

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item G-2
August 25, 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

Assistant City Manager, Ed Santamaria

City Attorney, Miriam Ramos

City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item G-2 [11:03 a.m.]

A Resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, adopting rules of procedure for virtual meetings for the Coral Gables Board of Architects during the pendency of the State of Emergency declared in Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-52.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Next item is Item G-1 -- no, I'm sorry, G-2. G-1 is time certain. G-2.

City Attorney Ramos: G-2 is a resolution of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, adopting rules of procedure for virtual meetings for the Coral Gables Board of Architects during the pendency of the State of Emergency that we're currently in. As the Commission knows, we adopted Rules of Procedure, which were required by the Governor's executive order for this Commission and for all boards and committees of the City several months ago, both for regular meetings and for quasi-judicial meetings. But as we resume more and more our normalcy, we're having some boards that are a little bit more complex, having the need for additional rules. Board of Architects is one of them, Construction Regulation's is another, Code Enforcement's is another. For some reason, the City Code requires that any Board of Architects rules be adopted by this Commission, as well as by the Board of Architects, so that's why they're here for ratification by you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Vice Mayor Lago: Mayor, before we...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Call the roll.

Vice Mayor Lago: Before we take a vote on this, I just want my colleagues to jog my memory. I think we were -- we all requested that we move forward to start having as many -- if not all of our board meetings -- even if it requires that they're all on Zoom. Do you have an update? Maybe the Manager can just provide us, since we're talking about that right now, where we stand.

City Attorney Ramos: Starting in September -- so for the month of August, we had boards that had pending items that were important go ahead and meet via Zoom. Starting in September, all

boards will resume meeting in their regular schedule via Zoom. The executive order of the Governor expires October 1. He may extend it, and then it'll be up to each board if they want to meet in person or via Zoom.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And we have to be careful with this -- I'm sorry. We have to be careful with your comment, Vice Mayor Lago, in that...

Vice Mayor Lago: What's that?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Remember, our restaurants, which is a great part of our economy, are closed, and we should not send the wrong message by us doing things that are contradictory to the opening of the restaurants. So, that's something we have to be aware of. Will you call...

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: The roll, Billy?

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. Mayor, as I've stated before, and I will state again, I think our board meetings can meet via Zoom. It's not an issue. I'm not advocating that anyone be forced to meet in person if they don't feel comfortable, which eventually, by the way, we will have to start meeting in person.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I fully agree, but let's go on. Billy.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)