

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

(The following may contain inaudible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Officer, would you close the door for me, please? Thank you. Okay, guys. You all ready to get started? Thank you, everyone, and welcome to our first workshop. I think everybody's in order. Let's see. We can, uh, get our -- anybody hear from Councilperson Lowe, Mr. Lowe? Well, anyway, we have a quorum so -- I've got so many papers here. Make sure we've got everything we need. Okay. We will now -- well, I'll ask everybody please to turn off your cell phones to vibrate or off.

And this meeting is a little bit different from the others in that we don't have, um, on the agenda an area for public comments on anything other than the agenda items. However, I understand that we do have a guest here and we will allow Gary Hines -- we will allow you to -- to -- to, um --

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: I think you've got a card. You've got a card.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. We'll allow him, since he is here, to do this. All right. Um, let's have roll call, please.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: Mayor Thomas Masters? Chairperson Billie Brooks?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: Chair Pro-tem Dawn Pardo?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Present.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Cedrick Thomas?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Judy Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Here.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: Councilperson Shelby Lowe? City Manager Ruth Jones?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Present.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: Deputy City Clerk Claudene Anthony is present. City Attorney Pamala Ryan?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Present.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Let us stand for a moment of silence for the

invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Miss Ryan. (Everyone stood for a Moment of Silence with the Pledge of Allegiance being led by City Attorney Ryan).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I need a motion now, please, to approve the agenda. Oh, that's right. We're at a workshop so we won't need it. Okay. Um, Madam -- uh, Miss Jones, we have any -- any -- well, I guess we don't have any additions or deletions. This is a workshop and I have to say I'm just so pleased that this is our first opportunity as a -- as a council to get together and just talk. Gives the city manager an opportunity to share with us and the public her vision, her ideas, her initiatives, things that are going on on the City side.

At our regular meetings, we simply just do not have time for that. So I -- I think it -- the -- our residents will find that this kind of information is going to be very beneficial to you. You'll know what is going on in our city. And please feel free to call us with any comments, suggestions or whatever that you might have. Okay, Miss --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes. Yes, uh-huh. Miss Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Um, Miss Jones, we have a --

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- an additional packet here. Is -- outside of the three items that are listed on the agenda. Where's this gonna be?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Okay. Wait. You may not have a revised --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I don't have a revised one. No.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: See -- get on the back table.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

DEPUTY CLERK ANTHONY: See what's on the back table.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Do I have a revised one?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: No, I don't have it, either.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: If -- if it's -- if it's -- if I don't -- I'd like to do something out of order here because we do have Gary Hines here. And I -- as I say, we don't have the time for public comments, aside from agenda items. Would it be okay if we allow Mr. Hines to just come forward so he doesn't have to --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Go ahead. Yeah.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- spend the evening, although we'd love to hear about the great things that's going on. Okay. Introduce yourself, who you're with, that kind of thing.

GARY HINES: Yes, Madam Chair, thank you. And council members, thank you so much for this opportunity. For the record, Gary Hines. I'm a Palm Beach County native. Grew up in West Palm Beach, live in Royal Palm Beach now with my wife. I've

been, for the past 23 years, employed by the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County and, uh, doing economic development. Basically business recruitment expansion retention, companies and jobs, capital investment here in Palm Beach County.

And I just asked Miss Jones, Mr. Jones if there's an opportunity that I could come and personally thank the city council and the senior staff for the great working relationship we have; I want to take that opportunity. So that's why I'm here tonight, is to thank you.

In my 23 plus years with the Business Development Board -- and Kelly Smallridge, our President and CEO (inaudible). She's been there going on 25 years now. City of Riviera Beach ranks as one of the top two or three cities that have been recipients of projects that the BDB (inaudible) companies either relocating or expanding. You've got so many great attributes to this city. You're a port city. You're a waterfront city. You've got great industrial areas.

You've got a staff that's extremely cooperative. What a pleasure working with Miss Jones, Mr. Jones, Mary McKinney, Jeff -- I'm going to stop there 'cause I'll miss some names and I don't want hurt feelings but --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And I don't want you to talk fast. I want these people to hear every -- good thing you -- so you gotta back up.

GARY HINES: Maybe it's nervousness or just -- this is my nature. I can talk fast. Well, I'm Southern so I should talk slow.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: No, no, no. You don't have to talk fast.

GARY HINES: I'm a Southerner.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah, because I want everybody to, you know, really massage this, to digest this.

GARY HINES: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You're saying good things about our staff.

GARY HINES: Absolutely. Well, and they're well-deserved. And that's why I'm here.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

GARY HINES: I believe you're one of the first cities that adopted expedited permitting.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

GARY HINES: Fast-track permitting at the request of Kelly Smallridge a couple years ago. There are now 14 cities in Palm Beach County from Jupiter to Boca and the unincorporated county, they -- the county commission adopted it, as well.

And that has been a real plus. Because in my -- in our business, we work with site selectors, international site selectors. And most of them are outside of Florida.

They're in Boston, Chicago, New York, L.A., Canada. And they're hired by big companies to scout states, drill down to counties, communities and look at buildings. And really, they are site eliminators. You know, their job is -- well, they don't get paid until they find the perfect building, the perfect site, community, for one of their big corporate clients.

And the faster they can eliminate the wannabes, the quicker they are to get their commission check. And one of the first things they look at when they're looking at a state, a county, a community, they're looking at how business-friendly that community is.

Do you have -- do you have fast-track permitting? They -- fast-track permitting is not an incentive to them. That's a given.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

GARY HINES: And -- and -- and if -- if the city that they're considering for their client doesn't have fast-track permitting, guess what? Check them off.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh.

GARY HINES: They don't even -- you don't even get a visit by their client because you've been written off. But this city is doing some very progressive things. And again, I'm just here tonight to compliment you, especially your staff that have been such a pleasure to work with.

And -- and the better news -- I'm going to end with this -- I hope I haven't overtaken my time.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, no, no.

GARY HINES: We have a couple of projects right now --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Take your time.

GARY HINES: -- I can't disclose their name. They're confidential, of course. But there's a couple of projects that -- I'm working with one. My colleague, uh, Brian Cartland is working with another one that is considering Riviera Beach. You're on the short list. So hopefully in a couple weeks, couple months --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Wonderful.

GARY HINES: -- we'll have the -- some good news.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, wonderful.

GARY HINES: So thank you very much. If there's questions for me about the BDB and our -- and our role, be happy to, uh, address those questions.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Any questions? Well, we're just so delighted that you came and gave us this wonderful news. Now we can wake up and be all revitalized. Thank you so much, Mr. Hines.

GARY HINES: My pleasure. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Thank you.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Thanks, Gary.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Miss Jones, you have the floor.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Thank you so much. And to members of council, let me say thank you for, uh, this, our first workshop on the third Wednesday, and for your deciding to use this opportunity for the -- for me and the staff, you know, to talk to you about the things that are going on. Very seldom do we get the opportunity just to talk.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: And to listen and to, therefore, know how to move forward. So I want to say thank you for this opportunity.

Tonight what we want to do first is to give you an update on our economic development strategy and some of the things that we've done, as well as the things that we want to do, um, as we move forward.

We all know that as a result of the last census, the City of Riviera Beach has an additional 3,000 residents. And these residents didn't come here by accident. There's some amenity. There's something here in this city that made the individuals look at Riviera Beach.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: And just like Mr. Hines just mentioned, businesses are coming to Riviera Beach. And -- and so that we can make sure that we are positioned and that we are ready to receive the residents as well as to provide businesses with a great opportunity, I think it's important that we continue to concentrate on our economic development strategy.

One of the first things I noticed when I looked at the first organizational chart is that there was not a department or a component for economic development. And my questions were, How do they move forward? What are they doing?

But under your leadership, I can say that the City is well positioned now three years later compared to where we were. And I say under your leadership because when I talked about being business-friendly, you gave me the charge. And you said, "Go out and make it happen." And so we have done a great deal of work and we want to talk about those things today.

One of the things -- if those of you that attended the National League of Cities Conference in Texas in 2010 on economic development heard about deal breakers. And one of the deal breakers was due to the rapidly changing market conditions and the global economy, municipal leaders often lack complete up-to-date information regarding the specific location needs.

And so when we looked at this and we talked about it and we saw the deal breakers that were taking place, we said, Okay. Now, we want to tackle this first deal breaker and what is, um, described by the National League of Cities as something that municipalities and municipal leaders should be concerned about.

Before I get any further I think it's good for our residents to know a little bit about the demographics and where we are, uh, in the city. Based on the 2010 Census, our current population was estimated then at 32,488. Males comprise 47 percent of our population, and females 52 percent.

The median age was 37 years, 5 months; wherein Florida, the median age was 41 years and 3 months. So we're not too far behind that.

But one of the things that caught our attention also about this data was that in Riviera Beach the estimated median household income was only \$34,664. Um, it was \$33,111 in 2000. That's not a major increase. And in order for the -- us to increase that, we realize that economic development, business recruitment and expansion, bringing in jobs will help us to increase the percentage that you're seeing in front of you.

When you look this map shows us, um, information as it relates to where our jobs are basically concentrated, and how many jobs they are. And if you look, you notice the deeper the purple, the more jobs or individuals that are employed in those particular locations.

As we move to the east, we realize we're more residential. And then we have our working waterfront along this area and then, of course, as we go across Singer Island, we have the hospitality industry on that particular side.

But as we look at this, it shows us very quickly and graphically where the concentration of our jobs are and where we can then begin to concentrate our efforts in order to improve the number of jobs within that particular geographic location.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss Jones, what are the east/west boundaries there? Or I should say the west, for that purple --

CITY MANAGER JONES: That purple is taking you just --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- that area?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah, 'cause see, here's Beeline. It comes out -- so it's taking you -- also including all of your, uh, industrial area all the way out west.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Okay. Okay.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes. 'Cause here you've got 95.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah. So then you've got Military and then you've got Haverhill Road.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Okay. Now I have it turned the right way. Okay. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER JONES: When we look at the local unemployment statistics and we're looking at the comparisons -- I'm a data and trend person and I want to see what the data and the trends shows me. So if we look at this particular chart it will show us that in 2008 our, um, workforce was at 16,509. And that was -- had a slight decrease in -- when we moved down to 2009. And then when we get to 2010, all of us know that was when we had our -- probably our least number of individuals employed within the

city.

By '11 it started moving back up to 14,075. And for the first seven-month average in 2012, we're at about 14,056. So you can see that things went down slightly and now they're beginning to slowly creep back up as it relates to our -- our labor force. And then also those individuals that are employed within our city. We see that in 2011 - - and '08 we had approximately 1,182 individuals unemployed. That number went up as high as 1,821 and is now back down to approximately the seven-month average of 1,510. And I must say we got these numbers from Workforce Development and they have been very cooperative and instrumental in helping us identify the trends in our workforce and the information that we need in order to determine how we want to move forward.

When we really look at our unemployment rate in percentages we know generally -- if you look at the national numbers, they don't tell you the raw numbers. They're always telling you the percentages. So when you look at our unemployment rate in percentages, you could see that in 2008 our unemployment was 7.1 -- 7.2, I'm sorry. 2010 we went all the way up to 13 percent, well above the national average.

In 2012 for the seven-month average, we're down to 10 percent. But if we look at where we want to be, we realize that this is still very high. And we've got to do what we can to bring businesses in, to train the labor force so that we can continue to impact this unemployment number in the city.

So where are we going to try to employ these individuals and bring in these businesses? This map -- the yellow (inaudible) is just showing you the boundaries within the city. But if you will look at the kind of -- the bluish area, that will show you our light industrial, as well as our commercial areas, the land that we have available.

One of the things that Mr. Hines just said is that there are individuals that are hired to eliminate sites. And what we want to do is not be eliminated but to show the benefits and the -- and the, um, amenities that we offer here in the City of Riviera Beach.

Of course, along the water we have the working waterfront. Um, and then you have the area along Old Dixie which provides another corridor there for our light industrial development. That has been set aside -- we've talked about the intermodal and the history of this area and how we want to build on the history of how all of this originally got started.

So what did do we do? As Mr. Hines mentioned, one of the first things when I met with them was the request for us to, um, institute expedited permitting. We realize that we are a part of an enterprise zone which is very important to us. And two years ago at a retreat on Singer Island we went through the initial steps of a strategic planning process.

In that strategic planning process, one of the initiatives identified by you, the elected body, was economic development and business recruitment and retention.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Excuse me, Miss Jones. Uh, let the record reflect that Councilman Lowe is present, please. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER JONES: There have also been partnerships between the government and the private sector, whether that is, uh, the work that the CRA is doing with the working waterfront, as well as our work with businesses within our business corridor and our light industrial area.

Some of the other things that we've done is that during -- in the 2011/'12 budget, you approved the hiring of a full-time business and economic development manager. As reported earlier, interviews were conducted. However, I did not feel that I had the combination of skill sets that I was looking for. But it wasn't, um, in our position to stop just because we didn't have a person that we hired.

So what do we start to do? Staff started getting together. And I'm flanked by two of the best sitting here now. And we decided although there wasn't a position, we still could and needed to move forward in the area of economic development.

You'll recall that along our 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor, which is a main corridor in our light industrial area, um, we received appropriations from the State of \$500,000. And in your capital approval, you approved an additional \$650,000 so that we can continue to improve the 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor.

You can't ask businesses to come into your area and they can't get down the street or that is not a presentable or attractive street. So in order to attract businesses, this is one of the areas and one of the streets that we identified. And we are continuing to move forward in the development of 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

But you need to cross 13<sup>th</sup> Street at Australian if you're going west. And staff has worked with the County to obtain traffic signalization. And as -- they're working on, uh, Australian so that they will place a light there at 13<sup>th</sup> and Australian, so getting across will be a lot easier as we begin to develop the 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor. In addition there's been the continued intergovernmental cooperation and working with the entities.

But there was also a void. And in that void, um, one of the areas that was cited very early was in our GIS and identification of what we have. You can't sell what you don't know you don't have. So it was important for us to identify and maintain an inventory of all the available land, businesses that were, um -- facilities that were available, what space was vacant within the city.

Because if someone is looking to come to Riviera Beach, this is information they already expect us to have. We also needed to make sure that we continued to improve and work on our liaison with, um, our business partners, with entities within the state that -- within the county, I'm sorry, that works toward business recruitment, development and retention.

Um, we're fortunate enough here in the city to have two coalitions of local businesses, the Riviera Beach Business Coalition, as well as the Riviera Beach Business Association, that continue to work with us in identifying potential businesses to come to our -- our area.

And, of course, um, our working relationship, as Mr. Hines mentioned, with the Business Development Board is very important, as well as the County's Office of Economic Sustainability and the Northern -- the Northern Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce, all of which work very well with us and we try to attend as many of the

meetings as we possibly can.

Uh, but one of the things that was important that you told me when I was hired is that you wanted to see better working relationships with the County and with the other entities. And I can truthfully say that that relationship has been approved.

But when I -- the first item I mentioned, however, was the inventory. So how do we go about doing that? What we were fortunate enough to do was to engage the Engenuity Group to assist us in a pilot program in gathering the information that we needed.

We found that they had a 22-year technical history with the city. We found that they had 17 years in GIS experience and gathering and categorizing and presenting this kind of data, and they had also had several years of experience in Palm Beach County. So they didn't have to get to know us. So we didn't have to go and introduce ourselves to a particular group. We had an entity that knew us very well and was willing to work with us.

They also had a team of specialists that could come along and work alongside them that have -- had -- have experience in government relations, as well as served on economic development boards within cities throughout the, um, South Florida. And so we felt as though that they were a good fit for what we needed to do in this pilot program, as well as they were able to come in under my signature authority which made it even greater.

So what I would like to do now is to turn the -- the rest of the -- this section of the presentation over to Terrance Bailey. And he will be assisted by staff from Engenuity to talk about what we were able to do in this pilot area and the kinds of things that will be happening.

It's important that as we get -- gather our data, that we have our data linked with other entities like the North Palm -- Northern Palm Beach County Chamber, the Business Development Board. So if someone is sitting in China and they're looking for a facility, that they can ascertain the information needed in the City of Riviera Beach to be able to do that. Mr. Bailey?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So who you are and your title and all that good stuff, Mr. Bailey.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: All right. Uh, Terrance Bailey, your City Engineer. This is my, um, first time at the dais so please excuse me if I go astray. But, um, I really enjoyed working on this project and -- and bringing this to you today. What we -- what we've done here is we've leveraged the data that that we have existing. It --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You want to introduce the parties, the other members of your team?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Oh, I -- I apologize. This is Mr. Andre Rayman from Engenuity, the President of Engenuity. And Rachele, their GIS manager. I believe that you have some other members of your team in the audience?

ANDRE RAYMAN: Yeah.

ROBERT HOCHBERG: Robert Hochberg, part of the Engenuity Group team on your economic development -- excuse me -- initiative. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Thank you, dear. And that's the team.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I love it.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: So what you see here is Google Earth. Uh, this is any -- it's free software. You can download this right now on your home computer and Google gives it away for free.

One of the reasons we chose this platform is it's -- it is free and it's integrated and Google is amazing in the products that they produce. So building a product on top of something as excellent as Google seemed the way to go.

Rachelle's going to give you a little demonstration of the power -- and you'll be able to do this not only through the website in the future but at your home and look up information at any point with -- with the software platform that we've created. So Rachelle, go ahead. I'll be talking as she's pushing buttons and --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You might -- you might have to share the mike with her.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Right. Yep. As you can see, there's I-95 a little bit to the west and 710 sort of cutting diagonally. And, uh, well, you all -- you recognize your city. There's Peanut Island and the others. But as we move through, we chose this beginning, this blue box that you can see is the pilot area, as our light industrial core. It's roughly bound by Australian to the west, Dixie to the east, Blue Heron. And I think it goes down to approximately 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

But this is what we know as our light industrial core where we have a lot of manufacturing that occurs. And it -- it presented a very rich data set for us to begin a pilot area -- a pilot project and see what kind of data we can collect and how we can leverage that in the future.

Um, one of the beauties of using Google Earth, like I said, this is fresh out of the box. That Atlas Sign Industries, that's information that Google has pre-populated that you get for free and we didn't have to do anything to get that. And you can see some of the other icons inside the pilot area and the information that it provides.

The first thing that, as we said, you have to know what you have. This is the parcel data. This tells you all of the different pieces of property in -- inside the pilot area. And every one of those pieces of property, you're able to acquire at the click of a mouse, as you see, all of the information that's publicly available for that parcel.

This is sort of the -- the base of our inventory. Now we know what we have. We know where it is. So if somebody asks us the question, any of you at any given point, whether you're in Beijing or whether you're at your home, can get access to this information.

More importantly, the public will be able to get this information and they'll be able to leverage that wherever they are to make purchasing decisions here in the city. But this is just the beginning.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Can I ask you a question?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss Davis has a question.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Yeah. Yes, please feel free.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay. Using Google Earth and you say, for instance, that parcel right there, now, that -- the -- the population that you just showed us --

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- was not part of Google Earth. You guys did that, right?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Yes, ma'am. That --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: -- that we moved -- once we got past -- as soon as you saw us click on the colored lines --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: -- that is the data that we created.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Gotcha.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Now, that data came from a number of different sources.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Palm Beach County provides some data.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: We have many data sources that we aggregate together to -- to bring you and present it in this map-based format.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh. Fantastic.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: All right. Next what you have is we looked at the plus or minus 2,800 businesses that exist inside the City of Riviera Beach, and we isolated just the businesses here in the pilot area so you could see the green dots and -- and they're a little hard to see on the screen. But each of those green dots represents an active business inside the city.

Somebody building something, hiring people, spending money here in the city. And that, uh, data set is reflected here where you can see. It gives you some basic information about that, uh -- that corporation. As we move forward, we will be asking those corporations to provide even more information that we can share and use to figure out, uh, more data and more information to provide you to make good decisions.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Now, you, sir --

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- you're saying that there 2,800 businesses in Riviera Beach?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Plus or minus, yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Wow. Now, those do --

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Now, not in the pilot area. I mean, I'm -- citywide.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, this is the pilot area.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: But -- this is just the pilot area.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But citywide -- now, how many --

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: But citywide --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- do we have in the pilot area?

ANDRE RAYMAN: 162?

RACHELLE GREIN: 171.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: 170 plus or minus.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, okay. Great. Okay.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: So next we went to -- obviously you know all the parcels that you have. Now we've annotated all of the businesses that are occupying parcels. But if I'm trying to come to Riviera Beach, I need to know what I can buy. I need to know what's vacant and I need to know buildings that are empty.

So the next -- what we've just turned on are vacant parcels. You could see, um, that piece of property between Baron Signs and the old drive-in --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Drive-thru.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Drive-in.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: -- amphitheater. Um, it's -- it was -- it's been for sale for a little while. It's vacant. We're hoping that a beautiful business comes in there.

But if I'm sitting in Beijing and I want to know where can I bring my business, I click on that toggle and that little red box with yellow outline comes up.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: I hover over this informational -- information, and I get this dialogue box. And you can click on that, either of those hyperlinks.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: We're going right to the property appraiser's website.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Fantastic.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: It directly takes you to property appraiser's and it

take -- you can see how big that property is, when the last time it sold, who owns it, the taxes that are paid on it and all the other information that we don't have to create.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: The property appraiser has done it for us.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, who owns that building? Who owns that, uh, amphitheater?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Well, you know what? That's -- hey, I'm -- I'm sitting in Beijing and I ask that question. And it is 13<sup>th</sup> Street Riviera Investment LLC.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: All right.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Now, depending on your operating system, you can highlight that name, right-click and Google Search who that is and probably find their information.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: We won't spend the time now 'cause we didn't practice that and I would hate for it not to work. But, um, theoretically you can do that. Sir, you have another question?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Um, no. I -- I -- I enjoyed seeing that.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Okay. Um, close that and let's do it again so that everybody can see it. All right. So the other link. We know that property is for sale and we want some particulars on the sale entity. You hit the second link and it takes you directly to LoopNet and you've got all the contact information for the seller, things like that.

We're trying to make it cost-effective and friction-less if you're sitting in Beijing and you want to build here, to do it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Wonderful.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's wonderful.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: And so, Terrance, can you -- that -- that address, uh, I'm looking at that ZIP code. Is that correct?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: The 33419?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: That's a P.O. box.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's a post office box.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That's a P.O. box.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's a P.O. box.

CITY MANAGER JONES: That's who's -- that's who's selling the property.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Yeah, that's the -- the -- the address of the selling -- sale agent.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: But that's the -- that can't be an actual --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's a Riviera Beach ZIP code. It is.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: No. It's a post office ZIP code.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right. Right. Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm asking that for a reason, though.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I -- I -- I want to make sure 'cause we've, you know -- everybody's been concentrating on making sure that we get correct ZIP codes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, what -- you know, what would -- if -- if you sent that -- that doesn't look like a post office address. That looks like an actual address on Old Dixie. So if you actually tried to send something there, how would they get it? How would they actually get it if that's --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: They would get it.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: The property's on 13<sup>th</sup>. That's not the address of the property.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can answer that question if you like.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When you're researching real estate, first thing you would do is look up the last name and that would give --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: He needs to come to the mike.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- the last known address of the person (inaudible) property or at least a -- a location of where that (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I get it. I -- I understand that part.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right. And if you move forward -- and if you move forward at that post office address is not correct, then you send it to the last address of known -- known address.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I -- I get it. My only issue with that and the reason why that stuck out is because that's -- that's an actual address --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- on Old Dixie. That's the old Swap Shop.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: But that's not the actual ZIP code of that particular --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Area.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- area. So that -- that is why, you know, I wanted to make sure, if this is being populated by Google --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Hmm.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- do they have our -- our actual information or the correct information, I mean? It makes no sense to go through all of this if we're not gonna be able to actually contact, you know, the -- the actual, you know, owner of the property.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That -- that -- that particular ZIP code is (inaudible) associated with the post office box in Riviera Beach.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Right.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: We -- we, uh --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So chances are they would get it.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Chair --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But some addresses in Riviera Beach, I don't care how many times you put in 33404, it comes up West Palm Beach. But you still get your mail.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Chair Brooks?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But that's just -- yes, sir?

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: We've been working with the post office since, uh, December of last year. And I think it culminated in March. But our local postmaster here in Riviera Beach worked with the City and, uh, Councilperson Davis to finish up changing all of those ZIP codes to read Riviera Beach. Now, what happens is --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) Google.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: -- with Google and with, uh, any entity that buys information from United States Postal Service. They sell this information. And entities update their information occasionally. Some people update it annually. Some people update it five years. But when they buy that information and repopulate their information from the post office, that information will now say Riviera Beach.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Thank you. Thank you. Okay. Continue.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go ahead.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, I'm sorry. There's another question. I'm sorry, sir.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Are there any other questions? 'Cause we're -- we're sort of at the end of the demonstration of all the -- of all the functionality. Obviously there's -- you can see we have populated the entire pilot area with all of this data and all that is available. And it is our intention to take this citywide and provide it in a number of

different platforms.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Um, Mr. Thomas, are you done or --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Mr. Thomas, Miss Davis want to know if you're done.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Did you have other questions or --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: No. I'm good, go ahead.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: What -- what were the red crosses for? What did that signify?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Uh, the red crosses were the vacant properties.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay. All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Sitting from here, there's a lot of vacant properties.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Not Beijing. But, yeah, there was a lot of red crosses on that map that -- we have to take care of that situation.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Absolutely.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: And I -- I think that's what you've asked us to do.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: This Economic Development Initiative -- and actually, seeing the data as opposed to sort of feeling it and it being intrinsic, being able to see real data -- and again, being in Beijing and being able to pick those properties and having options and having all these other initiatives that you've put in place is going to facilitate getting green dots on those red Xes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Fantastic. Great presentation.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Continue.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah. There was another part, you know, as it relates to all of that. What we wanted to basic -- wanted to do was first of all to collect the data, uh, that you just saw, but we also wanted to create it so that there were links to other, uh, data sources.

Um, like the Business Development Board. They have a similar situation whereby you can look at data of vacant properties. Um, in talking with Miss Brooks today, we've talked about how can we make sure that if you're going to Enterprise Florida at the state level and you're looking at Palm Beach County, whether you go through the Business Development Board or go to the individual cities, they will -- there will be -- we're working on make -- getting a link so that the information that you just saw is information that they would have access to.

So by working with the Business Development Board, as well as with, uh, Enterprise Florida, we will be able to, um, make known the vacant spaces that we have and what we have available so that as Mr., uh, Lowe mentioned, to begin to try to fill up those vacant properties.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: One of the other things that we did was identify what was already available --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Wait, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes. Yes. Okay.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: I'm sorry. I have a question.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: So is the CRA going to be hooked into this? Or do -  
- we did the entire city, correct, even the CRA?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Well, right now this is just a pilot for that area.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: We want to continue to expand to do the rest of the city.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Okay.

CITY MANAGER JONES: But in the -- we had to get it set up first and it takes a lot of time for the GIS specialist at Engenuity to go in and get all the other background information to do it.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: But as we talk about where do we go from here and the next steps, it would be completing the rest of our, um, industrial commercial areas within the city. And by all means, that would include what is in the CRA.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right. Thank you, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Additionally what we looked at was some of the incentives and some of the advantages that were already available to our businesses in the city that may have been under-utilized and some of our business owners may not have known about them.

And one of the ones that we looked at at the federal level was the Hub Zone. And what you're looking at now is a map of the Hub Zone. And basically, the hub zone is a program that helps small businesses in urban and -- and rural communities gain preferential treatment as it relates to governmental procurement and contracts.

Um, some of the additional incentives for being in the Hub Zone would be employing people that live within that residential area of the hub zone and also maintaining a principal office in the hub zone, as well. And some of the -- the federal incentives include financial assistance, free counseling and free high-quality training.

The next thing we looked at was some of the Florida incentives. And the Department of Economic Opportunity in the State of Florida provides a great deal of information on their website. They're very friendly and easy to work with. Some of those, uh -- some of the information you can obtain from them would be -- or some of the assistance you can obtain would be community profiling, site identification. As Mr. Hines said earlier, the City works with the BDB, who works through the State of Florida to help lure people to Riviera Beach, provide business incentives and sales tax exemptions, special incentives for locating in certain areas. As I said earlier, in the hub zone. And most importantly, financial incentives.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Mr. Jones?

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Deputy Jones?

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Um, this is really great information. Now, those -- those businesses that might qualify for either one or both -- and you've mentioned --

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Now, here's what we're doing.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- and I recall that some are not even aware of what's offered because they are located in certain areas. So is it going to be our goal to educate them, inform them on what they're eligible for? I don't mean tomorrow but that that is a plan for us? Because it will really benefit them in so many ways to know what they're eligible for.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes, ma'am. Here's -- here's what we plan to do is we plan to host different community events and invite the businesses out. Again, we've been working with the Northern Palm Beach Chamber, as well as the Riviera Beach Business Association. And during this summer, one of the internal initiatives that the City, uh, did was we had interns make contact with every business. And that'll be a little bit later in the presentation.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Good.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: But we are gathering information on how to contact our businesses. Instead of just referring them as we may have done in the past --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: -- we would like to do a little bit more hand-holding and kind of sitting one-on-one with every business to talk about how they can expand and some of the incentives for expanding and some of the programs that they may qualify for. So yes, ma'am, we do intend on doing that.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I've got a question that was posed to me by some of the -- a businessperson in that area. I was not aware that there is no cable connection in the industrial area. So I was boasting about having our TV station and then I learned that they cannot get -- they do not have access into Comcast.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: And we --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And I'm just throwing this out. Is that something that we can advocate for? Because we certainly --

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: -- we -- we've already started advocating. I'll let Terrance talk a little bit about it. We've already -- we were made aware of that situation. We were unaware, just as you were, ma'am. And immediately we took action.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Yes. Uh, being that we are rebuilding 13<sup>th</sup> Street, I've already -- as part of our construction project development, communicated with AT&T and Comcast to help facilitate bringing service along the 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor to those businesses.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What kind of response are you getting from them or reaction?

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: Um, I was given the person's name who was looking into it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Okay. All right.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: But to get back to your -- your previous question about how businesses learn about some of these opportunities, um, one of the initiatives that Engenuity brought to us was -- and we think is fabulous and we're going to initiate here before the end of the first quarter of next year, is a seminar series. Each of the different hub zones, the Develop Sustainability Department. Coming down to our facility, inviting our businesses and doing whatever it takes, even to hand-holding: Here are the forms. Here's the information you're going to -- to gather. Here's who you apply to. Here are the times of year --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: -- when this cycle occurs for you to get into the program. Here are all the options that you have. So we've been working diligently over this summer to get dates from December to, say, February or March so that we can space them out. But it's going to be three, four or five series, specifically Hub Zone. We may just bring Hub Zone in and bring everybody inside that hub zone and personally invite them. You need to know everything there is and all the benefits of just being in the hub zone. And all of these different entities, very targeted, very specific so that, as you said, they know every option available to them when -- when we get done with this program.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Thank you. I like that.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Additionally, we're going to bring in success stories. We want the people who successfully completed those programs to be right there to talk about some of the woes and some of the good, bad and the uglies of actually dealing with, uh, getting those incentives and how to best-practice or provide a best-practice method for doing so.

The first series that we've been looking at scheduling is one with Workforce

Alliance.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: And Workforce Development, to talk about some of the incentives for hiring employees, a business may be able to receive financial assistance for training and, for a certain period of time, that those individuals who they would employ would benefit during that time that they're under training.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, Mr. Lowe?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Can you go back one slide, please? Um, one thing to note is the, uh -- the fact that we have a job center and industrial center right in our midst already that has sat in there over the years and we -- you know, we haven't put a lot of effort and resources into an existing opportunity.

I think, uh -- did you guys mention that you would be able to tell, uh, which companies are hiring Riviera Beach or local residents, as well, in that data?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: (Inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Because if you look at -- if --

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: It's coming.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: It's coming.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: It's coming. We haven't got there yet, but it's coming.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah. We haven't -- it's coming. That'll be a part of the presentation on how we plan to --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Right.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: -- use that information.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You have -- you have, um -- you have, um, you know, a labor -- you have labor to the north, to the west and to the south of that job center. You know, and there's folks in that area that need jobs. And if you have 170 businesses currently with the potential for another 200 businesses, there's no need -- there's no reason why those people aren't -- have -- don't have --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Where is the job center?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Well, this whole industrial area is a job center.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, I thought you meant there was a specific location.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Enterprise.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. You -- all right.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah. I mean, you have --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- you have your hub possibilities. You have your enterprise zone possibilities. The more people know about it, the more advantage they can take of it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's right.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: And most of those, um, programs are tied to local hiring.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: And that's part of the incentive to get in that zone. So you have -- surrounded by this zone you have neighborhoods to the north and south.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: And if we had that information readily available, we can tell who's hiring who. And there's no reason why, you know, those jobs couldn't come from out of that center and employ the neighborhoods that, um --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Surround them.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- that border that -- that particular job center.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: (Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. That's right. That's right. Thanks for sharing that. Okay.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Yeah. Can I just add something?

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: If you go to our -- go ahead. I'm sorry.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Part of it is you also need a trained workforce. And I think that's where -- that's what we lack right now.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Is a trained workforce. And if you speak to the businesses, that's what they'll tell you.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: And one of the things that we -- we plan and we've already discussed with Workforce Alliances, to let those businesses know, if you're going to take a chance on a new employee, you -- here's a financial incentive here, local and ready and available.

If I'm not mistaken, the Workforce Alliance budget has been cut, but the portion of the budget that was not cut was those monies available for training your workforce.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: And the training component.

Those -- that particular budget was not cut. And I want to say that money was not totally spent during the last fiscal year for Workforce Alliance.

If you look now, this is our -- the front of our web page. You'll see the little bottom with the check mark there. That's something we've added to our web page. Now if you go to our web page you'll see that we have a Riviera Beach owner's survey for our businesses.

We want them to click that box and submit additional information to us so that we'll best know how to contact them and get information that we don't normally collect from our business tax receipt or from our water utility service. And that is an e-mail address and a way to contact them outside of Channel 18 and, uh, traditional ways.

CITY ENGINEER BAILEY: As well, uh, in this survey, this is where we ask them, How many employees do you have and how many of them are Riviera Beach residents? And with that data, we'll be able to do analytics on how we're able to keep these jobs home and do benchmarking and progress reports for you all in these efforts.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Our external next steps that we would like to -- and we're here to discuss with you tonight is to expand our pilot area to the entire city. We would like to collect this data on the commercial, industrial and retail areas of our city. So when you click on what we've clicked on here tonight, you'll be able to get that information. We would like to continue to manage the -- database and the table sets for running inquiries, running reports and developing mailing labels so we'll be able to continue to contact our businesses.

We're gonna have, uh, Engenuity Group continue to recommend, reform and changes to our application and -- and our process so that we can better deal with our businesses in a more business-friendly manner. And that group would also assist us in cultivating incoming and expanding businesses to Riviera Beach.

And the next map you'll see is just a map, uh, of the entire expanded area that we're looking to expand the pilot area to.

Internally, our next -- internally, our next steps would be to redesign our website. Currently we're working with QScend to totally redo, re-overhaul our website so that our website would help us, uh, with our economic development site query information, customer service surveys and to help us, refining of our strategic development initiatives.

We will have a marketing video on the website and we will also internally explore municipal incentives, something we haven't talked about. I know our funding is limited but we think that there's some things we may be able to offer.

But overall, if you look at Riviera Beach from an economic, uh -- integrated economic -- as an integrated economic initiative, we're sitting in the center. And all these different components make up our city. Our three main core components of Riviera Beach is the industrial, uh, marine industry and the health industry in Riviera Beach.

And we think if we look at it from a holistic approach for a successful economic initiative, we bring all these different pieces of this puzzle together for a more successful

Riviera Beach.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, Miss Davis.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Um, in -- I talked to some of the businesses along the 13<sup>th</sup> Street corridor in a couple of meetings that they had. And I know, um, Mr. Lowe, you played a part in this, also. But the meeting that I attended, some of the businesses there were trying to get their product out, um, through using the FEC. But using the FE -- getting the FEC cars to their hub area there was a little bit more expensive.

So are we working towards trying to use, um -- I mean, has -- has any part of this considered using the port's, um, car, you know, to come into the area to try to ship products?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Um, yes, Miss Davis. I'm smiling because we've had recent conversations with a couple of businesses with that same strategy.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: In that the engine would come from the port.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh. Right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Go over and pick up the cars and, therefore, you're not having the FEC engine that would have to be going --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- over and picking up the cars to bring them to the port, line them up, and then move them north or south.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So that has been --

CITY MANAGER JONES: So we're --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- so that has been amenable -- amenable to the port --

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- we're beginning -- we're -- we're just beginning to talk to them about that.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay. Great. All right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: But that is the strategy for getting that done.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Is -- is that possibly an alternative or an option for the stacking issue, or has -- have that been discussed in those conversations?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Well, the stacking issue, um, of course, as relates to the current cargo that they're currently moving. But in order for the port to get their cars lined up, they have an engine that they lined up their cars so when they're ready to hook in, it's already in place and in, uh, position to do that. And I believe what Miss Davis was talking about is that instead of trying to work with the FEC --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- to get them to take their engine over on the west side of Old Dixie where we've got the rails already, if we could -- would talk with the port about them using their engine to bring them across and over on the east side --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right. To stack them.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- put them in line to stack and then be ready to transport, um, either north or south.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah. What I was -- what I was -- what I was, uh, suggesting or saying is that maybe some of the stacking can take place on the western side. You know? And -- 'cause you have these existing rail spurs that are sitting empty.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-uh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You know, if you do some of the stacking on the west side and then bring them together, you know, from a logistics standpoint, then that might eliminate the, uh -- the problem that exists on Blue Heron with the -- with the train blocking traffic.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah. Um, in our meetings that we've been having, um, and led by Miss Davis and, uh, Wayne Richards, chair of the port, the FEC is not interested at all in moving anything on the west side of the track.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Well, it's -- it's more of --

CITY MANAGER JONES: They will stack on the east side and it has something to do with saying that those tracks are so curvy --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- that it drives up their cost whereby if you can get them over to the straight track --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: It's logistics.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- and -- but logistically, because of the curve in those tracks on the west side, they're not willing to entertain sending their engine over or trying to stack on the west side because it's not a straight track and it's the logistics and the cost and -- and all of those things.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: How many cars are they using during their stacking process?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Oh, from the port you can have -- they can -- what is it? Was it --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I think there's, like, 6,000 feet between --

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- 6,000 feet right now --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- between --

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- and --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- 6 or 7,000 feet between, um, Blue Heron and 49<sup>th</sup>

Street.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: But the problem is, say it -- you have a 5:30 train in the morning going southbound, okay, so if the -- if the spurs are not in the right direction, you know, to pick up those cars and go, it -- it just doesn't work.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah. But one of the things that --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That's why we --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- I would like for us to facilitate, you know, when we're talking about the industrial zone is the fact that, you know, F -- the FEC has a responsibility to the City. You know? I mean, you just can't leave tracks dormant for over 30 years. And, you know, their answer to me was that, "You know, we own these tracks and we're not going to do anything to them. We're not going to sell them but they're ours."

But in the meantime we have all of these spurs that are sitting in -- you know, that -- that resource or that -- that transit, um, mode right here in the city and it's doing nothing for us. You know, the -- the objective would be to liven up the -- the transit system.

If you're doing a multimodal industrial zone, then, you know, that would be a key component. And it's already there and it was built for that purpose. Those rail spurs were put there for a purpose. And to have them just sitting there, you know, overgrown and in disrepair and all that stuff, that's a detriment -- that's a detriment to us.

And at some point they have to show some type of responsibility or take the tracks up. You know? But that -- that has to be -- I think that's -- that has to be addressed.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah. And -- and --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You know, either we can partnership or something. There's a lot of possibilities with that. But if, you know -- if you just sit there and your rail spurs are in the way and they're inactive, then that -- you know, that doesn't benefit the City.

CITY MANAGER JONES: And I, um -- I agree with you. Um, I do know that it has been broached with them. And they will tell you that they are their tracks. They're not doing anything with them. We will attempt again -- I don't think they feel they have a responsibility to the City 'cause they are a federal transportation entity.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: And, um --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Well, that's where our Congressmen and all of those folks fit in in terms of, you know, either -- if it's gonna stay here, make the rail active. 'Cause we're looking for jobs and rail create jobs, at least, you know, that's the general consensus across the nation.

And we're sitting at a port that's, you know -- could be operating at a -- a higher capacity if all of the -- the components start to, you know -- start to work and we integrate all the components. But that is a -- that is a -- a relatively significant component. And to sit there, you know, just sit there, it's -- it's -- it's impeding our progress, so to speak. And if we're seriously investing in -- in this zone and they see that, maybe they want a partnership and, you know, activate the spurs and develop a partnership instead of just sitting there and -- and not utilizing the resources that they have because it -- it is a dormant resource for them. And they just happened to not put any money in it 'cause we're not putting any pressure on them to put any money in it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Oh, I would --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, Miss Davis. Go ahead.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- I would -- I -- we have been putting pressure on them.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Well, not enough, then.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Um, 'cause --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Or we need to get more people involved. But it's a shame for them to just rest here in our city.

CITY MANAGER JONES: They are. Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You know?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Um --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss Davis? I'm sorry.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- Madam Chair, the --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- the -- the rails, from what I understand, were put there, um, with the understanding or the hope that businesses within this particular hub would use their services to, um, ship product. But from what I understand, the -- the FEC's fees --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- are too high. So businesses don't use them. So the FEC, you know -- I mean, the market may come back at some point in time where those businesses might want to use the, uh, rail. So, you know, I -- I have no problem with, you know, putting pressure on them.

But that's why I offered the alternative and spoke to the port commissioner, to see if there was some kind of way that, you know, they could use their engine to work with these businesses over there, to maybe, you know, give them a, um, competitive price to -- to -- to ship their product, um, by just stacking it along with their, uh, cars, uh, for the FEC to pick up.

But as far as the -- the -- the spurs, uh, the -- that's just not -- that's a logistical

nightmare for FEC, and -- and they're not gonna even entertain it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And FEC is a supreme entity --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- unto itself.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Amtrak will tell you that when they are transporting people on the rail back and forth up North, if FEC has to change or whatever, they must wait for FEC.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So they're the godfather when it come to the railroad industry, it seems. Uh, I'd like a question here -- put a question to Mr. Jones or whomever. Going back to our web, uh, site. We have 2,800 businesses. What is the practicality of our being able to list our businesses according to their category of service at some time in the future?

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Now that we have a database --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: With a link.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: -- that's definitely possible.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Because this was something that I had dreamed of having happen since first being elected to the council, is that we would be able to offer this as a service to our businesses. So if you need a doctor, if you need a plumber, whatever, it -- you could just go to our website and this would certainly help the business community.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER JONES: We'll look into that. But now that we have the database already gathered, the way we disseminate information is easy to do now.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: All right. Thanks much. Any -- anything else on that particular --

CITY MANAGER JONES: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- session? We're moving on now to the adult arcade?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes. This topic, uh, we're bringing to you tonight, uh, you will recall that earlier in the year a moratorium had been placed on, um, applications for what are referred to as Internet cafes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: And we told you that within six months staff would propose, uh, an ordinance so that we would have some basis of determining the placement of these types of facilities.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: One of the things, however, that we were not sure about and that was Council's feelings as it relates to the -- these types of entities. Um, what staff has done is that they have developed, uh, the adult arcade amusement facility ordinance. And I will let Miss Mary McKinney, Director of Community Development, talk about that and the process that it has gone through with P & Z. And this item should probably be coming to you very shortly.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Mary McKinney, Director of Community Development. And the manager did a really good job of summarizing the introduction. Um, we have a presentation for you. We have taken the draft regulations to the Planning & Zoning board four times. And they have not as yet made a decision. The last time we had taken it was last week, October 11<sup>th</sup>

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Why?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: I wish I could answer that question. I think they just --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: They want us to make the decision?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- I think that that's probably it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I think the -- there's been some shifting, uh, among the -- the members of that. I think they lost the chair and -- and so there's some vacancies and this might have a lot to do with, uh, I guess, a state of apathy or whatever. Um, but nevertheless --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yeah, nevertheless.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- so you're going to do something here?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: And, um, we wanted to let you know that the County has adopted a moratorium on these Internet cafes and they did that in March of 2012. And we had a moratorium which had expired which then gave us the impetus for drafting regulations or if the council desires, we have the definition of gambling in our code now, which, per that definition, would prohibit these types of facilities.

So the council could go in either direction. The council could say, We consider these Internet cafes part of our gambling, um, definition, which is staff's opinion. And therefore, they would be prohibited. Or the council can adopt regulations for these types of facilities that regulate them to certain areas of the city and have certain aspects, such as distance requirements, etc., for each one of them. Background

checks by the police department, etc.

So Brad Stein, our principal planner, will do the presentation and then we'll be available to answer questions --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- any questions on the regulations.

BRAD STEIN: All right. Good evening.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Good evening.

BRAD STEIN: Uh, Brad Stein, principal planner with the City. Um, as you know, throughout the county and the state, there is an increasing demand for the licensings of these type of establishments. And they utilize computers or video displays of spinning reels and other simulations of games ordinarily played on a slot machine or in casinos which show results of raffles, sweepstakes, contests or other promotions, referred to as an adult arcade amusement facility for commercial gain.

What is an adult arcade amusement facility? Uh, some other names are Internet cafe, sweepstakes cafe, simulated -- simulated gambling establishment, convenience casino, corner casino. And per the draft of the City's definition, um, we're considering it an adult arcade amusement facility, frequently referred to as an Internet cafe, is defined as a facility, club, or a place of business that requires patrons to be a minimum of 21 years of age that utilizes computers, Internet sweepstakes, gaming systems or machines which may be operated by coin, token, paper monies, passwords or any form of credit as a source of revenue.

What do arcade facilities and games look like? Um, I have some examples up there and I've provided to you the packet, also. And as you can see, they're very similar to what -- what you would be playing at a casino on an arcade or any kind of slot machine.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And he pretty much represents the age group that enjoys this, right?

BRAD STEIN: Um, that does -- I'll be getting into a little bit more of that here coming right up.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I thought it was mostly, you know --

BRAD STEIN: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- you know, not a whole lot of young people participate but mostly --

BRAD STEIN: Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- seniors.

BRAD STEIN: That's exactly correct.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: The harmless group of people. Okay. Keep going.

BRAD STEIN: Okay. So how do these facilities operate? Okay. So patrons

typically purchase time or credits or they can actually set up an account where you would pay to have an account and a password. And then in return you receive entries that allow them to play the games shown on the previous slide.

Now, the prizes vary between location to location. Um, it could be a cash prize. It could be as small as, uh, a few cents and you can actually not win at all. Okay? So, um, and these -- these prizes can actually be a large as thousand -- you know, a couple thousand dollars or as high as whatever the establishment sets for that rate for a single spin. Okay?

Patrons surveyed at various locations have had up to, like, 100,000 credits or 100,000 minutes or any kind of time, depending on the cost per credit or per the minute, of the time and continue to purchase them so that they can play what they believe are slot machines.

Simulated gambling devices, which is what we talked about before on the previous slide, they look and function just like a slot machine and they can actually deceive members of the public, including but not limited to, the elderly and the economically disadvantaged into believing that they're engaging in a lawfully permitted and regulated gambling activity.

Now, on the other side, lawyers for these facilities claim that clients operate these games similar to as if you're going to McDonald's to play the McDonald's Monopoly game where you tear off a sweepstakes, or as in the Coca-Cola, look under the cap and you try to submit this code to Internet and you could potentially win. So you're purchasing the chance by purchasing those products.

And then a little bit of statistics. This is from The New York Times, and I got it from the article from the floridagamingwatch.com. Um, more than a thousand convenience casinos operate throughout Florida. A single facility can generate up to or more than 100,000 per week, \$100,000 per week.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Wow. (Inaudible).

BRAD STEIN: Combined gross revenues from all facilities are in excess of a billion dollars per year in the State of Florida. And also criminal activity rose -- okay. So coming up in a little bit more, uh, we'll talk a little bit more about Seminole County. But Seminole County, who had a -- had these and then prohibited them, um, criminal activity rose 14 percent in that county with those.

Okay. Often with these types of facilities, there's a correlation between the establishment and -- and these types of establishments having large cashes -- do on these facilities, which could potentially create a hazard, um, for criminal activity to target -- target them specifically.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What you're saying, then, is that it would have more to do with them being burglarized or robberies, armed robberies?

BRAD STEIN: Not necessarily being robbed but maybe, um, targeting people going to them or coming from them, knowing that they could have large cash amounts on them when they're leaving or when they're coming to them.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You win cash?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, I thought you didn't win cash. You win prizes.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You don't win cash. How are you gonna have a large amount of --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-uh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- cash on you?

BRAD STEIN: Um, no, that's absolutely -- absolutely incorrect. You can 100 percent walk into these places and win cash.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: How?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're not supposed to.

BRAD STEIN: You walk in there. You pay for a subscription or an account. You play. You win.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Uh-huh.

BRAD STEIN: You get more credits than you had before. You take them and you cash them in and you get cash.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So you can take the credits and cash them in for cash?

BRAD STEIN: Yes.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I mean, exchange them for cash.

BRAD STEIN: 100 percent, can cash your credits for cash.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. That wasn't -- okay. You're enlightening us here.

BRAD STEIN: Yeah, that's why we're here. That's what we're doing.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah. Oh, yeah.

BRAD STEIN: That is -- that's -- that's what we're telling you.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

BRAD STEIN: We -- we have firsthand experience of this.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You mean you played -- you played before?

BRAD STEIN: I have -- admittedly no, but I -- I know someone who has.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Oh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) bingo halls?

BRAD STEIN: Bingo halls are operated differently. That's also under a Florida statute that regulates them per church and per the amount that you have and you win. So it's -- it's different and there's also -- depending on the city, the entity, the state, it's how many times you play a year, also. So they can be licensed separately in a -- in a different manner.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: That's interesting 'cause you remember the bingo robbery, um --

BRAD STEIN: No, sir. I --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- what was that bingo center? I think it was on 45<sup>th</sup> Street. A couple was leaving the bingo -- they won a large amount of money. Some folks followed them and robbed them.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Oh, yeah. When was that?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I think they lived in Jupiter, didn't they? I -- I remember the incident.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: That was here.

BRAD STEIN: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: So we gotta ban bingo, too, now.

BRAD STEIN: Well, it -- if we really wanted to get into it, we could get going with bingo. There's definitely some different --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah, well, we're setting an ordinance.

BRAD STEIN: No, that's true.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: We're trying to -- we're trying to develop an ordinance. And if I'm looking at the ordinance correctly, uh, the, uh -- our existing ordinance is from 1957, correct?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes. Yes. The definition of gambling.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: So, you know, things have changed. But I wanted to -- and take in light, you know, a full view of the activity that exists there and try to -- try to come to a happy medium if possible. But if -- if not, if it's a danger to, you know -- to the community, then, you know, we want to address that. But we definitely need to bring the code up since 1957. And I mean, a lot has happened since then. You know? I can gamble on -- at my computer and not even have to come outside.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: So --

BRAD STEIN: Okay. So -- so moving on question: Are adult arcade games slot machines? Okay. Well, it depends on who you ask. So I got a little quote here from a judge in California: "In our view, if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and sounds like a duck, it's a duck. If you look -- if it looks like a slot machine, acts like a slot machine, and sounds like a slot machine, it's a slot machine." And that's a direct quote from Judge Marion Vogel in the California Court of Appeals.

Then on the other side, I have a quote from Kelly Mathis, an attorney for multiple Internet cafes and adult arcade facilities: "Placing a simulated gambling program on a computer no more makes that computer a slot machine than a computer-based flight simulator program makes that computer an airplane."

Are adult arcade amusement facilities legal in Florida? The answer is, as best, it's a gray area of the law. Okay? So per Florida Statute 849.094, Florida Statutes, "Game promotion means but is not limited to a contest, a game of chance or gift enterprise conducted within or throughout -- excuse me -- the -- the state and other states in connection with the sale of consumer products of services in which the elements of chances and prize are present."

So that's kind of how people are getting around this right now. They're considering it a sweepstake. They're considering you're getting to do this because you're purchasing time so that's why they're calling it an Internet cafe or an adult arcade amusement facility, a sweepstakes promotion.

"The operator of this game promotion in which the total announced value of the prizes offered is greater than 5,000 shall file with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer and -- Services a copy of the rules and regulations of the game promotion and a list of all prizes and prize categories offered at least seven days before the commencement of the game promotion." This is probably one of the most common things that are not done with these sweepstakes cafes.

Another (inaudible). "There's no material difference between the use of slot machines as defined by Section 551.102 and 849.16 Florida Statutes, and the use of these simulated gambling devices."

What steps has the legislation taken for these adult arcades? The answer is, "During the 2012 sessions, two vastly different bills were taken up by the House and the Senate. House Bill 3 -- or -- from Representative Plakon, Electric Gambling Promotions and Community Protection Act." They wanted to outright ban these Internet cafes statewide. It passed the House with a vote 72 yes to 43 no and it was never taken up by the Senate. They just didn't hear it. Senate Bill 380 by Senator Diaz de la Portilla provided for registration of electronic devices and computer terminals used to conduct electronic gaming promotions. Tried to bring this bill up. This just died in the committee.

What options are available? Well, there's a couple different approaches that are very -- each end of the spectrum. One way is what City of Jacksonville did. Um, under their Chapter 155 of the ordinance, code provides a regulatory structure in which adult arcades must operate. What that did is it allowed them but it limited the number of the permits it'll issue to allow these. It based a -- a permit -- it bases its permit fees on the

number of machines in the facility. It had a lot of different requirements, such as security cameras and guards and, um, banning of alcohol and minors from the facility.

And the other approach was what Seminole County did. And under their Chapter 22 of the ordinance code, prohibited the operation of these facilities all together.

All right. This is just some research that we've been doing.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Oh, excuse me.

BRAD STEIN: Yes, sir?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Can I ask one quick question? How much revenue is it generating for the City of Jacksonville?

BRAD STEIN: That's a great question. I don't know that right off the top of my head. I don't -- I don't know the specific amount particularly. It's something we'll have to contact them and hopefully they can provide it to us and I can get that information for you.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: And, yeah, how much the -- the permit for that is, because, you know, there's an opportunity, if -- if the permits are limited, then there's a demand on them. You know, there's all kind of things that can come out of this in terms of if we plan to, you know, allow it in some form.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Right. (Inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Okay.

BRAD STEIN: Okay. So again, like I said, doing a little bit of research, this is what we found so far. Um, some of the places that haven't completely prohibited it are Seminole County, Orange County, Hypoluxo, Juno Beach, North Palm, Maitland, Winter Garden, as you can see, Longwood. Some other places -- the code is just basically silent. Like, West Palm Beach, I was speaking to the planners there. And the code is silent against it. And so they just deny it that way. They just fail their business tax receipt applications. They just don't allow them. They say if it's not -- if it's silent and it's not expressly allowed, we're not allowing them. Lake Worth is really similar in the same way that their code is also silent.

There's some moratoriums in place, um, throughout the state. Umatilla has a moratorium right now that was just extended in September. Palm Beach County, as we all know, just did a one-year moratorium in March. Um, Lake County extended their moratorium again from July to July 2013. And Tampa is, um -- has a six-month moratorium to discuss and decide and try to figure out exactly what they want to do with their Internet cafe/adult arcades. Okay.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Um, I have a question, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Yes, Miss Davis.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Um, I'm curious to know what the difference is between this business entity or this kind of business and what is being presented, uh, as an amendment by the legislature.

BRAD STEIN: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Amendment, yeah.

BRAD STEIN: Um, I -- I think that's -- I can explain that. What it is is the legislature and what's on Palm Beach County's ballot right now for a referendum --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

BRAD STEIN: -- that's to allow facilities that already have gambling-type activities there, to allow them, also. So, like, the dog tracks --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Oh. Okay.

BRAD STEIN: -- any type of facility like that would --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: The dog tracks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They want (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

BRAD STEIN: -- also allow it to have slot machines. It's completely separate from this, actually.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So it kind of sounds like -- okay. They -- they want to kind of keep the money flowing to them instead of somebody else?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: That's right.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: No.

BRAD STEIN: Well, no, it's -- it's a separate thing. That's --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I -- I said that's what it sounds like, right?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: That's really what --

BRAD STEIN: -- that's an actual slot machine. That's --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- that's what it sounds like.

BRAD STEIN: -- 100 percent.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: It's okay in some places but --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: No.

BRAD STEIN: Well, we all get to vote on it.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Well, yeah.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Now, Madam Chair?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Just curious.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: (Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Miss -- we're --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: All right. Um, I'd like to clarify something.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- uh, Miss --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: I sit on the Urban Administration Committee for the Florida League of Cities. And this is a priority. All right? For the League to take this up. And --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: This, you mean this particular issue here?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- this -- this particular issue is affecting --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- a lot of municipalities throughout the State of Florida.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: How?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: She was saying specifically how? In what way was the impact?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: In what way?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah. I was asking how.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: The impact really is crime. You have the, um -- the Florida Sheriffs Association came out against these Internet cafes and they are leading the charge to bring this issue back in the next Florida session.

Um, the appetite is there this time up in Tallahassee to ban these. And you know, it's going to be a priority in Tallahassee, also. But like I said, the League is -- is, um, against this and they will start lobbying, you know, their representatives. But someone brought up the -- you know, what's the difference between these slot machines at the dog track and then these.

Well, the slot machines at the dog tracks, a percentage of the revenue goes into the, uh, Florida Education pool just like the Florida Lotto. All right? We have the Florida Lottery. A big portion of that money goes to the schools. Just like if these slot machines pass, a big portion of that revenue will go into the schools.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: 'Cause of the community benefit.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: With -- without -- with these, um, you know, cafes, the money stays in the pocket of the owner.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: (Inaudible).

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: You know, and some of these cafes say, Well, we give money to the community. Okay. But they really don't tell you. Some of them will say, All right. We give, you know, \$25,000 a quarter to the community. But they're not telling you how much they're earning daily. All right? This is a billion-dollar business in the State of Florida. And there's no regulations.

And like I said earlier, the Florida Sheriffs Association is against it because of the crime. And if you do research, you'll see that there's been a lot of armed robberies. You know, so I'm not even talking about the people who are leaving these facilities with

some cash in their pocket and getting jumped or mugged. But there have been documented armed robberies, because a lot of these facilities have so much cash on hand. So I just, you know -- I just wanted to put that out there so everyone was aware.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What are -- oh, yes. Go ahead, Mr. Thomas. Then I have a question after you.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Let me -- let me -- let me -- let me ask a question, and it's probably about two parts here. The first question is, uh, with the arcades that are already open, at what point if we decide not to do this -- if we decide not to do it, do they go away?

Because we have a moratorium and they've still been able to operate. So at what point do they go away, and are we ever able to really stop them from operating since they've been operating? And since they have a moratorium, you know, this is the month of October where the license needed to be renewed. Were they given a new license to continue to operate? And if they're not, then why are they still operating? Those -- so those are some of the questions that I -- that I have.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: No. We -- we -- we don't have a moratorium anymore.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: It's expired.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: The City does not have it. It's expired.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Expired.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: And the council did not renew it so we don't have a moratorium.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Well, it didn't come to us.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: We do have, in the draft --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Yes, it did. No, it did.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yes, it did.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: When?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: The -- the -- the moratorium was brought to the council --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: It did and there was no --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- on first reading. And I believe it passed on --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- first reading. And on second reading it died for lack of a second.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: And it -- it -- so we did not extend the moratorium.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: After that, um, staff did not know what to do. You're right, Councilperson Thomas, there is, to my knowledge, one adult arcade that exists in the city. Um, I would suggest that the license to that, um, facility was given in error; that we could have easily have said that it fell under the gambling definition. But we did not.

And, um, it is because of that it -- it is still open to my knowledge. We gave them a license to open and they've been open for over a year. But because the council wasn't clear on what it wanted to do, staff took, um, the issue to the Planning & Zoning Board, and they have spent, uh, a lot of time considering, um, an ordinance that staff, my office and Community Development have worked a lot on, um, looking at the law throughout the state and trying to fashion a, um -- an ordinance that this council might approve if it were so inclined.

The council -- it is not a recommendation. I don't think staff has a recommendation. It's -- it's really up to the council. And one of the reasons that the Planning & Zoning Board has been struggling with this is because, um, I would say the majority of -- of the members do not want to have a, um -- an ordinance but in order to do their job and because the council wasn't clear on what it wanted to do, it -- it went ahead and considered an ordinance that staff drafted.

Um, they have not made a recommendation, but if I were to guess, I believe the recommendation would be to beef up the definition of gambling and prohibit it. But if the city council decided that it did not want to do that and it did want to have some type of, um, regulations to adopt the ordinance that they have looked at on at least three or four occasions -- I would say three occasions now.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, that brings a -- that brings an issue to me in my mind. If the staff released a license that will probably run for a year, then how do we not give license to other, you know, entities that want to -- to open? I think that that would be an unfair thing to do. If we --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- if we had stopped it, that's one thing but we haven't. We've engaged in another license. So what protections do we have to not give a license to someone else? I believe that that's where our exposure, uh, you know, would -- would be.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Well, again, I think that it falls under the definition -- even though this was codified in 1957, it -- it -- it falls under, um, the section of our code entitled "Gambling." And that's why West Palm Beach, although their code doesn't specifically talk about, um, adult arcades, they have denied the permits. The same with Lake Worth. I would guess that they're going under their -- probably, um, ordinance (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So why didn't we deny the -- why didn't we deny the permit?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: I have no idea. That's -- that was just -- that was a --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: It was an error.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- a staff error.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: It was a staff error.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: But the point is, is that if we were to enact an ordinance, um, we could either -- so the council has two choices. Either allow them and regulate them and, um, Mr. Lowe is right, there is some remuneration that comes with that. The City would get permit fees for that.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Or, um, I would still say to beef -- that we should beef up our definition of gambling, to include it if we decided that we wanted to ban them. We may be sued. Seminole County's being sued. All of these cities are being sued. It's my understanding that North Palm Beach, Juno --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: You mean if we deny? Or sued for what reason?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: If we deny, I'm sure. Probably.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Well, because they are -- their -- their position is that, um -- that state law allows this type of --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: And -- and -- and that's where --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- that's the gray area. That's the problem.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- and this is where --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- where I was going with this.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: The state --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Because if we're going to talk about free enterprise -

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Hmm.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I mean, people can start whatever kind of business they want to start. But I think that the best -- if -- if we're going to do it, we need to put certain things in place, you know, to make sure that we are able to monitor it, we -- that we require them to have police officers, depending on the number of slot machines.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Hmm.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: You know, and -- and, you know, all of those things that -- that make sure, you know, we are covering --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Do you have the -- have the code?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- ourselves. And -- and -- and the last thing is, it's a source of revenue for the city. You know, but I'm -- I -- I'm willing to do whatever council wants to do. But I thought it was important that all of this be discussed.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Can -- do we have any crime activity --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh, okay.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- at the one -- the existing --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: I have it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah, I was gonna ask that, too.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- location?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: The Internet --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What was the question?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Okay. Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Mr. Lowe?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: I didn't --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I'm sorry.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Do we have any crime activity at the existing location? Have we been monitoring it from that aspect?

BRAD STEIN: I currently don't have the reports with me, so I'm not sure of that.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Chief is behind you. Maybe he knows.

BRAD STEIN: But I'm gonna assume --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I mean, but we would know if there was a problem 'cause I would think that would stick out in our mind.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Chief is right here.

CITY MANAGER JONES: There's the chief.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Chief?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Maybe he doesn't want to get up.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You can just yell out.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah. He don't want to talk about it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah, I had written it down and forgot to ask it. (Inaudible).

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Good evening, members of, uh, council. Clarence Williams, Police Chief. At the existing location, uh, there has been no report of serious activities of crime.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Serious.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You say serious activity?

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Yes.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So has there been any activity?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Any activity?

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: No robberies. I mean, there's been an occasional in-the-area theft from a car. Those kinds of things. We monitored, uh, the activity earlier on, um, and the investigators found that the business, uh, at least while they were there, was operating consistent with -- with existing laws.

We do have information that there has been, uh, activity that has gone on not related and consistent with existing laws. And we're following up on that. Uh, the -- the issues -- or among the issues and at least the --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I'm sorry, Chief. Can you tell us what other kind of activity? I -- I think it's important.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Gambling. Gambling.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Oh --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Real gambling.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Gambling, yes, where, um --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Definition (inaudible).

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: -- money is paid, money is won and given to persons that exceed what their bet was.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Well, I just -- I -- I just thought I heard that that's allowable.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: It's not.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: No, no, no, no.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: It's not.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: There's -- there's two kinds.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Oh, it's not allowable?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: It's not but that's what they're doing.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay. Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: There's -- there's official gambling that's not allowed.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: The State of Florida does not allow gambling.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Unless it is carved out. The Lotto is --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: The -- Lotto? The lotteries --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Or -- or you're --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right. And (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- on the Indian reservation.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: If you're on an Indian --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Yeah. They're called Indian reservations?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: But -- but they're doing it.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: The police department's position has -- has -- has been from the beginning that, uh, the activities, uh, connected with adult arcades, these types of activities that we're discussing, are gambling within our definition. That's been our position.

The ordinance that has been developed, uh, took into consideration a number of concerns that law enforcement, uh, had. Um, I can state to you that if we have, uh, an increase in the number of these kinds of businesses, uh, whether or not we'll get the same result as we've gotten on Military Trail where that one is, is doubtful.

There will be an increase in police services. There will be a tax on already exist - - overtaxed, existing resources. What do I tell a young 21-year-old police officer to do when an elderly person, as you seen there, calls the police and says, "I've been cheated at this particular business"? How does he regulate that? He can't.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: That's right.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: For us as a municipality, who monitors, who regulates, who makes certain that these persons do exactly what they're going to do? There's no amount of tax -- of tax receipts that we're going to be able to levy to offset the increase and tax on your resources.

For me as a -- uh, as a manager of your resources and a person that is ultimately going to be responsible for making certain that people are safe in these buildings, I can't do it with my existing budget.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Hmm.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: And if we're going to do this and we're going to allow these, uh, and they can be any place in the city, consistent with the ordinance, so we could have more than one -- it's going to be something that we're going to need to make certain that we're able to recoup from their operations the impact that it's going to have on your existing governmental services. And it's going to be. It's just going to be.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Thank you, Chief.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: You've got -- other cities have demonstrated --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You can -- you can get that through the permit,

though. You can factor that in in the permit process, all of the impact when you're developing the ordinance, you know, as far as -- if you say you're gonna have a certain amount of officers, we've got a certain amount of businesses, and all of that stuff can be factored in the permit fee.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: As the ordinance (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: If you're -- if you're considering the services and the impact that the service has on -- on --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: On the --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- on your staff, the impact would be --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- (inaudible), yeah.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- uh, you'd need officers to cover, you know, those particular situations. But --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm -- I'm sorry. I --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Go ahead. You can go ahead.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, I know that there -- the gaming commission monitors the, um -- the Indian reservations as well as they have their own individual police department. But they have several properties. If -- if this is something that will cause -- I heard the chief talk about an issue that said, This business cheated me. So if they cheated you through some form of a payment, it went from a civil matter to maybe an actual crime if it was money that was taken.

So that is something that really has to be really looked at. But I'm -- I'm just trying to make sure that doing something now, doing something about this right now, is going to -- it -- it's not going to further create an issue. So if we say, Listen, this is it, a -- a business just was issued a license. How do we -- you know, they may have made investments, capital investments to, you know -- how do we -- how do we go back and say, Okay. We -- we're not going to honor what we just told you, and then how do we stop the new people from coming in to get a license?

And this is really not enough information to -- you know, to tell us. I heard, uh, the attorney say that staff didn't have a recommendation. But if -- if I listen to the chief correctly, he obviously has a recommendation of not to do this. So I -- I want that to be clear from -- from a staff point on what the recommendation actually is, on top of everything that I just said.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Madam --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Madam -- okay.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right. Madam -- Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss -- did you -- had you finished with your

thought?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Yeah. Oh, I -- I want an answer. I would like to have an answer. I mean, if we just throw a bunch of questions --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And your specific question is what is staff's recommendation? Is that --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- is that your question?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: What is staff recommendation and how do we avoid any undue or unnecessary --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: They don't have a (inaudible). They don't have a recommendation.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- um, legal exposure --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Legal.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- with the one that we already have open.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So now, one part Pam will -- uh, Miss Ryan will answer about the legal part. And maybe staff can answer part -- the first part.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Right. I think that I -- when I gave the introduction, I said staff's recommendation is to consider them gambling for our existing definition and prohibit them.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. So that's your recommendation. Now, uh --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- Miss Pam?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: All right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Yes, ma'am?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss Ryan, what is the legal part of his question -- his answer?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Well, I mean --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: About the suits.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's important.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Um, there is a very strong possibility that we will be sued. Um, in particular --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: By one or by many?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: I apologize?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: By the one that we've issued or by many that we deny?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: It could be one or all. You know, some of the cities -- the cases -- if people are smart, they'll wait and see what happens with the cases that are filed in federal court right now.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: There are cases in federal court. Or the legislature will make a determination which -- which really could just end all of this discussion, if they would just make a decision. Um, if they would just say it's legal or not legal, it would end it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Um, as for the City --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: They're not going to do that.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, you know --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- you know, if we try to close down the facility that, um --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- already exists --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- already exists, we probably will be in litigation. I can't promise you that. I don't know what they'll do. But, um, I -- you know, as I said, I would suggest that we beef up our definition of gambling. If --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Let me ask this question: How many people have put in -- or requested -- uh, stated a desire to have this in the area? I know one and -- uh, two, uh, that came before us --

BRAD STEIN: Okay. Counting the existing business --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- over a year ago. How many do we have -- how many interested parties have expressed themselves to us by asking for, uh, a license?

BRAD STEIN: With the exception of the existing business in writing --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, sir.

BRAD STEIN: -- one person.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. So it's not like we have people knocking the door down trying to (inaudible) --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: But why don't they --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Wait. I'm next.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- have a license? I hear you. But why don't they have a license?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Because we gave a license --

CITY MANAGER JONES: (Inaudible) now.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: That's what --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: It -- because it's our position that the -- the first one was given in error.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Right. And actually --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: And we were not going to compound that error by giving another license.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I think that's where we have exposure. That -- that's my issue that I'm trying to understand.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: We -- we did not -- right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: How do we say that that's fair?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: We did not issue -- the one that --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: We denied it under a moratorium.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- was issued, they had applied for a vending machine license and that's what it was -- the license was issued as, for vending machines. Not as an adult arcade.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Right. They didn't get it for arcade.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So -- excuse me, so the -- you're clarifying something. What we gave them was for a vending machine?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes. And that's what they had applied --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So they are operating an illegal business or --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: I would say yes.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Oh, I didn't know that. I was not told -- I was never told that.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Well, let's close it down.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, do we have a -- but we have to make sure legally we have a leg to stand on. We issued him the -- his request was for a vending --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- machine business.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- machine?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And with that permit -- and I imagine it read on there "vending machine"?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That party then began operating an adult arcade?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: An arcade, yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Which sounds like legally it's an illegal operation that should be closed anyway.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: I -- I believe it should be.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I don't even know why we're hesitating if --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, how was that in error? How was that license issued in error? If they wanted a vending machine license and they got a vending machine license, how is it that they -- that the -- the license was issued in error?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: I believed a staff member who is no longer here believed it was some operating the video games and the arcade games that the kids play or that you see in restaurants or in the airports and that's -- was the impression given on the application, that it was for those types of machines.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: And they really are vending machines.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So they are vending machines?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: The arcade machines?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: They are a type of vending machine.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Well, I think they're not. They're --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: No, I mean, but --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- they actually are gambling machines.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- the way it was described --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Right. If you take your grandson into the Duffy's, they go in the back room and play --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- those little machines. Those are -- right --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Vending --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- are, right, vending

arcade type machines. Those aren't --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- vending machine.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- to win cash or prizes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss -- I know Miss Pardo --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right. Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- has been trying to talk.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Please. (Inaudible).

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: So I -- you know what? I don't understand why we just can't extend the moratorium for another year or --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Wait till the legislature -- uh-huh.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- until the session is over. Let's see what happens in Tallahassee.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: You could do that.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That would -- that would be my suggestion.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: You know, I -- right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: I think that makes the most sense.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So we can bring it back to the council then for consideration for a moratorium.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: You know, you see all of the -- right. All of the cities in Palm Beach -- in Palm Beach County that have moratoriums right now. So we just --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: We could do that.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- extend the moratorium.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And that will give us more time, I think.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: There's 38 cities in Palm Beach County. How is that all?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right. I didn't say all.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: You just said all.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: I didn't. Well, excuse me. I didn't mean all. There are how many cities? We have a --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Thirty-eight.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Thirty --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: No. How many cities --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- 39.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- have a moratorium? Either have a moratorium right now or have outright prohibited them? Right?

BRAD STEIN: This is just an example, too. This isn't the complete list --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: There's -- right. Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: We have it on here.

BRAD STEIN: -- by any means.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yeah, we would have to get the complete list of all the moratoriums.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: But we have -- exactly so, you know, it's not just the City of Riviera Beach. And one other thing that I find very telling is the Florida Chamber of Commerce came out and they are against them. All right? And the Florida Chamber of Commerce is all about business. And they came out and they're against it. You know? So anyway --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, sometimes little businesses --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- I think it's -- it's pretty --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- you know, I think it would behoove us to, um, you know, bring this back to the council at a council meeting and just extend the moratorium.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Is that a consensus? Sounds okay to me.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: No, on that -- you don't have a consensus on that.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What would you like to do? I just want to get some suggestions.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: But we can deal with it when it comes before us if you want to move on. You know, the Florida Chamber --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, again, it's just --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- of Commerce, the Supreme Court -- you know, everything that comes out of these entities, it's not like gospel, you know?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, and I think what happens, too, Mr. Lowe -- and I'm kind of --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: (Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- trying to get on the page with you is that sometime little businesses feel like the bigger people, you know, they -- they don't have the arms, they don't have the muscle. There's nobody to lobby and fight for them. And --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah. These are the little people that --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- so when you have your chambers -- and I don't

have anything against any Chamber of Commerce, but they -- they might feel, Okay. You're looking out for, uh, what is it? The dog track and everybody else.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But we're just trying to make a little living. And on the other hand, I understand with the dog track, it is a benefit to the community because of the money that comes back, um, to help with education. Miss Pam?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss -- Miss Ryan, is there anything that would preclude us from trying to benefit from some of the revenues other than the license that we could ask for a percentage of the receipts?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Um, I don't think so but you -- I wish that you all had a copy of the ordinance that, um, P & Z considered. It has quite a bit of money included in it for the City. It's -- the City --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I think we need to look at if it could be a benefit.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: You -- the City would, um, make a little bit of money on it. Because -- and also, they -- it has to be regulated. They have really put some regulations inside because the chief -- the chief came to the Planning & Zoning board meeting and personally made recommendations that were taken into consideration and added to the ordinance.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Let's do this. Let's get as much information as we can and -- and bring it back, uh, either at a council meeting or at a workshop. It doesn't sound like there's a consensus on what we want to do here.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Do you all have a -- does the council have it?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I'm sorry?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Do you -- do you have the ordinance? Most of you -- do you have --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: We just got it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, we just have, you know --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Yes, that's it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What needs to happen is that we need to get --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: We've got it.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Where -- where is the ordinance? I didn't get it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- this in advance of a workshop.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Miss Brooks (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So that we can review it.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: It's where?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Miss Brooks? She's supposed to be passing them

down.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Oh. Well, the other thing, Miss Brooks, is that I just want to make sure that we have enough time to discuss it when they do bring it back.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So that we know the pros and cons of it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: But just because we have an ordinance about it saying that we'll get some money, I just want to make sure it's not offset due to the increase in staff.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Absolutely.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: You know, uh, from -- for our police. I -- I would like to just have enough information to make an informed decision on whether it's a benefit or, you know -- or not. I'm -- I'm believing that the -- that this, uh, ballot question will probably pass. There's a lot of support for it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: And I just want to make sure that we don't end up having some of these people put slot machines in their -- in these arcades and it turns into something that we really don't want.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Because we don't have an entity to actually monitor it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So I -- I think that we actually -- you know, unless we're planning on creating a gaming commission here somewhere, we probably need to get a little bit more information just to make sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So when you do bring it back, don't put it on a -- a meeting that you're trying to rush. We --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: It needs to take some time --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Make it as a workshop.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- so we're -- so we're trying to, uh --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So we look at all aspects of it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's right. 'Cause we have two more items on the agenda.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Wait. Can I --

CITY MANAGER JONES: So does that mean --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Madam --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes. Hold on.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Can I have one other thing?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Hold on.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: All right. And if you're gonna bring back to us something that says, you know, the City would get a percentage of revenues, I want to know how we're going to go about --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: The process and --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Yeah. Go about the process. Come on. We couldn't even get Catalfumo to open up his books for the Ocean Mall so --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: I don't think they --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: It's not about --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- we cannot get revenue. Um, we just have on here -

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- I don't know.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: No.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- the annual license fee as \$800. I'm sorry, \$1,800.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: No, 1,800.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: 1,800.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Plus \$50 for each machine, computer or gaming system.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: We can put whatever we want on --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right. That was a recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: My gosh, you can make it --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- (inaudible) on there in order for them to get a -- a license.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: The -- the point is, though, for us, staff just needs to

know what direction to go in.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I know. Yeah.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Moratorium, bring back something or bring back a definition of --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And think we can submit suggestions --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- gambling.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: (Inaudible) some change.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- and our ideas so that they have something to, um, be guided by.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I think we need to set another workshop date.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That's fine.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Where we're only talking about this. That would be my -- my suggestion.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: We have one coming up in November.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So we can put -- we can put it on the next workshop.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: All right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Oh, I really need another topic on that next workshop but okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, see, this --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: December. Two months is fine.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- this -- this is -- these items are --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: December's fine.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- are items that require more than a 20- or 30-minute discussion.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You know, we've got four on here and we've still got

--

CITY MANAGER JONES: Right. But I just didn't know --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: No, it's okay. You -- you --

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- so we can do two topics on the next one.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: December (inaudible). That's fine.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Just two. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, ma'am. It's 7:25. I mean, however late you all want to stay here, you need to let me know. But I know some people gotta go.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: So the next -- the next workshop would be the middle of November?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: We've gotta come up with a date.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Oh, okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: To submit to you guys because it's around Thanksgiving. There's furlough and all those kind of things.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But we will have another one.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Will we take up this issue after November -- after the election, though?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah. It would be.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: So we'll have some idea how Amendment 8 does.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: 'Cause we'll have our -- yeah. Right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Oh, that's a good idea.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Let me -- but let me ask a question. In the meantime --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- if somebody comes in for a license --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: We're not doing it.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- while that's going on, are we just not going to extend them a license or --

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: We will not issue a license.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right. They would deny it.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Even if it says vending machines.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. All right. We have, um -- it's 7:25. And like I said, I don't want to have to rush any more than we have but we do have, um, the Commission on the Social Justice update. You're a part of that, aren't you?

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Uh, yes, yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Madam Chair, Clarence Williams, Police Chief. Um, if you recall in the aftermath of the tragic situations that occurred in Newcomb Hall, uh, the city manager, uh, made a number of recommendations. And among those recommendations was the creation of the Riviera Beach, uh, Commission on Social Justice.

And she presented that information along with two individuals, prominent individuals from our community to serve as co-chairs for that. Um, with -- Council heard and encouraged the presentation of the concept or development of the concept and, uh, we are here with the two co-chairs after having heard, also, some of the issues and concerns that Council had and some of the things that they would like included. The two co-chairs are here.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Um, I'd like to present them. Um, they are Mr. Michael Sloser and, uh, Reverend Dr. Tony Drayton.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. You'll -- you have the floor.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Um, we all recall the horrific details of the night of September 1<sup>st</sup>. That night two young people were killed and six were wounded at a Sweet 16 party at Newcomb Hall.

Uh, we were a city in shock and for good reason, whether it was that night or the eight other nights or days of violence when one or more victims, usually young people, died from gun violence. Until that day we had begun to accept these tragedies as being normal. Until that day we found the perpetrator, put them in jail and then waited for the next gruesome event. Until that day we blamed the media for not -- only talking about crime in our city and not our accomplishments. Forgetting that in the news business, if it bleeds, it leads.

To describe what happened next leads me to use a phrase I heard Former President Bill Clinton use recently. Riviera Beach had a "action-forcing event." Or put another way, we -- we said something had to be done.

On the Tuesday after that event, uh, my co-chair and I were asked to attend the City press conference. Afterwards we went to a meeting with the Chief and Assistant City Manager Jones where we were asked to co-chair an independent commission that would look into the root causes of crime in our city and propose solutions.

Each area would become a committee of the commission with a chair plus others with special expertise or interest in that area. In addition, we would have a Youth Committee that would reflect all areas of our city and with whom we would work with directly.

By the end of the hour we knew this had to be done. What follows is an outline of how we plan to proceed and who the initial committee chairs are. We welcome any thoughts and ideas on this and thank you for the support you've expressed to each of us as we have begun organizing our work.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: Slide. The purpose: The commission is a task force designed to examine conditions, services, opportunities and community resources that can be gathered to impact and improve the quality of life and safety of Riviera Beach's citizens.

The commission will examine the resources that the health, education, employment and business, criminal justice and social services communities have in formulating a comprehensive plan to improve the safety and reduce the violence in Riviera Beach, improve the quality of life and address the needs for jobs and increased business opportunities in our city. In addition, the commission will seek the support of our citizens in contributing to, as well as implementing, the vision that arises from these recommendations.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Uh, the goal of the commission is with input from its committees, is to submit a series of recommendations suitable for City policy, level implementation on a near-, mid- and long-term basis.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: Social Justice. Social justice is a virtue by -- which guides us in creating these organized interactions we call institutions. In turn, social institutions, when justly organized, provide us with access to what is good for the person, both individually and in our associations with others. Social justice also imposes on each of us a personal responsibility to work with others to design and continually perfect our institution as tools for personal and social development.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Getting into the organization. Uh, we have formed five -- four of the five -- five of the six committees, actually, and you'll see them on the screen. Uh, the Health Committee Chair is Mr. Timothy Page, RRT, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of Kindred Hospital here in Riviera Beach.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Our Education Community Committee Chair we are waiting a confirmation on and we'll disclose that as soon as we have it to you. The Employment Community Chair is Mr. Steven Craig. He's a CEO of the Workforce Alliance of Palm Beach County.

Criminal Justice Committee is chaired by Mr. Michael Rodriguez. He's the Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission. The Social Services Committee is chaired by Pastor James Lofton, Master of Divinity, Senior Pastor, the International House of God Ministries, Suncoast Community High School.

And the Youth Advisory Committee is chaired by Miss Shantel Drayton, DA -- BA, MBA, Youth Advisory Council, St. James Missionary Baptist Church.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: One correction, if I may. She has a -- it's a BA and a Masters of Public Administration.

As we can see, five of the committees have chairs who operate within the parameters of the commission's purposes and goals. Again, the sixth, a Youth Committee, and that committee will advise us directly on current issues young people face across our city. And we're determined that that would be one of the most profound committees that will lend input to this commission.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Um, there are no easy fixes, now that we've gone through the stated preferences of what we're trying to do. Uh, my co-chair and I both know that there are no quick fixes. There's a saying, however, in China that even the longest journey must begin with a single step. As we noted in our goal, we intend to deliver periodic reports to you and the citizens of Riviera Beach in the coming months and years.

The early ones will reflect the steps that can be taken immediately. Following that we will look at the intermediate things that we can tackle to -- on some of the more difficult challenges we face. And finally, we'll look at the long-term programs that we feel reflect how this City can address the future needs of our citizens.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: For our work to have an impact, we need the support of our council and our citizens, not just when there's trouble, but over the long haul. We recognize the role of politics in our communities but we're not a political commission. Our job is to identify the problems that we face and come up with practical solutions that will improve the quality of life for every citizen in Riviera Beach.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Evaluating the commission. Both of us feel that the commission's work needs to be evaluated on a regular basis. We need to know what each committee is accomplishing and how effectively we are in presenting the commission's work to you and the community as a whole.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: Nothing we have said ignores the value of current and planned programs within our city. We know that the mayor and members of the council have or are planning programs that address the issues we are talking about tonight. We don't think for a minute that we have a monopoly on good ideas. In fact, we hope to embrace everyone's effort so that we're working together for the common good. The idea is to make the progress and to make the commission work.

MICHAEL SLOSER: And one more thing: When you look at us, we may look like the Odd Couple.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Salt and pepper.

MICHAEL SLOSER: But that's only on the surface. In the seven weeks we've been working together, meeting at least once a week, we have found so much in common, including the desire to address a diversity that is Riviera Beach. While we have no illusions about the work that lies before us, we hope that we can set an example for how much we can accomplish by working together. And with that, we turn to you and your questions and your comments.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, Miss Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Just one question.

MICHAEL SLOSER: Yes.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh, to either of you. Um, in looking forward, what are some of the things that you, um, would need council to do? Or have you gotten to

that point yet?

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: Some of those things are emerging continually as we set the subcommittees up.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: And it would be kind of premature to look and see what those persons in their expertise, what they will develop and bring back to the commission.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: But be sure -- for certainty, we will come back to you.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Great. All right.

MICHAEL SLOSER: And I would -- I would just add that we both have talked about how this is a problem-solution process.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

MICHAEL SLOSER: And that the problems will be defined by what the committees do. Um, both the pastor and I have had a number of people come to us and give advice over the last couple of weeks. And everyone knows exactly what the answer is. They always come to you and say, "Well, it's --" and they -- you fill in the blank.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

MICHAEL SLOSER: So we all kind of -- we start from that. But we do know that we are going to be getting things from the committees and we're going to come to you. And I think the answer is what we'll be asking of council is implementing the --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

MICHAEL SLOSER: -- this -- the -- the ideas that come from there.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Any --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- other comments?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Mr. Lowe? Mr. --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Um, yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- Mr. Thomas?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I just want to make sure -- I know that we briefly spoke. Uh, did you ever get that print -- those print things that you may have needed, some preliminary things in terms of business cards or brochures or whatever to help, uh, further that?

MICHAEL SLOSER: We -- we -- we've actually -- we -- we've had those discussions with the City. And it was just holding up on one piece of information which we now have. So we will -- we will get that. We -- so far we have -- we've had great support from the City and I -- you know, I thank Chief Williams. I thank Assistant -- Assistant City Manager Jones and City Manager Jones for everything that they've done to support us. We -- at this point -- at this point it's a nice feeling to know that everyone is on our side.

When we come up with things that may not be the most popular, well, we'll -- we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Miss -- Miss -- Miss --

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Um, the next steps, I guess, if you will, just to -- to -- to -- to keep us, uh, on track and moving, um, as you know the -- you -- you -- you've adopted the concept. We moved forward with developing, uh, the concept and that's this presentation, along with fleshing out some details, who's going to serve on the various subcommittees and the work that is anticipated.

What, uh, staff plans to do is to bring back, uh, in the form of a resolution formalization of the concept in naming the persons that are, uh -- have been and are going to be willing to serve in -- in these very, um, challenging positions for us.

Along with, uh, possibly identifying -- and the manager and I are working this out -- how we might seed the efforts so that the commission gets off and running properly with all the support that it needs to be successful as it moves forward. So we see those as our next administrative steps.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Wonderful.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What a wonderful, um, task that you have, uh, willingly assumed here. And whatever I can do as -- and I speak for all of us, too -- assist you as you move forward. I would like some time to make a presentation to your commission on a program that I visited in Baltimore called Safe Streets, because the components that you have here are very much the components that they have that have made it very successful in reducing gang violence in Baltimore.

It is from a model that was begun in Chicago under -- it's called Cease -- Cease Fire, which I hope you eventually go out in Chicago and look at that program, as well. But it's really working. And so I would like to present that to you sometime. The Mayor joined me in Baltimore and we both were very impressed. Uh, the Justice Commission just recently gave them continued funding in the amount of 2.2 million -- \$2.5 million.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Fantastic.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Because they have been so impressed with the success. And I had a meeting with one of the, um, reviewers from the Justice Department when I was in D.C. and she spoke very highly. She said the Justice Department is extremely pleased with, uh, the results of -- of those programs. So at some point we'll do a presentation before your commission.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: Okay. All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: All right. Thank you so much.

REVEREND DR. DRAYTON: Thank you.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Thank you very much. Okay. Next we have the Red Light Cameras at Key Intersections. Let's see. It's 20 minutes to 8 so we'll see how much time we have for that.

POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS: Madam Chair, Clarence Williams, Police Chief and, uh, red light cameras is -- it's been quite an -- an extensive ride. As you know, the state of the law has been -- was in flux. We've probably got a, uh, three- or four-year history with the development of this. Um, the police department was looking at red light cameras. We sort of put it on the back burner.

Um, it was advanced to a front burner when council became interested in the possible deployment. We began our steps to try to identify the best methods and ways to implement and deploy red light cameras in our -- in our city.

And over the course of that, the state of the law went up and down, and the State of Florida got involved and created a statute that sort of regulates now how municipalities implement some of the restrictions and, uh, identify fine -- the -- the levels of fines that could be, uh, levied. And also the impact on individual's driver's license. As you know, the statute indicates that there are no points assessed, uh, if a person receives a citation under a red light civil kind of infraction.

Our project manager has been Acting Assistant Chief Michael Madden who has lived with this project since December '08 and beyond. And, um, he's going to be doing the presentation.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Good evening, Council.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: In the spirit of time I'm going to kind of just hit the highlights here. You have all the information with you and I think that's an important takeaway for you. Uh, the importance of the history of the law is that, uh, we cautiously advanced this, paid attention to the state legislative decisions. We waited for a state law to pass before we acted, unlike the other cities that put out an ordinance prior to the state law.

So I think we -- our ordinance fits the state law the way it should be so that by waiting and cautiously proceeding, we do have a city ordinance that is more appropriate. Uh, so the city council approved that ordinance in July 2010.

Again, I'm not going to go through all these but I included some of the highlights of the state law that was passed, also referred to as the Mark Wandall Safety Act. Our City Ordinance Number 3098 is also included in your packet. It's what gives us the right to operate red light cameras in Riviera Beach.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So now we're saying we're going forward with it? Is that --

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: That's kind of the stage we're at.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- is that --

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: We have done all the legwork. We believe this is the appropriate step to inform the council of where we have gone so far, uh, before we finish a negotiation with a vendor and initiate the program.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: If I recall, Chief, when we were, um, deliberating on this sometime ago, we were waiting to see what some of the, um, court opinions were going to be. I believe Miami had been taken to court and some others. So we're all satisfied now that we're postured to go forward without the possibility of any kind of suits? Legal action?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Attorney Ryan maybe can expand on this, but I believe that, you know, there are legal challenges out there. This is still a relatively new law. Um, but there has been recent, uh, appeals court rulings in favor of red light cameras.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Okay. That was what was pending for us.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Madam Chair, but just to --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- just to clarify, though. Um, they're not all on the same page. The Fourth District, which is where -- where we reside, um, has found that there's no equal protection problem. So, on that basis alone, they said it, you know, was okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What do you mean by "equal protection"?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Well, there were some who were arguing that, um, because -- in some instances you have a police officer who actually, um, gives you a ticket and then you have the -- the camera that gives you the ticket. That one -- it wasn't really fair. I think I'm getting sick all of a sudden. I don't feel that great. But, um -- but they said that that was not -- it's not an equal protection issue.

The bigger problem is with the Third District and the Fifth District. Um, they have found, um, different -- the result has been different. The Third has said it's okay. You can move forward. The Fifth said it's not. And the Fifth Circuit has -- has certified a question to the Supreme Court, to the Florida Supreme Court. So it's still -- the issue is still not --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Very clear, huh?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- completely clear. But there are cities -- West Palm

Beach, Palm Beach -- Palm Springs. Um, I know there's some others.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Juno Beach.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Juno Beach, who all, um, have red light camera ordinances and they're moving forward with them. And they are, you know -- they -- they're getting some revenue in.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Um, there are some little issues with going to court and, you know, how the judges are handling them. But for the most part, the cities that have the programs, um, are viable and sometimes they make a profit; sometimes they don't. I was told that West Palm Beach did not make a profit last year.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Didn't they have to give money back?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Juno Beach had to give money back because of the, um -- the truck -- wasn't that the truck issue?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Yeah. Cities in the State of Florida had to give money back, all had pre-state law ordinances that were challenged so that -- that's what they had to refund money on.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh. (Inaudible).

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right. And because -- um, the Finance Director is here -- we've discussed putting the money in escrow just until -- maybe for a year to make sure that the law doesn't change or a court says it's not -- the Florida Supreme Court's going to have the final word on it. I mean, we have all these things that are -- we're waiting for the legislature or we're waiting for a court action.

Um, we believe that they will eventually rule on it. Um, and if it's not in favor of the -- the, uh, red light cameras, we may have to refund the money.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: So we talked about it at staff, the idea of keeping the money in escrow --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- for at least a year.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Just to -- to make sure so that we're not out of pocket.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Um, spending the money in the general fund one year and then having to give it back the next year. That's just a cautionary --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: In regards to that, though --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: And are we gonna --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- we do have to pay the vendor for --

CITY MANAGER JONES: Talk about how --

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: I'll be going through some of the numbers here real briefly, uh, to show you --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: 'Cause that is correct, yes.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: -- what some other cities have experienced. Uh, from a procurement standpoint we issued an RFP. That committee met. Um, the -- the committee recommended a vendor, Brekford Corporation. And that's kind of where we're at in the process. The next is to bring in the negotiated contract and the award before the council.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Now, there was an article in the paper last week or week before last listing the municipalities that have this in place. And there was some, um, thing about how the vendor -- there's an arrangement with their vendor that they would receive so much provided we collected so much in fines. And I really want to get a grasp on that. I truly want to understand.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: I have a slide that will explain that pretty clear. An important part of this slide is that before this program ever goes live, before any fine is ever issued, the City will go -- undergo a campaign to educate our community and to go through a 30-day warning period, which is required by Florida Statute.

You know, essentially on a red light camera, you're -- you know, a car approaches a red light. If it crosses the stop bar after the red light, the camera takes a photo of the vehicle, of the tag, a video of the vehicle running the red light and all that information is captured and sent in to a vendor who confirms the violation, captures the driver's information, runs the tags through the systems and then provides that back to the police officer who looks at the pictures, watches the video and must authorize that violation before it is mailed to the violator. So it's not just a vendor issuing violations. It's a police officer in Riviera Beach who does that.

Essentially if you receive one of these violations, all the information is contained on the violation of how to pay it if you choose to pay it. You do have due process. You can elect a court hearing. You have access to watch the video. You have access to see the pictures. The pictures are actually on your violation, showing the vehicle.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: This is just an overview of some of the equipment used in the intersection. And I just explained kind of the work flow of what happens from the start to the end of a -- from the start of the violation until conclusion of that violation.

And I'm going to move past this. This is some statistics you can look at, uh, that support --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: -- using red light cameras. This is some information we gathered from Palm Beach County, which is the number of crashes at certain intersections in our city. And these are the 2011 crashes by our -- and these are the intersections with more than 10. And the, uh, total number is 240 for 2011.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Wow.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: This breaks down the, uh -- the number of violations that we used to calculate this was based on a study done four years ago at four intersections in our city. Uh, we have adjusted those numbers to provide a conservative number, a conservative dollar amount for the revenue.

What you can -- what you can see at the top is the fine amount of 158. Per statute, the State of Florida collects \$78 of that fine. The City receives \$75. These are four intersections that were used in the study. The number of violations per day were actually double these numbers. But to -- to provide us a conservative revenue estimate we reduced them by half.

Because as you use these intersections with red light cameras, the number of violations will go down as, you know, the word gets out and people start paying fines.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: So --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: And, um, Commander Madden?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Yes.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So the -- the goal is to reduce accidents but --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Save lives.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- but -- and save lives but get a little revenue in the interim?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Well, that is correct. The goal is to reduce accidents and save lives. But as we've had with -- we've been enforcing speeding laws and many traffic violations since police departments have been in existence. And the revenue that comes in is just a byproduct of that enforcement.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Exactly.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: And it goes back to help the police department's fund that enforcement.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: The fee -- the -- the flat fee that's paid is per intersection approach. So if you have four cameras set up throughout the city, the fee typically is about \$4,300 per month per approach. So in this scenario, uh, listed here, the monthly fee for four intersections is \$17,200. Now, Florida -- Florida Statute prohibits sharing a per-fee collection with the vendor. For example, if --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Where do you see 17,000?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What page are you on?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Where do you see 17,000?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Let me get my, uh --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Or is that 7,200?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Down at the very bottom right here.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Oh, I see. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: 17,200, right?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Gotcha.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: That's -- that's essentially 4,300 per intersection times four.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: So --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes. I see. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Not too bad.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: But the industry standard on these contracts is a cost-neutral contract. And what that means is if the City doesn't collect \$17,200 in -- in revenue, they would only pay the vendor what they did collect. So if the City collected 15,000, we would only pay the 15,000.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Anything over that amount would -- would be the City's revenue.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Per month.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right. Okay.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: And I was --

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: And that -- and that -- and the balance there that is uncollected will build up. I guess you could call it debt to the city. But we have something in our -- you know, that we've negotiated that shows that in -- at the end of each quarter that debt would go away. Where most cities build that debt up for a year. So every -- every three months that -- you kind of start a new period.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Commander Madden -- Madden?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Yes?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: What is the initial out-of -- out-of- pocket expense?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: There -- there's no out-of-pocket expense to the city. The vendor, uh, burdens all costs for permitting, installation, of all equipment.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: The operation of that equipment and maintenance of that equipment.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Does it pay for the monitor -- the person that's monitoring and the officer that's reviewing the tickets?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: That would be the responsibility of the City. And, you know --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: (Inaudible) --

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: -- that's one of the reasons we recommend starting with four -- no more than four approaches so that we can truly evaluate the impact. But from our evaluation, we believe that we can do that with existing personnel.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: So you've factored that in already?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Yes.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, um, Mr. Thomas?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Let me see. (Inaudible). Cost of review hearings. Explain that to me. That seems like a very low cost to review, um, these -- I'm assuming which you should probably never do, but I -- I'm trying to figure out, you know, what you actually mean by review hearings.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: Okay. That's a cost that is kind of that absorbed cost. That's not a true cost to the City because it's absorbed in our existing personnel. And that number is derived by the number of hours that we anticipate the reviewer of these violations to be in court for the ones that are challenged.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So you -- you're saying that is a monthly cost of the \$516?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: It's an absorbed cost. It's a -- it's paying one of our personnel to be in court. And typically traffic personnel who go to court are working during the day so if traffic court is on Tuesdays, this person would be in court for an hour or two.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So how -- how did you get that number? How -- how did you come up with that number?

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: It's calculated based on a -- I have another document that was just a little too detailed to put up here. It covers, um,

information received from West Palm Beach Police Department based on the number of cases that are challenged annually in their -- with their statistics.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay. I'll -- I'll -- I'll get with you and we can, uh - - we can go into that a little deeper.

ACTING ASSISTANT CHIEF MADDEN: It's approximately two hours per week of personnel time.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay. Okay. All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Any other questions from staff on this?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: All I -- Madam Chair, um, I think it's staff's intent to bring back, um, a recommendation to council. Um, even though you passed the, um -- the ordinance, um, and instructed staff to go out for RFP to find a vendor, um, it's my understanding that you never, in fact, you know --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- acted on that. So that's gonna be the item that comes back to you.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yeah, they didn't bring it back because they were -- they pulled back.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: For the flux of the law.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So whenever they bring it back I'm ready.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay. All right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Anything else? I just now -- with the time, if you have something that you as council people want to discuss, I have got one matter that I just really need to bring before everybody's attention because it's something that's going to be brought to our, uh, regular board meeting for action.

My office has been getting a lot of calls about water bills. Um, excessive water bills, outstanding water bills that's just not -- it's -- it's above your imagination. I got a call from a lady on W. Second Street. September she got a bill for \$960, one month. We began to take a, uh -- a log of all these calls. Got one person one month got a bill of 303. Now, these are persons whose bills have been averaging \$40 and \$50.

Um, got one here, uh, the bill one month was \$674. Um, and it goes on and on. Another at \$600 on W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street. And you know, I guess people are beginning to wonder if we as a body, if -- if we're just not listening to what they're going through and are we not compassionate and considerate?

This one woman who got the bill for \$960 for one month, when she came in to talk about it -- and this lady's a widow. She's in -- in her 70s. And they were -- she was told, "Well, we will allow you to, uh -- we'll reduce it to \$235. But she's wondering how did they even come to that conclusion.

And I want everyone in the Water and Billing Department and Water District to

know that whatever is going on with these meters, we're not assessing blame to anyone who is now in place.

But we have been doing background -- doing some research on this. And we've got some cities with the same Neptune -- I'm gonna just give you a complete report on it because Atlanta and Tampa and other cities are going through, uh -- we've got one here, a lawsuit said that 40,000 of the 54,000 meters by Neptune Technology Group failed. And Neptune is not standing behind its product.

CNN did an investigation on, um -- I think they went to Atlanta and other cities. People are just going through a lot of problems with some of these meters. And we're going way back to 2003 to find out what has been happening here with our meters.

We've got to do something to help our -- our -- our, uh -- our customers. They cannot afford it. And I -- I'm going to be bringing back a resolution to the council to see if we can't average out what a person's water bill has been over the last 12 months and allow them when they get a bill that's just outrageous, to pay what an average bill would be for them. We have got to give them some relief.

And this is something that I'm championing. I'm just -- I -- because I'm just really sad for what's going on with our people. They're stopping me in the grocery store. Everywhere I go, "Miss Brooks, please, we've gotta do something. We can't afford it." Times are difficult now. And again, I'm not blaming anyone, but we have the power, people. We have the powers of council to at least help these people with this. And we can do this by saying to the Billing Department, let's average out what has been their bill for the last 12 months and allow them to pay it. It's not fair if we don't do it any other way.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, sir?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Um, of course you know how passionate I am about this issue. And I've got a call about that same lady that you just spoke about. It's several issues other than just the bill that is a problem. The first thing that we need to do is we need to explain. Now, I'm not casting any blame to anybody but a person that gets a bill that's already nervous and upset about the bill, they want to have the opportunity to -- to talk to someone.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: And in all fairness, you -- there's not enough staff available to talk. So the -- the citizen, the customer goes away feeling like we're not really trying to offer them an issue -- a -- a -- a solution --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: A solution, yeah.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- to their issue. Several times, you know, I'll go and I'll grab Miss Jackson or interrupt her from whatever she's doing to try to -- try to deal with it. But there's so many, uh, that we -- we really need to -- to create some type of system. Now, I -- you know, I do know that we have bond covenance and different things that we have to take into consideration, you know, on that.

Of course, I will support whatever we can do to reduce the bills.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: There -- there -- there are numerous of -- of problems. So what needs to happen probably sooner than later is we need to have a night where we're discussing this where people can come in and ask questions or set up some type of a review board or hearing so that they can go through each one of these, um -- these bills. It's -- it's hard for us to, um, explain, you know, the standby charges and, you know, why they get it if no one lives there or if they've had the meter removed or -- it's all kind of other aspects that go into that bill.

Also, the stormwater, the, uh -- the waste collection, all those things that are on that bill, they might not understand. They're just looking at the bottom number --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Mr. Thomas, can I just stop you on that?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Please, let me say this. I -- I understand what you're saying. And there are so many variables here.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What I am talking about here is a bill that doesn't make good sense. \$960? The lady called here and said I -- and again, I'm not blaming --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Miss Brooks, I'm not debating that issue.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- let -- let me just -- let me -- let me just finish.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm not debating that issue. I'm just saying there's --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- we need to handle just more than a person that gets a large bill. That's all I'm saying.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. I -- well, we do. And that's --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: If we're gonna do it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- and, uh -- and the city manager and I have talked about that. But I'm talking about in the gap. I'm talking about people who are suffering now, who gotta make a choice between buying groceries and paying a water bill to keep their water on. I am -- I mean, they must think we're intellectually retarded. Something is wrong. We got to know something is wrong when your water bill all of a sudden jump up to \$800 for one month, then goes back down. I'm talking about dealing with that category of people. That we can work with them to average out what their bill would be --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- now, what you're talking about --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Yeah. I -- I don't --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- and -- and I know --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- I don't have an issue with that.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Well, that's the issue that I'm talking about. So if you don't have an issue with that then we'll --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- we'll be able to work that out. Now, these other issues, yes. There's a long line of things. For instance --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- no. Miss --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Wait a minute. Wait a minute. For instance, I paid my water bill on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. The 6<sup>th</sup> of September. I get a notice from the tenant that they're there to turn the water off two weeks later. I call to find out, "Did I pay the bill?" 'cause maybe I forgot. "Yes, you did. You paid the bill but you didn't call us to tell us that you paid the bill. So you should have done that."

I -- I'm just -- so there are variables here and I don't even want to get into all of that. I'm talking about working with these people --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, that --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- whose bills are exorbitant.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- Miss -- Miss Brooks, you're saying the same thing that I'm saying.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Okay. Okay.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: You're -- you're saying the same thing I'm saying.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: 'Cause you know I'm mad about it so --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I -- I -- and -- and you -- and you have every right to be mad about it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Okay. And my bill is fine at my house. I don't have any problems.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, no, my -- my bill is not fine. But all -- all I'm basically saying is --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: You know? You know, but it's wrong.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- there -- there's a lot of aspects to these water bills.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I know that.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: And -- and all I'm -- all I'm basically saying is, if we're going to do that, then you might as well prepare that every 14,000 residents' bills that we have, there's going to be an issue. So all I'm saying is it's an immediate, you

know, reaction needed. But I just want to make sure that we are clear on whatever the impact is of what we're about to do. I don't want to just do it and not really understand the impact.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And we could do all of that.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: We could do all of that.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But I'm saying it's been too long -- it's been months and months. People have been crying out to us and we're sitting here, Okay. Well, we'll take care of this bill and you go do this and you -- uh-uh.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: We gotta do something and do something right away.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: All right. I will support you on that and let me tell you a story. About 18 months ago -- no. It's not 18 months ago. Maybe -- when did the A1A Beautification Project start?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: When did it start?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Yeah, when did it start?

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: It started, uh --

CITY MANAGER JONES: (Inaudible) months.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR MCKINNEY: -- no. It's, like, two and a half years ago.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Twenty -- yeah.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Okay. So maybe it was 18 months ago. Um, a condo across the street from me, Villa Towers, they -- when the -- when the contractors were, uh, putting the new sewage pipes in, they had -- they did something to one of the pipes on A1A that fed into their condo. For days water just spewed out. Okay? They got a bill for, like, \$14,000. And they brought it to the Water Department. And do you know to this day, they are still fighting it. They -- they paid it. But they are still fighting it.

They've spoke to Mr. Aurigemma. They've spoke to other people and they still have not received any resolution. We heard a condo from Palm Beach Shores come in here --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Yeah, it's --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- at our last meeting. They've had the same issue. You know, we have residents coming in time after time. I had neighbors about six months ago that had issues with the water bills. You know, it -- so, you know, I know it's

happening in my district and it's happening in everyone's district. And we really need to get a handle on this.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: But when and what are we going to do? So that -- that's --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- my issue.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Well, I like the --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, I've had one solution that I'm looking -- I plan to do.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And you can do what you want to do about --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- (inaudible). Uh-huh?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: I would say bring all of the departments in.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Yes, Miss Davis.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Same -- same here. Just a few weeks ago, um, resident three -- average bill, \$60 a month. Then he gets a bill for \$300. And the next month was \$150 dollars. Came in and paid all of it. But my issue is -- and I've been talking about this since 2005 when they were first installed. Even with my bill.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Compared to others whose bill was, like, \$30 and mine was \$190. Okay? So anyway, my issue is not just that particular portion of this problem. It's because when I ask for what happened, I don't -- you know, there's no explanation. Um, the one gentleman was just reimbursed \$150.

I mean, but what was the issue? I want to know what the problem is. So you know, I -- I think that has to be addressed.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Miss -- Miss -- Miss Davis? Our problem is we have a 30-minute Utility District meeting.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Instead of handling the problem in the Utility District meeting -- we obviously see where it -- where it is. I'm willing to -- remember, I voted against the entire increase of the whole thing.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So all I'm saying is if we're gonna do something, fine. Let's do it. But we can't do it by having a 15-minute, three-item Utility District meeting. All --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Well, you know --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- if -- if we don't -- if we -- if we can't get an understanding of it and we have the access -- the immediate access to management and everything, then you know that the citizens who don't have that immediate access are not going to be able to under -- to understand. And we all have stories. These same people are calling all of us.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I know.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: We all are dealing with it. But all we're basically saying is, Okay. We need to do something. I'm saying what are we going to do?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: And -- and here -- and here -- and here's the -- the issue for me. You know, if we're going to the -- the -- the group that Miss, uh -- Chair Brooks is talking about, you know, those who have, um, a bill that, you know --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Unusually high.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- is -- is totally unusually high, but the issue is not just finding a solution to handle those people. You know, what are we going to do in the long run as far as these meters?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That's the issue.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Absolutely.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: You know?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Absolutely.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So, I mean, we can't throw away the meters. We've gotta have something to read, the meters. Or maybe we want to go back to, um, you know, people who walk around and -- and -- and just take it by hand. But we still gotta have that kind of meter.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So why don't we call an immediate meeting --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That thing -- that's been in --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- with Dr. Aurigemma and find --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- since --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- out --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- what we can do. That -- that's my biggest thing. Everybody who I've talked to says --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Absolutely. And we have so many engineers on board.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- that you can't -- you -- you can't get anything

back from him.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So that's my only issue. If we're going to do something, then fine. Next week let's --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I hear what you're saying and it's good. And we want to try to look at all -- everything that's going on. And we're doing our research. Ron Glenn has begun to do research on resolutions starting back to 2003 because we need to know is it the installation.

It appears that this Neptune Company has manufactured defective meters that have been installed. We've got one here from Honolulu complaining about the meters. So, yes, but in the meantime while we're going through this discovery process, we've got to give some help to people who have these exorbitant water bills. That's what I'm saying.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: And Miss Brooks, we -- we don't -- we don't mind that.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's just (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: But if you --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- if you have that --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's good.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- if you have that, let's discuss it or bring it back Wednesday, however you want to do it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh, we're going to do a report. We're doing a lot of in-depth -- it's not an overnight thing. And Mrs. Jones has received from me -- you know, what -- you know, that memo I gave you the other day that said these are the, uh -- this is the information that I need?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Oh, yeah. It's a request for information.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

CITY MANAGER JONES: We haven't seen any studies or any --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: No, no.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: 'Cause we don't --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: What action is needed?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- (inaudible) -- we want to try to bring -- put that all together.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: What action is needed, Miss Brooks, Miss Jones? What action is needed so that we don't violate whatever --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Let me just (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- covenant we have to be able to give the immediate assistance? What action is needed for the board? Not just Miss Brooks, 'cause all of us have this concern. We all need to know what's -- what's taking place. I understand she's working on it. But what -- what other action is needed?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And let -- Miss -- Miss Ryan, could you please --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- give them a report? I had gone to the attorney. I -

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- didn't go to you, Miss Jones, on this matter. I went to the attorney first to find out what can we legally do to give relief to the people. The -- we keep getting some explanation about a bond covenant. So on -- I think I met with you on Thursday.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Last week.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Last -- of last week and I gave you this memo stating --

CITY MANAGER JONES: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- these are the areas that we need to, uh, cover and who would be responsible for -- for providing information. Then I went to Legal. Because when I got that call from that lady about her -- her water bill, I said, "You know, enough is enough." We just keep telling people, "Okay. We're gonna see what we can do." We've got to take some immediate action. I went to Miss Ryan.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss Ryan, what did you tell me?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Basically the, um -- the bond covenant and/or our city code of ordinances would not be violated so long as we state in the resolution or what other -- whatever, um, enabling, um, legislation we put into effect that while we are charging only the average bill, that we conduct some kind of an investigation. Because our -- our bond covenant state that you can't give free service.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: But if there's something wrong with the --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: -- the instruments that -- that are being used or the way they were installed and we're taking -- taking it upon ourselves to investigate that, and it is determined that it was not the water but the materials, then an adjustment is

appropriate.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Um, but it would have to be an investigative period and we're not forgiving -- we're not forgiving monies that are owed. If it comes back after the investigation that, um, it should have been \$200 instead of \$300, then that's the amount that we need to charge the residents.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Because there are other -- other -- other variables in there, too.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Like, there may be a water leak or a running toilet --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- or --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: That is correct.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- or something.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: You know, so we don't --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- we -- we're not just gonna push those to the side. But you know, we want to be fair.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Absolutely.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: You know, so --

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: We want to be fair.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- and also, I have one last question for you. Miss Pardo, you mentioned the contractor who broke the line for your -- uh, your --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Yeah. I don't know if they broke the line. They were doing something to it. Uh-huh.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay. So do -- are -- what is the contractor liability? I mean, if they did something, you know, which it seems to me as if they did, and the water's just gushing out, how -- how do we recoup?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Yeah. Um, of course there's always the, um, bonding that any contractor has.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: And have we talked to them?

CITY MANAGER JONES: Well, this is the first time we've heard that.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: No, hold on a second. That's not true.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Well, no. That a contractor hit it.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Okay.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Mr. Jones just went through his notes when we met with Villa Towers. And that's not in his notes that they said that's how it occurred. I don't doubt that it didn't. It's just in the meetings we've had --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- when we asked them, "Did you pressure wash?" They said no. They say, "We don't know how the water got that -- bill that way." So now we know it was a vendor or a contractor working on A1A that did something, and then that's a whole 'nother action as it relates to that process.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Well, I suggest we (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: When -- when do we -- when are we bringing it back?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Listen, and -- and they've had several meetings with Mr. Aurigemma and --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Miss -- Miss Ryan had already -- Miss Ryan had already instructed me, Mr. Thomas --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- they've been getting the runaround.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- that we would need to have a Utility District meeting on this matter even to vote on it. And at that time all of this information that we have --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: A workshop first.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- will then be brought forward.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So that would be in November.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: So when -- so when are we bringing it back? And don't just come with a --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: A workshop.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- This is what we're gonna do. Make sure that you have a full plan with staff and budget to handle these issues because it's no way in the world that everybody's gonna be able to come to Mr. or Mrs. -- Mr. Jones -- no pun intended there -- but there's no way that you two are gonna be able to handle all of the issues that there are. So it needs to be -- if we're gonna deal with it quickly, do you need to bring back a staff plan?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: If more employees need to be brought on for -- temporarily to handle it? It's a big enough issue that we can't just say, Okay. We're just going to give adjustments, 'cause you're going to spend all of your time --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Exactly.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- just giving adjustments. You need to

implement an -- a staff plan with a budget to give us something to consider. And if it needs to be paid out of the Utility District, then that's fine. But somebody from Utility District needs to -- you know, to -- to be giving us some information right away. I mean, I -- I would suggest that we bring it back by our next city council meeting. I would suggest that if the board -- if that pleases the board, I will suggest that and make the, uh -- make the Utility District meeting --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Prior to, right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- a little longer than the 30 minutes. 'Cause you're gonna definitely need it.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: You mean for the -- you -- you said bring it back to the -- for the next city council meeting.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: If we're saying that we want to do something immediate.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: I -- well, let me ask -- okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Okay. Hold on just one minute.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Propose --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm saying -- yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: What -- what are you about to say, Miss Davis?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay. For those astronomical out -- out-of-the-ordinary bills --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- you -- you're saying bring that back?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, the -- first you have to establish what you will consider out of the ordinary.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Because somebody who's been paying \$40 --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Well, you know what I'm saying.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: (Inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: But --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: No, no, no. I'm saying you have some people that are paying \$14,000 that only paid 3,000, but it's all relative. If you have a person that's paying \$30 that's not paying 120, you know, it's -- it's relative. So if it's -- if it's astronomical for that person who's paying the larger bill --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: No, I'm -- it --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- it's also --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- I'm talking about as opposed to what their average monthly bill is.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: If it's -- out of the ordinarily high, is that what you're talking about bringing back?

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, then, we would have to pick a threshold. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right, yeah.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: We would have to pick a threshold if it's --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- 20 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So I could -- I could -- I can support that. But -- but I would really like to have a workshop on the larger issue.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I -- I agree.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah, we'll deal with --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah. That would be a continuation. Because this has been a matter that has a history of many years.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So it's not going to be a quick fix.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: But all I'm saying, let's give some relief to these people who are having these bills that they can't afford to pay. And some of them we know because we've established a payment plan. So that's a beginning list right there. With whom do we have payment plans?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Um, right. Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: I'm just -- I'm just throwing it out. Not for an answer but just for a consideration.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes, ma'am?

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Um, since we're talking about the Utility District and expanding the meeting from 30 minutes to however long, um, I'd really like to see a discussion about the ECR on there, also. I'm sure everyone read in the newspaper that, uh, West Palm Beach decided that they are not going to fund the, um -- the ECR. They voted against it.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: They have, yeah.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: So right now it is --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Contractually --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- up to Lake Worth --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- contractually liable.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- to see what happens.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: This is the first I've heard about that.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: It was -- there was an article --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah, it's in the paper.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- there were two articles in the newspaper this past week.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: That's about the pelletization --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah, pelletizing --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: And -- and, um --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- plant.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: -- pelletization.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- the County is saying just come with us.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Because they already have one.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Right.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: They want us to use solid waste (inaudible).

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Um, our engineer who is the chairman of the board of the ECR, he had commented on it. So, um, I think at this point we need to have --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: He commented in the newspaper or did he give us a report?

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Uh-huh. He gave us one.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: He gave us a report.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay. I -- I've not received that report.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: So anyway, I think it's important --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: You haven't, either?

CITY ATTORNEY RYAN: (Shakes head).

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: -- that we get an update on what's going on at the ECR. Please.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So do we need a motion on what --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: No. We -- not no motion, not tonight.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: -- I mean, not a motion. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: We don't have to have a motion. We'll -- we'll work out --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Do we need to talk about what time --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- the agenda.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Consensus.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: We -- we've given -- we've given direction. But we --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- we -- we need an update of what's going on in our Utility District, bottom line.

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Absolutely.

CITY MANAGER JONES: And if you'll recall when I did the list of topics, ECR and the water master plan were the two utility topics that we had planned a workshop. We just have to -- and Miss Brooks and I will work through the schedule, because the holidays in November and December --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Uh-huh.

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- kind of mess us up for that third Wednesday's workshop. So we have to look for some other days. But we'll do that.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm -- I'm okay with calling a --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And the third Wednesday, that --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- I'm -- I'm okay with calling another day's meeting to get this --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Tuesday.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm okay with calling on -- I'm okay with calling another day so we can get this --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Good. Good.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- handled.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: And -- and by the way --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Tuesday.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: I'm okay if it's --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- hey, Miss Jones and I had talked about and also with Dr. Aurigemma that this third Wednesday could also be a time when we would discuss issues pertaining to the Utility District.

CITY MANAGER JONES: Right.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So that we wouldn't be all pressed for 30 minutes.

CITY MANAGER JONES: One more time, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: So it was -- but anyway --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- I'm glad to hear that we're all on board. That we're all -- that the people know that we --

CHAIR PRO-TEM PARDO: This council needs to get more involved (inaudible).

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- really are concerned and are going to do something to help them. All right.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: I got one thing.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Yes?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Um, tomorrow is a meeting. I -- I got an e-mail tomorrow's a meeting for the MLK Committee. And I want to -- I want to offer up one suggestion for this year's parade for consideration, that we have the M -- the Martin Luther King Parade on MLK, I -- I mean, this year. I mean, it's named MLK. It's an MLK event.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Where is the staging area?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: I mean, we could create all of that.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Congress?

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: But still, I mean, why have an MLK Boulevard and do the MLK Parade on Blue Heron? You know? It's just a thought.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: It's a thought. It's a thought.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: And it's a -- it's different. It's a change and it would add some activity and life in -- into that particular corridor for that one weekend, which right now is a, you know, primarily a ghost town and devoid of business or any kind of positive activity. It's just -- right now it's a hangout with derelict properties. But if we come through and spruce up that -- that corridor for that weekend and run the parade down there, it's -- you know, it's -- it's different and it -- I think it's appropriate. It -- you know, that's my opinion.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Well, I like ideas so --

CITY MANAGER JONES: Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- let's look at it. Yes, ma'am?

CITY MANAGER JONES: I just wanted, as it relates to your thought pattern on that, it would mean we would have to be going from Australian to Old Dixie because in 3 weeks the construction between Congress and Australian starts on MLK. So --

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: (Inaudible).

CITY MANAGER JONES: -- your path and -- so that would be a point of consideration because that construction between Congress and Australian is getting ready to start in three weeks.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: So maybe the next time.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Okay.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah. Well, we use that third phase from Old Dixie to the Australian.

CITY MANAGER JONES: That's what I'm saying.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah.

CITY MANAGER JONES: The Australian to Old Dixie.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: It doesn't have to be up that whole entire MLK. But the final portion could end on MLK and it can start at the Swap Shop or somewhere, you know, south of that and turn on to MLK. You know? It's -- it's more -- it's more than one alternative.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well --

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: But if there -- at that -- if that area is going to be under construction between, uh, Congress and Australian, then we can -- we can void that area and go down -- go up Australian and end right in -- in Dan Calloway Park or somewhere like that that's --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: Oh. Oh.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: Well, I just -- I would suggest, being that, you know --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That's --

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- for this, uh --

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: -- (inaudible).

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: All right.

COUNCILPERSON THOMAS: -- this -- this turkey giveaway, logistically, since they're building something back there that's become a nightmare. I would suggest that we go ahead and approve whether we're going to do the parade or not so they can start working on the road closures, seeing that I -- I've seen firsthand how it can be an issue and they can also say no since we don't own the road. So I would suggest wherever we're going to do it, if we're not going to do it on the road that we own, we definitely need to go ahead and bring that back so we can decide, you know, on it just as a point of -- I'm going through that now and I see that it can be an issue. So whichever -- wherever we're gonna do it, we need to bring it back and show that there's council's support for the parade.

COUNCILPERSON LOWE: Well, can you please at least put it under consideration as a conversation to have tomorrow at the committee meeting? That's all

I'm asking.

CHAIRPERSON BROOKS: That will be different. Yeah.

COUNCILPERSON DAVIS: Motion to adjourn.

(CONCLUSION OF WORKSHOP)

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
THOMAS A. MASTERS  
MAYOR

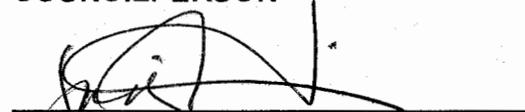
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BILLIE E. BROOKS  
CHAIRPERSON

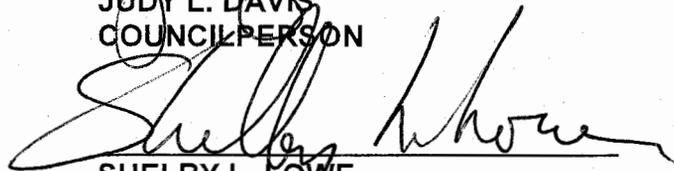
ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CARRIE E. WARD  
MASTER MUNICIPAL CLERK  
CITY CLERK

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DAWN S. PARDO  
CHAIR PRO TEM

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CEDRICK A. THOMAS  
COUNCILPERSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDY L. DAVIS  
COUNCILPERSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SHELBY L. LOWE  
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY: J. DAVIS

SECONDED BY: C. THOMAS

B. BROOKS AYE

D. PARDO AYE

C. THOMAS AYE

J. DAVIS AYE

S. LOWE AYE

DATE APPROVED: 12/05/2012