

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-12
December 9, 2025
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson
Commissioner Melissa Castro
Commissioner Ariel Fernandez
Commissioner Richard D. Lara

City Staff

City Attorney, Cristina Suárez
City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Addys Kuryla

Agenda Item E-12 [Start: 11:04 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission granting to Florida Power & Light Company its successors and assigns an electric franchise, imposing provisions and conditions relating thereto, providing for monthly payments to the City of Coral Gables and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Lago: We have a time certain for 11 o'clock, but first I want to hear quickly, item E-12.

City Attorney Suarez: E-12 is an Ordinance of the City Commission granting to Florida Power & Light Company its successors and assigns an electric franchise, imposing provisions and conditions relating thereto, providing for monthly payments to the City of Coral Gables and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Lago: Before we hear this, Mr. Manager, I want to thank FPL for their hard work, Addys, and your entire team and also the Manager's team. I know that you've been working together on this, and it's been some time, and I want to congratulate you on both coming to the table. Nobody

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was on the Commission except for myself, our relationship wasn't as smooth sailing as it is right now, okay, I'll put it mildly, and I think a testament to that is your hard work, Addys, your team, I'm not going to be mentioning all the people at FPL, along with the Manager's efforts, the DCM, the ACM, Public Works, our legal team, our Clerk, we've really come together, and this is just a testament again of our hard work and I think there are a lot of great things happening. I worked with you hand-in-hand for almost ten years to bring forward the undergrounding, and I'm very proud to say that now we're about a year and change in and it's going very well. Like I tell a lot of the residents who are upset about swales and different things that are happening, we're managing things. I say we've got to break a few eggs to make a cake, right, and in the long run it's going to pay huge dividends, but I just want to thank you, because I know you have a lot on your plate, especially here in the City of Coral Gables and I want to send back a clear message to FPL, we're blessed to have them as a team member and we're looking forward to, again, transforming our grid, increasing redundancy and really pushing us, as one of the most, if not the most technologically advanced city not just in South Florida, but in the state and I want to thank you for that. Please join us. Mr. Manager.

City Manager Iglesias: Thank you. Thank you, Commissioner. This is a pretty standard franchise agreement, based on the maximum statutory rate. We have a few maybe some minor issues to discuss, and by the way, FPL and the city have gotten along quite well on this undergrounding effort. As a matter of fact, we have an upcoming meeting on poles, lighting and undergrounding, and we look forward to continuing working with FPL on all these important issues for our residents.

Mayor Lago: Addys, good morning.

Addys Kuryla: Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Mayor, Madam Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, Mr. Manager and all here. Thank you so much for bringing forward this agreement before you. This is a franchise agreement that will allow us to continue doing business with the City of Coral Gables for the next 30 years. So, we've been working with the Manager on this, and he was gracious enough to put it before the end of the year so we can get the ball rolling, so I appreciate it. I don't know if you have any questions, but this is the agreement that allows us to continue to do great things in the city.

Mayor Lago: Grateful for the partnership.

Commissioner Fernandez: I just want to say undergrounding is starting in my neighborhood and I have to say your team and your sub-contractor's team have been extremely informative. They visited the neighborhood at least three times, making sure that any questions that residents have are answered before the process begins, explaining what the timetable is, what to expect. So, I appreciate the fact that you've all invested the time to ensure that the community has all its

questions answered before the process begins, there's no questions, there's no doubt and everybody knows what will be taking place. So, I appreciate that.

Addys Kuryla: Thank you for that. I appreciate it because we really try to do an effort in outreach, a year before we start the process just to make sure everybody is comfortable, we get the easements that we need, the documents in order, so that we can design and move forward with the construction of the project. And if there are any questions you where to find me.

Mayor Lago: So, if I may add something to what the Commissioner said. That occurred in my neighborhood also. Again, it's not an easy process, we selected ourselves as the individuals who would put the infrastructure on our property in an effort to accommodate the neighbors.

Addys Kuryla: That's great.

Mayor Lago: We did it, not everybody is happy about it, but you know what, when you think about the long-term opportunities and what we're doing, you've got to look beyond a simple box. You've got to really think about how we are going to transform the city – property values, redundancy. I think about people in this community who are disabled. You've been dealing with it; you and I have been talking about this with the Manager. We probably have about five or six residents in different neighborhoods that they have constant issues with their powerlines. Is it FPL's fault? I'm going to go out on a limb here, no pun intended, it's not FPL's fault, because I don't have that issue in my neighborhood even though I know my house has solar and it kicks on where there's an outage, but my neighbors would have told me when I've had conversations with them. The issues that we have here is that we have a beautiful canopy and we have neighborhoods that are overrun with exceptional trees and you have to find a balancing act, and some of these areas are going to have real relief once this undergrounding is completed in the next few years because we have certain areas in our city that has outages on a weekly basis and its issues based more on the trees and the environment. So, these are things that again, we're going through a lot right now in the process and FPL is doing a great job in maintaining the swales, making sure that they go back. If something doesn't get addressed, we address it, we're working together. And I also want to thank our staff, our Public Works team, who is not here, because they deserve all the credit. So, Mr. DCM, make sure to please tell them that they deserve all the credit, because they have to now collaborate with FPL where in the past they didn't. It was more FPL addressing, now it's a collaboration effort, now its Code Enforcement coming out and saying, hey, my swale. We're working collaboratively across multiple different departments in an effort to accomplish almost a \$300 million dollar project that was going to cost the city, and at the end of the day, it's not costing the residents, FPL is also addressing it. So, I just want to say thank you for that. I can't say thank you enough. Madam Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Anderson: I also wanted to thank you. It's not easy managing such a massive, massive project. For some of us who have just had some renovations done in our homes or improvements,

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or new windows, there's always something that happens and when that something has happened, you have always been available.

Addys Kuryla: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anderson: You've always dealt with it, you responded to the City Manager, you've responded to me. We dealt with some issues in Commissioner Fernandez' neighborhood, People don't want the box and I understand, I understand, especially with these 50-foot lots, it's a difficult thing to fit in along with your drainage fields, your septic tanks, your driveways, where do you put it all. Thank you very much for all your responsiveness. When things go wrong, and everything will go wrong, nothing about the construction is pretty. Thank you.

Addys Kuryla: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: Hermes, thank you. Praising your staff, and your team, and your hard work, and working hand-in-hand with FPL. Again, this is a hard, hard job right now, and you have your plate full with a ridiculous amount of infrastructure work that we're doing, and then this is just another massive project. I mean, I think we're the only ones in Miami-Dade County that are currently doing this, correct? Addys, that the entire city is being undergrounded?

Addys Kuryla: We're doing other cities as well, so.

Mayor Lago: But we were like the first, right?

Addys Kuryla: Yes, yes sir.

Mayor Lago: All right, no thanks.

Addys Kuryla: We're all over the place.

Mayor Lago: Yeah, I know you're, I know you're undergrounding in different areas, but you're not doing it to this magnitude. We're an entire city, so thank you for that.

Vice Mayor Anderson: So, I'll move it.

Addys Kuryla: Hermes has to be on speed dial, so.

Mayor Lago: Madam Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Anderson: I'll move it.

Commissioner Fernandez: I'll second.

Addys Kuryla: Thank you.

Mayor Lago: No, thank you. Mr. Clerk, we have a motion and a second. Do we have any public comment? We don't have any public comment, right? Okay

Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Castro: Yes

Commissioner Fernandez: Yes

Commissioner Lara: Yes

Mayor Lago: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)