

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-1
December 10, 2019
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors, Jr.**

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
IT Director, Raimundo Rodulfo
Assistant IT Director, Nelson Gonzalez**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-1 [2:39:48 p.m.]

An update regarding the implementation of Live Remote Public Comment at Commission meetings. (Sponsored by Commissioner Fors, Jr.)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Update on the implementation of Live Remote Public Comment.

Commissioner Fors: Did anybody from IT or City Clerk's Office – Raimundo.

IT Director Rodulfo: Good afternoon, Raimundo Rodulfo, IT Director, I have Nelson Gonzalez, Assistant Director. So, we did a technical assessment and a follow-up with staff from different departments and we looked at the used case from Miami Lakes and we found basically that the technology itself is not too difficult to implement, its more a thing of the process. So, the technology is not too expensive either, but basically it doesn't provide the delay for editing, so

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everything goes live. If that happens that's something that needs to be taken into consideration. Nelson will talk a little bit about the technical evaluation that you did.

Mr. Gonzalez: Good afternoon. So, the power does provide for the room and moderation to a point, somebody can put everybody on mute and the item...the moderator is going to unmute that person and allow them to speak. That means we are going to need somebody dedicated to that, perhaps more than one person. Its live so there is no delay here. If we want to implement a delay, then additional technology will have to come into play. The meeting is not going to be live anymore, its going to be a 7 or 10 second delay, similar to what Channel 7 does. And the other thing is that we don't control the scenery, so if this person is speaking from a park, or a public place, or a vehicle, you have to have disclaimers...safe and the kind of content we are going to allow...that sort of risk. And the other thing is the quality of the device, the end point itself and the connectivity of that person comes into play in an area with good service, you are going to have a good experience. If they have an older device, in an area with bad service, we would not have a good experience with that. That's about it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I still think that there is some merit having the person taking the time and the preparation to come here and face us, and discuss the item with him or with her, as opposed to somebody in their home opining and calling because they don't want to come. We have enough, I'm not going to say disturbed people in the City, but we get a lot of e-mails and I would like to have the people present.

Commissioner Fors: Does Miami Lakes employ a delay, do you know?

City Clerk Urquia: They do not.

Commissioner Fors: They do not.

City Clerk Urquia: They do not. The difference with them is that they have a public comment section at the beginning of the meeting and then that's it. Here you are allowed to speak on each individual item on the agenda, which means we would need a person to create rooms and the person would have to be there the entire meeting.

Commissioner Fors: You have to create rooms?

City Clerk Urquia: Virtual rooms.

Commissioner Fors: Oh, OK. And the software does that for you, right?

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City Clerk Urquia: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: To me, I don't think – my belief, its my gut instinct that we are not going to have a situation where people that would otherwise e-mail us instead chose to use that medium. I think people that e-mail us will continue to e-mail us. I think that the majority of people that will use it would be people who would like to be here to present but can't. I don't think it would be overused. But I understand Miami Lakes has had a great experience with it. I don't believe this is something, and City Attorney can correct me if I'm wrong, it requires any kind of resolution, any change of any particular document, but maybe just a resolution.

City Attorney Ramos: A resolution directing staff to implement it, maybe as a pilot program.

Commissioner Fors: I don't see the harm in trying it out, see what it looks like. My understanding in Miami Lakes, they had some of the similar concerns the Mayor had and at the end it turned out to be not a big deal.

Vice Mayor Lago: Commissioner, I just want to back you up on that, because I spoke to Mayor Sid on this issue and he spoke very highly of the offer and the ability that it offers the residents and the business community. This is just another layer of transparency that we offer residents who, again, maybe cannot make it here. They are disabled, they are elderly, and they have a comment to make and I think there is no harm in offering. Imagine that many people are probably not going to use it. Right now, when you speak to the Clerk, I don't think anybody use our online option today or left any comments. Let's try it out and if it works...

City Attorney Ramos: I do have one comment for quasi-judicial items where we have sworn testimony, we need to have people present.

Vice Mayor Lago: I don't have an issue with that. But I think its another opportunity for residents who want to get involved.

Commissioner Fors: And finally, I would say, just like the Mayor, if somebody becomes unruly, we can cut them off here or any of us can cut them off if they are unruly or disrespectful. Here we have a more effective method or mute them.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Make a motion.

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Commissioner Fors: I move to draft a resolution directing the Clerk to implement live public comment based on software that Raimundo looked into.

Vice Mayor Lago: You want to include in that resolution who's going to hold the clicker for the people?

Commissioner Fors: Mr. Clerk.

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

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No

(Vote: 4-1)

[End: 2:45:52 p.m.]