

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting**  
**Agenda Item F-1**  
**March 9, 2021**  
**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**  
**Assistant City Attorney, Gus Ceballos**  
**Finance Director, Diana Gomez**

**Public Speaker(s)**

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Agenda Item F-1 [Start: 2:00 p.m.]

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 54 – Solid Waste, of the City Code, to prevent uncollected garbage in the City and Section 1-7 entitled “Penalties” to include additional penalties for violations of Section 54-19; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The next is F-1, and ordinance on Second Reading.

City Attorney Ramos: Yes Mayor, F-1 is an Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending Chapter 54 – Solid Waste, of the City Code, to prevent uncollected garbage in the City and Section 1-7 entitled “Penalties” to include additional penalties for violations of Section 54-19; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification and providing for an effective date. I know that Assistant City Attorney Ceballos is available. I don’t know if Mr. Zamora also has comments he would like to make.

City Manager Iglesias: Mayor, our Finance Director and Al Zamora will be handling this item. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry?

City Manager Iglesias: Our Finance Director and Al Zamora will be handling this item.

Assistant City Attorney Ceballos: Good afternoon Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, just for introduction purposes, Assistant City Attorney Gus Ceballos. So, this item originally came back to you in July, I believe, and then it was deferred in August. As previously stated, its an ordinance to prevent the uncollected garbage building up in the city. There has been issues in the city where businesses closed down and failed to close active waste collection accounts or they simply failed to pay their ongoing waste collection services, which then results that the city absorbs this cost and we then turn into basically a debt collector trying to get reimbursed. This is our attempt to avoid this type of scenario moving forward. The only changes or actually the major changes since the first reading is, we've added language about issuance of BTR's and the revocations of certificates of use. Additionally, existing customers will not be required to pay the two-month deposit, so anybody who has a current account will not be affected by this, and anybody who is making timely payments, the existing contract will remain, no additional deposit will be required. And the enforcement of the \$500 daily fine will commence immediately. I believe we have the Finance Director, and we have Al Zamora as well on the line for any technical questions that you may have.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Director.

Finance Director Gomez: Good afternoon. So, this came about for two reasons; one was an internal audit that was done. It was found that we were, in fact, collecting on payments that Waste Management would turn over to us per the terms of their agreement and then we would have to go after the companies to try to collect payment after we've already bought those receivables from Waste Management. Also, the fact that we are negotiating a new contract with Waste Management that will now be effective on April 1<sup>st</sup>, I believe. And so, the idea behind these changes is so that way we do not have to go after the individuals any longer. The Waste Management will cease services and we will immediately go after that business to inform them that they have a past due amount due to the Waste Management and impose a fine, a daily fine, if in fact they do not bring their account into good standing. This does allow us then to not have to, one, have the expense and have receivables on our books, as well as being able to let Waste Management manage the contract of the individual businesses. I don't know if you have any questions or specific questions.

Vice Mayor Lago: Pretty self-explanatory.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Questions?

Commissioner Keon: There are no changes from the last reading, from first reading, right?

Finance Director Gomez: No, there are some changes. I don't know, Gus, you want to go over the changes from last reading to this one? – and the cover memo says the following changes have been made since the first reading, added language about issuance of a business tax receipt and revocation of certificate of uses, so if they don't come into compliance, we may go after them and not renew their business licenses, adding that existing customers who maintain active and current accounts will not be required to pay the two-month deposit or update their existing contract until their contract is expired or the completion of the current private waste collector or fee. And then three is, enforcement of the \$500 daily fine for failure to maintain an active current waste collection or waste collector will commence immediately, while the remaining provisional will not commence until April 1, 2021, in order to allow sufficient timing for negotiations with – at the time we were negotiating, but now its ready to be signed April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Keon: They are all good changes.

Finance Director Gomez: Yes, they are.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you. I'll move it.

City Manager Iglesias: And its important to tie this to BTR's in the CU, which is renewable on a yearly basis.

City Attorney Ramos: This is a public hearing item, Mr. Clerk, do we have anyone wishing to speak?

City Clerk Urquia: No ma'am.

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Vice Mayor Lago: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Commissioner Keon, seconded by the Vice Mayor. Will you call the roll please?

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes

Commissioner Mena: Yes

Commissioner Fors: Yes

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes  
(Vote: 5-0)