

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items G-7 and G-8
March 28, 2023
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Michael Mena

Commissioner Rhonda Anderson

Commissioner James Cason

Commissioner Kirk Menendez

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez

City Manager, Peter Iglesias

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Maria Cruz

Evelyn Diaz

Zully Pardo

Agenda Items G-7 and G-8 [1:00 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to allocate and earmark mobility impact fees collected from development projects in the Flagler Street Section for the purpose of design and construction of streetscape improvements, traffic calming, and pedestrian safety improvements in the areas to address the impacts of new developments. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson) (Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

G-8: A Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to allocate and earmark mobility impact fees collected from development projects in and around the Biltmore and Craft Sections for the purpose of design and construction of streetscape improvements, traffic calming, and pedestrian safety improvements in the areas to address the impacts of new developments. (Sponsored by Commissioner Anderson) (Sponsored by Commissioner Menendez)

Mayor Lago: I have three items then we go really quickly before we go to lunch. Item G-7, the Flagler Section discussion.

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City Attorney Suarez: You want me to read it in, Commissioner?

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, go ahead and read it in.

City Attorney Suarez: Mayor, do you want to do G-7 and G-8 together?

Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Attorney Suarez: G-7 is a Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to allocate and earmark mobility impact fees collected from development projects in the Flagler Street Section for the purpose of design and construction of streetscape improvements, traffic calming, and pedestrian safety improvements in the areas to address the impacts of new developments. G-8 is a Resolution of the City Commission directing the City Manager to allocate and earmark mobility impact fees collected from development projects in and around the Biltmore and Craft Sections for the purpose of design and construction of streetscape improvements, traffic calming, and pedestrian safety improvements in the areas to address the impacts of new developments.

Mayor Lago: Do we have any public comments?

City Clerk Urquia: Yes sir, we do.

Mayor Lago: How many?

City Clerk Urquia: Three.

Mayor Lago: Let's hear them now.

City Clerk Urquia: First speaker is Ms. Maria Cruz.

Ms. Cruz: Mrs. Maria Cruz, 1447 Miller Road, a resident here since 1976. I think I'm going to talk about G-7 and G-8, they are about the same comments. I think that these resolutions make a lot of sense, number one, if the residents are involved in the decisions, number two, how long is it going to take to make it happen. Saying that we're going to do it and then shelving it and let them come back next year again and say, why hasn't it happened, and please it has happened before. The fact that you say, let's do this, doesn't mean that it will happen as fast as they, the ones who are waiting, so good to do it, but let's make it happen and not force them to wait till something else doesn't happen. Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Mr. Clerk.

City Clerk Urquia: Next speaker is Ms. Evelyn Diaz.

Mayor Lago: How are you. Thank you for being patient.

Ms. Diaz: Thank you for having me and thank you for having this on the agenda. I hope you are all in favor of this and I'd like this to happen in my lifetime, if not, I have my daughter here, Jocelyn Diaz, if not it will happen in hers, but hopefully this can happen. Thank you so much.

Mayor Lago: Thank you.

City Clerk Urquia: Next speaker is Ms. Zully Pardo.

Mayor Lago: Ms. Pardo, good afternoon.

Ms. Pardo: Good afternoon, Mayor, Commissioners, it's a pleasure to be here on this very auspicious day. First, I want to congratulate Mr. Mena. Thank you Vice Mayor Mena and Mr. Cason, many congratulations to you and thank you for the service. I wouldn't want to be sitting up there, believe me, because when I don't agree with you, we get upset, right. So, I just wanted to thank you for bringing up this resolution. Hopefully we can get the funding that we need to finally get started with our Flagler, Coral Gables Flagler Street Section Project Vision Plan. It's still a vision, but we hope this will be a positive step forward. Thank you so much and congratulations again.

City Clerk Urquia: That's it, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Lago: Alright.

Commissioner Anderson: Like impact fees that Vice Mayor Mena started many years ago, I mean the seeds have to be planted in order to make things grow. The purpose of this resolution is to help start that process. We're not going to shelve it. This is one of the projects that I would like to see reach fruition before I pass on too.

Mayor Lago: Make a motion.

Commissioner Anderson: So, I'm going to make a motion.

Commissioner Menendez: I second.

Commissioner Anderson: This is as to both resolutions or we have to do them both separately.

City Attorney Suarez: We need two motions.

City Clerk Urquia: We need two different motions.

Commissioner Anderson: Okay. We'll move on to G-7 first, that would be the one for the Flagler Street Section.

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Commissioner Menendez: Second.

Commissioner Cason: Yes

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Commissioner Anderson: The second motion would be for the resolution for the Biltmore Way and Craft Section as it reads. I'll move it.

Commissioner Menendez: I'll second.

Vice Mayor Mena: Yes

Commissioner Menendez: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cason: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)