

MINUTES

**CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS
TUESDAY, August 15, 2023
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10001 NW 87 AVENUE**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Luciano Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Present were Councilman Elmo Urra, Councilman Jorge Gutierrez, Councilman Jorge Merida, Chairman Luciano Garcia, Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz, and Mr. Charles A. Citrin, City Attorney. Councilman Rolando Piña was absent.
- 3. Invocation:** Chairman Garcia gave the invocation.
- 4. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor De La Cruz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 5. Deletions/Emergency Additions:** N/A
- 6. Review of Minutes: August 1, 2023,** Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of August 1, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 7. Public Comments:** None were offered.

8. Proposed Resolution:

- A) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ENTERING INTO AN URBAN QUALIFICATION COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, 2025 AND 2026; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. The Mayor spoke on the item and explained that this program allows the City to opt into development block grants with Miami-Dade County; this will enable the City to apply for a variety of grants that will help the community. There were no further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Merida. The resolution was approved unanimously. **(4-0)**

9. Presentation of Distinguished Public Service Award to Ms. Isabella Ruiz: Mayor Yiozet De La Cruz.

Mayor De La Cruz introduced Ms. Isabella Ruiz, a student at Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School, and commended her for the volunteer project she completed this past summer at the City's Senior Center. The program, called "Uplift," provided free meditation sessions, lectures and other activities to members of the Hialeah Gardens Senior Center. Attendance spiked during this time and the program had a positive effect on members. Mayor De La Cruz presented Ms. Ruiz with a distinguished public service award for her contribution to the City's Senior program and expressed pride and gratitude for her work. A photo opportunity was undertaken at this time.

10. Second Reading / Public Hearing for consideration final adoption of the following ordinances:

Mr. Citrin swore in those in attendance intending to give testimony on any of the following items.

- A) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING ITS INTENT TO APPROVE AND TRANSMIT A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS 2015-2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO INCORPORATE A NEW ELEMENT, THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT; OBJECTIVE 1.1., POLICY 1.1.1 THROUGH 1.1.4; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Mrs. Mirtha Gonzalez, Chief Zoning Official, came forward and explained that a change must be made to the language of the City's Comprehensive Plan. It is a large-scale text amendment which has to go through a process of transmittal and adoption. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Citrin asked if Mrs. Gonzalez had spoken to the State DEO regarding their review of the corrected language. Mrs. Gonzalez spoke to the State and confirmed that they have reviewed this ordinance but needed the complete package for a final review. Mr. Citrin suggested that the item be tabled for now; it won't require notice. The public hearing was closed at 7:39 p.m. The Chair made a motion to table the item, seconded by Councilman Merida. The item was tabled by unanimous vote. **(4-0)**

- B) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 40 "HIALEAH GARDENS POLICE PENSION TRUST FUND," ARTICLE II "PENSION PLAN," DIVISION IV "PAYMENT OF BENEFITS"; AMENDING SECTION 40-291 TO PERMIT IN-SERVICE DISTRIBUTIONS TO REHIRED POLICE OFFICERS; DELETING SECTION 40-294; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. This ordinance was drafted by the Pension Board at the City's suggestion. There is currently a shortage of officers applying for employment. This will allow the City to hire back Police Officers without affecting their existing pension. Chairman Garcia added that it is no different from when officers retire from our City and go work for another jurisdiction. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:42 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:42 p.m. There were no further comments or questions. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was unanimously approved by individualized voice vote. **(4-0)**

- 11. City Attorney's Report:** Mr. Citrin thanked Ms. Ruiz and congratulated her on her accomplishments.
- 12. Mayor's Report – Miscellaneous:** N/A
- 13. Council Members Concerns / Reports**
Water & Sewer Board Appointment (J. Merida, E. Urra) - Pending
- 14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maria L. Joffe
City Clerk

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 ensure 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, September 19, 2023, 7:30 P.M.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

Monday, September 11, 2023, 7:30 P.M.

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 7, 2023, 11:00 A.M.

WATER AND SEWER BOARD

T.B.D.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 5:30 P.M.