

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items F-6 and J-4 are related
January 9, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Frank Quesada
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Items F-6 and J-4 are related [0:00:00 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 113 “Flood Damage Prevention,” of the City of Coral Gables Code to adopt flood hazard maps, to designate a floodplain administrator, to adopt procedures and criteria for development in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date.

Floodplain Management Plan Progress Report.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, the next is flood hazard maps.

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Agenda Items D-1 and H-3 are related - Resolution authorizing Make-a-Wish Southern Florida to sell alcoholic beverages at the parking area behind Sports Grill during the “Wings for Wishes” event and a request to waive the special event fees, parking fees, and barricade fees for the “Wings for Wishes” event taking place in Coral Gables on Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. Page 1

City Attorney Ramos: F-6, an ordinance of the City of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 113 “Flood Damage Prevention,” of the City of Coral Gables Code to adopt flood hazard maps, to designate a floodplain administrator, to adopt procedures and criteria for development in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. This ordinance is on first reading, and it’s a public hearing item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Yes. This ordinance is concerning the community rating system from FEMA. What it does is establishes -- it updates the Chapter 113 in accordance with the current FEMA and Florida Building Code and the American Civil Engineer standards.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Any discussion?

Vice Mayor Keon: Nope. I’ll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 3-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: City Commission items.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Mr. Mayor, since J-4 is a related item, may we -- which also deals with Floodplain Management Plan progress report, we can waive the presentation, but if there's any questions -- Peter, is there anything that the Commission has to know besides the briefings that they've each had already?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well, that deals with a lot of...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Where are we now?

Commissioner Mena: J-4.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Keon: J-4 is also the floodplain.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: The Floodplain Management Plan Progress Report. What we're doing is we have a lot of Public Works projects that we are trying to provide as much protection from sea level rise as possible. We've shuttered buildings and a number of these things, and it's just part of our community rating system and associated with the requirement with some issues in Chapter 113.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So, it's a related item. You all had individual briefings on the floodplain generally and how we're handling it. But, I didn't know if there any other questions or if you wanted an actual presentation.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Anybody have any questions?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Community...

Vice Mayor Keon: No.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Rating system deals with our flood insurance requirements and our construction sustainability.

Vice Mayor Keon: Is this your floodplain management -- Does that affect, you know, the -- in some of the low-lying areas where there is a lot of rain? It's, you know, dealing with those (INAUDIBLE) the sewers or is there a plan to...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Well...

Vice Mayor Keon: Regularly...

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Part of it is raising the pump stations as much as possible when we rehab -- relining sewer systems. Right now, that's a huge issue with the EPA mandate in WASA. And so, really, it deals with the whole infrastructure and trying to get it as sustainable as possible.

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay. I just know in some areas, you know, there are -- often, there's complaints about the sewers. You know, there -- the draining of the sewer, how quickly the water -- and I think for flooding, does it have to remain on -- for 24 hours to be considered flood?

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: No. We look at -- some of the areas are highly susceptible to tides.

Vice Mayor Keon: Right.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Especially in the east.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: And so, for instance, if we -- our -- we're not allowed any more to provide drainage systems that drain directly through pipes into the bay. So, if you have a king tide, for instance, and its four-foot height that will just reduce the drainage capacity of (INAUDIBLE) system. However, most of the Gables is very, very high. And, in accordance with the Soil Conservation Service, we had...

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: About 9 to 10 inches of storage of water. So, we're in pretty good shape, except for our low-lying areas that are really susceptible to...

Vice Mayor Keon: To flooding.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: Tides.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah, okay. Thank you.

Assistant City Manager Iglesias: You're welcome.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Any action?

Commissioner Lago: I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Vice Mayor Keon: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll, please?

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 4-0)