

Mayor

Yioiset De La Cruz

City Council Members

Chairman Luciano "Lucky" García
Vice Chairman Rolando "Roly" Piña
Council member Jorge A. Merida
Council member Jorge Gutierrez
Council member Elmo L. Urra

MINUTES

**CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS
TUESDAY, March 15, 2022
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10001 NW 87 AVENUE**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Luciano Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Chairman Luciano Garcia, Councilman Elmo L. Urra, Councilman Jorge Gutierrez, Councilman Jorge A. Merida and Councilman Rolando Piña. Also present were Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz and City Attorney Charles A. Citrin.
3. **Invocation:** Chairman Garcia gave the invocation.
4. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **Deletions/Emergency Additions:** None were offered.
6. **Review of Minutes: March 8, 2022** Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.
7. **Public Comments:** None were offered.

8. Proposed Resolutions:

- A) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH SYNOVOUS BANK FOR A LINE OF CREDIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000 TO BE UTILIZED AS NECESSARY; AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND SYNOVOUS BANK; APPROVING AGREEMENTS RELATED TO SAID SERVICES PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Mayor De La Cruz explained that this is a renewal of the emergency use \$2,000,000 line of credit. The City has not had to use it but it is essential as a back-up to the regular budget. No further comments or questions. The Chair made a motion to approve the item, seconded by Councilman Merida. The resolution was approved unanimously. **(5-0)**

- B) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR THE GROWING ROOTS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY EQUITABLE NEIGHBORHOODS (GREEN) MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BY THE MAYOR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Ms. Ailyn Gonzalez, on behalf of the Administration Department, came forward and read a memorandum of recommendation into the record. This resolution enters the City into an agreement with Miami-Dade County for the GREEN Matching Grant program. This program aims to increase the tree canopy across the County by granting Cities financial aid to purchase and install fully grown trees in strategic public areas such as roadway corridors, neighborhood streets and parks. The grant is in the amount of \$45,788. This will be used to plant a total of 40 trees in two of our busiest parks, Joe Sherron Park and Westland Gardens Park. The City will need to contribute a total of \$17,955. Chairman Garcia asked for a general timeline for the project; Ms. Gonzalez replied that the installation should take place in May. Chairman Garcia also asked about the purchasing of the trees; Ms. Gonzalez explained that the City will utilize their existing contract with General Mow Landscaping, which offered the best prices as compared to other vendors. The Mayor added that this purchase would go to City Council for approval. Chairman Garcia continued and asked how long the life of the trees would be guaranteed for after installation; Ms. Gonzalez replied that she would speak to the vendor about this. Mayor De La Cruz added that it would be at least 3 months, but that he would shoot for 6 months [with General Mow]. No further comments or questions. The Chair made a motion to approve the item, seconded by Councilman Merida. The resolution was approved unanimously. **(5-0)**

- C) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS ADOPTING A RESTRICTIVE USE COVENANT FOR THE HIALEAH GARDENS MUSEUM HONORING ASSAULT BRIGADE 2506; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Mayor De La Cruz thanked all of the Brigade veterans in attendance at the meeting; he also welcomed Mr. William Rodriguez back to the City. The Mayor explained that this resolution is to show the commitment the City has to maintain the Hialeah Gardens Museum Honoring Assault Brigade 2506 as that museum for eternity. This entails creating a legal means to preserve the legacy of Brigade 2506, the museum and the history of the fight for freedom in Cuba for generations to come. The Mayor has been working on this for some time with Mr. Citrin. Chairman Garcia offered comments of support and gratitude for the veterans and their work in the community. Mr. Felix Rodriguez came forward and spoke about the importance of the history of the Bay of Pigs invasion and the weekly loss of a Brigade veteran; he is the youngest member still alive, at 81, and he emphasized that they would not stop their fight until Cuba was free. He thanked the Mayor and Mr. Rodriguez for making their dream a reality and ensuring this covenant would protect the legacy of their sacrifices.

Councilman Gutierrez also thanked the Brigade veterans for serving the Cuban community and added that they will always have a home in Hialeah Gardens. The Chair made a motion to approve the item, seconded by Councilman Merida. The resolution was approved unanimously. **(5-0)**

- 9. City Attorney's Report:** Mr. Citrin expressed his gratitude for being able to work on this covenant and resolution with the Brigade. He made mention of Mr. Esteban Bovo, Sr., who he regrets is no longer with us and was an integral part of Brigade 2506. Mr. Citrin noted that he could remember the infamous Bay of Pigs day in 1961 vividly and saluted the Brigade members for their bravery.
- 10. Mayor's Report – Miscellaneous:** Nothing to report.
- 11. Council Members Concerns / Reports / Board Appointments:** N/A
Police Pension Board Appointment – Pending
Water & Sewer Board Appointment (L. Garcia, J. Merida, E. Urra) - Pending
- 12. Adjournment :** The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maria L. Joffee, City Clerk

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's office no later than four days prior to the proceeding. For assistance, the City's telephone number is (305) 558-4114; if hearing impaired the telephone for the Florida Relay Service is (800) 955-8771 (TDD) or (800) 955-8770 (VOICE).

Pursuant to Section 286.0105 Florida Statutes, any person desiring to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and it will be their responsibility to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

Monday, April 11, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 7, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

WATER AND SEWER BOARD

T.B.D.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 5:30 P.M.