

City of Coral Gables



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

8:00 AM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84243975634>

Communications/Public Affairs Conference Room

Budget/ Audit Advisory Board

*Chairperson John Holian
Vice Chairperson Joseph Palmar
Board Member Robert Festinger
Board Member Debra Register*

Virtual Zoom Meeting Available for Public Participation

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 AM by Mr. John Holian.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken, and an in-person quorum was established. The meeting was also available on Zoom for public access. Mr. Robert Festinger, appointed by Vice Mayor Anderson, has joined the Budget & Audit Advisory board.

Present: 4 - Board Member Register, Vice Chairperson Palmar, Chairperson Holian and Board Member Festinger

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Joseph Palmar, seconded by Mrs. Debra Register, to approve the March 18, 2026, meeting minutes.

[26-1329](#)

Budget Audit Advisory Board Meeting of March 18, 2026.

Attachments: [Budget Audit Board Minutes - 3.18.26 Pending Board Approval-Legistar Generate](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Palmar, seconded by Board Member Register, that this matter be approved. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Register, Vice Chairperson Palmar, Chairperson Holian and Board Member Festinger

DISCUSSION ITEMS

•Budget Process Update

Mrs. Paula Rodriguez, Deputy Finance Director, provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (FY 2027) budget development process. Operating and capital budget requests submitted by departments have been reviewed with the City Manager. In preparation for the Capital Budget Workshop, one-on-one meetings to review the capital project requests are underway with the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners. Mrs. Rodriguez highlighted several important upcoming dates that shape the next phase: June 1 - estimate of property taxable values are received from the property appraiser, the June 3 -Capital Budget Workshop, July 1 - Budget Estimate is submitted to Commission (required by City Charter), also on July 1 - preliminary property taxable values are received from the property appraiser, and July 8 -Commission Budget Meeting to set the proposed millage.

To begin estimating the available funds for the operating and capital budget, current revenue projections include a conservative estimated increase of 3.5% in property values, pending June 1st estimated taxable

values. Overall, revenues remain relatively flat, with a minor decrease in gas tax revenue and increases in franchise and other revenues. Estimates for revenues which come from the State such as sales tax are received after July. The City is being conservative in the development of the operating budget due to uncertainty regarding potential changes by the state to property tax revenue. If passed, the changes will not affect the upcoming fiscal year but would impact FY 2028 and beyond. Mr. Holian asked whether there were any updates on the topic. Mrs. Rodriguez stated that no additional information had been provided. She noted, however, that if the matter were placed on the ballot, it would most likely pass. Mrs. Register then asked about any discussions related to the millage rate, and Mrs. Rodriguez explained that there had been no further conversation due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding potential property tax changes. Mr. Festinger asked about the approaches being taken by other municipalities. Mrs. Rodriguez explained that each city approaches the budget in a slightly different way, for example, outside of the discussions at the state level, the City of Miami Beach is evaluating significant reductions to its budget.

Mrs. Register asked about the status of capital projects. Mrs. Rodriguez explained that major capital projects include \$25-30 million for the City Hall Complex and restoration, the \$50-60 million for the development of a Mobility Hub at Garage 1, landscaping and roadway improvements along Ponce de Leon, and that there are ongoing discussions regarding the Underline's requested almost \$1 million annual contribution for maintenance. Continued reinvestment in the City's asset infrastructure remains a priority, with approximately \$12 million for capital matrices including vehicle replacement, information technology, fire equipment, and other core systems.

•Internal Auditors Introduction-Plante & Moran, PLLC

Plante & Moran was selected as the City's new internal audit provider. The first initial phase of their scope will be to perform a risk assessment which will then be used to plan the city's annual internal audit plan each year. Due to the timing of the Police department's requirement for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) accreditation, an audit of the property and evidence room would take place in June. Mr. Joseph Palmar asked our internal auditor, Mr. Matthew Bohdan, whether he had received the most recent internal audits, and if he had identified any notable issues. He also inquired whether Mr. Bohdan follows the COSO framework for internal auditing and how the company integrates artificial intelligence (AI) into its operational processes. Mr. Bohdan stated that the latest internal audit revealed no

significant findings. He confirmed his use of the COSO framework, which focuses on internal controls, enterprise risk management, and fraud prevention. He also noted that, with client authorization, the company uses AI as a supplemental analytical tool during preparation efforts. The Board emphasized that they feel procurement and vendor oversight present the highest fraud exposure; Plante & Moran stated that third party risk will be a focus.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Register briefly inquired about Youth Center litigation costs. Finance will follow up with the City Attorney and report back.

The Board discussed the recently passed City Charter referendum related to the Inspector General function. Mrs. Rodriguez clarified that role of the internal audit firm is separate from the Inspector General function. As a result of the referendum, the city is not in the process of establishing an Inspector General office but may engage with external Inspector General services on an as-needed basis. Board members recommend completing the independent risk assessment before pursuing any Inspector General related structural changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SCHEDULING

The next meeting scheduled for June 24th, 2026 - 8:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 AM.

NOTE

Any person who acts as a lobbyist pursuant to the City of Coral Gables Ordinance No. 2006-11, must register with the City Clerk, prior to engaging in lobbying activities before city staff, boards, committees and/or the City Commission. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall.

Any person, or persons, wishing to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, will require a verbatim record of the proceeding upon which the appeal is based. Interested persons should, therefore, take the necessary

steps to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which contains the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Any person making impertinent or slanderous remarks or who become boisterous while addressing the Commission, shall be barred from further audience before the Commission by the Chair, unless permission to continue or again address the Commission is granted by the majority vote of the Commission Members present. Clapping, applauding, heckling or verbal outbursts or any remarks in support or opposition to a speaker shall be prohibited. Signs or placards shall not be permitted in Commission Chambers.

Any person with a disability requiring communication assistance (such as a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aide or service) in order to attend or participate in the meeting should contact the City's ADA Coordinator Clifford Friedman, Esq., Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management (E-mail : cfriedman@coralgables.com, Telephone: 305-722-8686, TTY/TDD: 305-442-1600), at least three (3) business days before the meeting.