

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

May 12, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Councilman Fadgen, President of the City Council.

1. Roll call by City Clerk:

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| Councilmember: | Diane Veltri Bendekovic Jerry Fadgen Robert A. Levy Peter S. Tingom |
| Mayor: | Rae Carole Armstrong |
| City Attorney: | Donald J. Lunny, Jr. |
| Absent: | Sharon Moody Uria |

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2. The invocation was offered by Mayor Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – December 16, 2009.

4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting – January 6, 2010.

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ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Armstrong read a Proclamation designating May 16 – May 22, 2010 as *National Public Works* week in the City of Plantation.

Frank DeCelles, Public Works Director, accepted the Proclamation.

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Mayor Armstrong read a Proclamation designating May 22 – May 28, 2010 as *National Safe Boating Week* in the City of Plantation.

Jim Pinkston accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Coast Guard.

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Pat Hinde, President of the Plantation Woman's Club, presented a check to Jim Romano, Director of Parks and Recreation, to cover the cost of a camp scholarship.

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Mayor Armstrong made the following announcements:

- Alan Phipps of South Plantation High School was nominated *State Teacher of the Year* and is one of five nominated throughout the State.
- The Chamber of Commerce will recognize Nancy Rappaport, President of Priority One Credit Union as the *2010 Outstanding Business Person of the Year*, on May 25, 2010 at the Renaissance Hotel at 11:30 a.m.
- The Memorial Day event will be held at Veteran's Park on May 31, 2010 at 9:30 p.m.
- Census workers are now knocking on doors in an attempt to get a complete count of residents.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lunny clarified Item #10.

As a Commissioner of the CRA, Mayor Armstrong has a voting privilege on Items #17 and #21.

Mr. Lunny read the Consent Agenda by title.

5. Request for approval to award a purchase order to ACF Standby Systems LLC in the amount of \$65,419 for the purchase of a 200 KW generator for Master Lift Station #97. (Budgeted – Utilities).
6. Request for authorization to approve a work authorization to Hazen & Sawyer, P.C. in the amount of \$57,025 for relocation design and associated services for electrical controls at the East Water Treatment Plant. (Budgeted – Utilities).
7. Request for authorization to award a purchase order to Insituform Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$234,462 for the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer mains and manholes in the Lift Station #61 basin, piggybacking the City of Melbourne Contract #RFP 10-118-0-2009. (Budgeted – Utilities).
8. Request for authorization to extend the Utilities Department's lift station maintenance contract with Butler National Services, Inc. for the surveillance, maintenance and rehabilitation of the City's wastewater lift stations from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
9. Second and Final Public Hearing of **ORDINANCE #2444** pertaining to the Police Officers' Retirement System, amending Section 18-66, The Board of Trustees, to provide a four-year term of office for members of the Board of Trustees of the Police Officers' Retirement System; providing for codification; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

10. Second and Final Public Hearing of **ORDINANCE #2445** pertaining to the subject of Elections; amending the City Charter Provisions concerning elections; amending the qualifying periods for elections of the City's elected officers; changing and clarifying City election procedures so the qualifying and election process for general and special elections are consistent with State Law; providing other clarifying changes to the City election process; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefor.

Resolution No. 10906

11. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 9456 NW 8th Circle. (Gomez)

Resolution No. 10907

12. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 4824 NW 6th Street. (McDowell)

Resolution No. 10908

13. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 11729 Terra Bella Boulevard. (Kameron)

Resolution No. 10909

14. **RESOLUTION** confirming a Plantation City Lien of Utilities Service Charges for 8820 SW 8th Street. (Francis)

Resolution No. 10910

15. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 22 – April 28, 2010 for the Plantation Midtown Development District.

Resolution No. 10911

16. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 22 – April 28, 2010.

Resolution No. 10912

17. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 22 – April 28, 2010 for the City of Plantation's Community Redevelopment Agency.

Resolution No. 10913

18. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 29 – May 5, 2010 for the Plantation Gateway Development District.

Resolution No. 10914

19. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 29 – May 5, 2010 for the Plantation Midtown Development District.

Resolution No. 10915

20. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 29 – May 5, 2010.

Resolution No. 10916

- 21. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period April 29 – May 5, 2010 for the City of Plantation’s Community Redevelopment Agency.
- 21a. Request to approve a special event located at 925 North State Road 7 from Thursday, May 27 through Monday, May 31, 2010 for Rick Case Hyundai/Acura.

Motion by Councilman Tingom, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to approve tonight’s Consent Agenda as read. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Bendekovic, Fadgen
Nays:

NOTE: Mayor Armstrong voted affirmatively on Items #17 and #21.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS - None.

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LEGISLATIVE ITEMS - None.

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QUASI-JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA - None.

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QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS

- 22. **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SITE PLAN MODIFICATION FOR KAPLAN UNIVERSITY LOCATED AT 1601 SW 80th TERRACE.**

Planning and Zoning staff comments to follow:

REQUEST: Consideration of a request for approval for site plan modification.

WAIVER REQUESTS:

- (1) From Section 27-742(b)(1), to reduce parking space width from nine (9) to eight (8) feet for 43% of the provided parking spaces. The current parking code does not provide for compact parking.

Approval of this waiver would allow 43% of the provided parking spaces to be sized for compact cars. The remaining 57% of the parking spaces would be standard size (9’ x 18’) spaces.

Pursuant to the attached letter of understanding dated October 5, 2009 (Attachment 2), Landscape and PZED staff agreed to support this waiver to allow Kaplan to add an additional 54 spaces within the existing parking area, subject to conditions.

- (2) From Section 13-40(c)(5)(b), which requires one interior landscape island every eighth space; to reduce the required number of interior landscape islands by 20.

The reduction in landscape islands, in conjunction with the compact parking space waiver, allows Kaplan to add 54 parking spaces within the existing parking field.

Pursuant to the attached letter of understanding dated October 5, 2009, Landscape and PZED staff agreed to support this waiver to allow Kaplan to add an additional 54 spaces within the existing parking area, subject to conditions.

EXHIBITS TO BE INCLUDED: Planning and Zoning Division report; subject site map; site plan application; applicant's justification and occupancy analysis; October 5, 2009 letter.

ANALYSIS:

The subject site is zoned OP-P and consists of 43.37 acres. The original master plan was approved by the City Council on November 13, 1991, along with a site plan for Building 1. Building 1 was previously occupied by Broadspire and today is occupied by Kaplan.

A revised master plan was approved by City Council on October 19, 1994, for two additional buildings. Building 2 was completed in 1999 (Aetna). Building 3 was not constructed. On February 21, 2001, a third revision to the master plan was approved by City Council for expanded parking facilities to the east side of Building 2 (in the area previously planned for Building 3). A significant portion of this parking is allocated to Building 1.

Building 1, containing 120,572 square feet, has been leased by Kaplan University. Kaplan anticipates a need for additional parking and is requesting waivers to eliminate interior landscape islands within the parking lot and to reduce the width of some parking stalls to compact spaces which will increase the provided parking space count by 54 spaces. If approved, 20 interior landscape islands will be removed and 296 parking spaces will be reduced to eight feet in width in lieu of the nine-foot wide code requirement.

Based on the office park parking formula applicable to the property, 917 parking spaces are required for the entire site (Aetna and Kaplan). Currently, 1,276 parking spaces are provided and 1,330 spaces (including the additional 54 spaces) are proposed. Building 1 alone (Kaplan) requires 450 spaces; 642 spaces are currently provided. If the waiver is granted, 696 spaces will be provided, or the equivalent of one parking space for each 174 sq. ft. of gross floor area.

Compact parking is generally not encouraged in the following situations:

- Restaurants or Shopping Centers characterized by medium-to-high cutover parking space turnover (30 minutes to two hours).
- Multi-family residential where owner spaces are often reserved and guest parking is limited.
- Multi-tenant office buildings open to the public with potential medium-to-high customer parking space turnover based on tenant mix.

Compact parking is a potential alternative parking strategy for single-use office buildings that meet the following criteria:

- Office buildings where the operator can manage and enforce compact car parking restrictions as a condition of employment.
- Properly identified compact parking spaces, generally located close to the building.
- Provision for on-site dining facilities, limiting lunchtime off-campus trips.
- Limited customer or visitor parking demand; not open to the public.
- Low parking space turnover (Employee shift-based parking).
- Little or no reserved parking spaces (No more than 3% of total parking).

Applicant has submitted documentation explaining the waiver request as well as employee occupancy by shift

Staff Comments

Planning and Zoning:

1. Approval; the compact parking waiver shall be subject to Kaplan University's continued management and occupancy of the building consistent with the compact parking eligibility criteria set forth in the last paragraph on page 2 of this report.
2. Provide updated site data calculations for the overall master plan to reflect the change in provided open spaces and increase in impervious area.
3. Parking:
 - a. Provide required and provided parking calculations for the overall master plan including handicap spaces.
 - b. Indicate the location of reserved parking on the plan (not to exceed 25 spaces maximum).
 - c. If motorcycle parking is reserved, please stripe the space to 4.5' wide. Two motorcycle reserve spaces will count as one standard reserve space.
 - d. Sealcoat and restripe the overall master plan parking lot.
 - e. Restripe the SW 80th Terrace pavement markings at the pedestrian crossing. Provide pedestrian crosswalk signage as determined by the Engineering Department.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

General Comments:

Based upon certain project information requested by the Department and provided by the applicant's representative, Manuel Synalovski Associates, Inc. in electronic mail dated 5/3/10 and 5/4/10, the Department will support the applicant's request for site plan modification subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall provide monitoring of traffic volumes and intersection turning movements for Peters Road between University Drive and Pine Island Road, and surrounding City roadways (SW 80th Terrace, SW 78th Avenue and SW 17th Street) effective 90 calendar days following the issuance of a certificate of occupancy of the last phase of tenant build-out and occupancy for the proposed facility. Monitoring shall be performed annually for a period of three (3) years thereafter or until the Department renders a final determination regarding the facility's impact to the public roadway network, whichever comes first.
2. Traffic monitoring shall be performed by a Florida registered professional traffic engineer and presented to the Department in the form of a report.
3. The applicant's traffic engineer shall meet with the Department to secure approval of traffic monitoring and report preparation methodology prior to the commencement of the first monitoring exercise.

4. Should the Department determine that the facility generates adverse impacts to roadway intersection(s), the applicant shall be required to perform a signal warrant analysis for the impacted intersection(s).
5. If a signal warrant analysis determines that traffic signalization is required, the applicant shall contribute funding toward a signalization improvement at a minimum of 25%, but no more than 50% of the estimated cost for the improvement.

Site Plan Comments:

1. Please provide the standard City detail for disabled parking, available in the Engineering Department.

Note: A detailed review of the civil drawings has not been performed at this time. If the site plan application is approved by City Council, a thorough engineering review will be performed at the time of application for construction permits.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:

1. Please specify variety of Crape Myrtle to be used (USDA variety is requested).
2. Please note under the plant list that all trees are to be fg/bb.
3. Please center the trees in the islands.
4. Staff would like to visit the property with regards to the planting of one Queen palm in the terminal islands on Sheet L-2 where several Queen palms exist (code requires category 1 trees planted in these terminal islands).
5. Please note on the landscape plan that Tree Removal & Tree Relocation permits are required directly through the Department of Landscape Architecture prior to commencement of work.
6. Please note on the landscape plan that a pre-planting meeting is required prior to the commencement of work. Contact Diana Berchielli @ 954-797-2246 to schedule.
7. Staff requests a bond in the amount of \$36,000 to assure installation of the landscape.
8. The portion of the property that is not in the scope of work is in need of a "face-lift". The City would like the property owner to be aware of outstanding landscape violations on the adjoining property. Please contact Diana Berchielli @ 954-797-2246 to discuss this matter.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

This change does not affect the Fire Department, as it only involves the removal of parking islands.

Mr. Lunny read Item #22.

Manny Synalovski, architect, was present along with Merrill Romanik, Steve Ragas and Anthony Chang.

Mayor Armstrong made a Jennings Disclosure. This project was brought into the City of Plantation through an Economic Development initiative. In the process of discussion, Kaplan was told that we would work very carefully with them in an attempt to understand their needs and objectives in terms of being able to have their facility accommodated in the City of Plantation.

Mr. Synalovski advised that Kaplan is agreeable to all of staff's recommendations with the exception of Item #5 on Page 4. It is not that they disagree with the comment; however, from a timing standpoint, they could not make a commitment that they would contribute as little as 25% or as much as 50% of the cost of a traffic signal

in the event the signal is warranted. There are no other issues and as far as the monitoring that staff has requested be done 90 days after all of the improvements are completed; there is no objection in coming back for another monitoring a year after. He reiterated that the only issue is the contribution in the event that the signal is warranted. The signal became an item towards the end of discussions with staff and was not an item discussed early. They would need another 30 days in order to commit, as this requires a different level of authorization.

In response to Councilman Fadgen, Mr. Synalovski indicated that the traffic light in question would be located on Peters Road and SW 80th Terrace. He went on to explain that Kaplan is leasing 120,000 square feet. They are improving the building and a significant amount of the site even though they are the tenants, not the landlord. The investment of Kaplan in this move to the City of Plantation is approximately \$8.5 million. In terms of their commitment, it is absolute and certain that they will be here for a long time, unfortunately, they cannot agree to Item #5 this evening.

Mayor Armstrong commented that there has been significant concern about the intersection and the need to have it signalized for a period of time. That was a topic of discussion related to the Stiles project when it was on the table and has now surfaced due to the fact there will be a few more cars than originally anticipated. She suggested allowing the 30 days to get approval, as Brett Butler, City Engineer, has been working with Mr. Synalovski to find an appropriate structured solution that would allow all of those in the area to participate and contribute towards that signal, which will definitely be warranted as development continues.

In response to Councilman Tingom, Mr. Synalovski advised that the compact spaces will be designated as shown. It will be bundled so that there will not be any confusion between a compact and a standard vehicle.

In response to Councilwoman Bendekovic, Mr. Ragas believed that 30 days would be enough time. He explained that the issue is that the gap is too wide; it might be 25% or it might be 50%. Their financial commitment has been substantial and if it were up to them that would not be something they would want to take possession of, as far as additional costs. The building is substantially the same and the amount of cars is about 8%. From their perspective they are not increasing the amount of traffic. Committing to a traffic signal without knowing the financial burden is something they are not willing to do at this time.

Mr. Leeds stated that if this is approved Kaplan will immediately begin parking lot modifications, as they want to finish the parking lot modification prior to moving staff in to occupy the top floor. He suggested having a commitment to Item #5 prior to establishing issuance of a Building permit or prior to issuance of a Certificate of Completion on the parking lot, as 30 days along will not resolve that.

In response to Councilwoman Bendekovic, Mr. Butler indicated that in speaking with the County on the date of this meeting, this type of intersection, if signalized, would very likely be on the order of magnitude of a \$200,000 improvement. He explained to the applicant that they would not be picking up this cost alone; the County would also look at the City to contribute an equal value. It is hoped that the County would contribute on the basis of how they have historically contributed at other intersections throughout the County; in this case it is east and west, which would be 50% of the intersection costs.

In response to Councilman Fadgen, Mr. Butler advised that the \$100,000 would be split half and half between the applicant and the City; effectively 25% of the construction costs.

In response to Councilman Fadgen, Mayor Armstrong explained that in the past the signalized intersections were either to put the signal in and divide the costs as the projects came online. There would potentially be other participants other than the City because the signal will be dependent upon when the warrants are justified. If the

warrants are not justified, the signal will not go in for a period of time. If the warrants are justified, it will be on the basis of this project and those that currently exist. She suggested that all of those in the area should share in the cost of the signalization.

Mr. Butler indicated that Engineering does not principally object to the 30 days requested; however, he raised the issue with Mr. Leeds as to what mechanism would Council be assured that the applicant will have to come back and address this matter. He felt that Mr. Leeds' suggestion would be appropriate as far as considering placing a condition on the issuance of a Certificate of Completion for the parking lot. Without having something in place, there is no assurance that they will come back before Council for discussion.

Mr. Leeds reiterated that his suggestion is that the applicants come back prior to the City issuing a Certificate of Completion, which will give them at least 30 days and possibly 45 days. It then places the burden on them to come back before Council and at that time the issue can again be discussed.

In response to Mayor Armstrong, Mr. Synalovski advised that he was not in a position to commit to a maximum of 25%, knowing that the maximum would be \$50,000 and that the light will not go in until the rest of the funding is in place. They would still need to get authorization.

Mr. Lunny suggested that the Council defer this item until they have an answer.

Councilman Levy stated that the City wants some kind of a feeling that the traffic light will get paid for. There is always the option of creating a special taxing district; however, Council does not want to see the City of Plantation having to pay for something that is created otherwise.

Mr. Chang understood that the proposal is a maximum of \$50,000 and that they could either agree or come back within 30 days for discussion. He believed that they could agree to the maximum of \$50,000.

Mr. Lunny believed the wisest thing would be not to issue any permits until the City understands the answer.

Councilman Levy commented that the applicant is waiting for traffic warrants and traffic studies and in the mean time they have a \$9 million business on hold. We would like to make sure that they have the best environment from which to conduct their business and if that problem can be solved tonight and they know exactly what they need to do, they are much further ahead to continue rather than sitting around waiting. He suggested that a decision be made tonight with conditions that everyone is comfortable with, without using taxpayers' money for improvements.

Mr. Lunny indicated that the applicant said he knows that the maximum exposure is \$50,000 and if they have a problem with that they have 30 days to come back, meaning they do not have to go through the entire process. He reiterated his suggestion that before any permits are issued the City knows the answer. The City does not want to be in a position of permits having issues, work having been done and putting Jeff Sabouri, Building Director, in the position of enforcing this issue, which is not a Florida Building Code requirement.

Councilman Levy indicated whether the applicants want to participate or not, if they are there and their cars and trucks are using that intersection at a certain level, they will be part of the special taxing district. We do not want to go that way and prefer to give them the option of going ahead and getting their university up and running as quickly as possible because time is money. We always have the option of going another way to get the funding; hopefully we will not have to.

In response to Councilman Fadgen, Mr. Chang advised that tenant improvements are not starting on the fourth floor until July and that will be about an eight-week build out. They will not fully occupy the building probably until the end of August. Even if deferred 30 days, the necessity of the permit for parking upgrades will not really be in effect until they occupy the building. The timing coincides very nicely. The City always has leverage to come back to them; they are a part of the community and have made the financial commitment. Impeding them from their ability to grow their business by withholding a Building permit does not feel right; however, from a target perspective, the two will go hand in hand; they can secure the permit after 30 days and still make upgrades to the parking lot and get the building fully occupied so that it will all come together at the same time.

Mr. Butler believed some of the applicant's statements were not entirely correct, as he suggested the permit for the parking lot being in tandem with the time period; however, prior to that they stated that their parking lot permit would be issued very soon after approval and construction would then commence. He believes they are referring to the permit for the fourth floor tenant build out work and it would be that permit that would be timelier with the issue being discussed. Two permits must be secured; one for the parking lot and one for the tenant build out. Perhaps the tenant permit may be the one more specifically mentioned in the motion. The motion should be conditioned upon a statement of record for a specific permit and he does not think that the timing the applicant is referring to is going to coincide with the 30 days as it relates to the parking lot permit but it may in fact relate to the tenant build out.

Motion by Councilman Tingom, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to approve Item #PP10-0005, request for approval of site plan modification for KAPLAN UNIVERSITY located at 1601 SW 80th Terrace, tying the conditional maximum exposure of \$50,000 for signalization to the issuance of a Building permit for the fourth floor build out and allow the building of the parking lot to proceed as soon as possible.

In response to Councilman Levy, Mr. Chang advised that his original intention was to defer the parking lot permit for 30 days. The necessity of those parking spaces will not be until the fourth floor is complete, which will not be until August.

Councilman Levy commented that we have sufficient rules and regulations in place and they have agreed to Mayor Armstrong's proposal to allow them to move forward on this investment in our community.

Mr. Synalovski noted that the preference is that the issuance of the parking lot permit be held for 30 days because they would like to move forward with the tenant improvements, as they take so much longer. They would prefer the motion be to approve the request withholding the engineering permit for the parking lot improvements and allow them to continue moving forward with fourth floor improvements of the four-story building.

The previous motion was amended as follows:

Amended motion by Councilman Tingom, seconded by Councilwoman Bendekovic, to approve Item #PP10-0005, request for approval of site plan modification for KAPLAN UNIVERSITY located at 1601 SW 80th Terrace, with the condition that a signed letter will be provided saying that the applicant accepts an exposure of up to \$50,000 for signalization and that the Engineering permit for the parking lot improvements will be held for 30 days. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Bendekovic, Fadgen

Nays: None

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COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Armstrong advised that a Workshop meeting will be held next week at 6:30 p.m.

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Councilman Levy commented on the system in place for a MURT along the Turnpike. The nice thing is that, through Nancy Burch, President of the Country Club Estates Homeowner's Association, and City staff, there has been a lot of dialogue communication and discussion has occurred and a lot of the rumors have been dispersed.

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Councilman Tingom reiterated comments about the Chamber of Commerce breakfast and thanked Motorola for sponsoring the breakfast.

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Councilman Tingom congratulated Publix on their new opening.

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Councilman Tingom expressed thanks to Frank DeCelles, Public Works Director, and Brett Butler, City Engineer, for completing the next phase of traffic calming improvements on NW 7th Street.

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Councilwoman Bendekvoic reminded everyone that the Wine, Taste and Jazz was moved to July 24, 2010 and will be held at the Renaissance Hotel. Tickets can be purchased from the Chamber of Commerce.

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Councilwoman Bendekovic recently learned that a new cafeteria that has been designed and funded may not be funded by the School Board. She requested support of Mayor Armstrong to the School Board members. There will be a Workshop meeting on May 25, 2010.

Mayor Armstrong suggested sending a resolution to the School Board.

Mr. Lunny read the resolution.

Resolution No. 10917

RESOLUTION pertaining to the subject of education encouraging the School Board of Broward County and the Superintendent of schools to continue the longstanding and committed funding for the cafeteria improvement at Plantation High School, determining such improvement to be essential to the health, safety and welfare of the students attending such school, recognizing the historical commitment of the School Board for such project and the patience of the City for waiting for such project; providing findings, providing a savings clause, and providing an effective date therefor.

Motion by Councilman Levy, seconded by Councilman Tingom, to approve Resolution No. 10917. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Levy, Tingom, Bendekovic, Fadgen
Nays: None

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Councilman Fadgen referenced the Bills going through the House of Senate and questioned the status as to whether they were passed.

Mayor Armstrong advised that she would provide a summary of all of the Bills that passed, particularly those that were discussed. She understands that our lobbyist in Tallahassee is going to come to one of the next two Council meetings to provide a presentation.

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PUBLIC REQUESTS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Dennis Conklin, resident, mentioned a meeting concerning the east west transit system that was held at Parkway Middle School by the District 9 County Commissioner, Al Jones. During the presentation it was revealed that the route they have been showing for a few years has been approved, which is basically Broward Boulevard to State Road 7, south to I-595 through the campus area and then back up onto I-595 and north to the Sawgrass area. He noted that only the Plantation Gateway Advisory Board was recognized; not the CRA. He requested that the MPO stop the project and give the community back their peace and domestic tranquility. The route is final and approved, the only discussion is technology, which is what mode of transportation they want to use.

In response to Councilman Levy, Mr. Conklin stated that light rail is no longer an option; however, they are considering modern electric street cars, which mean rails and a dedicated path. That would mean that they would interrupt vehicular traffic lanes for rail. That would also mean takings for stations. As mentioned, we are in a Federal process and every question was where do you want your stations? In other words, we do not have a choice. Every time buses were mentioned they referred to bus rapid transit, which means that the buses are in dedicated lines that take up vehicular traffic lanes.

Councilman Levy advised that some kind of express service is coming. The less the service intrudes on the tranquility of the neighborhood the better. In his opinion, the buses in a dedicated lane is the best way to go because it is not usurping anything else and when it is not rush hour those lanes become available. This is something that may come into effect 10 to 15 years from now. Progress cannot be denied; there has to be a people mover some way. The question is what way will it affect Plantation and what way will it benefit Plantation. Some people may choose to use this form of transportation to get to and from their job and not be in a car; therefore, there may be less traffic by putting people on buses or whatever else. The issue is that the system is not noisy, not rails, not metal against metal. The question is do we work towards an amicable solution or do we fight everything, which is not going to happen.

Mr. Conklin stated that the third option is rapid bus, without dedicated lanes so that vehicular traffic can use the same lanes.

Councilman Levy commented that most people will not get on a bus that takes them more time to get to work than their car. You have to give an advantage for people who want to take rapid transit; if not, they will stay with their cars.

Mr. Conklin noted because they keep talking about stations; there are no stations along our corridor.

Councilman Levy indicated that perhaps local stations would help the merchants, bringing people to shop along State Road 7 and making it more pedestrian friendly. It might be a huge boom to the CRA.

Mayor Armstrong responded that this conversation is very fluid and it is very important that everybody's opinion get to the table. There is nothing cut in stone; there was a preferred route that was recommended by the MPO. It was different from the route that many of us supported when we started talking light rail back before the discussion before the penny sales tax. Light rail was intended to move those from the western part of the county to the eastern part of the county. The original route discussed is still not out of the realm of discussion as this moves forward. At this time the only thing I-595 is doing is creating problems for the City of Plantation and the only solution is to get some people out of their cars that are coming from the west. These discussions will continue for several years prior to implementing the system.

Mr. Conklin announced that on May 25, 2010 the Broward County Commission will hold a meeting and this topic will be on their agenda. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Councilman Fadgen suggested a Workshop be held to update us as to the options available.

Mayor Armstrong stated that our CRA representative is Carlos Gonzalez. Between he and Lisa Bernstein and Brett Butler have been very present at the discussion level in terms of getting information. Gateway happens to have been the agency that was afforded a presentation about two or three years ago.

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WORKSHOPS - None

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Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Jerry Fadgen, 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 _____, 2010.

Susan Slattery, City Clerk