

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-12
March 9, 2021
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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-12 [Start: 2:56 p.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission ratifying and accepting resolutions passed by Miami-Dade County approving the execution of an Interlocal Agreement and calling for a Special Election necessary for the transfer of control from Miami-Dade County to the City of Coral Gables of Cocoplum Phase One Street Lighting Special Taxing District located entirely within the City and authorizing the City Manager to do all things necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: F-12 is the next one please.

City Attorney Ramos: F-12 is a Resolution of the City Commission ratifying and accepting resolutions passed by Miami-Dade County approving the execution of an Interlocal Agreement and calling for a Special Election necessary for the transfer of control from Miami-Dade County to the City of Coral Gables of Cocoplum Phase One Street Lighting Special Taxing District located

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entirely within the City and authorizing the City Manager to do all things necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Santamaria.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Good afternoon Mr. Mayor, members of the Commission, Ed Santamaria, Assistant City Manager Operations and Infrastructure. Before you is an item that is basically a ministerial action. It involves the city's agreement to enter into a MOU with Miami-Dade County to transfer what is to be a new Special Taxing District in Cocoplum Phase One, for the establishment of lighting improvements in the area. This is basically a continuation of what we've done, its what we've done with other districts. There are some questions as to whether the items that have been agreed to were included in the ballot at Miami-Dade County, which is used for voting. If there are any changes to be made in this document or with the Special Taxing District, there is a system in place, a process in place that we will follow to provide an avenue for these changes, if they move forward.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Santamaria, if I may, we've been working on this for how long already?

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: I first had a meeting with Pablo Amore in my office at Public Works, probably in 2016.

Vice Mayor Lago: I know my Commissioners have been contacted, but I take a lot of pride in this project, because we've been working with staff on getting to where we are today; and where we are today is, we finally had a democratic process takes it place, and we finally had a vote and the vote was, it was well received and hopefully now we are moving onto the next step. The residents, as you know, there is no association in Phase One, so it was kind of like herding cats, but I think we are in a good place now, and I think that the vote showed that there is consensus for adding additional lighting. And like I've said before in the meeting, I want to give congratulations where congratulations are due. Mr. Santamaria and the Manager, Hermes, the whole Public Works team, they worked incredibly hard to get here. It was a tough negotiation. I was involved in many of the negotiations with you, dealing with the residents, but it makes me very happy to see that we bring this before the Commission today for approval, and hopefully soon enough, we'll have the approval, and we'll have the lights installed. Maybe it will take a year, but this is a big move, this is a big step forward in the right direction. We need a resolution on this or no?

Commissioner Keon: I think the issue is to just accept the lighting district, is that it?

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

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Commissioner Keon: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: We need a vote.

City Attorney Ramos: What you are actually doing is approving the signing of the interlocal agreement.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Keon: Not the design, is that right.

Vice Mayor Lago: There is no design. The whole process is beautiful.

City Attorney Ramos: Mr. Clerk is there anyone who wishes to speak on this item?

City Clerk Urquia: No ma'am.

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Lago: I made the motion.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What is it?

Vice Mayor Lago: It's an item in regard to...

Commissioner Keon: To accept the lighting district.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What?

Commissioner Keon: To accept the lighting district, the special lighting district in Cocoplum.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Motion has been made and seconded.

City Clerk Urquia: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

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Commissioner Fors: Yes
Commissioner Keon: Yes
Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)