

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Agenda Item I-2
July 14, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

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

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
Asst. Director Ed Santamaria
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Public Works Director Hemes Diaz
City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item I-2

A Resolution amending Ordinance No. 2015-17, as amended, Resolution 2016-148, as amended, Resolution 2017-167, as amended, Resolution 2018-219, as amended, and 2019-223, as amended to adjust the Storm Water Fee and Sanitary Sewer Charges, providing for severability, and an effective date.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I-2.

City Attorney Ramos: I-2 is a Resolution amending Ordinance No. 2015-17, as amended, Resolution 2016-148, as amended, Resolution 2017-167, as amended, Resolution 2018-219, as amended, and 2019-223, as amended to adjust the Storm Water Fee and Sanitary Sewer Charges, providing for severability, and an effective date.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, this item deals with our sea level rise. The issue here is the fifth year of a 10-year plan, it also deals with an increase of approximately three percent for the storm...

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for the County as far as wastewater increase, in waste water treatment increase, it is averaging 4.5 percent over the last five years, we are including a three percent increase for storm... for wastewater treatment. In addition to that there is a \$15,000,000.00 package there for sanitary sewers and that is for our force mains. We did have a break in the force main in front of the University of Miami that caused us to take a quick look at where we were, and now a deeper look at where we are at. Some of the force mains have aged, and I will let our Assistant Director Santamaria move forward with the rest of the discussion on this item.

Asst. City Manager Santamaria: So, Peter this item is going to be presented by Director Diaz of the Public Works Department, so I will turn it over to him.

Director Diaz: Hi, Hemes Diaz, Public Works Director. We actually prepared a presentation; it's been pre-recorded for the Commission and the public to see, and then I will be more than happy to answer any questions afterwards relative to this matter. I think, Gamundi?

[Presentation shown here]

Director Diaz: Ok, thank you. So, the purpose of the presentation is to give you an overview of the conditions of our sewer lines, force mains specifically, and their need to...[Inaudible]... in the future and the potential risk involved in failing to do so. These lines are already, especially our transmission lines, there are over sixty years old and there is really no way for us to know for sure when we are going to start seeing a cascade of events as was seen in Ft. Lauderdale and in Miami-Dade County recently. So, I think we definitely need to start work on replacing towards replacement. Do you guys have any questions, anything, I will be happy to answer.

City Manager Iglesias: I would like to have Keith Kleiman, report on what we are proposing to do and what and how we are proposing an assessment, a sanitation sewer assessment to deal with this issue.

Budget Director Keith Kleiman: Okay, if IT can bring-up the background information for Sanitary Sewer for I-2. That is Stormwater, this is... it's the other item., Sanitary Sewer. Yes, thank you. Is there a way to make it bigger? Okay, so you can see here, if you look at the top piece, Consumption Per CCF, looking at various levels of users, and the second column under Current, those are the current fees, those are monthly fees, and then you go to FY21, FY22, 23, 24 and 25, because this is a five-year plan to adopt the fee structure, so that it will fully support the sanitary system. We are looking at increasing the operating for wastewater transmission and treatment and we are looking to increase per capital and for debt service to replace the force mains. Though the consumption is the major piece of it, the change in the price is not that drastic for the amount of money it is going to project forth. The system maintenance for the meters so a 5/8ths meters, is going from \$3.51 to \$4.75 per month and as the larger users 1 inch to 1 1/2 inch you can see where they are going from. Right now, there are no charges for the large items, we are going to implement a fee for those items. Okay, Capital Improvement, there are very small fees, but we are going to start increasing that gradually over the five year period to generate two and a half to three million dollars that is needed on an annual basis to fully replace the system as its needed, on time, and

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then the admin fee is staying the same. That is just what the County charges us for billing the residents. Now, you can see we have some samples here of a typical user. Now this is for a very, very light user, that would be three CCFs per month. Their monthly bill for just the consumption piece will go from \$14.23 cents to \$17.72 cents going from the current rate in FY20 to the Proposed rate in FY21. If you can drop down a little more. A moderate user is 9 CCFs and their monthly bill right now is \$57.74 on the average, and that's changed to \$63.71; and now a high user of 15CCFs, and again this is for a 5/8ths meter now, they are going to go from \$94.00 per month to \$103.94. There is one more category here, this is a super high user of a 5/8th meter and they are 25 CCFs per month, and their bill is \$154.00 right now, it will go to \$168.00, and we have similar increases for this size and meters and this will go to support the system again for all levels of use. The operation of maintenance is to Capital and it is also the debt service needed to cover the five-year plan needed to replace the force mains. Are there any questions?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioners? Alright, do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second, for discussion.

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

City Clerk Urquia: I am sorry, Mr. Mayor, did you say for discussion?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: discussion.

Vice Mayor Lago: The reason why I said discussion...

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

City Clerk Urquia: Commissioner Keon.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes, but I wanted to discuss the item, but move forward. It is Okay.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, no, if you want to discuss it.

Vice Mayor Lago: No, I had a... the reason I said I wanted to discuss it is, I had a hunch that some of my colleagues maybe wanted to, and maybe they wanted to discuss the item a little more in depth. Does anybody have any items they want to discuss on this issue or no?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I don't think so...

Commissioner Keon: I think the issue...(Inaudible)...Alhambra and U.S.1 was enough.

(laughter). I mean...
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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It is very eloquent that you want to discuss the sewers in-depth. (Laughter)
Will you call the roll, please?

City Clerk Urquia: Vice Mayor Lago.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.