

City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item M
December 11, 2018
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 Frank Quesada

City Staff

City Manager, Peter Iglesias
City Attorney, Miriam Ramos
Assistant City Attorney, Stephanie Throckmorton
City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman
Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia
Assistant Economic Development Director, Leonard Roberts

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item M [0:00:00 p.m.]

This time is for informal discussion among the City Commissioners, the City Manager and the City Attorney

Commissioner Quesada: I have just a quick...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Quick, quick.

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Commissioner Quesada: Something quick.

Vice Mayor Lago: I have a few things, too.

Commissioner Quesada: I have some appointments that I want to fill. You mind if I just do it real quick? Planning and Zoning, my appointment resigned, so I want to appoint Alexis Mantecon, who is a City resident. Do we have to vote on that or no?

Commissioner Keon: Yeah, you confirm it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: What are his qualifications?

Commissioner Quesada: He's been in real estate. He ran a real estate investment trust. He's done real estate work all over the world.

Vice Mayor Lago: And he's a sharp -- very sharp guy.

Commissioner Quesada: Sharp guy. Lived in the City his whole life, good guy.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No, no, great, great.

Commissioner Quesada: And then for the Emergency Management Division, I have some openings. I want to appoint resident Carlos Ortega and Antonio Pinera, which both are Coral Gables residents, and I have two openings there.

Vice Mayor Lago: So moved.

Commissioner Quesada: Second.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: All those in favor, say “aye.”

The Commission (Collectively): Aye.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Opposed? Good.

Commissioner Quesada: Alright.

Commissioner Keon: Do you have any more?

Commissioner Quesada: That’s it.

Commissioner Keon: Is that it?

Commissioner Quesada: Yeah. And I was just -- this is -- I had Chelsea bring this to me. We have some vacancies, some of us, so I’ll pass this down so you guys see it.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay.

Commissioner Keon: I have a bunch on Emergency Management, but you know what, they never meet. Nobody ever talks about it. It’s like I don’t...

Commissioner Quesada: They don’t...

Commissioner Keon: They don’t meet. They don’t -- they play golf, bless their souls. But I mean, I don’t -- yeah, I think we should look at that whole Emergency Management...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But they had a role when the hurricane was here and they...

Commissioner Keon: You think?

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Made calls to homeowners' associations and things like that, yeah.

Commissioner Keon: Okay, alright.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Yeah, they did.

Commissioner Keon: Then leave it, okay.

Commissioner Quesada: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay. Commissioner Lago.

Vice Mayor Lago: Commissioner Keon.

Commissioner Keon: Does -- who has the -- at Granada Golf Course, the Pro Shop, who is -- is that under -- is that managed by the City or is that managed by...

City Manager Iglesias: It's owned by...

Commissioner Keon: Is it contracted out for management or...

City Manager Iglesias: It's owned by the City, but it's not managed by the City.

Commissioner Keon: Who manages it?

City Manager Iglesias: That's the -- let me see if...

Commissioner Keon: Okay. Let me tell you what I'd like you to do. Whoever manages that, whoever is responsible for cleaning it, whoever is...

City Manager Iglesias: Because there was an issue whether the Biltmore managed it or we have the other management...

Commissioner Keon: I mean, you can figure out whoever it is that is supposed to be cleaning and managing that, but somebody needs to be assigned there to clean the bathrooms on a regular basis.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Clean the bathrooms.

Commissioner Keon: And -- the bathrooms are gross.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And everything else.

Commissioner Keon: Yeah. The whole -- I mean, the bathrooms are not in good repair. We need to assess the condition of particularly the bathrooms, but that whole building where the golf shop is because I don't imagine it's going anywhere. I'm assuming that that's going to be a long-term asset that we're going to hold. You need to take a look at it and what kind of condition it's in and particularly, the bathrooms and the maintenance of those bathrooms. I don't know -- I never see anybody there to clean them, so...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Can I...

Commissioner Keon: I don't know when they get cleaned or who cleans them or how they clean them, but once a day to clean a public bathroom is inappropriate.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That's...

Assistant Economic Development Director Roberts: We'll look into it.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: An embarrassment, Commissioner, and I fully agree with you. But also, there's that empty space there. I mean, that pro shop needs something. It needs...

Commissioner Keon: That's what I'm saying. You need to look at that whole utilization of that space.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It is underutilized.

Assistant Economic Development Director Roberts: We -- yeah.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And it's a shame, an embarrassment.

Commissioner Keon: It is. It looks terrible.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: They sell three T-shirts and...

Assistant Economic Development Director Roberts: We've had discussions...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Two books...

Commissioner Keon: It's unsightly.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And you know...

Commissioner Keon: So, I'd like you to come back and I'd like you to provide for me -- or for us, the first meeting in October -- I mean, in January, evaluation of the status of that pro shop, how

it's managed, its cleanliness and its utilization of its space and what your recommendations are with regard to that.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: I fully agree and commend you for bringing that up.

Assistant Economic Development Director Roberts: Yeah, will do.

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Okay.

Vice Mayor Lago: Thank you, Leonard.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Is that it?

Commissioner Keon: That's it.

Vice Mayor Lago: Anything else? A few things. Just in regards to Kessler.

Commissioner Quesada: You should have hit the gavel when you had the chance.

Vice Mayor Lago: Oh, man. I'm going to make you happy. I'm going to bring something up right now that's going to make you happy. Alright, in reference to Kessler, when will we have that report completed in regards to garbage and recycling?

City Manager Iglesias: We're getting that done at the beginning of the year.

Vice Mayor Lago: Okay, so can I put it on the agenda for January 22?

City Manager Iglesias: I would put it on February.

Vice Mayor Lago: February?

City Manager Iglesias: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Put it on the agenda. I want that item on the agenda. I want to talk recycling cardboard, okay. Next thing, this is just for Vice Mayor Quesada, okay. So, I've had two residents come to me in the last and two weeks mentioning undergrounding for FP&L.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Oh, my god.

Vice Mayor Lago: I would like to have a workshop with you to discuss a possible referendum either in the next election or the following one to talk about special taxing district, a bond, something -- I want to have a discussion. I want to put it before the people.

Commissioner Quesada: You have to do it next meeting because (INAUDIBLE)...

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It can't be...

Commissioner Keon: Too late.

Vice Mayor Lago: I know.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It's not...

Vice Mayor Lago: It's fine.

City Attorney Ramos: And Vice Mayor...

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Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It can't be the next one. We're going to have that, very comprehensive...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

City Attorney Ramos: I'll set up something with Chelsea to talk to you about some of those issues.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: But we can have a special...

Vice Mayor Lago: But I can have the discussion here.

City Attorney Ramos: Of course. I just want you to know that...

Vice Mayor Lago: I can have a discussion.

City Attorney Ramos: I have some updates for you.

Vice Mayor Lago: I'm not breaking any rules or anything like that. So, I want to have a...

(COMMENTS MADE OFF THE RECORD)

Vice Mayor Lago: I want to have a discussion with my colleagues because I didn't think of this. Commissioner Quesada has run numbers. He's thought about everything possible on how to deal with this issue. But two residents came up to me and said, listen, well, why don't you just put it before the voters and have the voters pay for it over the next 20 years, over the next 30 years.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Love it, perfect.

Vice Mayor Lago: And see if they're willing to do it as a referendum. And I thought, my god, I'll bring it up at the next Commission meeting.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Good.

Vice Mayor Lago: So, Mr. City Manager, let's schedule time, a workshop. You can put it in conjunction with our other workshop, 30 minutes before, 45 minutes before, after I speak to the City Attorney, who's probably going to tell me a million and one things about litigation and...

City Attorney Ramos: It has nothing to do with...

Vice Mayor Lago: Covering ourselves.

City Attorney Ramos: It has nothing to do with litigation or the workshop.

Vice Mayor Lago: And how FP&L won't let us do this because they're going to send a thousand lobbyists every year. Actually, I see some of them are here already.

City Attorney Ramos: They're for an update.

Vice Mayor Lago: You know, how they don't want -- you know, it's just not feasible and the whole thing. So, that's the second thing. Third thing, I want to commend staff. Exceptional job, tree lighting. I mean, it was incredible. Amazing, amazing job.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: It was wonderful.

Vice Mayor Lago: I also want to commend Merrick Park and their staff and our staff for the tree lighting ceremony they did there. I mean, thousands of people were there and everything went off without a hitch. Police, Fire, did a great job.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And Coral Gables House, the opening...

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And the commemoration.

Vice Mayor Lago: And the Arts.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: That was also wonderful.

Vice Mayor Lago: The Arts and Culture did an exceptional job also. Hank Willis Thomas, everything went off without a hitch. Art Basel event was great. And I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Let me say something.

Commissioner Keon: Happy Holidays.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Wait, wait, wait, wait. Today is a momentous occasion. This is the last meeting in which we are going to have a wonderful City Clerk as our City Clerk, and I wanted to recognize the occasion on my behalf and behalf of the City Commission. Thank him for his service to -- I wanted to do it in public. We'll have a luncheon and a ceremony tomorrow, but this is -- you've been wonderful to the City of Coral Gables. You've been incredibly creative in bringing us programs, and Walter, you will be missed. You will be very, very missed.

(APPLAUSE)

City Clerk Foeman: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I can only say I'll miss Coral Gables, spent my last 15 years here. And we've been -- thank you for the latitude and allowing me to be creative and to inspire and lead in my office. And you certainly will be missed, as well as the City of Coral Gables organization. Thank you.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: And I also -- I wanted to ask -- call the roll one last time.

Vice Mayor Lago: Call the roll.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: Call the roll. I make a motion that you call the roll.

City Clerk Foeman: Okay, Mr. Mayor.

Commissioner Keon: Yes.

Vice Mayor Lago: Yes.

Commissioner Quesada: Yes.

Commissioner Mena: Yes.

Mayor Valdes-Fauli: No.

(Vote: 4-1)

Vice Mayor Lago: Let's take a picture. Let's take a picture. Let's take a picture.

(APPLAUSE)

Vice Mayor Lago: Mr. City Clerk, let's take a picture. Come on.

Commissioner Keon: Photographer.

Vice Mayor Lago: (INAUDIBLE), will you take our picture?