

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-2
June 14, 2016
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

**Mayor Jim Cason
Commissioner Pat Keon
Commissioner Vince Lago
Vice Mayor Frank Quesada
Commissioner Jeannett Slesnick**

City Staff

**City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark
City Attorney, Craig E. Leen
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Budget and Management, Assistant Finance Director**

Public Speaker(s)

Sylvia Suetta, Coral Gables Resident

Agenda Item H-2 [10:47:19 a.m.]

A Resolution amending Ordinance 2015-17, as amended, to adjust the Storm Water Fee, Sanitary Sewer Charges, and Solid Waste Collection Fees, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Cason: Let's take up H-6.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And H-2 and H-6 – would Finance like to present H-2 first, is that the precursor?- OK. Mr. Mayor if you don't mind, we'll take H-2 first.

Mayor Cason: That's fine – H-2 and then H-6.

City Attorney Leen: I would like to make one point regarding H-2 and H-6, which are related. H-2, even though it says it's a resolution amending Ordinance 2015-17, its not an Ordinance

because Ordinance 2015-17 states that it can be amended by Resolution, essentially, the amounts and what this is, is an adjustment of fees, so I just want to make the clear for the record.

Mayor Cason: OK.

Mr. Kleiman: Good morning, Keith Kleiman, Assistant Finance Director for Management and Budget. The item before you is to suggest the increases for our utilities. The first item is storm Water. This item is in anticipation of the sea level rise assessment, it is solely to accumulate fund balance for the future. At this point we do not know how much the improvements will cost, but you can anticipate a very large number, so we are starting small. This will increase the City's revenue by a million dollars, it will go straight to fund balance, and its for the investment in our future.

Mayor Cason: So its basically going into the closed fund for improvements and when you know what has to be done then it will be spent.

Mr. Kleiman: Right. And we don't know that yet.

Mayor Cason: When will we know that?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: You have a sea level assessment that is being done. You all authorized that as an expenditure for last year. It is raising the infrastructure and we don't yet have the estimate of cost, but Finance felt that it was prudent to begin that collection of resources now rather than wait till you have...

Mayor Cason: I think a couple of those pump stations are zero feet above sea level, Coco Plum and another one, if I recall from our sea level rise maps, so its important to prepare for what's coming.

Mr. Kleiman: Right.

Commissioner Lago: May I ask a quick question through the Mayor. Are we the first City that's taking these measures that you are aware of?

Mr. Kleiman: Miami Beach over the last three years has been increasing the ERU by considerable amounts. They have active flooding and so they went up, I believe, almost ten dollars (\$10.00) per ERU. I can't promise the exact numbers, but they just did a two or three hundred million dollar bond issue just to address their flooding issues, and that is due to sea level

rise. I know myself, I live in Fort Lauderdale; Fort Lauderdale is reaching out to some other cities to find out what their ERU's are, so the cities are starting to look at this and we want Coral Gables to be prepared now for the future.

Mayor Cason: And also you anticipate, it says here, a ten percent Miami-Dade waste water treatment increase.

Mr. Kleiman: Yes. We actually have new information as of yesterday afternoon; the actual fee increase is 5.73 percent, they voted on it, but they also introduced a...which is going to cost us an additional \$315,000. The numbers by chance end up working out exactly the same, as an increase of \$500,000 that we put right toward the disposal fee, and on top of that we have a...item that we have to comply with and our staffing levels have to go up by one, that's going to be around \$60,000.

Mayor Cason: OK. Any questions? We have one person who would like to speak on this. Sylvia Suetta.

Ms. Suetta: Good morning. Thank you for letting me speak; Sylvia Suetta, 1157 Astoria. I also still own the original house where I had the home invasion at 818 Pisano, it's a closed street. I am amazed and disturbed to see that people doing the yard work in the north end come with food trucks...

Mayor Cason: Are you going to be talking about this assessment?

Ms. Suetta: I'm talking about solid waste collection.

Mayor Cason: OK – alright.

Ms. Suetta: You are having to pick up more waste from certain areas, because people are illegally dumping and that is not being attended to. My 818 Pisano is empty and I go frequently because it's a vacant house; and what I have seen really amaze me. I don't mind paying, but we need a partnership from the City of Coral Gables to monitor these fees, they are really stealing from all of us by illegally dumping and I'm ready to pay.

Mayor Cason: We discussed that, I think the last Commission meeting, we are all very concerned.

Commissioner Lago: And we are all on board in regards to your statements and I brought that up, your exact concerns, I brought it up to our staff. Commissioner Keon has been an advocate, I

want to be careful of the words I use, but I don't want to say eliminating, but that's the way I feel. I think that we should eliminate the garbage pits, but she's talking about swales, which could encompass some sort of elimination of the garbage swales which in turn would force, because we are the only City, in my opinion, that I know of that allows for that type of green matter to be dumped by the landscapers and we've mentioned as a Commission-as-a-whole that something needs to be done, and the issue that a lot of these landscapers go unnoticed, they are not documented in the sense of, we don't have any records of their licenses, we can't notify them if there is a change in the law there are a few other things that I brought up. The fact that they park in the middle of the street, they result in more congestion, they bring in the actual green matter from other cities and dump it into our City streets. I've caught them, I've caught them doing it.

Ms. Suetta: I tell you, I go to the house because its an empty house, what I have seen really amaze me, I'm delighted it's a closed street.

Commissioner Lago: The last thing I was going to tell you was, all I ask is that we are in the process of studying the swales right now and our staff is looking into that. Give us a little bit of patience probably the next six months, we are going to be coming back, staff's going to be coming back with some recommendations and I think you'd be happy to hear that this Commission is taking action on this.

Ms. Suetta: I will be excited to work with the board.

Mayor Cason: Great – thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: Alright, do we have a motion on H-2?

Commissioner Keon: I'll move it.

Mayor Cason: Commissioner Keon makes the motion, the Vice Mayor seconds it – City Clerk.

Commissioner Slesnick: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Vice Mayor Quesada: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes
(Vote: 5-0)

[End: 10:54:19 a.m.]