

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-6
April 24, 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
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Economic Development, Leonard Roberts
Parking Director, Kevin Kinney

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-6 [2:51:56 p.m.]

A Resolution authorizing the City of Coral Gables, as a tenant, to enter into a parking agreement with MML Properties LLC, with regard to the property located at 2341-2345 LeJeune Road, Coral Gables, Florida (LaSalle Cleaners) for a period of five (5) years.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: J-6.

City Attorney Ramos: A Resolution authorizing the City of Coral Gables, as a tenant, to enter into a parking agreement with MML Properties LLC, with regard to the property located at 2341-2345 LeJeune Road, Coral Gables, Florida (LaSalle Cleaners) for a period of five (5) years.

Mr. Roberts: So, this site is the LaSalle Cleaners at 2341 right off of LeJeune. Its adjacent to our Lot 3, which we currently have a lease agreement with a private property owner in the middle.

This is an opportunity to extend that parking; the current tenant is leaving or have left the LaSalle Cleaners, and so we'd like the opportunity to allow them to demolish the site, get the site graded to a certain point and then we can extend that until further consideration or what to do with that site later on.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Now just to be clear, it is not historic, they went to Historic Preservation and received a determination that it had been so seriously altered it lost its historic.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'd like to suggest, and I'm for this; I am for this because, as soon as we get rid of that ugly building its better, but I think it's in the long run and the medium run, it's a waste to have a parking lot in our second or third most valuable corner in Coral Gables and that is LeJeune, that is Aragon, that is one block away from Miracle Mile, across the street from Gables Grand and I'd like for us to explore or think about, although I'm not suggesting any action, alternate uses for that lot.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: So at this point, this is a lease agreement, we are not purchasing, but we would always encourage that, with no offense to parking, redevelopment of that site. It's a higher and better use, if we can find a signature use on that site.

Commissioner Lago: But, for the time being are we going to have some sort of buffer in between LeJeune and the parking, so that it's not just an ugly eyesore, maybe some green foliage of some sort.

Mr. Roberts: Exactly. It's going to go through all the respective processes in order to get there. So, you are going to have an actual – I'll let Kevin speak on that.

Parking Director Kinney: When we did the last agreement with the Davidson Trust, we went in and we did do a lot of landscaping and it is understood that on LeJeune that we need to do some kind of a buffer, so that is absolutely part of the plan. We will design it, it will go through Board of Architects, it will go through our own process to make sure it's appropriate, but there is an understanding that we are essentially creating a land bank for some future quality development in that location.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 3-0)

(Commissioner Keon: Absent)

Vice Mayor Quesada: Absent)

[End: 2:54:48 p.m.]