



MINUTES
TOWN OF MIAMI
SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026, AT 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Madrid called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION:

Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Richard Huerta gave the invocation.

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Mayor Madrid, Vice Mayor Gonzales, Councilmember Medina, Councilmember Moat, Councilmember Reiman, and Councilmember Stewart.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Sosh.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Attorney Joe Estes, Town Manager Rivera, Public Works Director Derhammer, and Town Clerk Norris.

4. BUSINESS:

- A. Council Hearing:** The Town Council may conduct a hearing for the limited purpose of discussion and possible action concerning the potential removal of Mayor Madrid from the appointment of Mayor pursuant to Town Code 2.04.010 and Council Procedures 3.9.

1. Council Statement of Allegations – Grounds for Removal.

Councilmember Medina opened by commenting that Mayor Madrid operated under what he characterized as "mob rule," allowing audience members to unduly influence his decisions rather than governing through proper democratic process. He expressed concern about the Mayor's conduct at meetings, noting early incidents of outbursts and difficulty maintaining order. He described the Mayor's management style as reflecting a CEO mindset incompatible with council-manager government, where no single individual holds executive authority. He also cited specific incidents in which the Mayor appeared to favor supportive public commenters while curtailing those offering criticism—most pointedly referencing an incident involving a member of the public, Mrs. Carol Broeder, whom the Mayor allegedly silenced abruptly. Councilmember Medina further noted that on at least one occasion, fifteen members of the

public used their public comment time to direct criticism at Council Members, and that the Mayor failed to exercise appropriate gavel authority to redirect the meeting.

Councilmember Reiman focused on concerns about meeting decorum, the risk to institutional credibility, and the broader implications for outside partners and funders. He stressed that the Open Meeting Law exists to ensure public deliberation and that past violations of that law had placed the Town under a five-year probationary period, a circumstance he was determined not to repeat. He drew a distinction between misfeasance—the Mayor's failure to maintain meeting order as required—and malfeasance—the Mayor's direct and unauthorized engagement with town staff and employees. He noted that the Mayor had been perceived by outside observers, including representatives of local mining interests and potential investors, as presiding over chaotic and unproductive meetings, damaging Miami's standing with key partners.

Councilmember Moat states why he ran for office: to be involved and to get the roads fixed. Councilmember Moat echoed concerns about the tone of meetings, describing the atmosphere as one of "doom and gloom," and specifically cited repeated disruptive behavior by a member of the public, Mr. Huerta, which the Mayor failed to address. He stated that individuals had been ejected from meetings for lesser conduct in the past and that the Mayor's consistent failure to reprimand anyone signaled an unequal and problematic standard.

Councilmember Stewart explains that this is not personal. There are reasons for protocols and policies; they all need to be followed, and the Town Council needs to set the example. The public needs to have faith and confidence in the Council. Councilmember Stewart explains that it is hard to watch the disregard of the Open Meeting Law. He also raised that formal complaints had been filed with the Arizona Attorney General, warning that continued inaction risked triggering administrative oversight of the Town.

Vice Mayor Gonzales offered a more measured perspective. He acknowledged that Mayor Madrid had made errors, but argued that mistakes are part of any learning process, noting that four Council Members had themselves voted to appoint Madrid as Mayor and therefore shared some responsibility for his development in the role. He indicated that he had personally spoken with the Mayor on multiple occasions, and that the Mayor's conduct and decorum had noticeably improved following those conversations. He expressed support for allowing the Mayor to serve out the remaining two and a half months of his term rather than expending additional Town resources on a replacement process.

2. Mayor Madrid's Response to the Allegations.

Mayor Madrid began by acknowledging former and current Miami residents in attendance and thanking those Council Members who had supported and guided him through his term. He offered an apology to any Council Member or resident he may have personally offended, particularly in instances where he raised his voice, attributing those outbursts to extreme frustration rather than malice—noting that in his entire professional career prior to serving as Mayor, he had never lost his temper in a workplace setting. On procedural grounds, Mayor Madrid raised a threshold objection, questioning whether the affidavits submitted by Councilmembers Medina and Reiman met the sworn-statement requirement under Section 3.9

of the Council's Rules and Procedures, as they did not appear to have been sworn before a notary or otherwise affirmed under penalty of perjury. He asked the Council to address this procedural point before proceeding to the merits. Turning to the substance of the allegations, the Mayor responded to Councilmember Medina's affidavit point by point. He acknowledged his strong advocacy for a strategic plan and for the Police Department's HVAC system, characterizing these not as obsession but as legitimate and necessary priorities. He noted that the Town Manager had long resisted the strategic plan, only to have the Miami Times report weeks before the hearing that the Town Manager was now moving forward with such a plan. Regarding the July 13, 2026 Council meeting, during which Councilmember Medina alleged the Mayor made an improper "attack" on the Town Manager, Mayor Madrid argued that his comments were legally permissible under A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(H), which allows discussion of agenda items and other matters reasonably related thereto. He maintained that comments about the Town Manager's performance were directly related to the agenda item concerning the Town Manager's employment contract amendment—a five-year extension with six months of severance pay—which had appeared on the final agenda without advance notice, prompting his request to table the matter. The Town Manager's employment contract includes respect and working with the Mayor and each Councilmember, and the Town Manager did not comply with any of his duties per his employment contract with regard to the Mayor. It has been the opposite for the last two years. The Town Manager has deliberately delayed the Town's Façade project for two years. He also requested the Town Manager budget for the use of a lobbyist, the same lobbyist that the City of Globe and Town of Superior are using. Mayor Madrid also states that he requested the Town Manager to add safety signs for residential parking only during the construction of the Inspiration School building, and it was completely ignored. Mayor Madrid comments that the Town Manager never wanted to hire an Economic Development Director, and when he did, he made sure she was not going to be able to succeed. States the Town Manager still does not believe nor understand the value this position can bring to Miami. Regarding Councilmember Reiman's affidavit, Mayor Madrid disputed each of the categories of alleged misconduct, including malfeasance, misfeasance, Open Meeting Law violations, and harm to Town funding. He challenged Councilmember Reiman to identify specific dates, statements, and provisions violated, arguing that no court or the Attorney General had determined that any conduct of his violated the Open Meeting Law. He also disputed the claim that he disregarded the Town Attorney's legal advice, asking for identification of the specific advice and the subsequent action he took in defiance of it. Mayor Madrid then presented a series of substantive concerns about the Town Manager, Alexis Rivera, which he framed as the root cause of much of the tension observed at meetings. These included: the Town Manager opening the municipal swimming pool before structural engineering repairs were completed, constituting a public safety risk; the Town Manager's alleged three-year delay in completing the Police Department HVAC installation while providing false status updates to the Mayor; the Town Manager's statement that he would replace the police force with county sheriff services if officers resigned; the purchase by the Mayor and his wife of replacement office chairs for police staff after the Town Manager refused to authorize the purchase; the Town Manager's withdrawal from a regional eight-town consortium led by the Mayor of Superior without Council authorization; the Town Manager's failure to engage lobbyists for grant funding despite repeated requests; and the Town Manager's handling of a potential partnership with TRSD. Mayor Madrid closed by reaffirming his commitment to the Town of Miami and asserting that the

removal proceedings were not grounded in specific evidence satisfying any recognized ground under Section 3.9.

3. Council Rebuttal.

Councilmember Reiman responded briefly, pushing back on Mayor Madrid's procedural argument regarding the affidavits. He maintained that the rules require a "sworn statement" but not necessarily one notarized before a third party. He declined to engage with the Mayor's yes-or-no questioning format, calling it a "staging trap" and reiterating that his primary concern was the Mayor's conduct in running meetings and compliance with Open Meeting Law, not policy disagreements. He acknowledged the situation was difficult but stated the affidavit process had served its purpose in bringing the matter before the full Council. Other Council Members reiterated their views during rebuttal. Vice Mayor Gonzales, who had spoken in support of allowing the Mayor to finish his term, acknowledged the July 13th meeting as a low point but pointed to improvement in the Mayor's conduct since then. He noted that with only five meetings remaining before the new Council was to be seated, completing the term was the more fiscally and practically prudent course. Another Council Member described the proceedings as painful but necessary, emphasizing the importance of sending the right message to the public, to partner municipalities, and to the next generation of residents about accountability and decorum in local government.

4. Deliberation. None.

B. Information, discussion, and possible action: The Town Council may vote to convene in Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1) and (3) for discussion and consultation with the Town's attorney regarding matters related to the appointment, performance, duties, responsibilities, and conduct of the Mayor and to receive legal advice regarding related legal and procedural issues.

The Council did not adjourn to Executive Session, as no request was made and legal counsel indicated there was no requirement to do so prior to proceeding to a vote.

C. Discussion and possible action: Discussion and possible action Mayor Madrid, which may include one or more of the following:

1. Determining that grounds for removal have not been met and taking no removal action.
2. Determining that grounds for removal have not been met but determining sufficient grounds for a formal censure and/or admonishment.
3. Determining that grounds for removal have been met and taking removal action.
4. Taking other authorized action as directed by Council, including the possible selection of a new Mayor if removal has been authorized.

Councilmember Medina moved to remove Mayor Madrid from the position of Mayor. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reiman. Mayor Madrid called for a roll call vote. Vote – Mayor Madrid – nay; Vice Mayor Gonzales – nay; Councilmember Medina – aye; Councilmember Moat – aye; Councilmember Reiman – aye; Councilmember Sosh – excused; and Councilmember Stewart – aye. MOTION PASSED.

Councilmember Medina moved to appoint Councilmember Stewart to fill the Mayor position. Councilmember Stewart declined the nomination. There was no second to this motion. Councilmember Stewart moved to appoint Councilmember Sosh to fill the Mayor position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Medina. Mayor Madrid called for a roll call vote. Vote – Mayor Madrid – nay; Vice Mayor Gonzales – aye; Councilmember Medina – aye; Councilmember Moat – aye; Councilmember Reiman – aye; Councilmember Sosh – excused; and Councilmember Stewart – aye. MOTION PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Medina moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reiman. Vice Mayor Gonzales called for the vote. Vote – Councilmember Madrid – nay; Vice Mayor Gonzales – aye; Councilmember Medina – aye; Councilmember Moat – aye; Councilmember Reiman – aye; Mayor Sosh – excused; and Councilmember Stewart – aye. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Miami, AZ, held on the 31st day of August, 2026.

I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 14th day of September, 2026.


Karen Norris, Town Clerk

APPROVED:


Michael Sosh, Mayor