

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-6
August 25, 2009
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL

City Commission

Mayor Donald D. Slesnick, II
Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.
Commissioner Maria Anderson
Commissioner Rafael “Ralph” Cabrera, Jr.
Commissioner Wayne “Chip” Withers

City Staff

City Manager, Patrick Salerno
City Attorney, Elizabeth Hernandez
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy Clerk, Billy Urquia
Finance Director, Don Nelson

Public Speaker(s)

Mauricio Chavez, V.P. McKesson Provider Technologies
Roxcy Bolton, Coral Gables Resident

H-6 [Start: 11:46:40 a.m.]

Resolution amending Resolution No. 2009-218, by increasing fees and charges for services furnished by the City of Coral Gables; and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Slesnick: H-6 is a resolution amending Resolution No. 2009-218, by increasing fees and charges for services furnished by the City of Coral Gables; and providing for an effective date. Mr. Manager.

City Manager Salerno: Thank you Mayor. As discussed in the July 8th Budget Workshop, the proposed budget anticipates revenues from a transport fee that would be based in two regards: one, the fees currently charged the increase to match the Miami-Dade County rate currently in effect; they are charging this particular rate to all cities that they serve and all incorporated Miami-Dade County. So some 30 cities, these rates are pegged to the Miami-Dade County rate, which are applied to the 30 cities that they serve and the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County. So it's an increase for non residents; in the case of residents, it is establishing a fee that would apply to the residents, this would be for the first time, I understand this matter has come up before in the past under different economic circumstances. Interesting to note, the rates that Miami-Dade County set are tied to the Medicare allowable rate and not anything higher. What that means is if there is a resident with Medicare the charges that you have in this item would be billed to that individual, Medicare would pay eighty percent (80%) of that, and we would not balance bill the resident for anything else. So anybody with Medicare, anybody with Medicaid,

the Federal Government would pay everything that the City would be seeking. Those with private insurance, private medical insurance, or private automobile insurance, we would seek payment from them like we do of non residents, and there is always going to be a section of our community that does not have insurance. I've talked to our billing company McKesson, there is no way to definitively determine what those breakdowns are because we certainly are not billing them today, but it is their best judgments that approximately forty percent (40%) of the residents in – forty percent of what our billings would be, would be covered by Medicare; forty percent is their estimate, it would be private pay; and twenty percent would be from individuals or billed to individuals who don't have insurance, that's their best, and I would call it a guestimate, because there aren't any numbers that can pin that down.

Commissioner Cabrera: So what happens to that twenty percent that cannot pay?

City Manager Salerno: They would get a bill, we are required because of the fact that Medicare has certain regulations, we don't have the ability to not charge a particular group of individuals; we are required to, so they would receive a bill to the extent that they can pay it, they would; we would not aggressively pursue collection of people without insurance, and we will know who does not have insurance in that regard.

Commissioner Cabrera: So in essence we will subsidize this program with people that have insurance because they will be the ones that will pay, or their insurance companies will pay, they will ultimately always need to pay because more and more and more insurance companies are implementing deductibles before any co-insurance kicks in, so whether they pay or their insurance company pays, someone will pay and they will subsidize those who cannot pay.

City Manager Salerno: Commissioner, I understand the philosophy...

Commissioner Cabrera: Its not a philosophy it's a fact, there is no philosophy when it comes to this; I'm giving you mechanics of how the system works.

City Manager Salerno: I would look at it slightly different; and today our residents, anybody who is paying insurance has private insurance, whether through their employer they are already paying in their premium for this benefit who's losing out in this regard is the City...

Commissioner Cabrera: I could say the same thing on present day, they are already paying for this benefit because of their property tax that they are paying the City of Coral Gables and that goes to core benefits such are Fire Rescue transport.

City Manager Salerno: I think you can make that argument on any single fee that we charge for.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I don't think so; I think public safety is one fee that goes beyond any other fee like trash, and parks, and any other ridiculous fee that we may be charging out there.

City Manager Salerno: I understand; if we look at it – if the estimates from McKesson are correct, and as I said they are just estimates, out of the \$450,000 that we would hope to collect, \$90,000 of that proportionately, the twenty percent would be from people that have, and that's

just straight-lining it, don't have insurance; the balance the eighty percent (80%) of that \$450,000 is going to come from Medicare, which we are all paying for, Medicaid; the City in our particular case is missing out on receiving those revenues today, and that's why out of the two and-a-half (2.5) million plus residents of Miami-Dade County this is the only community that I'm aware of that does not charge its residents nor receive in our particular case, estimated eighty percent (80%) of that revenue from either Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. In days gone, you know the City may have had that luxury, it's certainly a policy question; I certainly think under these particular times when we are looking for, searching for dollars in order to meet our needs this is an opportunity here that I thought could not be ignored going forward. The rates were set in a fashion, so that if you are a senior, or anyone with Medicare, you won't have to go and pay anything.

Commissioner Cabrera: That's not true Mr. Manager; seniors who have Medicare still have deductibles, I don't know who is advising you, but you are not getting sound advice...

City Manager Salerno: OK.

Commissioner Cabrera:...because seniors still have deductibles that they must pay, and a lot of seniors don't use their benefits because they can't afford the deductible. So in an emergency situation, and we had this argument last year, in an emergency situation you could have seniors who will think twice before they will call their public safety department because they are in need of services, and it could jeopardize their well being, and potentially could cause them more even harm than...

City Manager Salerno: I understand that, and I know that has been raised in the past, and I had the Fire Chief make a phone call to the Fire Chief in Key Biscayne, because it was 2006 that Key Biscayne implemented a transport fee, and asked that specific question. Now, I have my own personal opinions with regards to that matter and personal experience, I have never experienced or heard of such a case where somebody did not make a call because they were concerned about the charge. We asked – I had Chief Reed call the Chief there; there was no reduction in the amount of calls, and Key Biscayne, which is a similarly situated economic community to Coral Gables, nor did they hear of any experience where somebody did not call for service.

Commissioner Cabrera: But you know, there is no statistical credibility to prove this argument, this discussion that two Chiefs had on the phone with each other. What if the person was just afraid of the expense associated with the transport and did not act accordingly, or allow his family members to act accordingly and went into cardiac arrest to the point in time, who would then report that the reason this person died from coronary or cardiac arrest is because they didn't call Fire Rescue quickly enough, or decided to wait to see if this was maybe acid indigestion.

City Manager Salerno: Well, let me pose that; if there is no transport there is no charge; we only charge when there is a transport.

Commissioner Cabrera: I understand, I understand.

City Manager Salerno: Where are we transporting?- to a hospital; if they don't have insurance the moment they walk through the door, or whether they do, our fee is an insignificant amount, and I think that is where you have to take the judgment; would you make that decision whether call or not?- you are wanting to go to a facility, but the moment you go through the door and you go to an emergency room, you are going to get a tab, if you have chest pains or a heart condition in that regard, and the bill is thousands of dollars once you walk through the door and say, I'm having chest pains; you don't leave an emergency room without a bill in the thousands of dollars, if you complain of chest pains or believe you had a heart attack. So if you are calling for...it doesn't seem to be – the dots don't connect to think, well I'm not going to call for a transport because I may get a \$350.00 charge to go to a place that I know is going to cost me thousands of dollars, which is where I want to go in the first place. That's what I'm trying to...

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, here's the fallacy of your argument; one has a deductible, the other one doesn't, or may or may not have a deductible....services may not even include a deductible and therefore you're going to get in there. But you know, this is so fearful to me because I have fought it for three years in a row even during good times management wanted to bring this to us because everybody else does it. Well I hope you take the same attitude with trash pickup, maybe we need to do trash pickup like everyone else and stop with the silly holes all over our City that's costing us a bundle; but what I am concerned of is, here is a fire rescue transport fee, I am waiting for the next two to three years to get a Police response fee; I swear to you, I see it coming in the next two, three, four years some sort of Police response fee and you will get the cops to come to your neighborhood or to your house if you know there is going to be a fee attached to it; and I'm concerned about it because I think of this as basic services, and just because everybody else is doing it, well maybe that's the new world around here maybe we need to do everything like everyone else, and implement other systems like everyone else is what we did; we are going to implement the fire fee like everybody else in Broward County, but not here in Dade, we are going to be setting the benchmark for that one. I don't even want to talk about this anymore; I'm not going to support it, so you guys all know how I feel, sorry ma'am, but you all know how I feel about it, I feel very strongly about this and I think we are putting people in harm's way by doing it, so let's get along, its noon and I'd like to get some lunch before 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Slesnick: Let's do this; let's break this motion down in two parts if we can; if we can do this vote on the raising of the fee first for non residents to match the County's...

Ms. Bolton: May I speak?

Mayor Slesnick: No.

Ms. Bolton: Why not?

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Bolton if you'll give us one minute, please come forward, but otherwise this isn't a public hearing on this; this is a resolution the Manager's business.

Ms. Bolton: This is a critically important matter, it affects a large majority of the people in Coral Gables, older people, and once you attach a fee to transporting there will be people, I know, I

talked to as many people as most anyone except Police in Coral Gables, people bare their souls to me. If you attach a fee there will be people who will say that have said to me, under no circumstances would I call, I'm already paying the Fire Department, its not right for me to pay an additional fee and its not, and Mr. Manager, Mr. Mayor, when you folks talk about some other jurisdiction Key Biscayne or Timbuktu, I don't care about that, I care about what's going on and what you are trying to put in effect in Coral Gables, because I said four years ago when on the second reading you were trying to put in a fee, I think a \$500.00 fee the record will reflect, that's right, you look up the record, you look it up, and I said at that meeting Jack Eads was here then, I said if you put into effect this fee for transporting rescue people will die as a result, fearful that you know, they can't pay it and they will die; Jack Eads, I mean, he wasn't a great admire of me, but he spoke up and said Mrs. Bolton, you remember this Chip...?

Commissioner Withers: I remember this like it was yesterday, Roxcy.

Ms. Bolton:...And he said, Mrs. Bolton is right, if you put this fee into effect people will die because they are fearful of the cost. That's on the record, there is no denying it, it's a fact. Now when you have things like, I'm concerned about trying to get a fee out of us, have people not understanding what's going on; you have something that is very offensive to me and a lot of other people when they find out about it.

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Bolton, Ms. Bolton...

Ms. Bolton: It's a gas welfare fee. You give the Directors \$450.00 for gas welfare, that's welfare.

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Bolton, Ms. Bolton...

Ms. Bolton: Yes sir.

Mayor Slesnick: Please, I gave you the courtesy of speaking when we really had no public speaking.

Ms. Bolton: But I have something important to say.

Mayor Slesnick: But this is not on the subject, OK, you did speak to the subject and I appreciate that, now we are going to move to closing this subject; what you are now speaking about doesn't have anything to do with this subject.

Ms. Bolton: It does when you can afford to pay each Director \$450.00 a month for gas welfare.

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Bolton, thank you.

Ms. Bolton: I made my point; good day.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Can I ask the City Manager a question please, since we are going to break this into two different...

Mayor Slesnick: Well it's at your pleasure.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: It's a good point. I think Mr. City Manager you are contributing another \$450,000, Mr. City Manager on this particular item, if it passes you said there will be another \$450,000 that is going to be raised for the budget, is that correct?- an approximate amount.

City Manager Salerno: There is approximately that amount already anticipated in the proposed budget. So if this was not approved, that is \$450,000 that we would need to make further cuts or increase property taxes, those are the only two options. I do have...if there are any questions, just so you know, I invited Mauricio Chavez, who is Vice President with McKesson, in case there are any technical questions about who is going to pay what, because from looking into this matter in the past, I know that there was concern about that, I just need to clarify, and I just checked with Mauricio; if you have Medicare the deductible is the twenty percent (20%), Medicare will pay eighty percent (80%) of the charge that we have, twenty percent they will not pay, and the way we have set this up is the resident will not be billed for that twenty percent.

Commissioner Cabrera: Not by us, but could be billed by the insurance company.

City Manager Salerno: No, no, Mauricio would you please...

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes, yes, I've been doing this for 27 years.

City Manager Salerno: I understand sir, I understand, that's why I asked, this is his only business he is collecting...

Commissioner Cabrera: Me too, other than this thing here.

Mr. Chavez: Mauricio Chavez, McKesson. In the case of Medicare, Medicare will cover the eighty percent of the allowable and the patient could be billed that twenty percent, but the City has elected not to go after the patient for that twenty percent.

Commissioner Cabrera: I understand sir, but how does the City control the insurance company from billing?- tell me how...

Mr. Chavez: The insurance company cannot bill on your behalf.

Commissioner Cabrera: Sir they do it all the time. You work here in Florida?

Mr. Chavez: I do.

Commissioner Cabrera: In Miami-Dade?

Mr. Chavez: I've been here for 25 years.

Commissioner Cabrera: OK – you've been doing this that long?

Mr. Chavez: I've been doing this for 15 years.

Commissioner Cabrera: Well, I will tell you that the insurance companies will balance bill because I deal with that on a day-to-day basis. I have staff that I hire just to deal with balance billing issues.

Mr. Chavez: I understand, but the insurance companies can't collect money on the City's behalf, it's not the insurance company's money, it's your money.

Commissioner Cabrera: I understand, I understand.

Mr. Chavez: Now the insurance company will send an explanation of benefits to the patient that will state, here's how much we paid, here's the outstanding balance, but if you don't send a bill the patient doesn't have to pay. The bill can't come from anywhere except from the City, nobody else can collect money, it's your money.

Commissioner Anderson: Is there any way for the City, and in cases like that, and I haven't really thought it through, so what's coming out is unfiltered; that for us to communicate with residents if they have a transport and we send out a notice saying, disregard the insurance bills for that because you already covered it; is there anyway to do that?

Mr. Chavez: Absolutely you can do that.

Commissioner Anderson: My biggest concern always was that people would have that issue happen; they would get billed, they would feel obligated to pay, and they may not have it; so if there is a mechanism that when a transport occurs and there is a billing done to that, that there could be a second notice sent out and said, resident you may receive something from the insurance company, don't pay it, whatever is the correct language to say it, and if you have any questions call us at blank. That way it could eliminate that fear and that concern that I think we all have that it could happen and allow it to go forward. Is that something that can be done?

Mr. Chavez: It's something that we can do for you, absolutely; you can give them our number, we are your billing company.

City Manager Salerno: They are our billing company.

Commissioner Anderson: That billing would go out and say, you might get an insurance bill, don't...for those cases where that would be applied.

Mr. Chavez: Correct. You can have the letter worded, however the City requires, absolutely.

Commissioner Anderson: That's been always my main concern, I'm supportive, but as it was in the past and in past transcripts that people would be notified and educated and make sure that there weren't any issues that arose later, and that we gave them a point of contact, and friendly point of contact when they have that.

Mr. Chavez: We could certainly do that.

Commissioner Withers: May I ask a question...?

City Manager Salerno: Absolutely, that's why he's here.

Commissioner Withers: I don't know what percentage of transports or automobile accidents would be related.

Mr. Chavez: It's hard to tell. Right now for non residents it's high because we are only billing for non residents, but when we start doing the resident billing I'm not really sure, I'd be guessing about the percentage of it.

Commissioner Withers: That would be billed to the auto insurance company, correct?

Mr. Chavez: Absolutely. The auto insurance is primary in those cases, if not it goes through the health insurance.

Commissioner Withers: And I would assume the same rules apply for the auto insurance that we are applying for the...

Mr. Chavez: Absolutely. We bill to the extent...

Commissioner Withers: Do they have deductibles with auto insurance? I don't know...

Mr. Chavez: Some do some don't, depends on their policy.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Mr. City Manager getting back to my initial question about the \$450,000. In this resolution we are increasing fees (a), correct?

City Manager Salerno: Yes.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: And (b) then we are going to charge, we are not charging now, is that correct?

City Manager Salerno: That's correct.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: So now of the \$450,000 how does that distribute in the two breakdowns?

City Manager Salerno: Don, can you answer that?- it's a small portion.

Mr. Nelson: Good afternoon. The number of calls based on the rates that we are proposing, the total annual increase as mentioned was \$450,000 above what we are currently collecting which is \$130,000. So the breakdown between non resident we would have an increase of \$80,000, and we would lose if we didn't collect for the residents \$370,000 of the \$450,000. So it breaks down to \$450,000 additional revenue we would be collecting by imposing the fees and providing that

to all persons; the non resident portion is an \$80,000 increase because of the fee increase we are already charging; and of course the resident fee we are not charging, plus with the new rate increase would produce \$370,000.

Commissioner Withers: I have to use my mother as an example; she always called Fire Rescue instead of the normal ambulance because Fire Rescue was there and they were nicer, and they were telling jokes and stuff like that; so she felt very comfortable about them, but when someone calls a normal ambulance service there is a charge for that transport fee.

City Manager Salerno: Oh absolutely.

Commissioner Anderson: There is.

Commissioner Withers: And that's paid for, I guess the same eighty percent-twenty percent. So what's the difference between them calling an ambulance service and getting paid for it and us calling and getting paid?

City Manager Salerno: That's a good analogy Commissioner, we are doing it and we are not charging.

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I'll tell you what the difference is; when they call Fire Rescue they are getting paramedics to come on site that know what they are doing versus some 19 year old kid that got his chauffeur license and works at....Eastern and wears a white coat, and puts him in the back of their ambulance and carts them away to wherever they think they need to go, that's the difference.

Commissioner Withers: And they are there in two minutes instead of waiting two hours and they handle them more carefully, and they follow up on them, and they visit them in the emergency room, and they make sure the family is OK.

Commissioner Cabrera: Now the other part of that answer that I was going to give you is that most carriers have a charge in their schedule of benefits for ambulance transport; the issue here is that doesn't really exist. I went through the exercise last year for all of you, and I contacted I think nine carriers, and I only got to talk to six. Remember, I handed this out last year, and I showed you how everybody administers it differently; some people administer it like an ambulance co-pay, others said we are going to send a letter and ask them to tell us what happened, so we understand how to pay the benefit. So it was just across the board; there's been no uniformity of this, and some people are going to get, as the gentleman said, an EOB, and not some people, they will all get an EOB, and some people believe it or not Chip, they pay that EOB, even though it says this is not a bill, they will pay it, you know, they will pay it.

Commissioner Withers: But Ralph, I mean, if I was transported by an ambulance and I don't know what their rates are, but I assume their rates are comparable to if they are Medicare standards, I would assume they would be within the Medicare rates. In a convoluted way, it's almost like we are not billing for that co-payment, but whereas an ambulance service probably would bill for that.

Commissioner Cabrera: I know, but I look at that as core benefits that we provide our citizenry, that's I guess, the fundamental...

Commissioner Withers: That's where you differ...

Commissioner Cabrera: The philosophical – plus I also believe that people will think twice, I really do believe that; maybe Chief Reed talking to the Key Biscayne Chief, first of all I find it very odd that a Chief of Fire would have that intimate knowledge as to how someone would respond to something like this regardless of whether it is Key Biscayne, Coral Gables or any other community, but the bottom line is I have seen it with my own eyes; I hate to keep using my Dad as an example; but just last Thursday my father was having a difficult time breathing, and I called Chief Reed and I made him aware of this, and said, Chief, my Dad has had episodes in the past and he's been taken to South Miami Cardiac Unit would the Fire Rescue folks be OK with that? – well, sure as heck they were there within two or three minutes and they were helping my Dad breathe, OK. I swear to you, it's just not my father, but my Dad under different circumstances would have waited for me to arrive and driven him to South Miami Hospital; and let me tell you he was in pretty bad shape because Battalion Chief Thornhill put me in touch with Fire Rescue One on the way to South Miami Hospital, and I could overhear their conversation; my Dad was really struggling to breathe. I don't want that on my shoulders, and I'm just one family, one household, I think there would be more like my father; it's just their culture, Chip, it's what I've grown up... I'm not doing this to grandstand, I'm trying desperately to get everybody to realize that common sense tells you that this is the way it's going to go down, and the men and women in this department know that ninety-five (95%) of the calls they go on are elderly and a lot of people on fixed income because I've been with them, I've been out there with them when they've done this; and I'm very fearful that this could be a real problem for us and if we lose one life over something like this, I would really hate it on my watch, you know, that's why I keep fighting against this thing. We are talking about \$450,000, that's the number; I think I can help find \$450,000 elsewhere.

Commissioner Withers: Well Ralph, I guess where I disagree with you is if the money is out there either in Medicaid, Medicare or whatever, or it's out there in group insurance benefits...

Commissioner Cabrera: Or individual insurance benefits.

Commissioner Withers:...and it's just waiting to be collected and it's not additional cost to the citizen...

Commissioner Cabrera: But you are assuming that, you are being told that, it's not that easy.

Commissioner Withers: Well I have to put some faith in the billing system and some faith in the fact that we are not going to double bill them, we've heard we're not...

Commissioner Cabrera: No, I know we're not.

Commissioner Withers: But still, if the money is out there why not get it?

Commissioner Cabrera: Because they are already paying, they are already paying for this service; they are paying for that service; they are paying taxes for that service.

Commissioner Withers: But Medicaid – Medicare?

Commissioner Cabrera: And that will have an impact on the system; that will have an impact on those that have individual insurance and it will have an impact on those that have group insurance because their rates will go up and you know about rates going up.

Commissioner Withers: Yes, but I don't know when you look at it across the board of 43 million people, I don't know how many people are on Medicare, I can't remember what the numbers were, is it really going to push the rate up; the second thing is, I don't know how many transports like my mother when she used to call to get transported, I don't know that she was really in dire need of an emergency transport right then and there, but because the guys and gals that came out to see her so accommodating, so friendly, so quick...

Commissioner Cabrera: So professional.

Commissioner Withers:...so professional, she used that every opportunity she could, and I would have absolutely no problem billing Medicare or Medicaid.

Commissioner Anderson: And these things are placed, let's say equipment that's used during transport, right?- let's say back braces, a variety of things.

Commissioner Cabrera: Like I said...

Commissioner Anderson: I'm respecting you, no, no. I want to put it out there that some of these fees would come back to replace some of the equipment used during transport, I would suspect, at least that's what I've been told.

Commissioner Cabrera: I have a bad hunch about this one, I just really do. I'm not going to start naming issues where I've had bad hunches on, but I've been doing this too long, maybe that's the problem, I've been doing this too long. Thank God for term limits.

Mayor Slesnick: If it's still the desire we'll take this in two votes and then if we have to we'll go back and consolidate the results of those two votes into one vote, but I think we can handle this on a two resolution. One resolution would be let's consider first the increase in fees for non residents to match that of the County. Do I have a motion?

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: I'll make that motion.

Mayor Slesnick: Mr. Kerdyk moves that.

Commissioner Anderson: I'll second that.

Mayor Slesnick: Ms. Anderson seconds it; any further comments?

Commissioner Cabrera: Non residents....

Mayor Slesnick: Non residents – this is to increase the fees to match the County’s fees for the other thirty cities that they service in the non incorporated areas also.

Mr. Clerk

Commissioner Cabrera: Yes

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Withers: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Mayor Slesnick: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Slesnick: Now, I’ll entertain a motion to start to charge a fee to the residents.

Commissioner Withers: I’ll move it.

Commissioner Anderson: I’ll second it.

Mayor Slesnick: Moved by Mr. Withers, seconded by Ms. Anderson; any further comments from what we have discussed already?

City Manager Salerno: Mayor, one last, if I could interrupt for just a second? Just on the technical matter, I understand how you split it up; we will have a subsequent meeting, we will have to, if this motion passes, we would have a subsequent action to amend an ordinance to allow for charging within the City, separate from this. You need a resolution and the authority that would happen because this is effective October 1 in both cases; I just wanted to put that on the record. There is subsequent clean up that we would need to do but this resolution would be effective October 1 in both cases.

Mayor Slesnick: Alright. Mr. Clerk.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: No

Commissioner Withers: Yes

Commissioner Anderson: Yes

Commissioner Cabrera: No

Mayor Slesnick: Yes

(Vote: 3-2)

Commissioner Cabrera: Mr. Clerk, at this time I would like to withdraw my “yes” vote to item E-1 and please for the record I am voting “no” against the fire protection assessment enabling legislation. Thank you sir.

Mayor Slesnick: OK. That concludes I think the issues that deal with fire services for today. We appreciate your presence today and good seeing you all.

Commissioner Withers: Thank you guys again.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Thank you very much for everything.

[End: 12:20:22 p.m.]