

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item J-1
January 23, 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

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item J-1 [2:13:05 p.m.]

A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Procurement Officer to award the Planning Services for Zoning Code update contract to DPZ PARTNERS, LLC d/b/a DPZ CoDESIGN, the top-ranked proposer, pursuant to Section 2-763 of the Procurement Code entitled “Contract Award” and Request for Proposals (RFP) 2017.05.MS, further authorizing the City Manager to negotiate a final contract amount acceptable to the City for this project, not to exceed the budgeted available funds.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I’d like to take Agenda Item J-1, a Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Procurement Office to award the planning services for Zoning Code update to DPZ Partners. I very much objected to this in the last meeting and I know it was tabled and continued, and Ms. Plaza-Zybert came yesterday, apologized in a very elegant, professional, appropriate manner and I accepted the apology, so my objections are terminated. I do have, however, a concern as to the scope of the review, and I make mention to Miami 21 and work that DPZ engaged in, and from everything I hear from Mayor _____, from architects that have worked

with or in conjunction with Ms. Plaza-Zybert, Miami 21 was a disaster and really endangered the life of Coconut Grove as we knew it. The form-based zoning that was use-based versus other type of criteria is objectionable, I think, or would be objectionable to the City of Coral Gables and would endanger our integrity in North Gables and in other places and that would destroy the character of North Gables, the residential small, historic character. The City Manager, I would like to get her comments on the scope of the engagement and see where we go from here.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I understand sir. So this is not a complete redo of the Zoning Code. Instead, from time to time you have noticed and staff has noticed clean up measures that are important for our code. An example of a carport, which could later be filled in and counted toward living space which was never included in the zoning code. So this is under the direction of the Planning Division, this would be reviewing those sections that need to be improved and clarified and then bringing that through the process; and Mr. Mayor, I committed to you that if it would give you more comfort, since this is not a form-based code, we remain in what's called a Euclidian zoning code. I don't want the public to be alarmed or fearing that we are changing what has been so special to Coral Gables, but I also committed to you that if it would give you comfort while the Planning Division is responsible for it and it will be overseen by the Assistant City Manager, I would also offer my oversight as a part of the process, because the code has been wanting to be clarified and it would be important to move forward.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I just wanted to express my concern and I will very much be involved in what comes out, because I do not want to change the nature or the characteristics of Coral Gables. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Lago: So moved.

Vice Mayor Keon: So moved.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: OK – moved and seconded. Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Vice Mayor Keon: Can I just make one clarification. I had asked for this about a year-and-a-half, almost two years ago, and it really was to deal with conflicts in our existing code, and that is all

that it is. There are some areas that it is not clear, there are a lot of site specifics and there are conflicts in the code; and as we go forward, you know there is an issue, that issue of having to go to commercial to get to mixed-use, those are things that make it very difficult, because when we go from if we want mixed-use and once we go to commercial it takes away all the density and then you have to go back. So those are the types of things to work within, entirely within the existing code to just make it more bright lines in this code and some discrepancies. So thank you very much.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

[End: 2:17:46 p.m.]