated that she wants to take a more conservative approach on the budget. She stated that she understands that with the recent increases it is tough for the City.

Vice Mayor Santin recommended the Police Officer and tasers and the Calvin Giordano Associates special projects proposal. He stated that he would consider a half mill if it were to be offered. He believes more information is needed to further consider more reduction.

Councilman Vazquez stated that he would like to determine how to get to a balanced budget first before looking at wish-list items. He recommends the City not reduce City services or make any cuts. He supports the possibility of maintaining the millage at the millage cap or reducing the millage.

After much discussion, the following items were made part of the funded 2023-2024 Fiscal Budget:

Police Tasers \$40,000
Police Officer: \$162,000
CGA Special Projects: \$140,000
Centennial Committee: \$5,000
Recreation/Aquatic Pump: \$20,000
Golf Maintenance Equipment
Golf Ball Picker: \$17,000
Public Works Vehicle: \$35,000
Recreation Vehicle: \$35,000
Centennial Committee: \$5,000

Mayor Mitchell stated that she is not in favor of raising the millage; as a matter of fact, her goal is to lower it by half a mill, to 6.9050. She stated that it is the City's reputation and

historically reduced the millage, especially the importance of lowering the millage in the eyes of annexation, since it continues to be on the table.

Discussion ensued, the City Council asked questions on a variety of things throughout the budget discussion and by department. The Department Director were on hand to address the Council's questions and concerns. The Finance Director provided insightful scenarios on the millage rates being considered by the City Council.

There was general consensus that the Staff prepare options for considering a millage rate that is one tenth of a mill or half of one tenth of a mill. The Mayor stated that at the September 11th Council meeting there will be further discussion and consideration on which direction is in the best interest of the City.

4. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*

*Adopted by the City Council on
this 25th day of September, 2023.*

Maria Puente Mitchell, Mayor

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