

## **MINUTES**

**CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS  
TUESDAY, September 19, 2023  
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 Councilman Elmo Urra, Councilman Jorge Gutierrez, Councilman Jorge Merida, Councilman Rolando Piña, Chairman Luciano Garcia, Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz, and Mr. Charles A. Citrin, City Attorney.
- 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: September 5, 2023,** Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2023. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 7. Public Comments:** None were offered.

**8. Second Reading/Public Hearing for consideration and final of the following Budget Ordinances:**

Mr. Citrin noted that this is a public hearing.

- A) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AT 5.1613 MILLS, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF 15.09% OVER THE ROLL BACK RATE SO AS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY REVENUE TO MEET THE DETERMINED BUDGETARY NEEDS OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Mayor De La Cruz commented that the millage rate has remained the same as the previous year and has not increased in ten years. Increases in property taxes are due to increases in County appraised property values. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:32 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing closed at 7:32 p.m. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote.

**(5-0)**

- B) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:33 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing closed at 7:33 p.m. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- C) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACT FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:33 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing closed at 7:33 p.m. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- D) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE STORM WATER UTILITY FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:34 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing closed at 7:34 p.m. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- E) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE STREETS AND ROADS FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:35 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- F) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:35 p.m. No one came forward. The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- G) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITIZEN'S INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Citrin read the item into the record. Chairman Garcia opened a public hearing at 7:36 p.m. No one came forward. The Public hearing closed at 7:36 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a few remarks congratulating the Mayor for his leadership

and management, and also thanked all Department heads for their hard work, leadership and attending this meeting. No further questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved via individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

**9. City Attorney's Report:** Mr. Citrin acknowledged the Staff.

**10. Mayor's Report – Miscellaneous:**

Mayor De La Cruz acknowledged the City Council, all Department heads, and their respective staff, for their hard work and dedication. He thanked Juan Rivera, Finance Director, for his work on the budget and specifically Arturo Ruiz, Director of Administration, for being his right hand. The Mayor stated that the City's budget is the healthiest it's ever been and that there will be many great programs and projects coming to the City next year.

**11. Council Members Concerns / Reports / Board Appointments:** N/A

Police Pension Board Appointment – Pending

Water & Sewer Board Appointment (J. Merida, E. Urra) - Pending

**12. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 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 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, November 7, 2023, 7:30 P.M.

**PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**

Monday, November 6, 2023, 7:30 P.M.

**TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 11:00 A.M.

**WATER AND SEWER BOARD**

T.B.D.

**POLICE PENSION BOARD**

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