



## **City of Miami Springs, Florida**

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 24, 2021 7:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers, 201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida  
Virtual Council Meeting using Communications Media Technology Pursuant to  
Governor's Executive Order 20-69

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:05 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

Councilman Victor Vazquez, Ph.D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Haydee Sera (via Zoom)

Planning Director Chris Heid (via Zoom)

Police Chief Armando Guzman

Recreation Director Omar Luna

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Vice Mayor Bob Best  
**Pledge of Allegiance:** Audience led the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the Flag.
3. **Agenda / Order of Business: None at this time.**
4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) Introductory remarks by the Honorable Mayor Daniela Levine-Cava, Miami-Dade County

**County Mayor Levine-Cava introduced herself to the Mayor and City Council; she spoke of upcoming County initiatives led by her and her administration. She addressed local City related issues and how she will maintain open dialogue between the City and her office. She stated that she looks forward to working with the City throughout her term. She further addressed all of the Mayor and City Council questions and concerns.**

5. **Open Forum:** The following members of the public addressed the City Council: **Francisco Fernandez; Arthur Karlick; and Annie Cassab.**

**6. Approval of Council Minutes:**

- A) May 5, 2021 – Workshop
- B) May 24, 2021 – Regular Meeting

**Councilman Vazquez corrected the vote on Item 11C in the May 24, 2021 Council meeting minutes. Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the workshop minutes of May 5, 2021 and the corrected meeting minutes of May 24, 2021 Regular Meeting. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

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

**8. Public Hearings:**

- A) CASE # 01-V-21  
APPLICANT: JULIO D. SOMARRIBA JR  
ADDRESS: 661 FALCON AVENUE  
ZONING: R-1B SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

**City Attorney Haydee Sera read the case number, address, and request. She stated that the applicant is seeking approval to retain a pergola and a storage shed built without permit. The storage shed is of typical metal storage shed measuring 8' x 12', but with a 2.5' setback, quite close to the neighboring property.**

**Planning Director Chris Heid gave an oral presentation on the applicant's request. The applicant, Julio Somarriba, was present and answered the Council's questions. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing and there were no speakers at this time. After some discussion, Vice Mayor Best moved to uphold the Board of Adjustment's recommendation to deny the request. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.**

- B) CASE # 02-V-21  
APPLICANT: ENA MANTOVANELLI  
ADDRESS: 141 GLENDALE DRIVE  
ZONING: R-1C SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

**City Attorney Haydee Sera read the case number, address, and request. She stated that the applicant is requesting to split the existing lot into two lots of identical size, each measuring 55 feet in width and 127 feet in depth for a lot size of 6,985 square feet.**

**Planning Director Chris Heid gave an oral presentation on the applicant's request.**

The applicant, Mr. Mantovanelli, was present and answered the Council's questions. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing and there were no speakers at this time. After some discussion, Vice Mayor Best moved to uphold the Board of Adjustment's recommendation to approve the request. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

C) CASE # 01-ZP-21  
APPLICANT: JUAN CARLOS OLIVA  
ADDRESS: 4601 – 4649 NW 36TH STREET  
ZONING: NW36 NORTHWEST 36TH STREET DISTRICT

City Attorney Haydee Sera read the case number, address, and request. She stated that the applicant is seeking to replat the property which consists of two separate parcels of land at 4601 NW 36 Street and 4649 NW 36 Street, as well as the alley (a City right-of-Way) running between the two parcels.

Planning Director Chris Heid gave an oral presentation on the applicant's request. A representative for the applicant was present, but did not speak at this time. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing and there were no speakers at this time. Councilman Fajet moved to uphold the Zoning Board's recommendation to approve the request. Vice Mayor Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

9. Consent Agenda: (Funded and/or Budgeted): None at this time.

10. Old Business:

A) Update on Fourth of July Events

Omar Luna, Recreation Director, addressed the City Council with the updates on the events for the Fourth of July. He stated that he has met with various City departments to coordinate a variety of safety guidelines for the parade. He provided an overview on the parade participation rules for the vehicles that would like to participate. He stated that the car show will be Saturday night, with a variety of events throughout the weekend. He answered all the City Council's questions.

11. New Business: None at this time.

12. Other Business:

A) Request by Councilwoman Bravo to discuss advisory boards

Councilwoman Bravo provided an oral presentation on dissolving several boards such as Architectural Review Board, Golf & Country Club Advisory Board, Code

**Review Board and the Memorial Committee. She also requested that the City Council consider adding two new boards, Economic Development Advisory Board and Nuisance Abatement Board.**

**After some discussion, Councilwoman Bravo moved to direct City staff to create an ordinance dissolving the aforementioned four boards. Councilman Fajet 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 Best voting No.**

**City Attorney Haydee Sera elaborated on the Nuisance Abatement Board, she stated that this item is a work in progress and is forthcoming in the near future.**

B) Request by Mayor Mitchell to discuss the creation of an Economic and Business Advisory Committee

**Mayor Mitchell explained that the proposed Economic and Business Committee, task force, would be to promote the City to attract new businesses and assist current businesses to do better. She proposes Council members appoint two people each to the committee; require the committee to provide a one-year report on its findings and recommendations. City Attorney Haydee Sera stated that she will prepare a proposed resolution with specific guidelines for the new committee.**

### **13. Reports & Recommendations:**

A) City Attorney

**City Attorney Haydee Sera reported the Airport Diner unsafe structure hearing occurred and resulted in a favorable outcome. The owners of the Diner would have to repair or demolish the building within 30 days.**

B) City Manager

**City Manager William Alonso stated that a groundbreaking ceremony will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Town Center project located at 1 Curtiss Parkway. He stated that in an upcoming meeting, to address the concerns of residents in the residential area of NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street near the hotels/motels, the City will be proposing a wall to deter littering, loitering, and undesirables having access to local homes in the area. He stated that recent conversations with FDOT has brought on new projects that the City was unaware of. He explained that FDOT will have public workshops on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>, he said that this item will be coming forth at a future Council meeting for discussion. He reminded the Council that the Memorial Day event will take place at 9am by the War Memorial.**

C) City Council

**Vice Mayor Best announced that the Miami Springs High School Baseball played two**

games and won, but lost the third game. He said it is the first time in school history that the team has won three District championships in a row. He explained that Father Alfaro was supposed to attend the meeting this evening, but was unable to. He said that he will be presenting the Proclamation on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at Father Alfaro's last mass.

Councilwoman Bravo had no report at this time.

Councilman Fajet thanked the City Manager and staff for addressing the issue along the dead-end street homes along NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street with the hotels that abut that residential area.

Councilman Vazquez added to Councilman Fajet's comments and stated that the hotels are shabby and bad neighbors to the area. He thanked the City Manager for looking into this and realizing a potential solution. Councilman Vazquez inquired about the Administrative Policy that would regulate issues such as the #onation, and similar requests. He shared his interest that he would like to see more historical markers around the City and the possibility of welcoming City signs when entering the City. He expressed his interest in creating a Youth Advisory Board, but will be presented at a later date.

Mayor Mitchell thanked Miami-Dade County Mayor Levine-Cava for attending the Council meeting to discuss her vision for the future of the County and to learn about issues that are important to Miami Springs. She stated that she along with the City Manager have been meeting with FDOT on the proposed NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street corridor study and they will have more information for the next Council meeting. She wished everyone a wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

**14. Adjourn**

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted:*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC  
City Clerk



*Adopted by the City Council on  
This 14th day of June, 2021.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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.