

City of Coral Gables

*405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

9:00 AM

City Hall, Commission Chambers

City Commission

*Mayor Jim Cason
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Frank C. Quesada*

*Patrick G. Salerno, City Manager
Craig E. Leen, City Attorney
Walter J. Foeman, City Clerk*

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Cason, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk Jr. and Commissioner Quesada

INVOCATION

[Note for the Record: Mayor Cason acknowledged the presence of Reverend David McCloud from Granada Presbyterian Church, who has been the Assistant Pastor at Granada Presbyterian Church for 7 years; further stating that he received his Master of Divinity Degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando and is currently studying at Trinity International University to receive a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Following the invocation, Mayor Cason extended his best wishes on behalf of the City to Reverend McCloud and to the Granada Presbyterian Church congregation and worshippers alike].

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Maria Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The following minutes summary includes all presentations made, and actions taken which information is supplemented by the following exhibits on file in the Office of the City Clerk, and which are by reference made a part of the record herein: (a) Ordinance(s) adopted (Ordinance No. 2012-11); (b) Resolution(s) adopted (Resolution No. 2012-179 through Resolution No. 2012-183); (c) Video; (d) Audio Recording; (e) Minutes Folder with Agenda and background information, including items which were submitted at the meeting.

A. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

[Note for the Record: Prior to taking up Agenda Item A-1, Mayor Cason prefaced his remarks by stating that Agenda Items A-1 and A-2 are proclamations and that Agenda Items A-4 and A-5 are employee recognitions from our general employees and Fire Department personnel].

- A.-1. 12-1897** Presentation of a Proclamation declaring the week of September 17 through September 23, 2012 as Constitution Week in Coral Gables.

[Note for the Record: Mayor Cason continued by introducing Agenda Item A-1 as his first protocol document, declaring the week of September 17th through September 23, 2012 as “Constitution Week,” wherein he read said document into the public record.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk requested of former Mayor Dorothy Thomson to join him on the canvass wherein she acknowledged her membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (Coral Gables Chapter); further stating that each year her Chapter takes the opportunity to commend our City for recognizing our Constitution, a document which embodies the very essence of our country, and to this end, we commemorate same as evidenced by one week celebration. Mrs. Thomson further acknowledged the presence of Daughters of the American Revolution (Coral Gables Chapter) Docent Marilyn Carrera, who thanked our City Commission, stating that she was very proud to be in attendance, and that it is an honor to be the Regent of the City of Coral Gables; further thanking the City Commission for the privilege of meeting at the Merrick House, adding that on behalf of her organization, that she wanted to state that they really enjoy it].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 1

A.-2 12-1932

Presentation of a Proclamation declaring September 2012 as Firefighter Appreciation Month in Coral Gables.

[Note for the Record: Mayor Cason stated that the second protocol document on the agenda pays homage to our firefighters who are charged with daily service to our community in fighting fires, which is our one of our most hazardous professions; and in doing so, they display their concern for the welfare of our citizens, which is also represented by other firefighters throughout the state and our nation; further explaining that in addition to their daily service to the community, that firefighters throughout the state and nation have joined the Muscular Dystrophy Association for more than 50 years in the fight against neuromuscular diseases; whereupon Mayor Cason following his acknowledgement of Ms. Jennifer Tossie, Fundraising Coordinator, M.D.A. (sic: Ms. Joanne Bowsman, Executive Director, South Florida Office represented said organization) read the prepared proclamation into the public record .

Chief Reed called upon Dan Amador, Chair, who thanked the City Commission for allowing the firefighters to collect fees for muscular dystrophy until a cure has been found, said collection initiative which has been going on in excess of 60 years, along with our Coral Gables citizenry, which has allowed the firefighters to keep good on its promise for close to 60 years. Chief Reed also recognized Firefighter David Perez, who spearheaded an online donation drive].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 2

A.-3. 12-1911

Congratulations to Officer Gordon Dickinson, recipient of the City of Coral Gables Officer of the Month Award, for the month of July 2012.

Attachments: [NOMINATION MEMO - JULY](#)
[COMMISSION COVER MEMO - JULY 2012](#)

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Deferred

City Clerk Item No. 3

A.-4. 12-1902

Congratulations to Firefighter Michael Bertzel, recipient of the City of Coral Gables Firefighter of the Month Award, for the month of September 2012.

Attachments: [Notification Letter, FF of the Month, Sept 2012.pdf](#)
[Cover Memo, FF of the Month, Sept 2012.pdf](#)

[Note for the Record: City Manager requested of Fire Chief Walt Reed to present the recipient of the Firefighter of the Month Award, whereby Chief Reed welcomed Firefighter Michael Bertzel, who was selected as September's Firefighter of the Month. Chief Reed explained that Firefighter Bertzel has been employed with the City of Coral Gables for 29 years; further pointing out that said firefighter responded while off-duty, to help from another person who had responded to someone who was the victim of an apparent heart attack. His quick response and professionalism in assisting with the administration of CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) until the rescue unit from Miami-Dade County arrived, were instrumental in the survival of the patient; finally stating that the Fire Department and its peers have recognized Firefighter Bertzel for his heroic actions and selected him as the Firefighter of the Month for September].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 4

A.-5. 12-1905

Congratulations to John L. Brown, Public Works Department, recipient of the City of Coral Gables Employee of the Month Award, for the month of September 2012.

Attachments: [Cover Memo EOM September 2012](#)
[EOM Notification Ltr. September 2012](#)

[Note for the Record: City Manager called up Human Resources Director Elsa Jaramillo-Velez, to present the Employee of the Month Award for September. Mrs. Jaramillo-Velez stated that this month's recipient is John Brown; more particularly describing Mr. Brown as being an employee who is always around helping as needed, always with a smile, adding that it is truly an honor to recognize him today; and that it is not the first time that he has received the Employee of the Month recognition.

During the videotaping segment of this presentation Interim Public Works Director Ernesto Pino informed the viewing public that Mr. Brown began his employ with the City of Coral Gables (December of 2003) as a part-time Maintenance Worker in the Public Works Department; he later was promoted to the position of full time Maintenance Worker II in July of 2005.

Mr. Pino further explained that as a Maintenance Worker II, Mr. Brown handles various duties which include painting, pressure cleaning, and furniture relocation as well as certain special events such as the 4th of July Celebration, Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Junior Orange Bowl Parade. He added that Mr. Brown is in charge of the citywide ceiling tile replacement program and is an essential part of his department during hurricane preparation; further stating that there are many other countless maintenance related jobs he performs with a "can do" attitude, with a smile on his face; pointing out that he is a team player, willing to assist others, who has proven to be a great addition to the Facilities Maintenance Division, as well as to his department; finally noting that Mr. Brown's work ethic and attitude has been acknowledged by departments via letters of commendation, thus prompting him to consider Mr. Brown as a model employee.

In accepting this accolade, Mr. Brown thanked his late grandfather whom he said was born on September 25th; further proffering a special thanks to the City, its employees, the City Commission, along with the Mayor; further thanking the Public Works Department/Maintenance Division, whom he says without the support of said guys, that he would not be where he is today, further requesting if he could bring them all up for a photo opportunity].

This Presentation/Protocol Document was Presented and Filed

City Clerk Item No. 5

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

City Clerk Item No. 7

C. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed within this section entitled "Consent Agenda" are considered to be self-explanatory and are not expected to require additional review or discussion, unless a member of the City Commission or a citizen so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered along with the regular order of business. Hearing no objections to the items listed under the "Consent Agenda", a vote on the adoption of the Consent Agenda will be taken.

Passed the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Quesada, to Adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Quesada and Mayor Cason

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-179

C.-1. 12-1856

Resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Coral Gables and Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the purpose of funding the Trolley Master Plan, and the appropriation of funds related thereto.

Attachments: [MPO Interlocal 092020120001](#)
[MPO Trolley Master Plan resolution](#)
[C-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES AND THE MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE TROLLEY MASTER PLAN.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2012-179 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 8

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-180

- C.-2. 12-1927** Resolution authorizing the acceptance of the Criminal Justice Municipality User Authorization Agreement for the countywide prisoner processing project sponsored by the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police and the Miami-Dade County Police Department.

Attachments: [MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONTRACT](#)
[MIAMI-DADE ARREST FORM \(SUNGARD\)](#)
[FORM LETTER TO MICHAELA DOHERTY](#)
[CRIMINAL JUSTICE USER AGREEMENT](#)
[COMMISSION COVER MEMO - CRIMINAL JUSTICE USER AGREEMENT.1](#)
[RESOLUTION - CRIMINAL JUSTICE USER AUTHORIZATION](#)
[C-2 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MUNICIPALITY USER AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR THE COUNTYWIDE PRISONER PROCESSING PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE AND THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2012-180 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 9

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-181

- C.-3. 12-1929** Resolution authorizing the execution of Amendment No. 2 to the Maintenance Agreement dated June 4, 2010 with the Gables Estates Club, Inc. for the purpose of further reducing the compensation paid by the City to the Club in order to account for additional electric utility costs.

Attachments: [MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT](#)
[Resol 2012-72](#)
[Amendment No. 1](#)
[Resol 2010-02](#)
[C-3 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[Gables Estates Resolution](#)
[Gables Estates Amendment 2](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT DATED JUNE 4, 2010 WITH GABLES ESTATES CLUB, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER REDUCING THE COMPENSATION PAID BY THE CITY TO THE CLUB IN ORDER TO ACCOUNT FOR ADDITIONAL ELECTRIC UTILITY COST.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2012-181 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 10

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-182

- C.-4. 12-1940** Resolution authorizing an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Annual Budget to recognize as revenue and appropriate for expenditure funds received from the United States Southern Command to cover the cost of security improvements to the property in accordance with a supplemental agreement with the United States of America for City owned property located at 3501 Granada Boulevard, Coral Gables, Florida.

Attachments: [C-4 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[3501 Granada Supplemental Agreement](#)
[3501 Granada Resolution](#)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2011-2012 ANNUAL BUDGET TO RECOGNIZE AS REVENUE AND APPROPRIATE FOR EXPENDITURE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND TO COVER THE COST OF SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR CITY OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3501 GRANADA BOULEVARD, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA.

This Matter was adopted by Resolution Number 2012-182 on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 11

Presentation of Boards and/or Committees minutes requesting no action from the City Commission:

- C.-5. 12-1863** Traffic Advisory Board Meeting of July 17, 2012

Attachments: [Traffic Advisory Board 7-17-12 MINUTES](#)
[Traffic Advisory Board 7-17-12 minutes - COVER](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 12

- C.-6. 12-1921** Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of August 24, 2012

Attachments: [Cover Sheet.Minutes 8-24-12](#)
[Site Plans - William H. Kerdyk Biltmore Tennis Center](#)
[Minutes 08-24-12 draft](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 13

C.-7. 12-1922 Senior Citizens Advisory Board Meeting of September 5, 2012

Attachments: [Min 09-05-2012 draft](#)
[Cover Sheet Minutes 09-05-12](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 14

C.-8. 12-1924 Economic Development Board Meeting of July 13, 2012

Attachments: [EDB Minutes 7-13-12.pdf](#)
[EDB. 9.25.12 Commission Cover.pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 15

C.-9. 12-1925 Retirement Board Meeting of August 9, 2012

Attachments: [CC.09-25-2012.August 9, 2012](#)
[Executive Summary.08-09-2012](#)
[Minutes.08-09-2012](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 16

C.-10. 12-1933 Budget/Audit Advisory Board Meeting of September 5, 2012

Attachments: [92512-Cover Memo CC Minutes 90512](#)
[90512-Minutes](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

City Clerk Item No. 17

D. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

None

City Clerk Item No. 18

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Anyone who wishes to address the City Commission on an item to be considered for public hearing must fill out a Speaker Card and turn it in to the City Clerk. Speaker Cards can be obtained on the credenza located outside the Office of the Mayor, during the day of the City Commission Meeting.

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-11**

- E.-1. 12-1942** An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 50, Article II of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, entitled "Retirement System for City Employees", implementing action taken by the City Commission on September 11, 2012 to resolve the impasse in negotiations between the City and Fraternal Order of Police, Coral Gables Lodge No. 7; amending the definitions of "Average Final Compensation", "Early Retirement Date", "Normal Retirement Date", and "Total Earnings", and creating a new definition of "Pensionable Earnings"; revising normal and early retirement benefits; revising drop eligibility; repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

Attachments: [Actuarial Impact Statement for 2012-2013 Fiscal Year E-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[CG Police Pension Ord 9 20 12](#)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50, ARTICLE II OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, ENTITLED "RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR CITY EMPLOYEES", IMPLEMENTING ACTION TAKEN BY THE CITY COMMISSION ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CITY AND FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, CORAL GABLES LODGE NO. 7; AMENDING THE DEFINITIONS OF "AVERAGE FINAL COMPENSATION", "EARLY RETIREMENT DATE", "NORMAL RETIREMENT DATE" AND "TOTAL EARNINGS", AND CREATING A NEW DEFINITION OF "PENSIONABLE EARNINGS"; REVISING NORMAL AND EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS; REVISING DROP ELIGIBILITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Note for the Record: Following the City Attorney's reading of the title to Agenda Item E-1 into the public record, there being no public testimony proffered regarding this matter, and no deliberation by any member of the City Commission, upon a motion being made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Mayor Cason instructed the City Clerk to call the roll on Agenda Item E-1].

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this matter be approved as an Ordinance on First Reading. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Quesada, Commissioner Anderson and Mayor Cason

City Clerk Item No. 19

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-11

12-1942

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 50, Article II of the Code of the City of Coral Gables, entitled "Retirement System for City Employees", implementing action taken by the City Commission on September 11, 2012 to resolve the impasse in negotiations between the City and Fraternal Order of Police, Coral Gables Lodge No. 7; amending the definitions of "Average Final Compensation", "Early Retirement Date", "Normal Retirement Date", and "Total Earnings", and creating a new definition of "Pensionable Earnings"; revising normal and early retirement benefits; revising drop eligibility; repealing all ordinances inconsistent herewith; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

Attachments: [Actuarial Impact Statement for 2012-2013 Fiscal Year](#)
[E-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)
[CG Police Pension Ord 9 20 12](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this matter be adopted by Ordinance Number 2012-11. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yeas : 5 - Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Quesada, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr. and Mayor Cason

City Clerk Item No. 20

F. CITY COMMISSION ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 21

G. BOARDS/COMMITTEES ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 22

H. CITY MANAGER ITEMS**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-183**

- H.-1. 12-1934** Resolution creating a storefront display awards program during the holiday season, Valentine's Day, and other select events to celebrate exceptional storefront displays in Coral Gables.

Attachments: [Resolution 9.25.12 \(storefront display awards\) .pdf](#)
[H-1 Signed Cover Memo](#)

RESOLUTION CREATING A STOREFRONT DISPLAY AWARDS PROGRAM DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, VALENTINE'S DAY, AND OTHER SELECT EVENTS TO CELEBRATE EXCEPTIONAL STOREFRONT DISPLAYS IN CORAL GABLES.

[Note for the Record: Following City Manager Salerno's reading of the title to the resolution in connection with Agenda Item H-1 into the public record, he requested of Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce President Mark Trowbridge to address this matter since he was the motivation behind it.

Mr. Trowbridge thanked the City Commission for the opportunity to address this resolution regarding a lighting opportunity along Miracle Mile, further reminding the City Commission that during that time he was working on a window display program; further thanking City staff for putting together legislation that allows the City to carry said initiative forward, namely the idea to create synergy around of major holidays, enticing people to come to not only the downtown area, but also the Village of Merrick Park and our connecting retail communities and streets; further mentioning New York City and other great cities where windows that draw people for retail and people can come down and looks at those windows, as a way to network, energize, get everyone excited about the holidays, etc.

Mr. Towbridge further pointed out that the Coral Gables Chamber has made some suggestions about how to do that around the Valentine's Day, during the month of February, which he noted is a nice fit for the City of Coral Gables; further recalling that Coral Gables was quite the epicenter for that, during Miami Romance Month, approximately one and-one-half years ago in June.

Mr. Trowbridge further informed the City Commission that the Coral Gables Chamber is working with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to create the month of February as "Retail Month," similar to the creation of "Miami Spice," and "Spa Month," along with other programs which he indicated will debut during the month of February of 2013, adding that said initiatives will be built around several of the holidays; further stating that they have left the resolution with an opportunity to pick

some of the holidays, noting that they will be talking with their retail partners, to make sure it makes sense to them.

Mr. Trowbridge indicated that he is excited about working with Merrick Village and the staff to make this initiative happen; further thanking Economic Sustainability Department Director Cindy Birdsill and her team for reaching out to the Coral Gables Chamber and allowing it to be a part of the discussion .

Commissioner Quesada stated that he was very supportive, pointing out that what Mark Trowbridge stated was very true to him-New York is known for having its beautiful storefronts and the window dressing during the holiday season as seen in such international cities as London and Paris, also adding that this is a “no brainer” and fits into our City’s character].

A motion was made by Commissioner Quesada, seconded by Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., that this matter be adopted by Resolution Number 2012-183. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yeas : 5 - Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Cabrera, Jr., Vice Mayor Kerdyk, Jr., Commissioner Quesada and Mayor Cason

City Clerk Item No. 23

I. CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 24

J. CITY CLERK ITEMS

None

City Clerk Item No. 25

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mayor Cason: OK. Discussion items Commissioner Anderson.

Commissioner Anderson: I am good thank you.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Cabrera.

Commissioner Cabrera: Many of us, I think all of us in the last couple of months have been receiving email communications from residents near or next to the University of Miami, the campus, and the construction that is going.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, absolutely.

Commissioner Cabrera: In many instances you know staff has done a good job of responding to them and those concerns. I know University of Miami is always, always available to talk to me about these typical concerns or these calls that we have been getting and outreaches. I think what I would like to try to do is to get some sort of an update from staff at some point in time of how that is going, because we still continue to get those calls, whether they'd be about trees, or about ingress and egress, or about construction staging plans.

Commissioner Anderson: Drainage.

Commissioner Cabrera: Drainage issues that have come up, and again I have to say that the University staff has been phenomenal about responding to my office, but because I don't have the opportunity to talk to all of you about it, there are instances where you may be working on one issue that I get called on and I try real hard to find out if there is duplication of effort; and I thought that maybe as a whole it would be helpful if we could get an overview of what is happening, and what we are doing in terms of outreach to communicate and inform some of the residents that are being affected adversely. So I wanted to get your thoughts on that.

Commissioner Anderson: Actually there is a lady that wrote us, probably all of us who was concerned, who is a relatively new neighbor and she didn't know a lot of the stuff that was going on. I connected her to our neighbor Maria Cruz, who has been spearheading that, but yes I agree, and I think a little more information for neighbors that might know, an update might help them, if it is done here. Yes, well they can make sure that they can watch it or they can come.

Commissioner Cabrera: Make it accessible to them.

Commissioner Anderson: Absolutely.

Mayor Cason: Maybe we can bring in somebody from the University as well as our people and give a brief next time.

City Manager Salerno: Yes, we will be glad to.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, this is not to be taken as a negative thing, I think that the University has worked very, very hard, but I think you bring up an excellent point, we have gotten one communication where really the person even though they live in the Gables and have lived here for two years, didn't really know the process, and so that might help us in getting this painful construction done, in a smooth as possible way. So that was the reason I brought this issue up.

Commissioner Quesada: OK. Just so you guys know, I received quite a few calls. I actually went out to the site and I met with some residents, and UM representatives and the project manager and we discussed a few of the concerns that they had at that time, but again it has been a few weeks since I have been updated, so I am supportive of your request.

Commissioner Cabrera: And I appreciate the fact that you did that, someone told me that you had been out there and I thought that was great. Thank you. The other issue that I wanted to bring up this morning has to do with Granada Golf Course and many, many years ago I used to play golf and Mr. Kerdyk will tell you I wasn't a good golfer, even though I thought I was a better golfer than he. There seems to be a real problem on the sixth fairway and there seems to be a lot of overgrown tree limbs that are creating all kinds of hazards.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, I can probably attest to that one. That is why I haven't played there in a while.

Mayor Cason: You are supposed to hit it down the middle.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: It does, that is a tough hole.

Commissioner Anderson: I have heard it from other people. I have heard it from other people.

Commissioner Cabrera: You know what, she likes a challenge, she likes a challenge. She actually tries to hit the tree limbs.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Once you hit it over there you are dead. I have been there many times.

Commissioner Cabrera: It is the closest thing to a water hazard. Anyway, I was hoping staff could look at some of the tree limbs that are really jettising out to the fairway, and in fact I have been approached by several golfers that participate in the association that plays there on the weekends and from what they claim we have not been responsive. I don't necessarily think that is the case, so I just wanted to voice it today so that staff can go out there and take a better look at it. I did take a golf cart out there to look at it, and I agree, I think it has really become a much greater hazard than it needs to be; and the last item of the day, has to do with an email that I believe we all received yesterday afternoon at 5:52 from a gentleman that lives at 450 Miller Road. You know I actually read the letter and then I went by his house to see what he was talking about because I really didn't understand it, and I really wasn't sure I believed the problem that he was outlining, but now let me share with you as someone

that actually went out to see the property. He has a Ficus Benjamina right smack in the middle of his garage door, that he is constructing and from his letter, he explains that when he met with staff the suggestion was to have two approaches to his garage so in essence have two approaches that go around this Ficus Benjamina. I don't know about the rest of you, but I lived through a couple of hurricanes here in Coral Gables and I know a little bit about what these Ficus Benjamina trees do. Number one, they are not indigenous to South Florida, they come from, I think this species even comes from Brazil. I may be wrong, but they are not indigenous to South Florida. They have a terrible root system, they become very...I mean they typically on strong winds come down. I think we have identified these trees as evasive and to boot this resident is willing to put up Florida Oaks in replacement of this Ficus Benjamina. So, while I don't want to micromanage this problem, this gentleman obviously took a lot of time to explain the situation to us, and that is why I decided to go by his property and I really believe we need to take a closer look at this problem and see if maybe there is an opportunity to remove an evasive tree, because you know here is the irony, I have seen other Ficus Benjamins in better shape than this one removed, and I can even tell you where on the corner of Granada and Blue Road, we removed one that was in much, much better shape than this tree that has been chopped up pretty good.

Commissioner Anderson: Yes, it looked pretty pathetic, actually.

Commissioner Cabrera:...and for those that are watching the Ficus Benjamina, the only thing you find in them are rats and snakes, there really isn't a whole lot of indigenous species that like to get into these trees, so I was hoping that staff could look at this if they would like, what I could do Mr. Manager I can go ahead and forward to you, because I can see that you were not copied, I would be happy to forward to you the email with the photographs, so that you may take a better look at it.

City Manager Salerno: Commissioner, I received a copy of it from Commissioner Anderson yesterday afternoon, I have had a subsequent discussion with Dan Keys already. He is working up an alternate plan, there are two Ficus trees on this site, one is in better condition than the other. The one that is between the two driveways is the one that is in better condition. He is going to meet with me later today, this afternoon with an alternative approach to take out the existing trees and replace them with an appropriate sized replacement oaks, so that is working up the size of the trees, that we will tell the developer he needs to replace them.

Commissioner Cabrera: Great.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Excellent. Very good, very good.

Commissioner Cabrera: Good stuff, glad to hear it. That concludes my comments for today September 25th, 2012.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Just a point of reference. It is sad when you talk about somebody that passed away and last night Mayor Corrigan, George Corrigan's wife Anna May Corrigan passed away, and I thought it would be relevant that we mention that and maybe just take a second, take a moment just to think about her for a second and pray for George Corrigan too, in this moment of very big strife for him and his family. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Quesada: I don't have anything.

Mayor Cason: I don't have anything either, so we will adjourn this meeting we will be back at 5:01 for the budget.

City Clerk Item No. 26

ADJOURNMENT

[Note for the Record: There being no further business on the Regular City Commission Meeting Agenda. The Commission of the City of Coral Gables adjourned its meeting at 9:41 am on September 25, 2012. The next regular meeting of the City Commission has been scheduled for October 16, 2012, beginning 9 a.m.]

JIM CASON
MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN
CITY CLERK