

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Items E-1 and H-2 are related
October 11, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Vice Mayor Frank Quesada

Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Safety Director, Frank Fernandez

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item E-1 and H-2 are related [11:31:13 a.m.]

H-2: A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida with attachments, ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Coral Gables and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1210, for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017.

E-1: An Ordinance amending Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, entitled "Pensions" amending Section 50-27, Purchase of Credited Service for Period of Military Service and/or Employment with other Public Employees and providing for repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date (the sole purpose of the Ordinance is to incorporate the pension change agreed upon in the 2014-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and International Association of Firefighters)

Mayor Cason: Alright. We are moving now to an hour late to time certain H-2 and E-1.

City Attorney Leen: Yes Mr. Mayor. So Item H-2 and E-1 are related, but H-2 is the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1210, that needs to be addressed first, then we'll read Item E-1 and have the public hearing on that, because Item E-1 follows from Item H-2, so let me start from Item H-2. This is a Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida with attachments, ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Coral Gables and the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1210, for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017. I see the Director of Public Safety is prepared to speak.

Director Public Safety Fernandez: Good afternoon Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the Commission, Madam Manager, thank you very much. It's been a long process to negotiate a contract with the IAFF. They've done their part and we have done ours. We've come to an agreement which is before you, this is for years, excuse me one second, this contract is for years 15, 16, and 17, and the articles that have been changed are before you, so I'm available to answer any questions you may have regarding the new contract.

Mayor Cason: The union membership voted on it and approved it when?

Director Public Safety Fernandez: The Union President is available to answer those questions; he's here in the audience.

Mayor Cason: You'd like to say anything.

Commissioner Lago: Introduce yourself please.

Mr. Chickillo: Mike Chickillo, President of the IAFF Local 1210. We voted on Saturday, I'm sorry, Sunday the 2nd, October 2nd, it was ratified that day.

Mayor Cason: And this covers the period again, from when to when?

Director Public Safety Fernandez: This covers the periods of Fiscal Year 15, Fiscal Year 16, and Fiscal Year 17.

Commissioner Lago: How does our dearly beloved firefighters feel about having a three year contract?

Mr. Chickillo: They are happy with any contract, it's been a long time, it was almost two years of negotiating, actually a year and four months of negotiating, and it was a year waiting to get to the City Manager in place to start the negotiations. They are very happy that it's behind them

now, and we can look forward to the coming years and we look to get back to the table, you know as early as we can to actually have a contract maybe on October 1st of next year, because this contract is only going to be good for this year, going back to two. So that's what we are looking forward to, so we are looking forward to the future.

Mayor Cason: Any discussion? - do we have a motion on this?

Commissioner Lago: Do you want to wait for the Commissioners?

Mr. Chickillo: I do want to say one thing before, I do want to thank you all; all the Commissioners that the City Manager, Frank and his staff, my Executive Board, we were in this fight a long time. It didn't come easy and it was a lot of hours that we put in and I thank all of you for meeting with us whenever we asked you, and we probably met with each of you at least twice, sometimes three and four times. So we do appreciate you listening to us and letting us bend your ear and listen to what we had to say. So thank you very much.

Mayor Cason: Thank you.

Director Public Safety Fernandez: Mr. Mayor if I may also along those lines, the team on the City side worked diligently to make sure that we reached an agreement. I would like to recognize Raquel Elejabarrieta, who is here present today, Director of Labor Relations, Diana Gomez from Finance, Keith Kleiman from Finance, Paula Rodriguez, Denise Heekin, our Outside Counsel, Chief Stolzenberg and Chief de la Rosa, this is our team that we put together to negotiate the contract with the IAFF. So thank you all for your participation.

Mayor Cason: City Attorney do we have to vote twice on this?

City Attorney Leen: Just motion, second and a vote.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: It's the next item sir that...

Mayor Cason: OK. Do we have a motion then on...?

Vice Mayor Quesada: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion, Commissioner Slesnick seconds it – City Clerk.

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes
Commissioner Slesnick: Yes
Mayor Cason: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: E-1

City Attorney Leen: So Mr. Mayor Item E-1 is related to H-2, because E-1 follows from H-2. One of the requirements of H-2 was that there be basically a change to the pension code in order to meet one of the agreed terms of H-2. So Item E-1 is an Ordinance amending Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, entitled "Pensions" amending Section 50-27, Purchase of Credited Service for Period of Military Service and/or Employment with other Public Employees and providing for repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date (the sole purpose of the Ordinance is to incorporate the pension change agreed upon in the 2014-2017 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and International Association of Firefighters). This is an Emergency Ordinance, which requires a four-fifths vote of the Commission following the public hearing. The reason it's an Emergency Ordinance is, because the time period to make the election that's discussed in here will run out between First Reading and Second Reading. This is essentially, is someone going to speak on this item? The election that's discussed herein, which is the ability to buy back leave from prior government service, in this case prior military service, that will expire between First and Second Reading. This is giving an extension. So the emergency would be, you wouldn't want those individuals to have that opportunity expire; and then potentially the Commission not pass the ordinance. So that's the purpose for the emergency. What that means is that there will be no Second Reading on this item in the future, since they have two votes today, and also there will be no publication of this item in the newspaper between First and Second Reading, since both readings will be today. That's being waived by the four-fifths vote.

Mayor Cason: How many individuals does this affect?

Director Public Safety Fernandez: Could affect two, we know of only two that it may affect.

Commissioner Lago: And is there any negative impact in regards to the pension and the unfunded liability.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Excellent question sir. And we have the October 10 letter from GRS, which shows that it is, they view it as actuarially neutral, but we believe it's an important revision and we are recommending it. We briefed you all individually about it, we already had the ability to buy five at five for pensionable service, whether government or

military, this merely extends the timeline, because between First and Second Reading we would have lost the opportunity from some of the members to take advantage of it.

Mayor Cason: Do we have any speaker cards?

City Clerk Foeman: No Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Cason: So we'll close the public hearing.

City Attorney Leen: Mr. Mayor as the City Manager mentioned, we do have an impact statement, which has been placed in the record. We received it yesterday, is my understanding, which is why it's only being put in the record today. I e-mailed all of you a copy last evening as well.

Mayor Cason: OK. Do we have a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I'll make the motion.

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon makes the motion, Commissioner Lago seconds – City Clerk.

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

City Clerk Foeman: Second roll call.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 11:39:00 a.m.]