

**City of Coral Gables
Virtual Commission Meeting
April 21, 2020
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

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

City Staff

**City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Deputy City Attorney, Cristina Suarez**

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item E-4

An Ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida amending Section 2-79 of Chapter 2, Article III of the City Code titled, “Order of Business,” to establish an open public comment section of the City Commission meeting agenda, in addition to the public comments currently permitted in accordance with Section 286.0114, F.S., the Citizens Bill of Rights, and other applicable laws, to allow for members of the public to address the City Commission on any matter and providing for the imposition of time limitations, providing for repealer provision; severability clause; codification and providing for an effective date. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Lago)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Next item to be taken up is E-4. Vice Mayor Lago.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, Mayor.

City Commission Meeting

City Attorney Ramos: E-4 -- I'm sorry, Vice Mayor, if I could just read it into the record.

Vice Mayor Lago: Of course.

City Attorney Ramos: E-4 is an ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables, Florida, amending 2-79 of Chapter 2, Article III of the City Code titled, "Order of Business" to establish an Open Public Comment section of the City Commission meeting agenda, in addition to the public comments currently permitted and accordance with Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, the Citizens Bill of Rights, and other applicable laws, to allow members of the public to address the City Commission on any matter and providing for the imposition of time limitations; providing for a repealer provision, severability clause, codification and providing for an effective date. This is on second reading. There were some changes. Vice Mayor, after you speak, I'll explain what those are.

Vice Mayor Lago: No. Why don't you put them into the record if you'd like now?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah.

City Attorney Ramos: Okay. Christina, are you unmuted?

Deputy City Attorney Suárez: I am.

City Attorney Ramos: Okay. Could you walk us through the two changes that the Commission asked for last time?

Deputy City Attorney Suárez: Yes. So, the two changes are two additions. One is that the City Commission shall take no action on items that are not on the agenda. And the other change is that, at the conclusion of one hour, the Mayor or the Commission by an affirmative vote of the majority

can end the public -- open public comment section of the meeting in order to proceed with the rest of the agenda.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you. Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, and I'll be brief. Just to make -- you know, people were concerned about the issue of being able to vote on whatever is brought up. And obviously, this is the reason for us taking the position and not allowing for a vote even after a discussion is because we haven't had the proper ability to notify the community. So, we want to make sure that before we vote on any issues, you know, everyone has the opportunity to speak on it and that it's been publicly notified for the respected and required amount of time. This is simple. I just want to say thank you to staff. We've been working on this for some time. This continues to build on our efforts to be the most transparent city in Miami-Dade County, which we already are. And we want to make sure that we continue to offer and promote public input wherever we deem appropriate and wherever we can. This just allows us -- for residents to have multiple bites of the apple to ensure that they can speak on issues, and that they don't have to work -- they don't have to wait in the middle of the day for a time certain item or miss work or not be able to be with their loved ones because we know a lot of people are busy taking care of elderly residents or their families, children. So, this is a great opportunity for people to come in, voice their opinion on a certain matter, go on to work, or go on to their daily life. So, thank you for the support on this.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I'm sorry, Vice Mayor, but you mentioned that the public will be allowed to vote. The public will not be allowed to vote.

Vice Mayor Lago: No, I -- if I said that, I was wrong. The public will not be able to vote but be able to give their input obviously.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. They will be heard. But I also want to make very, very clear and state that anybody who has ever wanted to speak before the Commission has been allowed to speak

and has been given the opportunity to make a personal appearance. And our friend, Maria Cruz, can testify to that. Thank you. Do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

City Attorney Ramos: Mayor, this is a public hearing item. And I think some of the Commissioners also had comments.

Commissioner Fors: One brief comment -- by the way, I think it's a great act that we're passing. I think it's definitely something (INAUDIBLE).

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Very good.

Commissioner Fors: The only suggested tweak I have -- and frankly, it's not even that important to me. I'm throwing it out there to see if anybody thinks it's a good idea -- is instead of -- and this is really just to make our lives easier. Instead of making it so we can end it after an hour by a vote, to have it end after an hour and we can vote to extend it, which would result in less votes by us. It's really not that important. I just wanted to put it out there.

Vice Mayor Lago: Well, I think that's a great modification to the ordinance and I welcome it.

City Attorney Ramos: Okay, we'll make that edit. Also, one other clarification I thought was important was that once the -- that section ends, that public comment section ends, that it should not be reopened for the duration of that meeting.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright, very good. Do you accept those modifications, Vice Mayor?

Vice Mayor Lago: Of course.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay, do I hear a motion?

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

City Attorney Ramos: Sir, it's a public hearing item. We need to ask if there's people on Zoom or on the phone that wish to speak.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Alright. Are there -- anybody on Zoom that wishes to speak? Anybody on the phone that wishes to speak? Any comments or emails from members of the public on the item?

City Clerk Urquia: No, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Vice Mayor Lago, a motion.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Mena: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Will you call the roll?

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Commissioner Fors: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yes.

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Thank you.

City Commission Meeting

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you.