



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024 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 Mayor at 7:00 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Jacky Bravo

Councilman Jorge Santin

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Victor Vazquez. Ph.D.

City Manager JC Jimenez

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Roger Pou

City Planner Silvia Vargas

City Planner Alex David

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Councilman Victor Vazquez
Pledge of Allegiance: The audience led in the pledge.

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

4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) Presentation by Zaylin Yates, Manager of Community Engagement at the Adrienne Arsht Center on “Arsht On The Road”

Mr. Yates shared a few words and presented a visual video on the community engagement the program has. The Mayor thanked Mr. Yates for his time and looks forward to working with him and the program in the future.

B) Yard of the Month Award for January 2024 – 651 Falcon Avenue – Miriam Rodriguez

Mayor Mitchell announced the Yard of the Month and encouraged everyone to pass by the Rodriguez home; the Rodriguez Family was not available to attend the meeting to receive the award. The City Clerk will make sure the reward is delivered to the family.

C) City Hall Lobby Artist of the Month – January 2024 – Melissa Wallen; Artwork: Representational imagery bends and distorts, revealing hidden qualities through the malleability of oil painting

Mayor Mitchell announced the City Hall Lobby Artist of the Month, Ms. Wallen. Mayor Mitchell presented Ms. Wallen with a certificate of recognition for her excellent skill in artwork. Ms. Wallen shared a few words and thanked the City for the opportunity.

5. Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Carlos Lumpuy, 181 Hammond Drive.

6. Approval of Council Minutes:

A) December 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Fajet moved to approve the minutes of December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Santin, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

7. Reports from Boards & Commissions: None at this time.

8. Public Hearings:

A) **Ordinance – Second Reading** – An Ordinance Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Amending Chapter 150, “Zoning Code,” Of The City’s Code Of Ordinances To Update Accessory Structure And Swimming Pool Regulations; Providing For Conflicts; Providing For Severability; Providing For Codification; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Attorney Roger Pou read the Ordinance by title. The Mayor opened the public hearing, there were no speakers at this time.

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

9. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted):

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Authorizing The Retirement Of Police K-9 Odin; Approving An Agreement For Transfer Of Ownership Of K-9 Odin; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

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

10. Old Business: None at this time.

11. New Business:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Authorizing Participation In A Lawsuit Seeking A Declaration That The Provisions Of Section 112.144(1)(D), Florida Statutes, That Require Municipal Elected Officials To File Form 6 Financial Disclosure Forms Is Unconstitutional And Invalid, And Providing For An Effective Date

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

12. Other Business:

A) Discussion on NW 36th Street and Abraham Tract District

Ms. Silvia Vargas provided an oral and visual presentation on the upcoming proposed timeline on both projects. After further discussion, Councilman Vazquez moved to approve the proposed timeline for the special projects as stated by the City Planner. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Santin, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Roger Pou had no report at this time.

B) City Manager

City Manager JC Jimenez stated that last week the City received the agreement from the State on the funding for the War Memorial renovations. The RFP is currently being reviewed by legal and the same for the Tennis Program Services which is currently being reviewed as well. Oakwood and East Drive construction should be underway shortly once contracts are signed. The shade canopies are currently being installed; golf course improvements are still underway and it is progressing. He reminded the Council of the upcoming Tallahassee trip next week and the meetings are being scheduled by Jose Fuentes, City Lobbyist. Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero provided a list of upcoming City events. She stated more information on City events can be found on the City's official website.

C) City Council

Councilman Vazquez wished everyone a Happy New Year. He mentioned an incident that occurred during New Year's Eve, Mr. Fulton was injured due to a stray bullet and is currently hospitalized but recovering well. He asked that an awareness campaign be initiated to prevent accidents like this from occurring again. He updated the Council on the War Memorial renovations. He mentioned the sidewalks on NW 36th Street being quite scary to walk on and looks forward to FDOT's remedies.

Councilman Fajet requested if the Parking Study workshop has been scheduled, the City Clerk that tentatively it is scheduled for January 30th. He stated that he is excited for all the upcoming projects happening this year and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Vice Mayor Bravo thanked the City Manager for taking her on a tour of the Golf Course renovations. She wished Roger a Happy Birthday and requested the website for all the public disclosures that are filed each year.

Councilman Santin wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Mitchell thanked the Woman's Club for hosting the Wellness Event this past weekend. She clarified that before any of the Council was on the board, FDOT undertook a roadway improvement to widen NW 36th Street and sidewalks were reduced. She is in communication with FDOT to coordinate remedies to help the City for a more pedestrian friendly corridor. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and is looking forward to a year full of projects and great things.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*

*Adopted by the City Council on
This 22nd day of January, 2024.*

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.