

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

8:00 AM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84243975634>

Communications/Public Affairs Conference Room

Budget/ Audit Advisory Board

*Chairperson John Holian
Vice Chairperson Joseph Palmar
Board Member Richard L. Barbara
Board Member Thomas Korge
Board Member Debra Register*

Virtual Zoom Meeting Available for Public Participation

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84243975634>

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 AM by Mr. Joseph Palmar.

ROLL CALL

The roll was taken, and an in-person quorum was established. The meeting was also available on Zoom for public access. Mr. Korge was unable to attend, and his absence will be excused, as he was out of town.

Present: 4 - Board Member Register, Vice Chairperson Palmar, Chairperson Holian and Board Member Barbara

Excused: 1 - Board Member Korge

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Debra Register, seconded by Mr. Richard Barbara, to approve the August 20, 2025, meeting minutes.

[25-9766](#)

Budget Audit Advisory Board Meeting of August 20, 2025.

Attachments: [Legistar Generated Minutes 8.20.25](#)
[Budget Audit Board Minutes - 8.20.25 Board Approved Clean](#)

A motion was made that this matter be approved. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yeas: 4 - Board Member Register, Vice Chairperson Palmar, Chairperson Holian and Board Member Barbara

Excused: 1 - Board Member Korge

DISCUSSION ITEMS

• Compensation Percentage of EMS billing company

During the last meeting, Mr. Thomas Korge requested clarification of the compensation percentage for the current emergency medical billing company. Mrs. Diana Gomez confirmed in this meeting that the percentage is 5%, which is a better rate than our previous company, Change Healthcare, which was charging a 7% recovery fee for ambulance transport. Outstanding collections from Change Healthcare remain unresolved; the city is considering hiring a medical debt collector for these legacy accounts. Mr. Palmar asked if this was related to one of the audit findings. The city was flagged for not accounting for the non-collection of old receivables. Future financial statements will include allowances for uncollectible amounts.

• Annual Pension Funding

The pension system is currently 75% funded, up from 51% in 2000. A 4% cost of living adjustment (COLA) was granted to retirees, increasing the required contribution and extending the funding timeline from 6 to 8 years. The city continues to make extra payments towards the pension liability aiming for full funding in 8 years not accounting for additional COLA's or market fluctuations. Mrs. Gomez briefly went over the city's retirement options; 401a versus the pension system.

• 25% General Fund Reserve

The City maintains a 25% reserve of its operating and debt service budget (\$59,374,844). Capital is not factored in the 25% amount. If the budget increases, the 25% amount would also increase. The reserve is intended to cover 3 months of operations or two minor hurricanes. Decisions to amend the current policy would require a 4/5 vote among the City Commission.

• Line of Credit for Possible Hurricanes

A proposal was discussed to establish a 100-million-dollar line of credit for catastrophic events, which would be strictly used for emergencies and not for general capital projects. A resolution will be drafted and presented to the City Commission upon board member approval. Important factors to consider are carrying costs and repayment scenarios for securing a line of credit.

• Possible Capital Reserve

Because this was a discussion item of interest for Mr. Korge, this topic will be deferred to the next meeting so that he may participate in the discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

SCHEDULING

The next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 - 8:00 AM

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 AM.

NOTE

Any person who acts as a lobbyist pursuant to the City of Coral Gables Ordinance No. 2006-11, must register with the City Clerk, prior to engaging in lobbying activities before city staff, boards, committees and/or the City Commission. A copy of the Ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall.

Any person, or persons, wishing to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, will require a verbatim record of the proceeding upon which the appeal is based. Interested persons should, therefore, take the necessary steps to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which contains the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

Any person making impertinent or slanderous remarks or who become boisterous while addressing the Commission, shall be barred from further audience before the Commission by the Chair, unless permission to continue or again address the Commission is granted by the majority vote of the Commission Members present. Clapping, applauding, heckling or verbal outbursts or any remarks in support or opposition to a speaker shall be prohibited. Signs or placards shall not be permitted in Commission Chambers.

Any person with a disability requiring communication assistance (such as a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aide or service) in order to attend or participate in the meeting should contact the City's ADA Coordinator Raquel Elejabarrieta, Esq., Director of Labor Relations and Risk Management (E-mail : relejabarrieta@coralgables.com, Telephone: 305-722-8686, TTY/TDD: 305-442-1600), at least three (3) business days before the meeting