

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item – Mayor’s Comments
September 25, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item [9:13:22 a.m.]
Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: As you know, we have an Interim City Manager and I think that it’s time to finish the interim part of it. I think that Mr. Iglesias has the experience, he had the experience in Miami; he had been in charge of Irma and the recovery from Irma. He finished, I think he is the only employee that has a plaque on Miracle... He has been in charge of our Public Safety Building and our biggest construction, maybe ever, and I would entertain a motion to make him the permanent City Manager.

Commissioner Keon: I’ll make the motion.

Commissioner Lago: I’ll second the motion. Do you want to have some discussion on the issue? I also agree with Peter, excuse me, the Mayor’s comments. I think he’s done an exceptional job. At the last Commission meeting, I brought up the fact that I have a lot in common with Peter in the sense that we’ve been in the same industry and I’ve had the pleasure of working with him, not only here in the City of Coral Gables, but also in the City of Miami. The City of Miami is seeing a transformation in that department on the 4th floor, a lot of it happened after he left, but

there was a lot of planning that occurred from people like Peter, like Ed Santamaria that were in the City, a lot of people who were fortunate to have here now. I think he's an exceptional individual. I think he's A-plus on many fronts, not only in engineering and his knowledge of construction and design, but I think ethics. This individual understands the demanding and rigor that the City of Coral Gables requires and accepts and expects; excuse me, not only from this Commission and its leaders, but also from its directors and staff. So, I think it's a good opportunity. At the last Commission meeting I wanted to give him as much time as possible to become immersed as Interim City Manager, but if this Commission thinks that we should make this decision today, I'm more than willing to do it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Any other comments? Will you call the roll?

Commissioner Mena: I would echo what Commission Lago said as far as, I think Peter is terrific; I have the utmost confidence in him. I'll be honest, this does feel a little rushed in my opinion, but if it's the will of this Commission to move forward with this at this point, I would be a yes vote in favor of Peter, because I want to make it clear to the public that I have the utmost confidence in him and his ability to do this. But, I'm not sure I see the urgency of switching of switching him from interim to permanent today, but if that's what we want to do at this point then I'll support.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I think it's important for us to put this behind us. I think interim – we've gone through a lot, we've gone through a lot in the last two years and I think it's time to have some stability. He is the person that people trust, as I said Miracle Mile, the Public Safety Building, Irma recovery and everything else and I think he's very, very well respected; and let's have stability in the City from now on.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes, I'm supportive. Call the roll.

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

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you very much.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Does anyone want to let him know?

[Applause]

Vice Mayor Quesada: Did you step up before and make a grand entrance.

[Laughter]

City Manager Iglesias: I want to thank the Mayor, the Vice Mayor, and the Commission for this appointment and I thank you for your trust in me. I grew up in the City; I went to the University of Miami. The City is very special to me and I think the most important thing I can say is that I will always do my utmost to uphold the integrity and what the City stands for. And, I think that's the most that I can say. I'm very honored and I thank you all very much. Thank you.

Commissioner Mena: Thank you Peter.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you Mr. City Manager.

City Attorney Ramos: Customary, I will meet with the Mayor and the new City Manager to negotiate a resolution for his employment and we can bring that back at the 5 o'clock meeting, if you'd like, although it's a budget meeting at the end of the day is better, we can get it done.

[End: 9:18:10 a.m.]