

## **MINUTES**

**CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS  
WEDNESDAY, September 27, 2017  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
10001 NW 87 AVENUE**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Present were Chairman Garcia, Councilman Rolando Piña, Councilman Jorge A. Merida, Councilman Elmo L. Urra, Councilman Jorge Gutierrez and Assistant City Attorney Aida Martinez-Ruiz and Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz. City Attorney Charles A. Citrin were 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:** None were offered.
- 6. Review of Minutes: September 20, 2017,** Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2017 seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion was unanimously approved.
- 7. Public Comments:** None were offered.

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

- A) ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH GARDENS, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, AT 5.1613 MILLS, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF 7.74% 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.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Mr. Juan Rivera, OMB Director, offered to answer any questions as needed. Mayor De La Cruz commented to clarify that the millage rate was to remain the same, as it had for the past two years; he then stated that the millage rate was the lowest it had been since 1984 and only reflected the County's increase in property value. He also stated that the City would not raise taxes nor its millage rate which had not changed in three years. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion 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, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion 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, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion 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, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion 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, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion 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, 2017 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:38 p.m. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion 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, 2017, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Martinez-Ruiz read the full title of the ordinance into the record. Chairman Garcia opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m. No comments were offered and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:38 p.m. Chairman Garcia then took the opportunity to thank all of the department heads on behalf of the City and its residents for their attendance, hard work, leadership and commitment to duty throughout the year. He credited the staff for enabling the City's sound financial state. Chairman Garcia interjected and thanked the Mayor for his leadership and emphasized that the City is in an enviable position because it is one of the few municipalities in the County that is in such a sound financial state. He highlighted the Mayor's daily efforts and attention to detail, stating that the council looked forward to continuing to work with him the following year. Mayor De La Cruz thanked the Chairman for his comments. Chairman Garcia made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Merida. The motion was approved unanimously by individualized voice vote. **(5-0)**

- 9. City Attorney's Report:** Ms. Martinez-Ruiz spoke on behalf of Mr. Charles Citrin who sent his regrets and best wishes as he was not able to attend tonight's meeting.
- 10. Mayor's Report – Miscellaneous:** Mayor De La Cruz took another opportunity to thank all of his employees and Department heads for their work on the Budget as well as their work before, during, and after Hurricane Irma. He was especially grateful to the Police Department for their excellent service. The Mayor personally thanked Deputy Chief Zardon, Chief Luis Diaz and Captain Douglas Zamora for their outstanding work as well as Arturo Ruiz, who is in charge of the post-Hurricane pickup. The Mayor noted that the City was now on its third pickup, being one of the few cities in the County that was able to pick up all trash and debris within the first week of the storm and continues to do so as residents bring out more debris onto streets and swale areas. Mayor De La Cruz stated how proud he was of the City by thanking the Council, Department heads, employees, police department and everyone else who helped before, during, and after the storm.
- 11. Council Members Concerns / Reports / Board Appointments:** Chairman Garcia Gutierrez took a moment to reiterate the Mayor's statements and thanked the City staff for the work they did before, during and after the storm. He pointed out that he received numerous comments from City residents thanking the City for sand distribution, checking in on trailer parks, food delivery to Courtly Manor, police patrol during the storm, handing out meals, ice, and water, checking in on nursing homes and ALFs, and the vulnerable residents of the City, as well as its efficient

garbage pickup. Chairman ended his comments by once again thanking all City employees and Mayor De La Cruz for their response to Hurricane Irma. Councilman Gutierrez added his appreciation for work done by the city staff before, during and after the storm and pointed out that the City of Hialeah Gardens was the first City in the County to have 100% of its power restored.

- 12. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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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 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, October 17, 2017, 7:30 P.M.

**PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD**

Monday, October 23, 2017, 7:30 P.M.

**TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 11:30 A.M.

**WATER AND SEWER BOARD**

Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 7:00 P.M.

**POLICE PENSION BOARD**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 5:30 P.M.