

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item F-5
February 11, 2020
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Raul Valdes-Fauli
Vice Mayor Vince Lago
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Michael Mena
Commissioner Jorge Fors

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Naomi Levi Garcia
Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item F-5 [10:21:34 a.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 58, “Special Assessments,” Article III, “Repair or construction of streets and sidewalks,” by exempting single-family residential and duplex properties from the sidewalk, curb and gutter construction requirements set forth in Section 58-57, revising the square footage and value thresholds of construction, providing for automatic annual adjustments based on the Engineering-News Record construction cost index; and authorizing the City Attorney to release covenants running with the land executed by exempted property owners prior to the adoption of this ordinance, providing for immunity, severability, repealer, codification and an effective date. (Sponsored by Commissioner Mena)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next item is F-5, Commissioner Mena you want to read the item, no I mean City Attorney will read the item.

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City Attorney Ramos: F-5 is An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida amending the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 58, “Special Assessments,” Article III, “Repair or construction of streets and sidewalks,” by exempting single-family residential and duplex properties from the sidewalk, curb and gutter construction requirements set forth in Section 58-57, revising the square footage and value thresholds of construction, providing for automatic annual adjustments based on the Engineering-News Record construction cost index; and authorizing the City Attorney to release covenants running with the land executed by exempted property owners prior to the adoption of this ordinance, providing for immunity, severability, repealer, codification and an effective date.

Commissioner Mena: So really quick. Despite a reminder to my colleagues, this was the item we discussed last time. It has been noticed as striking the entire section, but we talked about changing it so that it wouldn’t apply to commercial properties...

Ms. Levi-Garcia: It doesn’t apply to single-family and duplex, it continues to apply to commercial, multi-family and industrial, mixed-use.

Commissioner Mena: So, this is the item back on First Reading, because obviously they had to revise the ordinance.

City Attorney Ramos: That’s correct.

Vice Mayor Lago: Just a quick question. We had this discussion and I don’t think we had an answer in regard to what mechanism we were going to use. What did we finally decide on the monies that had been collected, what are we going to do about that?

Commissioner Mena: I don’t think there is any monies collected.

Vice Mayor Lago: Covenants.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Covenants that had been collected in compliance to the section as applied to single-family and duplex.

Vice Mayor Lago: Excuse me, I did say covenants, I apologize.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Can be released by the City Attorney under this ordinance, however those individuals potentially will still have to approach our office for those releases.

City Attorney Ramos: Right. There is no database in which we could proactively contact these people, so they would have to come up to us, to our office and we would process it for them.

Commissioner Fors: And there is only about 15 of them out there, right?

Ms. Levi-Garcia: We actually don't have an exact number.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: It actually goes back to the 1980's. There may have been some taken then.

Commissioner Keon: So, when someone gets ready to sell their house or whatever, probably if its there on the title or whatever, they'll come in, you'll just void it.

Ms. Levi-Garcia: Correct. And if the Commission would like us to take some proactive action, we can always push it out to the website or perhaps ENEWS and let people know that.

Commissioner Mena: Well at a minimum what I would ask is, if you do know of any, particularly any in the last few years, not since 1980-whatever, but in the last...please reach out to those people and let them know that they now have a recourse to be able to remove that cloud on the title of their house. Most people it will come up when they go to sell, assuming the title company obviously on a title search will find it, but its important that they understand that they can now remove those from their property. So, do what you can to notify those that you are aware of and move up from there.

Assistant City Manager Santamaria: Commissioner, Ed Santamaria, Assistant City Manager Operations and Infrastructure. We'll make sure that any recent covenant that was entered into with any public parties they'd be advised that they can go ahead and get them released.

Commissioner Mena: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. This is a public hearing, anybody wishes to speak. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Mena: Motion.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll please.

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Vice Mayor Lago: Yes
Commissioner Mena: Yes
Commissioner Fors: Yes
Commissioner Keon: Yes
Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 10:25:00 a.m.]