

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-1
January 9, 2018
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Commissioner Frank Quesada
Commissioner Michael Mena

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
Assistant City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-1 [0:00:00 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, by amending Article 5, "Development Standards," Section 5-1409, "Amount of Required Parking," to establish provisions for electric vehicle charging stations; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date. (11.08.17 PZB recommended approval, Vote: 7-0)
(Sponsored by Commissioner Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: F-1.

City Attorney Ramos: F-1, an ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida providing for text amendments to the City of Coral Gables Official Zoning Code, by amending Article 5, "Development Standards," Section 5-1409, "Amount of Required Parking," to establish provisions for electric vehicle charging stations; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification, and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I want to congratulate the -- our Commissioner Lago for, again, taking the leadership in this issue. It may be controversial or whatever, but just like other items where he has taken the leadership -- and I'm talking about plastic bags, et cetera -- this is the beginning of something that is very much needed and this is the future. And thank you, Commissioner Lago, for bringing this to our attention.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you, sir. There hasn't been any change from the first reading. I think this is going to be an incredible benefit. You're seeing now many major brands, like Volvo, like BMW moving -- most of their fleet is going electric. So, we're going to have to do this out of necessity, one way or another. So, I think the fact that we're doing it today in a progressive manner, I think it's going to pay a lot of dividends in the future.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

City Attorney Ramos: This is a public hearing item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Oh.

Vice Mayor Keon: Can I ask one question?

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Of course.

Vice Mayor Keon: I know that we've had some residents come to us that are in existing buildings that don't have charging stations or anything in them. Is there anything we can do...?

Commissioner Lago: That's...

Vice Mayor Keon: With regard to that?

Commissioner Lago: And, I wish I had Peter here, because Peter is really a guru when it comes to everything engineering.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: He's going to be here...

Commissioner Lago: Yeah. We can address it later, but the issue -- the main issue is obviously having some sort of dedicated electrical already in place.

Vice Mayor Keon: Right.

Commissioner Lago: And, the costs when you're building the building are a lot less stressful than when you have an existing building and you have to run that electrical. So, what ends up happening is now a lot of the buildings, as per our LEED ordinance, are required to offer this type of service. So, it's a problem that you won't have in future buildings...

Vice Mayor Keon: Right.

Commissioner Lago: And, I wish existing build...

Vice Mayor Keon: But, bringing them into the existing...

Commissioner Lago: So, what ends up happening is you're seeing a lot of people being forced to either move out of the building or to house their vehicles in an adjacent building that actually has...

Vice Mayor Keon: That has a charging station.

Commissioner Lago: That actual service.

Vice Mayor Keon: But, aren't exhaust fans and those types of things, don't they run off of 240?

Commissioner Lago: They...

Vice Mayor Keon: So, they have to have them in the garages, because of the exhaust.

Commissioner Lago: They do.

Vice Mayor Keon: They must have that electric in there somewhere.

Commissioner Lago: They do.

Vice Mayor Keon: Oh, but the cost to do it, okay.

Commissioner Lago: It's very...

Vice Mayor Keon: And, we really can't mandate that.

Commissioner Lago: It's cost prohibitive.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And, then what ends up happening is a lot of the associations will say, you know -- then they put the burden on the owner of the electric vehicle, which, again, it shouldn't be the case, because right now it's going to become a more -- I mean, you're seeing a wave of people buying electric vehicles.

Vice Mayor Keon: Oh, absolutely.

Commissioner Lago: Because it just makes sense. And right now, you have gas around \$2.30, \$2.40, \$2.50. Imagine when -- if it ever goes back up...

Vice Mayor Keon: When it goes back up...

Commissioner Lago: You know, \$3, \$4 or \$5.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah.

Commissioner Lago: It becomes -- it makes sense now already because, again, solar is becoming so cheap. But those gas prices do start peaking again, which, eventually, they will -- I mean, it ebbs and flows -- you'll see that everybody will start -- you know, electric vehicles will become even more prevalent.

Vice Mayor Keon: Is there any issue with retrofitting a garage to do that other than -- it's just the expense? But there's no problem with it.

Commissioner Lago: Just the expense. So, we've had...

Vice Mayor Keon: So, it's really up to a homeowner's association...

Commissioner Lago: The Manager and I have had...

Vice Mayor Keon: To make that...

Commissioner Lago: Several meetings with Tesla, and we're working on finding an appropriate location for not long-term charging, but short-term charging where the vehicles are 30 and 40 minutes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: And, we're coming just to an agreement...

Vice Mayor Keon: Okay.

Commissioner Lago: Because that's already -- they're asking for it.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah, yeah.

Commissioner Lago: And, they need it because as their fleet continues to grow, they have to offer the individuals who own Tesla's the ability to charge their vehicles...

Vice Mayor Keon: Right.

Commissioner Lago: Throughout South Florida and throughout the state of Florida.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yeah. Okay, no, I think it's great. I think it's a great thing.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright.

Vice Mayor Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Move it. Can we call the roll?

Commissioner Lago: Second.

City Attorney Ramos: It's a public hearing item.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, the public hearing. Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Keon: I move it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Second?

Commissioner Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Moved and seconded. Will you call the roll, please?

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Vice Mayor Keon: Yes.

Commissioner Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 4-0)

Commissioner Quesada Absent