

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item E-1
June 16, 2015
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
Assistant Development Services Director, Charles Wu

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item E-1 [9:38:39 a.m.]

Fee Schedule. An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, establishing and restating fees for various licenses, permits, services, and penalties by the City of Coral Gables; amending Article IX, "Impact Fees," to move the Impact Fees to the Fee Schedule; amending Division 4 "Sanitary Sewer Capacity Fees" of Article III, "Sanitary Sewer System," to move the Sewer Capacity Fees to the Fees to the Fee Schedule; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, and providing for an effective date. (Passed on First Reading May 26, 2015).

Mayor Cason: Let's move onto Agenda Item E-1. This is an Ordinance on Second Reading relating to the Fee Schedule. Mr. City Attorney would you please read the title.

City Attorney Leen: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Item E-1 is an Ordinance on Second Reading. Fee Schedule. An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, establishing and restating fees for various licenses, permits, services, and penalties by the City of Coral Gables;

amending Article IX, "Impact Fees," to move the Impact Fees to the Fee Schedule; amending Division 4 "Sanitary Sewer Capacity Fees" of Article III, "Sanitary Sewer System," to move the Sewer Capacity Fees to the Fees to the Fee Schedule; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, and providing for an effective date. This was passed on First Reading May 26, 2015.

Vice Mayor Quesada: Are there any changes from First Reading?

Mr. Wu: Some minor updates for you. For the record, Charles Wu, Assistant Development Services Director.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And excuse me, Charles. These updates were a result of your conversation at our last meeting, so they've gone back and they've made the revisions to respond to those comments.

Mr. Wu: Thank you. The first stop is special events – a question came up with one of our events about four days or longer. We have updated the Fee Schedule that those three days were maxed out on the Fee Schedule, which is \$1,213, that's reflected on page 31. The second question came up by Commissioner Keon is to consider the upkeep of the Granada Golf Course in relation to the fees you are charging, particularly the green fees, the cart and the green fees. We have done some analysis by the Parks and Recreation Director, as he has shown in the attachment, with our current fees, our weekday resident fee is already the highest in the public golf course in the area. Again, that is our current green fees with a cart. With green fees it is the third highest of public golf courses. If we want to consider the upkeep of the golf course and increase it by 25 percent, our weekday green fees with cart will indeed be the highest public and private golf courses in the entire area. It will also be the highest green fees of the entire area. As we suggest we maintain the previously proposed Fee Schedule and every other year increase it by 5 percent to recoup some of our operating cost. Any questions on the green fees? Moving forward, Commissioner Keon also requested consideration for minor permit, minor residential permits. Upon a cursory review, the building permit itself for a minor, which is the minimum \$114 for a permit, turns out to constitute less than half of the eventual permit cost, which is \$244. So we'd like to take additional time to review all the fees, there are a total of seven fees that constitute the eventual permit payment. Two of them are required by State, one by the County, and two others by City Ordinance Records Management Preservation. We will also look how other cities are handling minor residential permits. We'd like to give you an update on what constitutes staff effort to review and inspect the project and come up with a full review of options on how it impacts the budget at a later date. Because of the timeframe that Finance has dictated us to approve the...tax, we'd like to move forward with the status quo and come back with a full report on the accounting system for adjusting minor residential permits. Any questions?

Commissioner Keon: Mr. Mayor I have one question. I know that Commissioner Lago had sponsored a series of forums with one included developers and architects and whatever.

Commissioner Lago: It was a total of four forums, it included architects, engineers, developers, residents of small businesses in the area.

Commissioner Keon: Was there any discussion on the fees at all or no?

Commissioner Lago: We'll probably be presenting it to the Commission, I'm not sure exactly. I don't want to give static date because I know that staff is working on this and they've been working on this very diligently. We'll probably be presenting to the Commission a breakdown of everything that was discussed, especially more importantly the comments that were made by each of the individuals that attended. I think fees may have been brought up at one of the meetings that I was at. I'm not sure if Commissioner Slesnick, which was at that same meeting she remembers, but I think one of the issues was that in reference to smaller projects and the fees, the permit fees were just a little bit too high. You had some projects that were \$500 and I remember the example that someone had mentioned that if you have \$500 to \$1,000 project in reference to a miscellaneous correction of a construction item, and that the permit fees were in the \$200 to \$300 range, that was a little excessive.

Mr. Wu: And we will bring back a report on the Focus Group Action Plan, and in addition to that we are going to look at specifically these questions, so you have a full array of options.

Commissioner Keon: If you are going to look at the fees and the building fees. We were together over the weekend on the North Ponce Project, it was commented on by some of the people there that are in the trades, they are architects and developers and whatever, that in certain areas of the City, we would like to encourage some smaller developments and not the 18-story or the big huge developments, and you'd like to see in some instances some four-plexes or six-plexes or some small buildings, and they said that the fees are pretty much the same for a huge development as they are for that four-plex, whatever, and if we want to incentivize that sort of development, particularly in the North Gables, we should take a look at the fee structure for that. So if you could – you would know that issue better than I do. When you are going through this more, if you would look at that as how do we incentivize smaller development? Thank you.

Mr. Wu: Moving on. The government signed on May 21st into law, which affects our low voltage alarm system. As you may recall, last year it was lowered to \$55, the Governor signed a Bill that even lowered it to \$40.00, and that will take effect July 1st. That occurred right around when you had First Reading, so we'd like to take...to update our Fee Schedule as well. So that's reflected

on page 41. Last but not least, we updated the Public Works Department fees, we took out message boards. As I stated for the record at the first meeting and per the Mayor's comment we deleted concrete buttons application that will no longer be on the Fee Schedule. That concludes staff's presentation. We recommend your approval. Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Mr. Clerk this is a public hearing, do we have any speaker cards?

City Clerk Foeman: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Cason: Then we'll close the public hearing portion. Discussion?

Vice Mayor Quesada: I move the item for approval.

Mayor Cason: Vice Mayor makes the motion.

Commissioner Lago: Second the motion.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Lago seconds.

City Clerk

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 9:46:28 a.m.]