

MINUTES

CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS
TUESDAY, September 17, 2024
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 City Attorney Aida Martinez-Ruiz.
- 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 3, 2024** Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of September 3, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 7. Public Comments:** None were offered.

8. Proposed Resolutions:

- A) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING ENTERING INTO A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF BAY HARBOR ISLANDS, FLORIDA REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AND NEEDS; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF SUCH AGREEMENT BY THE MAYOR; RATIFYING THE PROVISIONS OF SUCH AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the resolution into the record and made note of a correction to the heading (short title). Captain Michael Lopez, of the Hialeah Gardens Police Department, came forward to speak on the item. The Department is requesting a mutual aid agreement with the Town of Bay Harbor Islands as is customary between municipalities and other law enforcement agencies.

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. **(5-0)**

- B) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, STATE OF FLORIDA, AND THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS CONCERNING TURF AND LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the resolution into the record. She explained that this the agreement that the City has with the State to maintain FDOT-owned areas for which the City is reimbursed. The agreement is renewed on a yearly basis.

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. **(5-0)**

- C) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY'S HEALTH INSURANCE BETWEEN AVMED AND THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the resolution into the record. Ms. Aimee De La Osa, Human Resources Coordinator, came forward and read a memorandum explaining the new plan with Avmed for employee health insurance. The City's current plan has been discontinued. Plan options were presented by Avmed,

Cigna, and Florida Blue. The most viable option for the City is plan 'Avmed AIM LH662' at an overall increase of 11%. The City will continue to utilize the services of the City's current gap/supplemental insurance, Globe Life, for which there was no rate change. Chairman Garcia asked if the coverage was basically the same under the new Avmed plan; Ms. De La Osa confirmed that it was.

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. **(5-0)**

- D) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS APPROVING AND RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY'S SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH INSURANCE BETWEEN GLOBE LIFE AND THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the resolution into the record. Ms. Aimee De La Osa, Human Resources Coordinator, came forward once again and explained that this is the gap insurance that she referred to in her previous memorandum. The company used to be called Beazley but changed their name to Globe Life.

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. **(5-0)**

- E) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT FOR DENTAL AND VISION INSURANCE BETWEEN METLIFE AND THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the resolution into the record. Ms. Aimee De La Osa, Human Resources Coordinator, came forward once again and read a memorandum into the record explaining the agreement with MetLife for dental and vision insurance. The City's insurance brokers solicited proposals from several dental and vision companies. Humana (current plan), Solstice, MetLife, Florida Blue, and Cigna submitted proposals. It is Ms. De La Osa's recommendation that the City enters into an agreement with MetLife which provides excellent coverage. The rate is 4% lower. The disability insurance rate remains the same.

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. **(5-0)**

- F) RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND RATIFYING AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY'S LONG AND SHORT-TERM DISABILITY, ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT, AND LIFE INSURANCE BETWEEN METLIFE AND THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the resolution into the record. Ms. Aimee De La Osa, Human Resources Coordinator, came forward once again and read a memorandum into the record explaining the agreement with MetLife for long and short-term disability and life insurance. The City received a two-year guarantee on October 1, 2023 which will keep the current rates in place until September 30, 2025. As an incentive, the City was offered an additional one-year rate guarantee for the above if selecting a dental and vision coverage with MetLife. This would extend the rate guarantee until September 30, 2026. Therefore, it is in the City's best interest to remain with and enter into an agreement with MetLife as the City's disability and life insurance carrier.

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. **(5-0)**

9. First Reading for consideration of the following ordinances:

- A) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING A FINAL PLAT FOR HIALEAH GARDENS INDUSTRIAL STORAGE CENTER, LEGAL DESCRIPTION: BEGIN AT A POINT 695.0 FEET WEST OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 53, SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST; THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THAT SECTION TO THE INTERSECTION WITH THE CENTER LINE OF THE MIAMI CANAL; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG THE CENTER LINE OF THE CANAL A DISTANCE OF 707.6 FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; LESS THAT PART OF THE SAID DESCRIBED PARCEL PLATTED IN PLAT BOOK 9, AT PAGE 65, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND A PORTION OF THE WEST 1/2 OF TRACT 56, FLORIDA FRUIT LAND COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION, IN SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 52 SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, OF PAGE 17, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEING AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 10, HARTFORDSHIRE GARDENS, PLAT BOOK 9, PAGE 65; THENCE NORTH 50°36'00" WEST ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID HARTFORDSHIRE GARDENS FOR 98.59 FEET; TO THE POINT

OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL OF LAND HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED; THENCE NORTH 39°24'00" EAST AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE FOR 110.00 FEET; THENCE EAST ALONG A LINE PARALLEL WITH AND 85.00 FEET NORTH OF AS MEASURED AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 4 FOR 470.71 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2°16'10" EAST FOR 85.07 FEET, THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 4 FOR 543.90 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; LYING AND BEING IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA. FOLIO #: 27-3004-000-0020. APPROXIMATE LOCATION: S.W. INTERSECTION OF THEORETICAL N.W 106TH TERRACE AND THEORETICAL N.W. 88TH AVENUE AND SOUTH: FRONTAGE ROAD / WEST OKEECHOBEE ROAD, HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA. PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE. (T.R.C. Vote 6-0; P&Z Vote: n/a)

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. She asked the City Clerk to enter the full legal description into the record in order to ensure accuracy. The applicant was not present. This is a first reading; an opportunity for public input will be afforded upon second reading. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon first reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The item was approved unanimously by individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- B) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING A FINAL PLAT FOR WESTLAND GARDENS CENTER, LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT 32, IN SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 52 SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST, OF FLORIDA FRUIT LANDS COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION NO. 1, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 17, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LESS THE NORTH 65 FEET OF SAID TRACT. SAID LANDS LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA AND CONTAINING 349,537 SQUARE FEET (8.024 ACRES), MORE OR LESS. FOLIO #: 27-2029-001-0330. APPROXIMATE LOCATION: SOUTHEAST INTERSECTION OF NORTH OF N.W 138TH STREET AND N.W. 107TH AVENUE, HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA. PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE. (T.R.C. Vote 6-0; P&Z Vote: n/a)

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. She asked the City Clerk to enter the full legal description into the record in order to ensure accuracy. Ms. Jane Storms, Pulice Land Surveyors, came forward on behalf of the applicant and stated her name and address for the record. Councilman Piña asked where this site was located. It is near the museum complex. The site is being cleaned up. This is a first reading; an opportunity for public input will be afforded upon second reading. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon first reading,

seconded by Councilman Merida. The item was approved unanimously by individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- C) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, APPROVING A SITE PLAN FOR RENEGADE 103 LLC TO DEVELOP A NEW 2-STORY COMMERCIAL BUILDING, CONCERNING PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS: TRACT 'A' IN SANTA NAVILA SUBDIVISION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 154, PAGE 97 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA. APPROXIMATE LOCATION: SOUTH ON N.W. 103 STREET BETWEEN N.W. 87TH AVENUE AND THEORETICAL N.W. 84TH AVENUE, HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, FOLIO #: 27-3003-035-0010; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.
(T.R.C. Vote 6-0; P&Z Vote: 5-0)

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. She asked the City Clerk to enter the full legal description into the record in order to ensure accuracy. Mr. Luis La Rosa, architect of record, came forward on behalf of the applicant and stated his name and address for the record. This is a first reading; an opportunity for public input will be afforded upon second reading. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon first reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The item was approved unanimously by individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

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

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz swore in those individuals intending to give testimony on any of the following items.

- A) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, AT 4.6782 MILLS WHICH IS 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.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. Mayor De La Cruz spoke on this item regarding the budget and explained that the City is rolling back [the rate] this year which equates to a savings of about \$1.2 million for the residents. The City's millage rate is 4.6782% this year. The Mayor noted we have a strong budget with approximately \$4.8 million in surplus.

A public hearing was opened at 7:47 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:47 p.m. The Chair made a motion to approve the

ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by 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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. A public hearing was opened at 7:47 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:47 p.m. There were no questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by 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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. A public hearing was opened at 7:48 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m. There were no questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by 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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. A public hearing was opened at 7:49 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:49 p.m. There were no questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by 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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. A public hearing was opened at 7:49 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:49 p.m. There were no questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by 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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. A public hearing was opened at 7:50 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:50 p.m. There were no questions or comments. The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by 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, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the ordinance into the record. A public hearing was opened at 7:51 p.m.; no one came forward. The public hearing was closed at 7:51 p.m.

Chairman Garcia thanked the Mayor for his continued leadership, for another successful budget and the City's strong fiscal health. He asked Mayor De La Cruz to introduce all members of the Staff that were present. The Mayor did so and Chairman Garcia thanked all of them for their hard work in their respective departments which is reflected in the positive comments the City receives from the community every single day.

The Chair made a motion to approve the ordinance upon second reading, seconded by Councilman Merida. The ordinance was approved unanimously by individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

11. City Attorney's Report: No comments.

12. Mayor's Report – Miscellaneous: Mayor De La Cruz spoke on the grand opening of the new Senior Center which will take place on Monday, September 23, at 10:00 a.m.

13. Council Members Concerns / Reports / Board Appointments

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

Councilmen Gutierrez and Piña congratulated Staff on the successful budget and reiterated Chairman Garcia's comments.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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, October 15, 2024, 7:30 P.M.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:30 P.M.

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 3, 2024, 11:00 A.M.

WATER AND SEWER BOARD

T.B.D.

POLICE PENSION BOARD

Thursday, December 19, 2024, 1:00 P.M.