



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022 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 7:00 p.m.

Present were the following:

Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell

Vice Mayor Jacky Bravo

Councilman Bob Best

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D. (via Zoom)

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

Recreation Director Omar Luna

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Councilman Bob Best
Pledge of Allegiance: Girl Scout Troop 2564 participated in leading the pledge.

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

Mayor Mitchell requested that Items 4C, 4D and 4G be moved up in the agenda, after Item 4A for consideration, the City Council gave general consensus to consider the items as requested.

4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation Award to the Miami Springs Lions Club for 85 years of service to the Miami Springs community

Mayor Mitchell recognized the members of the Lions Club and its president, Elizabeth Fisher for their service to the Miami Springs Community. Mayor Mitchell read a proclamation, declaring March 12, 2022 as Lions Club Day. Lions President Elizabeth Fisher shared a few words and expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Club, for the recognition and looks forward to continuing to serve the community.

B) Presentation by Councilwoman Ayala from the Town of Medley on Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) Club sponsorship opportunity

Councilwoman Ayala addressed the City Council and stated that the program assists students in the Medical Academy in Miami Springs High School with promotion of health care awareness and health careers in the future. The Councilwoman Ayala and students requested financial assistance for an upcoming conference from April 9-12th. City Council stated that they will address this item later in the agenda.

C) Presentation made by Girl Scout Troop 2564 Leader Kahnee Rodriguez for Girl Scout Cookie Sales

Mayor Mitchell introduced Girl Scout Troop Leader Kahnee Rodriguez who then presented awards to the Girl Scout members on Cookie sales. Allison Fink, Bella Rodriguez, Emily Bellas (absent), Isabel Azar (absent), Isabel Benitez, and Maria Lambardi were all recognized for exceptional Cookie Sales this year.

D) Recognition of the Aquatic Center Lifeguards for the work they do to keep our swimmers safe

Recreation Director Omar Luna recognized the following lifeguard staff; James Dean, Aquatics Supervisor, and Kevin Frias, also present were members of the lifeguard staff at the Aquatic Center to be recognized for their work. The City Council thanked all of them for all that they do.

E) Presentation by Caballero Fierman Llerena + Garcia, LLP a) Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021 and b) Communications with those charged with governance report

City Manager William Alonso introduced Mr. Enrique Llerena, partner at Alberni Caballero auditors for the City, gave a presentation on the on the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021. Mr. Llerena reviewed the various sections of the CAFR. He noted that the Compliance Section includes the reports that are required under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, as well as the Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida. The Auditors are pleased to report that they did not identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control, nor did their tests find any instances of non-compliance. He reported that they did not encounter any difficulties in performing or completing the audit; there were no disagreements with management and there were no misstatements requiring correction as a result of the audit. He thanked City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso, and Staff for their cooperation and assistance throughout the entire process.

F) Presentation from the City Lobbyist, Jose Fuentes from Becker, on status of the City's State funding request for FY22-23

Mayor Mitchell introduced Jose Fuentes, City Lobbyist, who explained that City was

granted through State appropriations a total of \$5.5million for City projects. The following were approved by the State budget and pending Governor approval: Miami Springs Senior Center-Supplemental Meals & Services, \$750,000; Erosion Control & Stabilization of Drainage, \$2,000,000; Hook Square Pump House Replacement, \$750,000; South Drive Road & Stormwater Improvements, \$2,000,000.

G) Lobby Artist of the Month March 2022 - Miami Springs Senior High School Art Students displaying watercolor artwork

Mayor Mitchell recognized students from the Miami Springs Senior High School on the Water Color Displays in the City Lobby. Ms. Beth Goldstein, the Miami Springs High School Art Department Chair, introduced herself and the Assistant High School principal, Mr. Constantino Hernandez to the City Council. Ms. Goldstein provided some background information on the students presenting their artwork in the lobby. She thanked the City Council and City Administration for the opportunity to present the students artwork.

H) Yard of the Month Award for March 2022 – 117 Glendale Drive - Foruzandeh Jaharshani

Mayor Mitchell recognized the Yard of the Month for March, the Jaharshani Family, who were not present at the time. City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, stated that the award will be sent to their home.

5. **Open Forum: The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Councilman Richard Block, Virginia Gardens; Jennifer Graham, 75 Deer Run; Steven Cejas, via Zoom.**

6. **Approval of Council Minutes:**

- A) February 22, 2022 – Workshop
- B) February 28, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Best moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2022 Workshop and the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting. Councilman Vazquez seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Best, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

7. **Reports from Boards & Commissions:**

A) Recommendation by Board of Adjustment to City Council to uphold Staff's decision on the UTD (United Teachers of Dade) Administrative Appeal

Kathy Doyle, 2085 Miami Springs Avenue, address the City Council.

After some discussion, Councilman Vazquez moved to defer the item to a future

hearing. Councilman Best seconded the motion, which carried 4-1 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Vice Mayor Bravo voting No.

City Attorney Jose Arango announced that the City Council will be sitting as the Board of Appeals to hear this item on the last Wednesday of the month, March 30, 2022.

8. **Public Hearings: None at this time.**

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

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving The Purchase Of Repairs For The City Gymnasium’s Wooden Floors From Trident Surfacing, Inc. In An Amount Not To Exceed \$43,500.00; Providing For A Waiver Of Competitive Bidding; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

B) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving The Purchase Of Police Uniforms From Lou’s Police Distributors In An Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000; Providing For A Waiver Of Competitive Bidding; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

Councilman Vazquez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as recommended by staff. Councilman Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Best, 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 Providing For The Second Amendment To The Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund And Enterprise Fund Budgets; And Providing For An Effective Date.

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.

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

12. **Other Business:**

A) **Vote of Confidence for the City Clerk as Required by Section 8.01 (1) of the City Charter**

Councilman Best moved to give City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria a vote of confidence. Vice Mayor Bravo seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Best, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) Vote of Confidence for the City Attorney as Required by Section 8.01 (1) of the City Charter

Councilman Vazquez moved to give the City Attorney, Weiss Serota a vote of confidence. Councilman Best seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Vice Mayor Bravo, Councilman Best, Councilman Fajet, Councilman Vazquez, and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

C) Request by Vice Mayor Bravo to discuss additional regulations on short-term rentals, such as transient tax implementation and application/license requirements ***(Deferred to Future Council Meeting)***

D) Request by Vice Mayor Bravo to discuss Residential Color Palette

After some discussion, Councilwoman Bravo requested that this item be reviewed by the Architectural Review Board. The City Council conceded that this item be forwarded to the Architectural Review Board for further consideration and recommendations.

E) Appointment of Representative and alternate Representative to the Miami-Dade County League of Cities

It was the City Council's general consensus that Councilman Fajet be nominated as Director, and Councilman Vazquez be nominated as Alternate Director.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Jose Arango reminded the City Council that they not discuss the UTD item further since the Council will be sitting in a quasi-judicial manner as the Board of Appeals, he said the hearing is set forth for Wednesday, March 30th. He had no report at this time.

B) City Manager

City Manager William Alonso reported that the Code Enforcement Department has been working on short-term rental applications and currently has cracked down sixteen that are listed on various vacation rental websites. He stated that Code Enforcement continues to work on this and he will keep the City Council informed in the upcoming weeks. Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero provided a verbal list

of upcoming City meetings and events, which may also be found on the City's website.

C) City Council

Vice Mayor Bravo thanked City Manager William Alonso and staff for the short-term rental issue and being proactive on the item.

Councilman Best stated that the River Cities Festival was wonderful and a huge success. He had no further report at this time.

Councilman Vazquez announced that bricks are for sell to raise funds for the proposed War Memorial. He stated that he attended the River Cities Festival Friday night, and stated it was nice to see folks out and about. He was happy to hear that there was no noise from the recent FactoryTown events. He recognized Shannen Jaser and Sandra Duarte for their consistent efforts with information and board maintenance, respectively.

Councilman Fajet was unavailable and signed off at 9:37 p.m.

Mayor Mitchell stated that a new business opened on N. Royal Poinciana, Tutti Frutti, frozen yogurt shop, she wished them much luck on their success. She thanked Councilman Best for MC'ing the River Cities Festival this year, and was happy to have the festival back again. The Mayor thanked Senator Manny Diaz, Representative Bryan Avila and Representative Fabricio for all their assistance with state appropriations for a variety of City projects and programs. It was the City Council general consensus to allocate \$750.00 towards the HOSA organization, Councilwoman Ayala's request earlier during presentation. She also requested that the City Council would like to provide a luncheon for the Aquatic Center as a say "thank you" for starting the new season. Mayor Mitchell also recognized Councilman Best's seminar on the history of the Catholic Church and was so educational, not necessarily religious based but very informative on the history behind it.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk



Adopted by the City Council on
This 28th day of March, 2022.


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.