



**City of Miami Springs, Florida**  
City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers at City Hall  
201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, Florida

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 Jacky Bravo  
Councilman Bob Best  
Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph. D.  
Councilman Victor Vazquez, Ph. D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso  
City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria  
Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero  
City Attorney Haydee Sera  
Police Chief Armando Guzman

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Councilman Walter Fajet  
**Pledge of Allegiance/Salute to the Flag:** Led by the audience.
3. **Workshop on City Council Goals and Strategic Planning**
4. **City Manager's memo in preparation for workshop**

**City Manager William Alonso welcomed everyone and corrected several points on the memo. He stated that the workshop is to allow free discussion among the City Council on the various issues on the agenda.**

- A) Gateway Overlay District Ordinance (Mayor Mitchell/Councilwoman Bravo)
  - a. Temporary Moratorium on Ordinance 1102-2018 Gateway Overlay District (Councilwoman Bravo)

**Mayor Mitchell stated that the current ordinance can be looked into further. Vice Mayor Bravo introduced samples of legislation on moratoriums adopted by other cities in Florida. After some discussion, the City Council conceded to have a separate Council Workshop in order to review the Gateway Ordinance and to further explore improvements on the Ordinance.**

B) Downtown Business Area Parking (Mayor Mitchell/Councilman Vazquez)

- a. Redesign median to include: Angle parking and more trees; Reducing both sides of Westward Drive to one lane in each direction and extending sidewalks; (Councilman Vazquez)
- b. Studying the option of construction of a Parking Garage in this area (Councilman Vazquez)

**City Council conceded to wait for the Parking Study which was applied for through a recent grant application, will shortly take place and City Council and City Administration may make a more informed decision on parking needs.**

C) Business Areas: Code Enforcement Consistency, Aesthetics & Facilitating Curbside and Outdoor Dining, and Pedestrian Access (Mayor Mitchell/Councilman Best)

**City Council discussed this item and making the business area more attractive by possibly increasing the number of Code Enforcement Officers for the upcoming budget process.**

D) Communications and social media outreach to community (Mayor Mitchell/Councilman Vazquez)

**City Manager William Alonso stated that the City's Public Information Officer, Shannen Jaser is working on a variety of projects to improve communication with residents and the public.**

- E) Addressing Gaps to Achieve Consistency in "Beautiful Miami Springs" (e.g., city entry points, aesthetics throughout city and canals, tree canopy) (Mayor Mitchell)
  - a. Enhancing Business Area of Westward Drive between the Circle and Esplanade by Creating tree canopy on both sidewalks (north and south) (Councilman Vazquez)

**Vice Mayor Bravo stated that she would like to explore the possibility of bringing a pueblo style bandstand at the circle; she shared photos of sample bandstands from the 1920's. City Council also discussed improving the City's entry signs and possibly planting some trees in certain City medians for beautification. They referred this item to Historic Preservation Board for further discussion and recommendations.**

- F) Working with Mayor Levine-Cava Office regarding compensation related to hotel bed tax legislation and distribution to the City of MS (Councilman Vazquez)

**Councilman Vazquez stated that he hopes the City continues to pursue the Bed Tax issue at the State and County levels. The City Council further discussed this and conceded that this is an issue that will be further pursued in the future.**

G) Creation of exercise zones in the Curtiss Parkway median and Ludlam Road area where residents can do chin ups, pushups etc. (Councilman Vazquez)

**Councilman Vazquez stated that he wanted to propose this item for Council's consideration, he said that he will discuss this in detail with City Staff and bring back this item to Council at a later date. No further action was taken.**

H) War Memorial Initiative and the City's State Appropriation request (Councilman Best)

**Councilman Bob Best stated that the American Legion is currently collecting donations for the proposed War Memorial. He stated that Mr. Max Milam has set up a donation display at Milam's Grocery Market to help with fundraising.**

I) Increasing compensation for Mayor and Council in order to attract new talent to run for Council seats. (Councilman Best)

**Councilman Best stated he wanted to bring this item to the table for Council consideration. There was no further action taken.**

J) Bundling City Debt burden to mitigate coming prime rate increase (Councilman Best)

**Councilman Best said that this is a reminder to continue to be vigilant on the rate increases and consider savings in the budget process. There was no further action taken.**

K) Police Speeding Enforcement (Councilman Best)

**Councilman Best requested that the Police Department look into increasing the number of speeding details to mitigate the number of speeders throughout the City. City Staff stated that this would be looked into further and posting police information on the City website.**

L) Review Pay Plan for City Employees (Councilman Best)

**City Staff stated that look into comparing the salaries among other similar municipalities and possibly looking into salary increases for a variety of employees for the upcoming budget.**

M) Review and discuss Ordinance 1111-2019 City's Land development (Councilwoman Bravo)

**This item was discussed earlier.**

N) Review and discuss Ordinance 1106-2018 Land usage (Councilwoman Bravo)

**This item was discussed earlier.**

O) Review and discuss changing the current process of appointments to Boards (Councilwoman Bravo)

**Councilwoman Bravo stated that the Council would consider a process for approving board members, specifically for the Code Enforcement Board. The City Attorney offered to work with the Vice Mayor on developing an ordinance on the recommendation for future Council consideration.**

P) Renew efforts to have FEC establish a "quiet zone" at N. Royal Poinciana Blvd. train crossing and address increased noise emitting from rail yard (Mayor Mitchell)

**Mayor Mitchell explained that this has been a long-time issue for the City and comprises of a few surrounding Cities to agree and it is costly as well. She would like to revisit the issue since there may be some grants available now. City Council conceded to revisiting the item and looking for possible grants to assist in the cost.**

#### **4. Adjourn**

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Erika Gonzalez*

Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC  
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on  
this 14th day of February, 2022.

*Matia Puente Mitchell*

Matia Puente Mitchell, Mayor

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