

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Agenda Item J-1
July 14, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Asst. City Attorney Gustavo Ceballos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Suzanne Hubbard

Agenda Item J-1

A Resolution extending the submittal deadline for the Hammock Oaks Special Taxing District petition to allow for a roving security guard and an expanded security monitoring system.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: J-1.

City Attorney Ramos: My office does not have a position on this, but we were asked to put this on. I am not sure if Mr. Ceballos is still on the line, and you did hear from two residents who are opposed to the extension of time this morning in the Public Comments section.

Asst. City Attorney Ceballos: Good afternoon City Commissioners, as the City Attorney explained, we received a request back on the beginning of June, June 8th to be specific requesting an extension from the petition deadline which was June 25th. As it currently stands, that petition

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has failed, unless we, unless you decide to grant said extension. I am not sure if Mr. _____ or any other residents from the area are here to speak on the item.

City Attorney Ramos: And so, as you know the period of time established was... In order to obtain the signatures was established by the Commission. It's your policy, so you can extend that if you wish.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What is the wish of the Commission?

Commissioner Mena: I am comfortable extending it given the circumstances. I understand there was some opposition, but either there is support for it, or not, within the community. I would rather know one way or the other and if they need more time to make that determination it doesn't force anybody to vote in any way, they will still be able to give us their input and we will go from there.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I agree. I fully agree.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, I don't see the issue with extending it. I mean, what are we talking about. What would the extension be, till the next Commission Meeting or...? I mean, obviously, that will be the first time we can hear it in August. But I don't see...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I propose that we extend it at 60 days. This is giving them an opportunity to express their wishes, we are not imposing anything on anybody. If they vote against it, then they vote against it. If they vote for it, they vote for it. But I would suggest that somebody make a motion to extend to 60 days.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Keon: Mayor, are there ... are there any constraints relating to when it has to be on the tax bill by? Like, when do we have to know, so they can place it on the tax bill?

Asst. City Attorney Ceballos: It's already... We already approved the higher rate, so come the beginning of September, our plan is, if it doesn't get approved. This extension is only through the next meeting, specifically, August 25th. So, if we don't have it by August 25th, we will know and we will basically roll back the rate, basically the pre-petition rate if you will.

Commissioner Keon: Okay. So, there are no issues with regard to placing it on the agenda.

Asst. City Attorney Ceballos: No.

Commissioner Keon: So, it will on the next meeting. Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Mena: So, why don't we extend it until the end of August. Does that make sense?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yeah, to our next Commission meeting.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, that's been moved. Is there a second?

Commissioner Mena: I will second it.

Commissioner Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can you call the roll, please.

City Clerk Urquia: Mr. Mayor, we do have someone from the public requesting to speak on this item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

City Clerk Urquia: It's Eileen Faracci (phonetic).

Commissioner Mena: Didn't speak this morning on this?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Did she? Okay.

Ms. Faracci (phonetic): Yes.

City Attorney Ramos: Yes. So, according to the rules, for Public Comments, if you speak to her in the Public Comments, you are not supposed to speak again during the item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, and we heard her opinion, and you know we have made note of it.

City Clerk Urquia: Okay, we have one more person, her name is Suzanne. I don't have a last name.

Ms. Suzanne: Hello, can you hear me?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Hello.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, ma'am.

Commissioner Keon: We can hear you.

Ms. Hubbard: I am Suzanne Hubbard, I am the treasurer at Hammocks Homeowners Association, and I would like to say that we have had Zoom meetings, we have had multiple meetings, we have had our annual meeting. We have not had any issues with respect to COVID. We have been able to conduct all of our business and we ask that this item be put an end to. The community has moved on. There is nothing to be done by extending this to the end of August, and again, we have had no issues holding our annual meetings. We had a special Zoom meeting with the Chief. We would just like to not extend this, and this is the position that the homeowners association, and we do have 85 percent of our community is a member of the homeowner's association and at our election we had a 67 percent participation rate.

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. A motion has been made to extend it till August, and it has been seconded. Can you call the roll, please Billy, City Clerk?

City Clerk Urquia: I am sorry, Mr. Mayor, really quick. The Vice Mayor said to extend it till the August 25th City Commission meeting.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Mena said till the end of August.

Vice Mayor Lago: That's perfectly fine, whatever Commissioner Mena wants. Basically, it's the same thing.

Commissioner Mena: Yeah, it's the same thing.

Vice Mayor Lago: It's meaningless.

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Fors.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: August 25th. Call the roll, please.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.