

**MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
PLANTATION, FLORIDA**

July 25, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Councilman Robert A. Levy, Pro Tem President of the City Council.

1. Roll Call by City Clerk:

Councilmember:	Ron Jacobs (Telephone) Robert A. Levy Lynn Stoner Sharon E. Moody Peter S. Tingom (Telephone)
Mayor:	Diane Veltri Bendekovic
City Attorney:	Donald J. Lunny, Jr.

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2. The invocation was offered by Councilwoman Moody.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – January 11, 2012

The Minutes of the City Council meeting for January 11, 2012 was approved as presented.

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ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Bendekovic presented Service Awards to the following Employees:

*Michael Mingo	Utilities	20 years
S. Sue Reed	Fire	20 years
Officer Michael Kisslan	Police	15 years
B. Joy Mitchell	Police	15 years
Beverly Ambrosio	Human Resources	10 years
Patricia Ortega	Police	10 years
Jules Ameno, III	Utilities	5 years
Wade Brown	Public Works	5 years
*Barney Curry, Jr.	Central Services	5 years

*Donnell Hampton	Utilities	5 years
Icar Prince	Utilities	5 years
Kaspers Reams	Utilities	5 years
Christine Smyth	Police	5 years

*Unable to attend.

Congratulations were offered.

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Mayor Bendekovic made the following comments:

- Plantation Farmer’s Market is at Volunteer Park every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- The Broward County Property Appraiser’s Community Outreach event will have representatives present to assist with the Homestead, Senior and other property tax exemption application. All Plantation events are at the Outreach Center located in the Broward County Government Center West, 1 University Drive, on the corner of University Drive and Broward Boulevard, every Wednesday in August from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 pm.
- FP&L filed a petition with the Florida Public Service Commission for a base rate increase. The local hearings are scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Plantation City Hall Council Chambers.

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Jim Romano, Director of Parks and Recreation, made the following announcements:

- The Annual Mother and Son Hoe Down will held at Volunteer Park on Friday, August 3, 2012, between 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm.
- Kids Camp will be at Plantation Central Park and will begin on Monday, August 6, 2012 through Friday, August 17, 2012.

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CONSENT AGENDA

As a Commissioner of the CRA, Mayor Bendekovic has a voting privilege on Item No. 16.

Item No. 11 was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Lunny read the Consent Agenda by title.

4. Approval for The Fountains located at 801 South University Drive to have an Arts and Crafts Fair in their gazebo area near Dick’s Sporting Goods and Total Wine on Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
5. Approval for Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana De Plantation to have a garage sale on their church property Saturday, August 4, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

6. Request for authorization to award a purchase order in favor of Odyssey Manufacturing Inc., in the amount of \$21,800 to supply the high density polyethylene (HPDE) tank for the concentrate booster pump station at the East Water Treatment Plant. (Budgeted – Utilities)
7. Request to award a contract for the Gulfstream Master Pump Station conversion based on sealed competitive bids opened on June 12, 2012, in response to RFP #073-12 to R J Sullivan Corporation in the amount of \$3,510,600. (Budgeted – Utilities)
8. Request for authorization to exercise the first of two (2) one (1) year renewal options with Dow Water & Process Solutions in accordance with City of Plantation RFP No. 024-11 for the supply of water treatment membranes. (Budgeted – Utilities)
9. Approve funds to purchase software, licenses, maintenance and the first progress payment for the approved Accela upgrade. (Budgeted – IT)
10. Approve purchase of 200 Motorola Minitor V Pagers from First Communications in the amount of \$86,392.

Resolution No. 11524

12. **RESOLUTION** approving that certain Interlocal Agreement among Unincorporated Broward County, City of Coconut Creek, City of Cooper City, City of Coral Springs, City of Dania Beach, Town of Davie, City of Deerfield Beach, City of Hallandale Beach, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, City of Lauderdale Lakes, City of Lauderhill, City of Lighthouse Point, City of Margate, City of Miramar, City of North Lauderdale, City of Oakland Park, City of Parkland, Town of Pembroke Park, City of Pembroke Pines, City of Plantation, City of Pompano Beach, Town of Southwest Ranches, City of Sunrise, City of Tamarac, City of Weston, and City of Wilton Manors to share the resource burden of the system-wide EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) Permit No. FLS0000160993 and authorize Broward County to conduct specific technical activities required by the third five-year permit to be performed by the Broward County Planning and Environmental Regulation; having the appropriate City Officers execute same and authorizing the City Administration or City Attorney to make minor revisions thereto; and providing an effective date therefor.

Resolution No. 11525

13. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period July 5 – July 18, 2012 for the Plantation Gateway Development District.

Resolution No. 11526

14. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period July 5 – July 18, 2012 for the Plantation Midtown Development District.

Resolution No. 11527

15. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period July 5 – July 18, 2012.

Resolution No. 11528

16. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period July 5 – July 18, 2012 for the City of Plantation’s Community Redevelopment Agency.

Motion by Councilwoman Moody, seconded by Councilperson Stoner, to approve tonight’s consent agenda as printed. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Moody, Stoner, Jacobs, Tingom, Levy

Nays: None

NOTE: Mayor Bendekovic voted affirmatively on Item No. 16.

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Mr. Lunny read Item No. 11.

Ordinance No. 2468

11. **ORDINANCE** Second and Final Reading relating to the Police Officers’ Retirement System, amending Section 18-65(6) to update the manner in which a Police Officer may change his or her joint and survivor beneficiary to comply with State Law; providing for codification; providing for severability; and providing an effective date therefor.

A memorandum dated June 13, 2012, to Susan Slattery, City Clerk, from Liz Andrews, Police Plan Administrator, follows:

Enclosed please find a proposed ordinance amending Section 18-65(6) to update the manner in which a Police Officer may change his or her joint and survivor ship beneficiary to comply with State Law, providing for codification, providing for severability and providing an effective date.

Also included is a letter from Gabriel Roeder & Smith stating the change will not have an actuarial impact on the plan and a procedure form showing the history of the proposed ordinance.

Please advise once this proposed ordinance has gone before the City Council for the first reading in order to send the Ordinance and Impact Statement to the State Actuary and Patricia Shoemaker before the second reading.

Thank you.

Mayor Bendekovic pulled this item because Mr. Lunny and Mr. Kaufman had a conversation today and it was felt that Council should be informed of that conversation.

Mr. Lunny advised that in the April 11, 2012 report from the actuary, the actuary advised the Council that there are scenarios under which this change might result in elections that would be adverse to the plan. He made a recommendation that either the City prepare the ordinance in a way that directs the Board how to implement the legislative change or to allow the Board to implement the change pursuant to its policies and programs. The City has a resolution which requires all of our Retirement Boards to notify the City when it changes actuary assumptions that have a financial consequence and the City Council must approve all of those changes and since

that resolution went into place in 2007, the City has reviewed assumptions and approved them by resolution or ordinance. In this instance, he reminded Mr. Kaufman of the City resolution, which he is aware of, and he has confirmed that the Board is willing to implement the ordinance so that there is not an anti-selection bias and will make an appropriate actuary assumption to do that, which will then be formulated by that Board and presented to the City for approval by resolution or ordinance. When speaking with the actuary about the actuary's proposal, he stated orally and in writing that it is difficult to formulate an approach that would cover an anti-selection bias so he is not sure that what he is recommending is the final solution so it is appropriate to refer the matter to the Board, as we often do with Administration issues, for them to evaluate the issue and make recommendations. Whenever they settle on a proposal as to how they are going to deal with the assumptions, they will refer it to City Council for approval.

Mr. Kaufman stated that the ordinance was originally written so it would say that they would comply with the provisions of Chapter 185. This particular issue raised by Mr. Palmquist says that in certain circumstances a member of the plan can take advantage of the Statute and change a way for a member who is about to pass away or who is deceased. In other words, in certain circumstances, it allows for a member to gain the system. The Police Pension Board of Trustees has reviewed Mr. Palmquist's letter in which he states that there is no actuarial impact in passing the ordinance but they are prepared to adopt an Administrative rule based upon Mr. Palmquist's recommendations to the plan to correct this one deficiency that was not included in Chapter 185.

Mr. Lunny added that the ordinance is prepared consistent with how cities implement this provision throughout the state so there is nothing unusual; Mr. Kaufman did not write this in a way that is not at all customary. Most cities treat the issue the way it is being treated and they appear to be very willing to make sure it is either an Administrative rule or an assumption that will come back to the City by a review and approval by resolution.

Mr. Kaufman believes that it would be an Administrative rule and then the City could adopt a resolution accepting what is contained in the Administrative rule. The Board is the Administrator of the plan and is responsible for the administration of the plan, but until an ordinance is passed they cannot adopt an Administrative rule interpreting the ordinance.

In response to Councilwoman Moody, Mr. Kaufman indicated that the assumption could be paid by either party because it is to the benefit of both the Board and the City. In the long run the City will end up paying for the cost but it is of a benefit to the City.

Councilwoman Moody mentioned that Mr. Palmquist's letter also says that because of this anti-selection there will be a low probability of members who are going to take advantage of this.

Mr. Kaufman advised that the new benefit would have to be actuarially adjusted upon the age.

Mr. Lunny commented that there are two legal options; we can take the unusual step in his judgment of writing in the ordinance how this will be done and if we do that and formulate, here an anti-selection bias fixer. If that is adopted and becomes part of the ordinances, the Board is obligated to follow it. In this case, the actuary has said that he is not too sure what the best remedy is as long as the Board agrees to bring their proposed rule back to the Council to review and approve prior to implementation. He thinks that is appropriate because this is no different than any other change where the Board had to formulate appropriate assumptions given all the primers that affect the plan given our past history that those assumptions come back.

In response to Councilman Levy, Mr. Lunny is recommending that Council pass the ordinance as written given the statements this evening and with that understanding.

Mr. Kaufman commented that he was fine with that.

**Motion by Councilwoman Moody, seconded by Councilperson Stoner, to approve Ordinance No. 2468.
Motion carried on the following roll call vote:**

Ayes: Moody, Stoner, Jacobs, Tingom, Levy
Nays: None

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – None.

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LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

- 17. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES AND POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS.

This item was withdrawn.

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Mr. Lunny read the titles for Resolution No.’s 11529, 11530, and 11531.

Resolution No. 11529

- 18. **RESOLUTION** ADOPTING THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM MILLAGE OF 6.1142 MILLS, WHICH THE CITY OF PLANTATION CAN ASSESS DURING THE NEXT ENSUING TAX YEAR; ESTABLISHING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER SUCH PROPOSED MILLAGE AND THE TENTATIVE BUDGET; AND OTHERWISE DIRECTING THE TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER BY AUGUST 3, 2012; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR.

A memorandum dated July 16, 2012, to the Honorable Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Mayor, and Members of City Council, from Kristi Caravella, Budget Manager, follows:

The State requires that the City set the maximum millage rate so that the Property Appraiser can use these rates for notices that they send to the individual taxpayer. The millage rate forwarded to the Property Appraiser is the maximum millage that the City of Plantation can levy for next year’s budget without going through an expensive mailing process. City Council always has the option of lowering the amount of millage at either of the two Public Hearings in September.

The three resolutions set the maximum millage rate for the City’s funds as follows:

- 1. City of Plantation Operating Millage 6.1142 mills
- 2. Plantation Gateway Development District 1.2461 mills
- 3. Plantation Midtown Development District 0.4072 mills

Local governments must conform to the maximum millage limitation requirements first imposed by the Legislature in 2007. These requirements were further amended by a bill passed in 2008 (CS/SB 1588). The requirements applicable to 2012 are in S.200.185(5), F.S.

For fiscal year 2012/13, the maximum millage requirements applicable to operating millages for all local governments except school districts are:

- By a majority vote (three votes in the City of Plantation), taxing authorities may levy a maximum millage equal to their rolled-back rate adjusted for the change in per capita Florida personal income. (1.0447% for FY 2012/13) or 5.2745 mills for the City of Plantation.
- By two-thirds vote (four votes in the City of Plantation), taxing authorities may levy a millage equal to 110% of the majority vote maximum millage rate or 5.8020 mills for the City of Plantation.
- By a unanimous vote or a referendum, taxing authorities may levy any millage up to their constitutional or statutory maximum millage (ten mills for the City of Plantation).

The General Fund millage rate of 6.1142 mills recommended for your consideration is 1.5 mils more than last year (requiring a unanimous vote from City Council). This rate will generate \$9.6 million in ad valorem tax revenues. Please note that the millage rate being set on July 25 will set the maximum millage rate for FY2013. The maximum millage rate may be revised only downward as Council processes the budget information in the August 23, 2012 workshop with the Mayor, Administration and Department Directors and the September 12th and 19th, 2012 Public Hearings.

The recommended maximum millage rates for Plantation Midtown and Plantation Gateway Development Districts are the same millage rates as levied in the previous fiscal year 2012 and require a City Council majority vote.

With the recommended millage of 6.1142 mills for the General Fund millage rate, and the adoption of other proposed revenue streams including implementation of public safety impact fees, the sale of real estate surplus and a fire assessment fee (to be levied in FY2014), the City will reposition itself as financially solvent and be able to support the ever rising costs of doing business as expected by its residents. The recommended millage also is combined with a reduction in work force (13 vacant positions eliminated), frozen wages for general employees (for the third year) and FOP members, imposition of a commuter fee for take home vehicles and a nominal capital budget, mostly designated to much needed technology infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the city has implemented several cost saving measures including a benefit adjustment in its General Employee Pension Plan for new hires and the Employee Health and Wellness enter to help reduce health insurance costs. Budgeted revenues other than ad valorem taxes and expenditure reductions will be determining factors on the final budget and levels of service and programs.

The City has scheduled the date for the First Public Budget Hearing for the Regular Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

Please contact me directly at 954/797-2233 if you have any questions.

Councilman Levy explained that tonight's meeting is only to set the ceiling for the millage that can never go above that this fiscal year. The actual millage rate will occur in September. The Mayor needs these figures in order to develop her proposed budget and finalize it for Council. We are still in negotiations with FOP and do

not know how that will affect our budget. This is not the definitive meeting on the millage rate. There are two Budget hearings in September that will set the millage rate for the next fiscal year beginning October 1, 2012.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that the first public hearing on the actual budget will be September 12, 2012 followed by September 19, 2012. There will be a Workshop on August 23, 2012 and that is when the budget will be discussed in detail and the Directors present their individual budgets and there is a questioning and answering from the Council to each Department Director. The Workshop is open to the public; however, the public is not permitted to speak. We have already had three Workshops; one on January 11, 2012, which was a benefits Workshop, and that provided an overview of all of the medical, benefits, and costs that are incurred by the City. Another Workshop was held on June 14, 2012, at which time additional information was provided for the Council in more detail. The most recent Workshop was July 10, 2012, at which time revenues that could be generated were presented along with expenditure reduction and choices for a balanced budget. Those presentations provided the Council and the public information needed to better understand the challenges in preparing a balanced budget this year. Both showed how revenue could be generated and how to reduce expenditures; options were given in both areas. The City is currently at a critical crossroad and the bottom line is that if you want Plantation to remain as we know it today, the combination of additional revenues and expenditure reductions is a must. There is no denying that there are some tough decisions ahead. These figures are from countless hours of meeting with Department Directors. As indicated, the budget is a fluid document. She requested that speakers not be interrupted during their five minutes.

Mayor Bendekovic introduced Gary Shimun, Chief Administrative Officer, and Kristi Caravella, Budget Manager.

Mayor Bendekovic gave a brief presentation as follows:

Perception versus Reality

- Plantation is known as a “Tree City” but some individuals think that we are a “Money Tree City”. She assured everyone that there is not a mountain of money and there is not a money tree growing in City Hall.

Introduction

- Our goal is working together to sustain and maintain Plantation as we know it today.
- Reserves can no longer be used to balance the budget. A combination of revenues and reductions are needed to achieve our goal.
- Revenue generating ideas are being presented and also expenditure reductions.
- Choices plus consensus equal a balanced budget.

How We Got Here

- Reserves can no longer be used to balance the budget.
- We have used approximately \$9.9 million in reserves in the past four years.
- There has been an increase in pension costs. We have implemented the Tier II for new employees and that is already making an impact. Last year it made a difference of \$58,000 and this year it will impact our budget at \$120,000. The FOP on the Tier II will impact us in 2015.
- There has been an increase in fuel and consumable goods.

- Ad valorem revenue has dropped 14.3% since the peak in 2007.
- Stop loss gap insurance cost increase.
- Communication service tax decrease.
- End of Code Amnesty program.
- Need to build unassigned reserves to \$4.1 million over time to satisfy general obligation bond underwriters.
- Need to reinvest in our City by increasing capital by \$1 million over time.

Reserves

- In 2009 \$2.5 million was used.
- In 2010 \$2.3 million was used.
- In 2011 \$3.0 million was used.
- In 2012 \$2.4 million was used.
- Over four years approximately \$10 million was used.
- The only reserves we can use to balance the budget are \$1.2 million. We do not have that option anymore.

Mr. Shimun continued the presentation as follows:

General fund expenditures by department

- The General Fund is basically where all of our basic services come out of.
- All of the money received from ad valorem taxes is not enough to pay for the Police Department so money is needed from other places as well.

Enterprise Fund

- An Enterprise Fund is like a business structure within the City; these are entities that create their own revenue.
- Utilities sells water, collects sewage, and charge for those services; therefore, they create their own revenue.
- The Golf Course and Fire Rescue also create their own revenue.
- With Enterprise Funds, they fund their own business and the General Fund can fund any of the businesses within the City; however, if there is any money left over in an Enterprise Fund, it cannot go back to the General Fund.

Property Taxes

- Property values were still rising in 2007.
- In 2008 property values went up 9.5%.
- From 2009 to 2012 we dropped in value across the City 25%.
- 2012 and 2013 saw modest increases; 1% and 2.2%.

Ad Valorem Revenue

- This chart shows the amount of money made off of the value based on what we charge for the millage rate.
- In 2008 we saw the highest amount of increase in property values; however, 2008 on this slide already shows the decrease.
- In 2007, the State decided that all municipalities in the State were making too much money and that we had to have a roll back of property values. Unfortunately, that occurred one year before the market corrected it, so in 2008 we were already making less money than we would have based on property values.
- There was an additional drop in 2011 and a slight increase in 2012.
- Proposal A would be an increase of one full mill.
- Proposal B would be for \$39.9 million, which is 1.5 mills.

City of Plantation Tax Rate, 2000 to 2012

- From 2000 to present we went up incrementally.
- In 2007 our millage rate was 4.59 and the next year the State knocked us down to 3.92 mills. There was a slight increase in 2010 and 2011 and going up marginally in 2012.

Current Tax Bill

- An example was provided of someone with a property assessed at \$200,000 with a \$50,000 Homestead Exemption. The typical bill for a home like that would be just under \$3,300.

Total tax obligation comparison

- This shows the total tax burden. We are on the lower end of the scale for the total tax burden because we do not charge a lot of the fees that many of the other cities charge. The example does include an \$80 per year Fire Assessment, which Council has not yet approved. It also includes the 1.5 mill increase and the \$30 per year Storm Water Utilities Tax. This is based on current tax rates for all of the municipalities before they head into the current budget year and tack on additional fees and taxes as well.

Impact on residential ad valorem taxes – increase over last year

- The current millage rate is 4.6142 and we are looking at different housing values up to \$350,000 with \$50,000 Homestead Exemption.

Expense reductions

- The current budget presented to Council recognizes 13 vacancies, which have been taken off of the budget. It was noted that the majority of those cuts were Administrative positions within the Police Department.
- Eight General Employee positions were eliminated and that saved about \$320,000.
- Since 2008 64 positions across the City have been eliminated, which represents about 10% of our work force. That saved about \$2 million.

- A 4% contribution for medical insurance was initiated and benefits were somewhat reduced, which saved \$204,000.
- General Employees will not have raises for the third year, which has saved about \$4.2 million.
- An Employee Health and Wellness Center opened to help defray insurance costs for health insurance, which has saved about \$2.5 million.
- The Choice Plus Insurance was eliminated; however, there are a few people on it but the vast majority are on the Preferred Choice Plan, which has saved about \$719,000 since 2010.
- A Standard Choice Insurance Program was implemented where employees will pay 10% if they do not elect to do some physical things that will allow them to move back to the Preferred Choice Plan.
- A Tier II Pension Plan was implemented for new employees, which is saving \$118,000 projected for this upcoming fiscal year.
- Three furlough days are being discussed for General Employees during the week of Thanksgiving, which would save about \$250,000.
- Closing and tearing down the Plantation Community Center at Kennedy Park is being considered, which would save about \$272,000 per year.
- If the Plantation Tram service was stopped, we would save about \$220,000.
- Privatization of departments and functions was reviewed. In looking at a small department we would potentially save up to \$200,000 and a very large department could save up to \$5 million.
- If Council decides to do nothing and tells us to balance the budget with what we have we would probably look at some significant cuts in labor; estimating 30 to 100 positions.
- The figures provided are based on average wage for General Employees. Eliminating 30 employees would save about \$1.5 million and 100 employees would save about \$5 million.
- The FOP negotiations are ongoing. This budget is based on the idea that they do not receive any raises during this next fiscal year.
- Another consideration was wage reductions of 5% to 10% across the board for all employees within the City, which would save between \$2 million and \$4 million.

Kristi Caravella continued as follows:

Revenue enhancements

- The millage increases would be the amount of ad valorem revenue.
- Currently the City has Parks and Recreation Impact Fees for new residential development. Impact fees offset the costs to existing residents and put some of the burden of the new developments on the developers. They are proposing to add a Public Safety Impact Fee for Police and Fire to offset that cost, which could create \$100,000.
- Commuter fees run from \$88,000 to \$243,000; depending on the action of Council.
- The City has some surplus real estate and there are two properties they are considering selling; one is an acres one and the other is an acres four, which could raise up to \$932,000. This is a one-time source.
- Charges for services are services the City provides that people pay for such as a lien search or permit fee, etc., which can raise a little over \$500,000.
- A 10% Utility tax is being proposed, which would be placed on water. This could raise \$1.3 million.
- The Fire Assessment Fee would not help this year's budget but it is being proposed for fiscal year 2014. The \$3.2 million figure is based on an \$80 fee per household.

Current situation

- The shortfall is \$9.3 million, which is the deficit we have without doing anything. This number was originally \$10.1 million and since we first looked at the budget we eliminated 13 positions and made some other cuts to expenditures and that is how the deficit was brought down to \$9.3 million.

Budget scenarios

- Ad valorem revenue only considers millage increase.

Budget scenarios that require additional revenues

- A review of the chart showed that one mill would give a very marginal surplus of \$137,557 and 0.8 mills showed a difference of \$1,163,348.

Recommended budget scenario

- This scenario puts us in a sound financial position for next year with the \$1 million revenue loss from non-recurring real estate properties.
- This is a 1.5 mill increase.
- Utility service is not in the chart.
- Permits and charges are not in the chart.
- Impact Fees for Public Safety are included for \$100,000.
- The commuter fee is included at the lower end of \$88,000.
- The one-time property sale is listed as well.
- We do have a surplus of \$1.5 million, which would basically compensate for the loss of the surplus property next year.

Mayor Bendekovic reviewed the summary as follows:

- An additional 1.5 mill will balance the 2013 budget with a small surplus.
- An additional one mill would need the Utility tax to balance the budget plus other revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions.
- Currently we do not have a Fire Assessment Fee; this will have no impact on this budget.
- A combination of revenues, expenditure reduction and collective bargaining is what will create a balanced budget.
- For the past five years the City has absorbed increased operating costs.
- The expectations and the mindset of residents will have to change.

Mayor Bendekovic has confidence that this elected body will rise above the Federal Legislatures and not permit personal politics and chronic naysayers to cloud the decision making process. Plantation is what it is today due to teamwork. She assured everyone that this Council is up to the challenge. The decision made in the next month is not just for Plantation today but it is for Plantation tomorrow.

Michael Hanlon, resident and Police Officer, was present. Everyone is going to have to contribute; he expects taxes to go up. As an employee, if his salary gets rolled back by 1% to 3%, he has no problem with that as long as it is fair. This is an FOP contract year and there is an opportunity to stick it to the officers, which would not be effective. He agrees 100% with the Mayor; the employees are what make this City. Expenditures are going to have to be raised and some services are going to have to be cut.

Councilman Levy advised that there are a number of options that have been considered over the last few months and they will certainly ask for everyone's input regarding revenue enhancements as well as revenue reductions and a number of those will revolve around the Police, the Police contract and other employees. That is going to be a difficult situation and a difficult decision making process.

Mr. Hanlon reiterated that the City will have the support from everyone as long as there is a fair and balanced approach.

Daniel Austin, resident and member of the Planning and Zoning Board, was present. After reviewing the Mayor's July 10, 2012 budget presentation, he applauded her, Mr. Shimun and Dr. Caravella for their forthright and candid assessment. They have to prepare several proposals that contain the elements of facing crisis not avoiding them, all of which have called forth responses rooted in their better selves. With regard to a long term perspective, we have to look at rebuilding an infrastructure. He recommended a minimum of a 1.5 millage increase. The City has used up its reserves and needs \$9.3 million to balance the budget. We also must immediately, for this coming year and for future fiscal years, build up the capital reserves so that if the City goes out on the Bond market that it can show that we are investing in the future infrastructure. City employees, not the Police Officers, have gone three years without a raise. Their expertise and institutional memory are critical to the City's quality of life; they deserve some nominal salary increase. Given that the projected reductions for 22 Police employees will not take place until fiscal year 2015/2016, the annual cost per Police Officer for pension is now \$39,918 and \$7,546 for General Employees; he considers this lopsided. He recommended annual raises for Police Officers be frozen for the coming fiscal year and that a one-year Collected Bargaining Agreement be concluded. The City should eliminate take home vehicles for all employees. He suggested that the Plantation Community Center at Kennedy Park be demolished and create a passive park. There are already two excellent Community Centers within three miles of Plantation Community Center; that is Central Park and the Jim Ward Community Center. The City needs to build its reserves. Deferred maintenance and capital investment costs that are postponed become expensive in any catch up game. Finally, the City needs to have all not for profit entities pay an annual assessment for Fire and Police protection.

Alma Blake, resident, was present. She supports the increase for the good of the City and its employees.

Betty Cobb, resident, was present. She stated that if the Plantation Community Center is demolished the City will lose one of its summer camps. She believes it might be wise that if some people who have been raising money for the City for a lot of years be on a Committee and come up with some new ideas as to where the City can save some money. She does not want to see the City have anymore Bond issues because you are paying interest for it. She would rather see Storm Water and Fire fees be part of her taxes so they can be taken off of her income tax. In checking with her CPA, all of the franchise taxes we pay to the City on electric bill, telephone bill, cable bill, etc., are a City tax but it cannot be deducted. There are a number of properties around the City that are maintained that do nothing; they are not useable and some can never be used for anything. Perhaps we could get rid of some of those properties; the main one she would like to go away is the property across from the Broward Mall that was purchased to build an amphitheater.

Mr. Lunny advised that the County reimbursed the City 100 cents on the dollar for that expenditure.

Councilman Levy indicated that the City received money for the purchase from the County so it did not come out of the City CAFERS. It is still County taxes, which we all pay anyway, but it came from the County.

Michelle Boutros, resident, was present. She moved to Plantation because of the safe and pretty environment. She was in favor of the 1.5 millage rate and does not want to give up any of the services currently provided.

Larry Ebbert, resident, was present. He thanked the Mayor for the presentation. Mr. Ebbert expressed concern that the millage rate could be raised almost 25% or 30%; it seems like a big increase. Figures indicate that it is needed but he feels that there have been some proposals about a reduction in salary for employees. He thinks that salaries should be reviewed. There have been increases with the Storm Water fee and in the fees paid to use the Community Centers that we did not pay for in prior years. He noticed that a lot was not added to reserves in 2005, 2006, and 2007, when property values were at the peaks and now we are asking to draw from those reserves because property values have decreased. An amnesty on the code was done and he believes that if someone is violating the code they should pay the fines instead of getting amnesty. In the next election he would like Council members to give the facts of what they will have to do when they get into a position of authority, not what residents want to hear.

Joseph Mercogliano, resident and President of the Plantation Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 42, was present. He stated that this decision will have far reaching affects on its citizens and employees whose duty is to serve and protect them. Plantation has reported a 3.9% increase in crime and Broward County experienced a 3.6% increase. In the past six years, due to retirements, attrition and budget balancing, 26 Police Officers have been lost. He assured that there has been no reduction in front line Officers. In order to provide the services, safety and protection that Plantation residents have come to know and expect, it has to be funded, which can only be achieved by cuts in benefits or by raising the millage. It would also necessitate the laying off of 10 to 15 Police Officers, which is the number that was relayed to him. It would also facilitate the dismantling of specialized units such as street crimes and the bicycle unit, who are very proactive in catching burglars and robbers in the act. Over the past four years, Plantation employees have been active partners in helping to hold costs. Some of the things done were three to four years of no pay raises between the General and FOP employees; since 2009 the elimination of longevity pay; development of second tiers in both plans; a 4% contribution; increased premiums; increased co-pays; increased prescription costs; and implementation of 11.5 hour shifts, which has led to a reduced overtime budget. The pay of benefits of Plantation employees is either on average or, in a lot of cases, below average in other municipalities in South Florida. He assured everyone that if the millage is increased it will not be used to hire more employees, increase pay, increase pension, or increase benefits. As a City resident, no one here wants to pay anymore taxes to a government but there comes a time when the public has to pay for what it expects. No one can deny that Plantation is probably the best run, maintained, and safest, in the many driven communities in South Florida, but it comes with a price. For far too long, the City has prided itself on a low millage rate and a high level of service, unfortunately this has caught up to itself. Over the years, the cost of doing business far out pays the tax revenues generated. For the past four years the City has sheltered its residents from tax increases by utilizing over \$10 million in reserve funds but now those funds have been depleted and that cannot be done anymore. There are two distinct choices; either punish the dedicated employees by cutting their paid benefits and pensions or increase the millage rate, which coupled with the decreased property values, will preserve a life we have all come to expect in Plantation.

Robert Jeskiweicz, resident and Police Officer, was present. He employed Council to raise the millage to 1.5% as proposed.

Rico Petrocelli, resident, was present. He stated that there will be more and more people, other than the City of Plantation, taxing the residents of Plantation because they are telling their Commission the same thing; they need

more money. When you add all of the amenities that are going to be raised, the average person says it is only \$3.50 per month, but there are some people that it does matter to and those are the ones that are accumulative where everyone taxes them at the same time. He noticed that at 6.1142 we are forgetting the fact that it would take two millage points to have a paid Fire Department. We have always prided ourselves on the low millage rate because we do not have to add two millage points to a paid Fire Department. We are not on par with the rest of the County. If the two millage points are added we are at 8.1%. Our low numbers are really misguided. Think of the average person who is having a hard time and struggling and think about where they will be at 6.1% without the paid Fire Department.

Dennis Conklin, resident, was present. He thanked the Mayor and the City for preparing the presentation and for making them available on the City's website. He urged Council to reject Item #18 in total and recommended no millage rate increase. He would recommend the roll back because there was a 2.2% increase in the property taxes. The major problem that the City has is the cost for personnel. The current year cost was 73.9% of the General Fund and what is being proposed is 80.5%, which is a 9% increase year to year. Two more years will be 100% of the General Fund in salaries and benefits. It was mentioned that there was a roll back in 2007 in the General Fund and that now the ad valorem dollars coming to the City is 14.3% less; however, in the same period of years prior to the roll back in 2007, the City increased its expenses by 76.7%. We did not get any break; every time he requested the roll back it was never granted. Through those years the millage rate actually increased. A few years ago the General Fund equaled about \$42 million and the current year budget General Fund is \$81 million. Last year the millage was raised one-tenth of a mill; the problem could have been solved with a simple furlough, which he recommended. The June representation showed four-tenths of a mill; that was a 400% increase over last year's increase. The July representation is 1.5 mills, which is a 1,500% increase over last year's increase. In 2003 the City accumulated \$140 million in cash and investments and as of last year's reported CAFER; they reported that they had \$75 million still left in cash and investments. He again urged Council not to increase the millage rate.

Lisa Mallozzi, resident, was present. In reference to permit fees she noticed that ours are average. Perhaps a fee study could be done to see if the fees should be increased. Regarding the ladder truck, she believes there are grants but she does not know whether the City has looked into that. When money is not put back into repairs you are looking at long term issues. If the millage rate is not increased the City is going to start showing severe signs of neglect at which time the property values will be adversely affected. She applauded the Council for looking into increasing the millage rate. It is not a popular decision but it is something that needs to be done. In reference to the potential adoption of the proposed millage rate to 6.1142, she knows personally that if it is adopted to the maximum it can be lowered but if you do not adopt it to the maximum you will potentially be doing a disservice to your City if you need the money in order to secure the future of the City of Plantation. The City of Plantation is fiscally sound but because we have been dipping into the reserves it would benefit the residents to continue to build up those reserves in reference to Bonds and other areas that have been mentioned. The majority of people she has spoken to understand that the millage will have to be raised in order to maintain the level of service that we are used to. Not mentioned was that in a poor economy crime increases along with arson. Also in this economy, the majority of the crimes are more internet based and more fraud, which involves more man hours; therefore, we have departments that are understaffed or maintaining their level of service but the crimes are more man hours and it is a lot harder to solve those crimes. She is an average person and does not have an enormous household budget. She will have to adjust her budget for the millage rate, but she will because it is something that the majority of people will do with a smile to know that the services Plantation provides will remain the same.

Jake Steele, resident, was present. The services provided by the City have been due to the Council. He requested that the millage rate be raised to 1.5 so residents will have the opportunity to have everything they

have always had. He mentioned the Plantation Community Center and stated that to take that camp away is another disservice to the community and the residents of Plantation. He completely understands that we cannot have everything without paying for it. Even if the millage rate is raised to 1.5, we still fall in the bottom third percentage of all cities in Broward County. He is more than willing to pay his share of the 1.5 millage rate plus Fire Assessment fees and whatever is necessary to balance the budget so we can continue to enjoy the services that have been provided over all these years.

Theresa Chen, resident, was present. As a taxpayer, we are in a serious economic period. She is not saying that the Police or Fire should be cut, but she knows that Council can look where it makes sense to maintain the structure without raising the millage rate. She requested that the Council carefully and cautiously look at the budget.

Kevin Swan, employee, was present. He resides in Fort Lauderdale and pays substantially more taxes than Plantation residents. He believes that it has always been the Council's goal to keep the millage rate low but the reality is always something else that we have to deal with. The consensus he has heard tonight is basically to be responsible and take what actions need to be taken. He thinks that the Council has always acted responsibly both to the citizens and employees and he hopes that continues.

Sandra Gracey, resident, was present. Plantation has been voted in the past the 100th best cities for young people. We are in a crisis and the budget has to be balanced. She sees no need but to increase the millage to 1.5. She wants Plantation to continue the service that we are all used to. With regard to the Plantation Community Center, she would not like to see it demolished as that is a facility where she would like her son to attend summer camp.

Councilman Levy commented that there will be at least two more public hearings and anyone who feels that they did not get a chance to speak has plenty of time between now and when a final decision is made.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that August 23, 2012 is the Workshop with the Directors and the next public hearing is September 12, 2012 and after that is September 19, 2012.

Councilperson Stoner commented that it is disappointing to be in this financial situation and while she knows that she has been a part of this process previously, the current Mayor was left with some things to clean up. We were told last year that we were starting this year about \$4 million in the hole; however, that deficit continued and we incurred additional deficit beyond that to the point of \$9 million. Her concern is not that we do not have legitimate needs to conserve but historically it does not appear that the money that has been put into the General Fund has always gone where it is supposed to go. If nothing on the inside is being changed and we are only taking taxpayers money, whether it is in fees or additional millage, what is to say this will not happen again next year? She is not convinced that this huge increase really solves the problem except for on a temporary basis.

Mr. Shimun indicated that a few revenue sources were over estimated; therefore, \$2.5 million was taken out of reserves to balance the current year budget. We are also missing another \$2 million to \$3 million from the Building Department and another \$1 million or so under other miscellaneous revenue sources. It is hoped that the \$1.5 million will help us continue into the future on a fairly stable basis but we do have to look at benefits to employees as well as the FOP contract. The pension plans are not funded and additional funds have to be added to those. The Government Accounting Standards Board is also look at changing the way we do pension calculations with GASBY 67 and 68 within the year or so and that will further skew the figures to make us look like we are even further behind. He cannot guarantee that this fixes the budget for the future because from strictly an accounting standpoint it is not going to fix it. On the other hand, it gives us time to continue doing

things. They are currently working on a strategic plan to focus on what things are important. Actual processes throughout the City will be reviewed and the strategic plan will provide the background that is involved with what each department does. Council can then look at the plan and decide whether they want the programs and to what extent. This is a team effort and Council is going to have to tell us what they want to continue with.

Councilperson Stoner advised that she specifically called out the numbers for the building permits last year and said that they were not obtainable and she said the same thing on the Code Enforcement liens. You say you want Council to participate but yet it does not appear that you are really listening to what they want to do and the direction they want to go. When Council gives educated comments and input it is dismissed. Every Council person submitted ideas last year and not one of them went forward. She has concerns that this is nothing more than a band-aid and that what is going on inside is not being fixed.

Mr. Shimun stated that neither he nor Ms. Caravella could comment on what happened during the last process but they will certainly take Council's input during this process. They would like conversations to continue so recommendations can be included.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that reductions were given tonight and she requested that each Council person advise what they want so it can be incorporated into the budget.

Councilman Levy commented that when he was elected seven years ago he mentioned in various dialogues during Candidate's Forums that the two things he would not compromise were health and safety, as that is #1 in this community. He referenced water as having to do with health. With regard to safety, our Police Department is second to none; our Fire Department is amazing in what it accomplishes and the fire rating that we have compared to any other City. We have the highest rating in all of Broward comparable to many fully paid functioning departments. He will not compromise health and safety but everything else that has been recommended regarding reductions or increasing income, as far as he is concerned, is on the table.

Councilwoman Moody stated that she was elected in 2003 and every budget seems to be the same story; we need more and more. In about 2005 or 2006 she started saying that government cannot keep doing the same thing its doing and some tough decisions need to be made. Some decisions were made. We have not filled some of the positions and she is very proud that we have not let any employees go, but we also have not implemented other things, which she has discussed with Mr. Shimun. Government has to change the way it is doing business. She does not have a problem increasing the millage but she thinks that a 1.5 mill increase is too much. She believes that a lot of things can be done but we have to find the courage to do it. The recommendation of the 1.5 millage increase is all on the taxpayers. We service the taxpayers but the median income in 2009 in Plantation was \$58,000. We have increased the millage over the years and she has not always voted for it because she did not think that everything that should have been done was being done. She will support a one mill increase but not a 1.5 mill increase. She knows we have approached the FOP and we have requested a lot of cuts in that department. The General Employees have not had a pay raise for three consecutive years but they still have a job. There are a lot of people hurting in this City and she does not think that the local government can put blinders on and say, 'It's just a small increase'. As an average taxpayer, she does not think a 1.5 mill increase is the way to go. She believes there are a lot of things that this City and other municipalities can do.

Councilman Jacobs supported a 1.5 mill increase.

Councilman Tingom believes that we have to give ourselves the flexibility to have a balanced budget. He thinks we need to investigate all of those items presented by Mr. Shimun and Ms. Caravalla. At this point and time it would not be responsible not to have the flexibility to make sure we have a balanced budget for 2013.

Councilman Levy advised that Council received a report from the Mayor's office that tells about fund balances and where some of the funding that Mr. Conklin has questioned. Over the next few weeks we will review that information because some of it is reserved to match other funding and programs.

Motion by Councilman Jacobs, seconded by Councilman Tingom, to approve Resolution No. 11529 with a 6.1142 maximum millage. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Jacobs, Tingom, Levy
Nays: Moody, Stoner

Mayor Bendekovic stated that between now and August 23, 2012 she would appreciate any feedback if there is one specific area that anyone wants to discuss.

* * * * *

Resolution No. 11530

19. **RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM MILLAGE OF 1.2461 MILLS, WHICH THE PLANTATION GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CAN ASSESS DURING THE NEXT ENSUING TAX YEAR; ESTABLISHING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER SUCH PROPOSED MILLAGE AND THE TENTATIVE BUDGET; AND OTHERWISE DIRECTING THE TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER BY AUGUST 3, 2012; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR.**

A memorandum dated July 16, 2012, to the Honorable Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Mayor, and Members of City Council, from Kristi Caravella, Budget Manager, follows:

The State requires that the City set the maximum millage rate so that the Property Appraiser can use these rates for notices that they send to the individual taxpayer. The millage rate forwarded to the Property Appraiser is the maximum millage that the City of Plantation can levy for next year's budget without going through an expensive mailing process. City Council always has the option of lowering the amount of millage at either of the two Public Hearings in September.

The three resolutions set the maximum millage rate for the City's funds as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | City of Plantation Operating Millage | 6.1142 mills |
| 2. | Plantation Gateway Development District | 1.2461 mills |
| 3. | Plantation Midtown Development District | 0.4072 mills |

Local governments must conform to the maximum millage limitation requirements first imposed by the Legislature in 2007. These requirements were further amended by a bill passed in 2008 (CS/SB 1588). The requirements applicable to 2012 are in S.200.185(5), F.S.

For fiscal year 2012/13, the maximum millage requirements applicable to operating millages for all local governments except school districts are:

- By a majority vote (three votes in the City of Plantation), taxing authorities may levy a maximum millage equal to their rolled-back rate adjusted for the change in per capita Florida personal income. (1.0447% for FY 2012/13) or 5.2745 mills for the City of Plantation.
- By two-thirds vote (four votes in the City of Plantation), taxing authorities may levy a millage equal to 110% of the majority vote maximum millage rate or 5.8020 mills for the City of Plantation.
- By a unanimous vote or a referendum, taxing authorities may levy any millage up to their constitutional or statutory maximum millage (ten mills for the City of Plantation).

The General Fund millage rate of 6.1142 mills recommended for your consideration is 1.5 mils more than last year (requiring a unanimous vote from City Council). This rate will generate \$9.6 million in ad valorem tax revenues. Please note that the millage rate being set on July 25 will set the maximum millage rate for FY2013. The maximum millage rate may be revised only downward as Council processes the budget information in the August 23, 2012 workshop with the Mayor, Administration and Department Directors and the September 12th and 19th, 2012 Public Hearings.

The recommended maximum millage rates for Plantation Midtown and Plantation Gateway Development Districts are the same millage rates as levied in the previous fiscal year 2012 and require a City Council majority vote.

With the recommended millage of 6.1142 mills for the General Fund millage rate, and the adoption of other proposed revenue streams including implementation of public safety impact fees, the sale of real estate surplus and a fire assessment fee (to be levied in FY2014), the City will reposition itself as financially solvent and be able to support the ever rising costs of doing business as expected by its residents. The recommended millage also is combined with a reduction in work force (13 vacant positions eliminated), frozen wages for general employees (for the third year) and FOP members, imposition of a commuter fee for take home vehicles and a nominal capital budget, mostly designated to much needed technology infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the city has implemented several cost saving measures including a benefit adjustment in its General Employee Pension Plan for new hires and the Employee Health and Wellness enter to help reduce health insurance costs. Budgeted revenues other than ad valorem taxes and expenditure reductions will be determining factors on the final budget and levels of service and programs.

The City has scheduled the date for the First Public Budget Hearing for the Regular Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

Please contact me directly at 954/797-2233 if you have any questions.

***Motion by Councilwoman Moody, seconded by Councilperson Stoner, to approve Resolution No. 11530.
Motion carried on the following roll call vote:***

Ayes: Moody, Stoner, Jacobs, Tingom, Levy

Nays: None

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Resolution No. 11531

20. **RESOLUTION** ADOPTING THE PROPOSED MAXIMUM MILLAGE OF 0.4072 MILLS, WHICH THE PLANTATION MIDTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CAN ASSESS DURING THE NEXT ENSUING TAX YEAR; ESTABLISHING A TIME AND PLACE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER SUCH PROPOSED MILLAGE AND THE TENTATIVE BUDGET; AND OTHERWISE DIRECTING THE TRANSMITTAL OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER BY AUGUST 3, 2012; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREFOR.

A memorandum dated July 16, 2012, to the Honorable Diane Veltri Bendekovic, Mayor, and Members of City Council, from Kristi Caravella, Budget Manager, follows:

The State requires that the City set the maximum millage rate so that the Property Appraiser can use these rates for notices that they send to the individual taxpayer. The millage rate forwarded to the Property Appraiser is the maximum millage that the City of Plantation can levy for next year's budget without going through an expensive mailing process. City Council always has the option of lowering the amount of millage at either of the two Public Hearings in September.

The three resolutions set the maximum millage rate for the City's funds as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | City of Plantation Operating Millage | 6.1142 mills |
| 2. | Plantation Gateway Development District | 1.2461 mills |
| 3. | Plantation Midtown Development District | 0.4072 mills |

Local governments must conform to the maximum millage limitation requirements first imposed by the Legislature in 2007. These requirements were further amended by a bill passed in 2008 (CS/SB 1588). The requirements applicable to 2012 are in S.200.185(5), F.S.

For fiscal year 2012/13, the maximum millage requirements applicable to operating millages for all local governments except school districts are:

- By a majority vote (three votes in the City of Plantation), taxing authorities may levy a maximum millage equal to their rolled-back rate adjusted for the change in per capita Florida personal income. (1.0447% for FY 2012/13) or 5.2745 mills for the City of Plantation.
- By two-thirds vote (four votes in the City of Plantation), taxing authorities may levy a millage equal to 110% of the majority vote maximum millage rate or 5.8020 mills for the City of Plantation.
- By a unanimous vote or a referendum, taxing authorities may levy any millage up to their constitutional or statutory maximum millage (ten mills for the City of Plantation).

The General Fund millage rate of 6.1142 mills recommended for your consideration is 1.5 mils more than last year (requiring a unanimous vote from City Council). This rate will generate \$9.6 million in ad valorem tax revenues. Please note that the millage rate being set on July 25 will set the maximum millage rate for FY2013. The maximum millage rate may be revised only downward as Council processes the budget information in the August 23, 2012 workshop with the Mayor, Administration and Department Directors and the September 12th and 19th, 2012 Public Hearings.

The recommended maximum millage rates for Plantation Midtown and Plantation Gateway Development Districts are the same millage rates as levied in the previous fiscal year 2012 and require a City Council majority vote.

With the recommended millage of 6.1142 mills for the General Fund millage rate, and the adoption of other proposed revenue streams including implementation of public safety impact fees, the sale of real estate surplus and a fire assessment fee (to be levied in FY2014), the City will reposition itself as financially solvent and be able to support the ever rising costs of doing business as expected by its residents. The recommended millage also is combined with a reduction in work force (13 vacant positions eliminated), frozen wages for general employees (for the third year) and FOP members, imposition of a commuter fee for take home vehicles and a nominal capital budget, mostly designated to much needed technology infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the city has implemented several cost saving measures including a benefit adjustment in its General Employee Pension Plan for new hires and the Employee Health and Wellness center to help reduce health insurance costs. Budgeted revenues other than ad valorem taxes and expenditure reductions will be determining factors on the final budget and levels of service and programs.

The City has scheduled the date for the First Public Budget Hearing for the Regular Council Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

Please contact me directly at 954/797-2233 if you have any questions.

Motion by Councilwoman Moody, seconded by Councilperson Stoner, to approve Resolution No. 11531. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Moody, Stoner, Jacobs, Tingom, Levy
Nays: None

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QUASI-JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA – None.

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QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS – None.

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COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS – None.

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PUBLIC REQUESTS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Dennis Conklin, resident, thanked the Mayor and staff for providing the information. He reminded everyone that the Olympics are opening this Friday in London and that it is the 40th Anniversary of the massacre of the Israeli Olympic Team in 1972 in Munich. It is not being recognized by the Olympic Committee; therefore, he would like to recognize that fact tonight.

Councilman Levy advised that the Israeli Delegation made that request to the Olympic Committee in London for a moment of silence during the Opening Ceremonies to commemorate the people who were killed in Munich in 1972 and they were turned down.

* * * * *

Rico Petrocelli, resident, indicated that what Councilperson Stoner said is true, throwing money at the problem and still having the problem on the inside does not help with the end result. We have to change what is happening on the inside through Administration.

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Jake Steele, resident, commented that Council is asking the residents and homeowners to increase more than we are charging the Gateway and the Midtown.

Mr. Lunny advised that is not true because those Districts pay in addition.

* * * * *

Priscilla Hawk, resident, referred to the area in which she lives, Country Club Estates, as a deprived area.

Mayor Bendekovic was disappointed that Ms. Hawk considers Country Club Estates a deprived area because she has worked very hard since 2001 to provide a voice. She thinks we have come a long way.

Ms. Hawk appreciates everything that has been done. She says deprived area because she feels that when there is the infrastructure and repaving, their area is always the last to be done and they are waiting. She does not understand the water assessment because it does not have anything to do with their area; they are not receiving a benefit. She understands that everyone is supposed to get equal benefits from the taxes and feels that they have not over the years. She referenced poor street lighting and noted that requests have been made for lighting. Even the maintenance of the entranceway is different because it may be done by hired people rather than City employees. She also mentioned a home near hers that is a Code Enforcement issue that has never been taken care of. She believes that more focus needs to be put in this area.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that she would call Ms. Hawk tomorrow for an address of a home she is concerned about. Someone will also go down Ms. Hawks' street to determine whether it is adequately lighted and if it is not we will get FP&L out there.

* * * * *

Arif Shad, resident, complimented the Mayor and Council for doing such a difficult job. He stated that he is willing to contribute more money in order to receive the same services the City is currently providing. He does not want to see the Police or Fire Departments cut, including the City Clerk's office. He commended Mary Leeds in the City Clerk's office, who was kind enough to bring a Business License application to his home.

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SEALED COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS – None.

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WORKSHOPS – None.

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Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Robert A. Levy, Pro Tem President
City Council

ATTEST:

Susan Slattery
City Clerk

RECORD ENTRY:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the Original of the foregoing signed Minutes was received by the Office of the City Clerk and entered into the Public Record this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Susan Slattery, City Clerk