

**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. Urrea

**MINUTES**

**CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS  
TUESDAY, May 3, 2022  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
10001 NW 87 AVENUE**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Present were Councilman Elmo L. Urrea, Councilman Jorge Gutierrez, Councilman Jorge A. Merida, Councilman Rolando Piña, Chairman Lucky Garcia, Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz, and Assistant City Attorney Aida Martinez-Ruiz. City Attorney Charles A. Citrin was absent.
- 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** N/A
- 6. Review of Minutes: April 19, 2022** Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 7. Public Comments:** None were offered.

**8. Presentation of SR 25/US 27/Okeechobee Road Reconstruction Projects:**  
FDOT Project Manager George Hoffman, CEI Senior Project Engineer Enrique Tamayo and Senior Community Outreach Specialist Maria Alzate.

Mr. George Hoffman, FDOT Senior Project Manager for District 6, came forward and introduced himself and his colleagues Mr. Enrique Tamayo and Ms. Maria Alzate. He thanked the Council for allowing them to deliver a brief presentation of this project. The project regards SR 5, locally known as Okeechobee Road, federally known as US27. This is segment two of a series of FDOT projects regarding SR25 and is a major project for FDOT and for the community. Mr. Hoffman began to explain the details of Segment 2 construction. Prince Contracting, LLC was awarded this contract and the bulk of the work is centered on Hialeah Gardens Blvd. The intent of the project is to address operational safety concerns throughout the corridor...he explained some of the current deficiencies within the intersection and the goals of this construction.

Chairman Garcia asked if the timeline for this project was 4 years; Mr. Hoffman replied that it was 1,400 days exactly. Ms. Alzate explained that the corridorwide reconstruction guide / booklet that was distributed tonight has an overview of the scope of work and timeline for each segment. She also explained that each segment will be managed by different project teams. Chairman Garcia asked about easing traffic during construction because of the fact that the work happening on the turnpike interchange and NW 103<sup>rd</sup> Street will be happening simultaneously...Ms. Alzate explained that all teams will be coordinating internally to make sure there are no overlaps of lane closures.

Chairman Garcia continued and asked where the City should direct inquiries from residents; Ms. Alzate replied that she would take inquiries for all of the projects and that she would then communicate with the appropriate team.

Mr. Enrique Tamayo, CEI Senior Project Engineer, came forward and spoke to the Council, explaining that he and his team are responsible for the day to day oversight of the contractor's operations on the project. They are also the lead coordinators with the City, the Town of Medley, utility agency owners, and other stakeholders. Mr. Tamayo went to explain that Okeechobee Road will be reconstructed with concrete pavement (as opposed to asphalt pavement) which should prolong the life cycle of the road for truck traffic. They will also be installing new traffic lights at multiple locations. The major intersection is the T-intersection between Hialeah Gardens Blvd. and Okeechobee Road; this will become an elevated section of roadway. Additional features that will be included in this project are bicycle lanes and sidewalks along the Frontage Road, guardrails, medians, shoulder concrete barrier walls along different sections of the roadway, a new sewer lift station and flow meter, new culvert, upgrading roadway lighting, pedestrian signage and installing new Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) The project started officially on May 2, 2022.

Traffic will probably be strained but all efforts are being made to coordinate alternative routes and the speed limit on Okeechobee Road is being reduced to 40 mph. Mr. Tamayo mentioned that they had spoken to Chief Luis Diaz of the Police Department and have worked with him in the past while the NW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue project was being completed...they will continue work closely with the HGPD and the City to help monitor traffic in those areas.

Chairman Garcia requested that the community outreach team contact the Principal of Hialeah Gardens High School since their drop off routes will be significantly impacted. Ms. Alzate explained that they met one-on-one with the school administration the day prior and are already familiar with their regular schedule and testing schedule.

Mayor De La Cruz asked if they knew whether there was a proposed opening from NW 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue onto Okeechobee Road; NW 107<sup>th</sup> currently ends at Frontage Road. Mr. Tamayo explained that it doesn't fall under the scope of their project but they will ask that project team about it and relay that information back to the Mayor. The Mayor continued and asked how many lanes would be open on Okeechobee Road throughout the life of the project. Mr. Tamayo explained that the goal of the project is to maintain three lanes open at all times in each direction; there will be instances where they implement daytime closures or nighttime closures for specific construction work. Councilman Urrea asked about the timing of the work on Hialeah Gardens Blvd, NW 138<sup>th</sup> Street, and NW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue occurring simultaneously. Mr. Tamayo explained that the NW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue project was a past project that has been completed. The limit of this current project is theoretically from just east of NW 107<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW 122<sup>nd</sup> Street...but there will probably be overlap later on when other projects begin. Ms. Alzate emphasized she would communicate all updates to the City.

No further questions or comments.

**9. AIG Retirement Services / VALIC Plan Review Discussion:** Mr. Mike Madalena, Valic Financial Advisors, Inc. District Vice President.

Mr. Mike Madalena came forward and stated his name and address for the record. He explained that he was present to address some of the questions that were sent in regarding the plan restatement. The restatement is an IRS guidance that occurs every six years in order to make any changes to the plan as deemed necessary by the City's HR office...this also provides for updates in regulation changes by the Department of Labor or the IRS. Mr. Madalena explained that the documents have already been prepared and provided to Mr. Juan Rivera [OMB Director]...he went on to present some examples of things that other plans are utilizing during this period of time and that the City may be interested in. Mr. Madalena discussed details of these suggestions at length.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz asked whether the City would still be able to make any changes to the plan if they were to approve the IRS restatement (for example add the mutual

fund) or if they would have to wait for another six years. Mr. Madalena replied that the restatement is simply a formality in making sure the plan is in compliance with the IRS. Changes in the investments that are part of the plan can be made at any moment in time. Chairman Garcia suggested they move forward and then revisit any possible changes in the future. Ms. Martinez-Ruiz agreed because the deadline for the restatement is July 1.

The Council, Deputy City Attorney and Mr. Madalena continued to discuss various elements of the plan. They all agreed to coordinate scheduled meetings with a Valic representative for individual employees to discuss their specific plans.

- 10. City Attorney's Report:** No comments
- 11. Mayor's Report – Miscellaneous:** No comments
- 12. Council Members Concerns / Reports / Board Appointments**
  - Police Pension Board Appointment – Pending
  - Water & Sewer Board Appointment (L. Garcia, J. Merida, E. Urra) - Pending
- 13. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Maria L. Joffe, 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, June 7, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

**PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**

Monday, June 6, 2022, 7:30 P.M.

**TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Thursday, June 2, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

**WATER AND SEWER BOARD**

T.B.D.

**POLICE PENSION BOARD**

Tuesday, August 2, 2022, 5:30 P.M.