

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
April 26, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Finance Director, Diana Gomez

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-1 [Start: 10:23:00 a.m.]

Presentation of the Quarterly Financial Report for the six months ended March 31, 2016.

Mayor Cason: Let's do next H-1.

Ms. Gomez: Good morning. Diana Gomez, Finance Director. H-1 is a presentation of the Quarterly Financial Report for the second quarter of the Fiscal Year, which ends March 31, 2016. This report compares budget to actual revenues and actual expenditures to total appropriations for each department. The Schedule of Revenues, budget to actual, on page 3, provides comparative data to the same period to the prior year to show whether or not we are on track with the previous year's collections of revenues. If you go down to the very last line on the page, you'll see that for the second quarter we received approximately \$111 million in total revenues, compared to \$162 million in budget revenues, which shows 68.8 percent collected overall collections at this time. As you know, the second quarter represents 50 percent of the budget of the Fiscal Year, and we are more than half way in collecting, but that's due to the

timing of certain revenues that are received earlier in the year versus some that are received on a lag. The first item that we look is property taxes; it's our largest revenue source, representing about 45 percent of the budget. Total budget for property taxes is \$72,341,324. As of March 31, 2016, we had collected approximately \$65.7 million or 90.75 percent of the budget. This is consistent with collections at this time of year. As of March 31st, we've also received distributions of the transportation sales tax totally about \$289,000, which is only revenue received through November of 2015. These are usually on a several month lag, but we do anticipate to receive all of the revenues by the end of the year. Other revenues that we focus on during the year are for franchise taxes and utility service taxes. The largest franchise tax revenue is the Electric Franchise Fee, which makes about \$4.7 million of the budget; Utility Service Taxes we have utility tax which makes up \$5.9 million of the budget; and a Telecommunications Service Tax, which makes up \$4 million of budget. In all three of these collections to date are in line with current collections of the previous year. Construction Permits which are budgeted at \$5.9 million, are at 62 percent collected or \$3.6 million in revenues to date. It's a little bit lower than previous year at this time, and it's due to several large projects in the prior year that were received at this point in time. Intergovernmental Revenues, which includes state revenue sharing and sales tax revenue, are all in line with the prior year's collections. There are no issues there. General Government Fees, including Board of Adjustment, Planning and Zoning...

Vice Mayor Quesada: PNZ Board –

Ms. Gomez: Yes.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So I see 20.4 percent, as compared to 250 percent last year percent of budget. I think I asked this question last quarter or the quarter prior, what does this tell us about our Building Department?- what's happening with development in Coral Gables?- does it tell us anything at all?

Ms. Gomez: It just tells us that last year at this time there were larger projects. So for instance, at this time last year you had the Agave project and the Paseo.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So this time last year there were larger projects in the pipeline that there are now.

Ms. Gomez: Correct.

Vice Mayor Quesada: So does that mean that developments projects are slowing down?

Ms. Gomez: Not necessarily. It just means that those larger projects hit that process at this point last year.

Commissioner Slesnick: It's just for that quarter.

Ms. Gomez: Well it's up to through that quarter. Correct. Correct.

Commissioner Keon: When are projects put on the tax roll?

Ms. Gomez: Once they have a CO (Certificate of Occupancy).

Commissioner Keon: A CO is when they are actually put on the tax roll.

Ms. Gomez: It's by January, I believe.

Commissioner Keon: It's by January if they have a CO by prior to January 1st.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I think it's like end of December.

Ms. Gomez: Yes.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: But there are some cities that create a partial that with a TCO (Temporary Certificate of Occupancy), we don't have that legislation in place.

Commissioner Keon: OK. So we don't collect even though there seems to be a lot of building, they are not in a position to actually be placed on...

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: We have to wait a whole other year.

Commissioner Keon: Before we see them.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Which is why we are encouraging our hardworking Building and Zoning people to take their vacation during the summer, and so not during those final -- so we can get those properties inspected and the CO's issued.

Commissioner Slesnick: Diana did you say this was from Paseo, or is it from Agave?

Ms. Gomez: Last year we had Agave and Paseo de la Riviera at that point through the Planning and Zoning Board process, so we had the revenues associated with those in the prior year.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And remember, these aren't permit fees. These are Board fees that we are talking about.

Commissioner Slesnick: Planning and Zoning -- for appearing before the Planning and Zoning.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Correct.

Ms. Gomez: Right. In the current year Concurrency Fees are up from the prior year, and are over 100 percent of the budget amount that has already been collected. Again, this is timing of the projects. Other significant budgeted revenues are physical environment fees, which include Solid Waste Services is \$8.7 million; Sanitary Sewer at \$9.3 million; and Storm Water Utility at \$3.1 million. All of those collections are on track and consistent with the previous year.

Commissioner Slesnick: Before we get off that, I'd also like the Passport fees. I just think since our Passport Office has moved, they are really skyrocketing in the amount of people applying.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Oh, yes we have seen an uptick.

Ms. Gomez: So as of the second quarter on where we were about last year, we haven't done the analysis since they've opened, but I think Walter or Billy can talk us to that.

City Clerk Foeman: We've been doing roughly about \$13,000 a week since we've opened.

Commissioner Slesnick: \$13,000 a week.

Ms. Gomez: That's awesome.

Commissioner Slesnick: I want to point out to the people in TV-land that it is a very convenient place to get your Passport now and you don't have to go downtown and pay \$30 or \$40 for parking an hour.

Vice Mayor Quesada: It's easy, it's close to home. Craig actually, if I could just digress just for one second. For a while we were having, was it once a month, I'm sorry Craig -- Walter, in the past, I think it was once a month we were having the drivers, the DMV coming to the library, is that still happening?

City Clerk Foeman: I'm not involved in that process. I'm not really sure.

Vice Mayor Quesada: OK. So it must have been Craig, so maybe I had it right the first time. Craig, were you involved in the DMV process coming to the Coral Gables Library once a month to renew licenses?

Mayor Cason: I set it up about five years ago. I haven't heard that it stopped.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I just haven't heard anything on it in a while, so I just want to make sure if we are still doing it and we should publicize it because the convenience of the Passport office, I don't know if anyone has gone through to renew their license anytime recently, but it's horrible. You get out there and you have to wait two hours and then you forget your birth certificate and they send you home, you have to come back. It's happened to me a few times. So, I know we had it for a while, I guess, Mr. Mayor you were the one who implemented it a few years back. It was once a month at the library they would come and it was great, and you would walk in and in ten minutes you have your license renewed. It was incredibly convenient, but maybe with the new space we can do something with the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) to make it more permanent or see if we can work with the Passport services if we can create additional revenue and additional convenience.

City Clerk Foeman: Because of the restrictions by the Department of State, we are not allowed to.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Well we'll find out if they are still current in the library and how we can make sure that that's continuing.

Commissioner Lago: It's incredible. I drive down in front of the new Passport office on Saturday mornings when I go to the gym around 7:30; the line is around the corner already. This past Saturday was incredible, how many people are taking advantage and trying to avoid having to go to downtown and deal with exactly what you are saying. When I run into people they told me the best thing Coral Gables has is that Passport office. I'm like what about everything else?- of course it's such a convenient option for everybody, and I wish you could have that same kind of option for the driver's license.

Commissioner Slesnick: That was promoted in the Herald Neighbors in a one page ad we have and maybe we can do the same for the DMV, that's very convenient.

Mayor Cason: Anything else?

Ms. Gomez: I'll move quickly through the expenditures. Page 4 starts the Schedule of Expenditures comparing budget to actual for all the departments. Total expenditures at the

bottom of the page, the second quarter, at 42 percent of the budget, half way through the year, that's where we want to be under 50 percent as we look at all the individual departments they are on track and we are constantly monitoring their budgets to make sure that they do stay on track, or any issues arise that we address it. The next set of schedules reports the details on the City's Enterprise Funds, and these are the funds that are accounted for like businesses. They show all the revenue and expenditures of their respective operations: Storm Water Utilities, Sanitary Sewer, Venetian Pool, Golf Course, Tennis Centers and Parking Funds, and the operations of these funds are in line with expected collections and expenditures to date. The next set of schedules are the internal service funds which are the Motor Pool and Public Facilities Funds, and these are used to report the charges to the internal City Departments for expenditures they incur for things like vehicles and facilities; and the final schedule report shows the activity of the Transportation Trolley Fund. Revenue received from the Transportation Sales Tax goes 100 percent to support the trolley operations, and as I mentioned before, it is on a two to three, three to four month lag, and as of March 31st we had collected only \$289,000, but we believe that we'll receive all the revenues that are due. That's all that I have. If you have any questions.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes. Let me go back to page 3, under General Government Fees, remind me, what is "other" mean?- because we saw a percentage drop from 282 percent to 9855.

Ms. Gomez: So these are just some...

Vice Mayor Quesada: I'm sorry, an increase, I reverse that.

Ms. Gomez: Correct.

Vice Mayor Quesada: I know it's not that much of an expenditure its \$79,000, but give me generally what types of fees fall to this.

Ms. Gomez: In here from the current year we have the Agave Ponce application and the advertising fee that was put in here, prior year the amounts were different. We did also have – so current year Ponce Agave application and advertising. So it's anything that doesn't really fit in any one of the other categories.

Mayor Cason: Miscellaneous.

Ms. Gomez: Yes – we'll put in this other category.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Got it.

Ms. Gomez: So it just really depends on the activity of the year, what's happening in that year.

Mayor Cason: Any other questions?

Commissioner Slesnick: Back to the trolleys. Why is there such a discrepancy there?

Ms. Gomez: In the trolley?

Commissioner Slesnick: The trolley operation.

Ms. Gomez: I think it's just the timing of the receipts. We just haven't received – it's on a lag.

Commissioner Slesnick: Our ridership, I mean it doesn't matter if we don't get the ridership.

Ms. Gomez: Right. So it's just the timing of the collection is what sometimes takes a while for us to get it, so it's a several month lag.

Mayor Cason: OK. Any other questions? Thank you.

Ms. Gomez: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Thank you. Good job as usual.

[End: 10:34:40 a.m.]