



City of Miami Springs, Florida

City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 12, 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 (Vacant)

Councilman Bob Best

Councilwoman Jacky Bravo

Councilman Walter Fajet, Ph.D.

City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

City Clerk Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria

City Attorney Haydee Sera

Police Chief Armando Guzman

2. **Invocation:** Offered by Mayor Maria Mitchell

Pledge of Allegiance: The audience participated in leading the pledge.

3. **Agenda / Order of Business**

Mayor Mitchell introduced the newly appointed Miami-Dade School Board Member Danny Espino for the Miami Springs area. School Board Member Espino shared a few words and thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support and looks forward to working together in the near future for the betterment of the Miami Springs schooling system.

4. **Awards & Presentations:**

A) Swearing-in ceremony for Andy Gonzalez as Miami Springs Police Officer by Chief Armando Guzman

Mayor Mitchell welcomed Chief Guzman to the meeting. Chief Guzman proceeded to swear-in new police officer Andy Gonzalez. Officer Gonzalez thanked the Chief, City Administration and the City Council for the opportunity and the support.

B) Presentation by Ken Krasnow from Collier International on marketing cities

Mr. Krasnow, Vice Chairman of Colliers, gave an oral visual presentation on the

services provided by Colliers. He stated specifically they have a practice group that assist municipalities with managing commercial and residential growth. He provided specific examples of other municipalities that his organization has helped overtime. He was available to answer the Council's questions. The Mayor stated that this would help the Council to further pursue viable options down the road and hopefully a Council Workshop can be scheduled for an in-depth review in the new year.

C) Presentation of the Yard of the Month Award for December 2022 to 701 Wren Avenue; the Gonzalez Family

Mayor Mitchell welcomed the Gonzalez Family to the meeting, she presented the family with the Yard of the Month Award. The Gonzalez Family were present to accept the award. The family expressed their gratitude for the recognition.

5. **Open Forum:** The following members of the public addressed the City Council: Daniel Pinto.

6. **Approval of Council Minutes:**

A) November 14, 2022 – Regular Meeting

Councilman Best moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2022 Regular Meeting. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

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

A) Report by Chairman Mark Trowbridge of the Business and Economic Development Task Force

This item was heard later in the meeting. Chair Trowbridge stated that the Task Force's last meeting was in November. He recognized all members of the board, past and present. He reported on the Board's findings and recommendation to the City Council which was part of the agenda packet for their review. Member Jorge Santin further addressed the City Council on exploring the Main Street America program. He stated the program helps to revitalizes older and historic commercial districts.

B) Annual Report by Chair Eric Richey from Parks and Parkways Board

Chair Richey provided an annual update on recent meetings held by the board, he further thanked the Council for their continued support.

C) Annual Report by Chair Ernie Aloma on Board of Adjustment

Chair Aloma explained recent meetings that have taken place over the recent year.

He thanked the City Council for the opportunity and for their ongoing support.

D) Annual Report by Chair Jim Watson of the Historic Preservation Board

Chair Watson gave a detailed annual report on the board's activities. He further thanked the Council for their continued support.

8. Public Hearings: None at this time.

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

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Approving The Purchase Of Additional Concrete Curbside/Sidewalk Construction, Milling, And Resurfacing Of Asphalt Concrete And Striping Services On An As-Needed Basis For Fiscal Year 2022-23 From Metro Express, Inc. In An Amount Not To Exceed \$600,000; 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 Issuance Of A Purchase Order To Ovas & Co, LLC For Citywide Asphalt Patching Services On An As-Needed Basis For Fiscal Year 2022-23 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 Best moved to approve Item 9A and 9B. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

10. Old Business: None at this time.

11. New Business:

A) **Resolution** – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Appointing An Interim Councilmember To Fill The Vacancy In Group IV On The City Council; Providing For Implementation; And Providing For An Effective Date

Mayor Mitchell read the Resolution by title. Mayor Mitchell passed the gavel to Councilman Best, Group I, and proceeded to make a motion to appoint former Councilman George Lob to the vacant seat in Group IV. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Councilman Best made a motion to appoint Ken Amendola to Group IV. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Councilman Fajet made a motion to appoint Thad Ovarich to Group IV. Councilwoman Bravo seconded the motion, which failed 2-2 on roll call vote. The

vote was as follows: Councilwoman Bravo and Councilman Fajet and voting Yes; Councilman Best and Mayor Mitchell voting No.

Councilman Fajet moved to appoint George Lob to Group IV seat. Mayor Mitchell seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

B) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And The City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Adopting Workforce Housing Legislative Findings Pursuant To Miami-Dade County Code Section 33-193.7; Providing For Transmittal; And Providing For An Effective Date

City Manager William Alonso read the Resolution by title.

Councilman Best moved to approve the Resolution. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 3-1 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes; Councilwoman Bravo voting No.

C) Resolution – A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Accepting A State Appropriation Grant In The Amount Of \$2,000,000; Approving A Standard Grant Agreement With The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Relating To Miami Springs South Drive Road And Stormwater Improvements Project; Providing For Authorization; And Providing For An Effective Date

Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero read the Resolution by title.

Councilwoman Bravo moved to approve the Resolution as read. Councilman Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

D) Resolution - A Resolution Of The Mayor And City Council Of The City Of Miami Springs, Florida, Expressing The City's Intent To Provide Property Tax Relief By Reducing Its Millage To A Rate Between 2.5000 And 3.0000 Upon Approval Of The City's Annexation Application; Providing For Transmittal; 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 Fajet seconded the motion, which carried 4-0 on roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilman Best, Councilwoman Bravo, Councilman Fajet and Mayor Mitchell voting Yes.

12. Other Business:

A) Request by Councilman Fajet to discuss the hiring of a consulting firm that could analyze land use and zoning changes that the City could undertake in order to promote economic development in the 36th Street business corridor, as well as, the Abraham Tract

Councilman Fajet stated that he placed this item on this agenda not knowing that the Task Force would be presenting on something similar. But is happy to know that the City is moving forward and recognizing the need to update the Zoning Codes to meet the changes as the City develops. The City Council agrees that a study would be necessary in order to apply for any potential grants that could help realize any zoning changes. The City Council also agrees that a Workshop is necessary to digest the Task Force report and contemplating the changes wanted on NW 36th Street and other areas of the City.

B) Request by Councilwoman Bravo to discuss considering an RFP for City Legal Counsel

Councilwoman Bravo requested if the rest of the City Council would consider opening up an RFP for new legal counsel. She stated that it would be the time to start the process, since the City adopted a new procurement ordinance and that legal services could possibly fall under the procurement process. She stated that she understood that the vote of confidence is coming up, but requests that some type of agreement be drafted for the annual fees at that time. City Council did not take any further action on this item.

C) Request by Councilwoman Bravo to discuss “Reverse Vending Machine Recycling Incentive Program”

Councilwoman Bravo stated that this idea was extracted from the City of Coral Gables, who is currently utilizing this program. She stated that the program is a reverse vending machine that allows rewarding members for recycling. The members are incentivized for recycling allowing for a point accrue/redemption service. The City Manager stated that the City may apply for a grant that will cover the cost for the vending machine. He stated that the City will continue to monitor the program to apply for the grant.

13. Reports & Recommendations:

A) City Attorney

City Attorney Haydee Sera had no report at this time.

B) City Manager

City Manager William Alonso stated that he recently attended the Miami Regional University event that accredited the University for a PhD program that they were

approved for. He stated that the Realtor's Association building is currently in the demolishing stages. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Assistant City Manager Tammy Romero gave a list of City events for the upcoming weeks. She stated that more information and details on the events are available on the City's official website.

C) City Council

Councilman Best stated that the Pelican Playhouse will have a new production in the upcoming new year and will be funny and exciting. He encouraged everyone to attend the show. He wished everyone a happy holiday and New Year.

Councilwoman Bravo wished everyone a happy holiday and New Year. She thanked newly appointed Councilman Lob for volunteering for the City Council.

Councilman Fajet wished everyone a happy holiday and all the best for the new year.

Vice Mayor Lob thanked everyone for the support and hopes to do well along with the rest of Council. He wished everyone a happy holiday and stated that "may the good news be yours."

Mayor Mitchell stated she attended Commissioner Cabrera's swearing-in ceremony this morning. The Mayor stated that she and along with the City Manager have started the meetings again for the proposed annexed business owners in the area; to continue the dialogue and keep them in the loop. She stated that the Christmas trees along Westward Drive were courtesy of the Rotary Club for the holiday. She wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



*Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, MMC
City Clerk*



*Adopted by the City Council on
This 9th day of January, 2023.*



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.