

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

February 12, 2014

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

1. Roll Call by City Clerk:

Councilmember:	Jerry Fadgen Ron Jacobs Robert A. Levy Lynn Stoner Chris P. Zimmerman
Mayor:	Diane Veltri Bendekovic
City Attorney:	Donald J. Lunny, Jr.

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2. The invocation was offered by Councilmember Jacobs.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held July 11, 2013.

4. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held July 24, 2013.

The minutes of the City Council Meetings of July 11, 2013 and July 24, 2013 were approved as printed.

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ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR

Margie Moale, Human Resources Director, introduced Christian Gentile, The American Heart Association. She announced that the City of Plantation earned recognition for the Fit Friendly Workplace Award. The award is based on the wellness activities, the Care Center and participation from employees in the wellness activities. This was significant because this was the first year that the City applied for this award. There are only ten cities in the nation that earned the platinum level award. She thanked all of the employees for participating and supporting all the activities and the Care Center. She also thanked Beverly Ambrosio, Benefits Manager for all of her hard work and ideas in developing new activities.

Mr. Gentile explained that this award is a prestigious award and was awarded by a National Board. The City was recognized for its tremendous efforts and is meaningful to the American Heart Association because their goal is to reduce cardiovascular disease. He thanked and congratulated the City for its dedication and efforts.

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

- Weston Soccer Cup held on February 15 – 17, 2014 at Central Park, Pine Island Park and Sunset Park Soccer Fields.
- Senior Expo held on February 21, 2014 at Deicke Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Senior High School Invitational Swim Meet held on February 21 & 22, 2014 at Plantation Aquatics Complex for high school aged swimmers.

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Councilmember Stoner noticed that Plantation is 4th in the County for tourism; she believed it was due to many of the efforts of Parks & Recreation and it is something that the City should be proud of.

Mr. Romano thanked Councilmember Stoner for recognizing that fact. A lot of volunteers and employees do a lot of great work and it does attract a lot of people from Florida and across the country.

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Mayor Bendekovic made the following announcements:

- Plantation's Horticulture Center will no longer be opened on the weekends effective February 16, 2014.
- The Wonders of the Everglades exhibit opened on February 7, 2014 at the Historical Museum.
- Share a Pony Kids Day Off will be held on February 17, 2014, ages 4 – 12 years old.
- 595 Express Corridor Improvements Project Community Open House will be held on February 27, 2014 at Signature Grand from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- City Wide Garage Sale will be held on March 8, 2014 at Volunteer Park from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Friends of the Library Annual Author Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held on March 15, 2014 at Jacaranda Country Club.
- Tinsel Town Cabaret Auditions will be held on March 15, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and March 19, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Plantation Woman's Club Annual Antique Show will be held on February 15 – 16, 2014 at Volunteer Park.

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Mayor Bendekovic informed the City Council that the Broward Leagues of Cities Installation Dinner will be held on May 10, 2014 at the Diplomat Golf & Country Club.

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CONSENT AGENDA

As a Commissioner of the CRA, Mayor Bendekovic has a voting privilege on Item No. 14.

Item No.'s 8 and 13 were removed and discussed separately.

Mr. Lunny read the Consent Agenda by title.

5. Request for Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana De Plantation to have a Garage Sale on their church property on Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
6. Request to purchase a Lifepak 15 monitor/defibrillator from Physio-Control, Inc. in the amount of \$27,496.78 for the Rescue Division. (Budgeted – Fire)
7. Request to purchase four 2014 Harley Davidson Road King Police equipped Motorcycles in the amount of \$82,500. (Budgeted – Police)
9. Approve sale of six trollies to Limousines of South Florida for a price of \$13,000 per trolley for a total sales price of \$78,000.
10. Approve yearly maintenance from NetMotion/Insight in the amount of \$23,073. (Budgeted – IT)

Resolution No. 11837

11. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period January 16, 2014 through January 29, 2014 for the Plantation Gateway Development District.

Resolution No. 11838

12. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period January 16, 2014 through January 29, 2014 for the Plantation Midtown Development District.

Resolution No. 11840

14. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period January 16, 2014 through January 29, 2014 for the City of Plantation's Community Redevelopment Agency.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Fadgen, to approve tonight's Consent Agenda as printed. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy

Nays: None

NOTE: Mayor Bendekovic voted affirmatively on Item No. 14.

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Mr. Lunny read Item No. 8.

8. Approve final ranking and permission to begin negotiations for architectural services contract for Plantation Community Center. (RFQ 117-13)

A memorandum dated January 29, 2014, from Danny Ezzeddine, Director of Design, Landscape & Construction Management to Mayor and Members of the City Council follows:

On October 9, 2013, the City of Planation solicited a request for qualifications for professional architectural services for the Plantation Community Center.

The procurement process involves a two (2) stage selection review. Step One (1) Review of qualifications and short listing of minimum three (3) and no more than five (5) firms. Step Two (2) Interview of the three (3) short listed firms and rank the top three (3) and present the ranking to Council.

Step One (1) The selection committee had met on December 11, 2013, and short listed three (3) firms: Cartaya & Associates Architects, Saltz Michelson Architects and Synalovski, Romanik, Saye, LLC to be interviewed by the committee.

Step Two (2) On January 17, 2014, the three (3) firms conducted their presentations before the committee. After evaluation of such presentation, the committee ranked the top three (3) firms as followed by order:

Synalovski, Romanik, Saye, LLC
Cartaya and Associates Architects
Saltz Michelson Architects

Accordingly, we are recommending to Council the approval of such ranking, and requesting permission to start negotiating the contract terms with the top ranked firm, Synalovski, Romanik, Saye, LLC., according to the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) 287.55, subject to Administration approval.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.

Councilmember Zimmerman pulled this item for discussion. He wanted to say that it was nice to see that local residents are helping to build the City's buildings. The firm that will be approved for this contract is a local resident. He believed that the selection committee did a great job.

Motion by Councilmember Zimmerman, seconded by Councilmember Jacobs, to approve Item No. 8 as presented. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy
Nays: None

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Mr. Lunny read Item No. 13.

Resolution No. 11839

13. **RESOLUTION** approving the expenditures and appropriations reflected in the Weekly Expenditure Report for the period January 16, 2014 through January 29, 2014.

Councilmember Zimmerman pulled this item. He stated that he may have a conflict of interest with Check No. 152762 pertaining to the Broward Alliance for Neighborhood Development (BAND).

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Fadgen to approve Resolution No. 11839 as presented. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy
Nays: None

NOTE: Councilmember Zimmerman abstained from Check No. 152762.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Councilmember Levy read Item No. 15.

15. DISCUSSION REGARDING ELECTED OFFICIAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS.

A memorandum dated February 12, 2014, from Susan Slattery, City Clerk to Mayor Bendekovic and City Council Members follows:

Mayor Bendekovic asked that I gather information on the above subject.

Currently, City Charter states that to qualify to be a candidate in a City municipal election one shall be a resident of the City and have the qualifications of an elector in the general municipal election of the City. We do not have a specific time period that the person must be a resident prior to qualifying to become a candidate.

I have researched a number of cities in Broward County and have found that Coral Springs, Davie, Deerfield Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Lauderhill and Hollywood require residency for the 6 months immediately preceding qualifying and Pembroke Pines and Sunrise require continuous residency for 1 year prior to qualifying.

If City Council would like to create a specific time period for residency prior to qualifying to become a candidate, it would require the passage of an ordinance and a referendum of the voters of the City which could be placed on the November 4, 2014 ballot. The ordinance can be written to make the requirements effective with the March 2015 election.

The item is now ready for Administrative discussion. If you have any questions, please contact me at (954)797-2719.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that she has been looking through documents and found that the City Charter does not state whether or not an elected official has to be a resident for a specific amount of time.

Councilman Zimmerman thought that this was a good idea. He would like to see a recommendation for a one year residency requirement.

Mr. Lunny explained that they would need to adopt an Ordinance in order to put it on the ballot but would like to see a motion put in place for this item.

Councilmember Fadgen preferred this item be put on the March or other future ballot besides the one in November 2014. The current referendum item deals with moving the election from March to November. He would like to see it occur during the regular city election in March.

Councilmember Levy stated that it's best to have questions on the same ballot. They will be listed separately.

Councilmember Fadgen requested that the term "qualified elector" is checked out because it may be something that is unnecessary.

In response to Councilmember Jacobs, Mr. Lunny explained that you must be registered to vote and residing in Plantation as of the qualifying date. It is a quick process to register to vote, what is being proposed is in addition to that requirement as a qualification requirement to have resided in the city for one year prior to qualifying.

Motion by Councilmember Zimmerman, seconded by Councilmember Stoner to recommend a one year residency requirement for elected officials to run be placed on the November 2014 ballot. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Jacobs, Levy

Nays: Fadgen

Councilmember Zimmerman recommended that the Council consider the form of government pertaining to a Strong Mayor Government versus a City Manager form of government. He believed that this question should be considered placed on the referendum as well.

In response to Councilmember Jacobs, Mayor Bendekovic stated that the last time this was on the ballot she believed it was 1999. There are pros and cons for having a Strong Mayor form of government as well as a City Manager form of government. She had no problems with that being on the ballot. If the Council decides to go in that direction they might have to eliminate a council seat because the Mayor takes the seat of the Council President. The council would also have to consider the time period in which this would take effect because it would change the dynamics of the election.

Mr. Lunny explained that he would need some direction on how to phase this in and what seat would be eliminated.

Councilmember Levy would like to remain neutral in regards to this matter.

Councilmember Fadgen didn't believe that it should be put on the ballot. He suggested that a survey be done.

Discussion ensued with regard to this subject.

Rico Petrocelli, resident, expressed that he was in favor of this topic.

Councilmember Jacobs stated that switching to a City Manager form of government would not save us money, it would cost us a lot of additional money. There are reasons on both sides. He would like to see this put on the ballot.

Mr. Lunny wanted clarification as to whether this was a straw vote or is this a question that will be officially on the ballot.

The consensus would be to make this a mandatory question.

In response to Councilmember Stoner, Councilmember Zimmerman suggested this be brought back to look at what the scenarios may be.

Motion by Councilmember Zimmerman, seconded by Councilmember Stoner to add the question pertaining to the form of government on the ballot in November 2014. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Jacobs, Levy

Nays: Fadgen

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16. DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT OF BANNING THE SALE OF E-CIGARETTES (NICOTINE VAPORIZERS) TO MINORS.

A memorandum dated February 12, 2014, from Priscilla Richards, Strategic Operations Administrator to Mayor and Members of City Council follows:

REQUEST:

Direction regarding proposed City Ordinance banning the sale of e-cigarettes to minors if the CS/SB 224 fails to become law during the current legislative session.

BACKGROUND:

E-cigarettes are battery-powered fake cigarettes. They contain no tobacco and require no combustion. Some users call it “vaping” for the vapor the devices create by heating up a liquefied nicotine mix. When puffed and exhaled, the white misty vapor resembles smoke.

By an overwhelming majority, Chicago’s City Council has voted to follow New York, Los Angeles and other cities that have passed or are considering limits on e-cigarettes that banish their use in restaurants, bars and most other indoor public places.

Since the unregulated high-tech nicotine vaporizers are currently unregulated, the Sunrise City Council passed an Ordinance in November of 2013 (identical to the attached draft Ordinance) that bans selling nicotine vaporizers or liquid nicotine to persons under the age of 18 or in self-service vending machine.

Currently, the State of Florida is considering CS/SB 224,-PROHIBITION OF ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE DELIVERING DEVICES TO PEOPLE UNDER 18 which calls for prohibiting the gift of sample nicotine dispensing devices to person under 18 years of age; prohibiting the selling, delivering, bartering, furnishing, or giving of nicotine dispensing devices to persons under 18 years of age, to which penalties apply; prohibiting persons under 18 years of age from processing, purchasing or misrepresenting their age or military service to purchase nicotine dispensing devices; requiring certain signage where a dealer sells nicotine dispensing devices, etc.

Senator Sobel is a co-sponsor of this bill and to date it passed Criminal Justice; YEAS 5, NAYS 0, passed Regulated Industries; YEAS 8, NAYS 0, and is on the Appropriations Agenda 02/06/2014.

Staff is seeking direction from Council concerning a proposed Ordinance prohibiting the sale of alternative nicotine delivering devices to people under 18 years of age if the elected officials of the State of Florida do not regulate the devices during this current legislative session.

Draft Ordinance reads as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PLANTATION, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 14 "LICENSES AND BUSINESS REGULATIONS;" BY CREATING DIVISION 8 – "SALE OF NICOTINE VAPORIZERS;" PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CODE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Richards explained that they are looking for some direction from Council in case the State of Florida does not pass the law to ban the sale of these cigarettes. E-cigarettes are battery operated fake cigarettes, they contain no tobacco and do not require to be lit, there is no combustion involved. Some people call it "vaping" because there is vapor that is created, it heats up a nicotine mixture that is purchased to go along with this electronic or "e-cigarette". They are mostly concerned with people under 18 years of age. She has an update stating that the Senate bill has been moved to the February 20, 2014 appropriations agenda. It has already passed criminal justice and regulated industry so it looks like it is moving forward. Several cities have already passed Ordinances to prohibit the sale of these cigarette devices to minors.

Dennis Conklin, resident, urged the City Council to table this item. He asked Council to not pass this motion regardless of what occurs in Tallahassee.

Discussion ensued with regard to this topic.

Motion by Councilmember Stoner, seconded by Councilmember Zimmerman to bring back the Ordinance for first reading conditional upon the current legislative session, if the State of Florida does not regulate the law to then move forward with the Ordinance subject to change in time frame. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy
Nays: None

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LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Lunny read Item No. 17.

17. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT OF PROPERTY; AMENDING REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO THE STORAGE OF SEIZED, ABANDONED OR LOST PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A memorandum dated January 16, 2014 from Quentin E. Morgan, Assistant City Attorney to the Mayor and Members of the City Council follows:

This Ordinance is sponsored by the Police Department. The Ordinance changes the City's property storage requirements for seized, abandoned or lost property to reflect that the appropriate State law for storage and disposition of this property will be followed. This update will assist the Police Department in being compliant with the law and more efficient in disposing of property.

This Ordinance is now ready for First Reading.

Police Chief Harrison explained that this Ordinance just mirrors the State Statute.

*Motion by Councilmember Stoner, seconded by Councilmember Zimmerman to approve as presented.
Motion carried on the following roll call vote:*

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy
Nays: None

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All witnesses intending to testify on quasi-judicial items during tonight's meeting were sworn in by Susan Slattery, City Clerk.

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QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS

Councilmember Levy read Item No. 18.

18. REQUEST FOR SITE PLAN MODIFICATION FOR RICK CASE BULLPEN PARKING LOCATED AT 875 N STATE ROAD 7.

A staff report dated February 12, 2014, to Council, from the Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Department follows:

SUBJECT: PP13-0038: Site Plan Modification for Rick Case Bullpen Parking

ADDRESS: 875 North State Road 7

LOCATION: Located on the north side of NW 8th Court approximately 1000' feet west of State Road 7

LAND USE/ZONING: Local Activity Center / SPI-2 (Auto Mall)

REQUEST: Consideration of a site plan modification and landscape plan to expand the bullpen parking area.

EXHIBITS TO BE INCLUDED: Planning and Zoning Division Report; subject site map; aerials; site plan application; and Review Committee Meeting minutes of December 4, 2013.

ANALYSIS: The subject site is zoned SPI-2 (Auto Mall), encompasses 14 acres, and is developed with two automobile dealerships. The site is bound by the MURT Trail / C-12 canal on the north, an automobile dealership and multi-family residences on the south, State Road 7 on the east, and vacant land on the west.

Bullpen parking (for vehicle storage) currently exists on 3.6 acres centrally located on the site. The applicant requests approval to modify the existing bullpen parking area to provide better access and add new bullpen parking to a 3.6 area located just west of the site. The expansion will reduce storage on the existing lot from 569 spaces to 475 spaces and provide additional storage for 430 vehicles on the new lot. Overall, on-site parking will increase from 765 spaces to 1,195 spaces.

Streetscape improvements include a 5' wide sidewalk, landscaping and 8' high metal picket fencing along NW 8th Court.

STAFF COMMENTS:

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Planning:

1. The proposed use is consistent with the Local Activity Center (LAC) land use designation on the adopted future land use map.
2. The proposed use is permitted in this land use designation.

Zoning:

1. A unified control document, acceptable to the City Attorney, is required. The document shall be executed and recorded prior to issuance of a building permit.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT:

1. The designated "Reserve Area Sodded" shall remain as open space (with no vehicle parking) to meet the 20% pervious area required for this site. This comment has been addressed.

TRAFFIC CONSULTANT:No objections.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:

1. Please provide a pavement detail. **12-26-13: Please review the detail to show 1½ inches asphalt per City detail.**
2. Please detail all of the proposed striping as to width and color. **12-26-12: Please include the width, spacing and color of the striping at the ends of the aisles.**
3. The overall impervious area does not meet the 30% requirement. Please meet with Engineering to discuss. **12-26-13: The proposed are meeting the 30% and will be always required to do so.**
4. Please show and label MURT fence on north side of property. **12-26-13: The MURT chain link fence is 6 feet high, not 8 feet, please correct.**
5. **12-26-13: Drainage details will be required at time of permitting.**

6. **12-26-13: At time of permitting, plans may not be labeled as “Preliminary Not for Construction”.**

Permit Comments

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.

1. An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be required and reviewed at time of permitting. An NOI will be required.
2. A Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan will be required. Please meet with Engineering to discuss.
3. Drainage calculations will need to be submitted, signed and sealed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Florida.
4. Surface water management permit(s) through Broward County and/or SFWMD may be required and a copy(s) provided to the Engineering Dept. at the time of permit review.
5. The Applicant may be required to execute a developer agreement and post security for all engineering and landscape related improvements at the time of permitting.

DESIGN, LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT:

1. Please include a tree survey in tabular form of existing trees in the area of work to be done; please include the height, spread, caliper, and condition of trees.
2. Tree removal/relocation permits are required directly through the Department of Design, Landscape & Construction Management prior to the issuance of an Engineering or Building permit.
3. As discussed at the pre-development meeting, please submit landscape plan addressing outstanding landscape items with regards to missing, dead, and/or irreparably damaged trees, palms, hedge, etc. throughout the site at time of permitting.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: No objection.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No objection as to this site plan modification.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

1. The site plan proposal for the additional storage lot of vehicles appears to have sufficient lighting plans and security cameras to provide adequate security.

UTILITIES: No objection.

1. It appears no utility work will be completed with this project. Should this change, additional requirements will apply. No structures allowed in utility easements.

O.P.W.C.D.: No comment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT: No objection.

Councilmember Zimmerman informed that he went to see the site. Pertaining to the north property line, he stated that there was no landscape along that north buffer except for a cocoplum hedge. There are a few palm trees that the City has planted in Linear Park but compared to the parcel just to the east, there are a lot of trees that buffer the parking. Staff came up with an idea to install six islands along that side to get shade trees. There are some concerns about the roots getting into the utility easement, so he suggested going with a category two tree. He requested that the owner work with staff to identify the best location and the best trees to put at least six ten foot wide islands there.

Joseph Rolls, Consulting Engineer, was there on behalf of Mr. Case. They have tried to accommodate the landscaping as staff has directed. This is a storage lot so there is an issue with the trees overhanging cars so the idea was to focus on the perimeter and not place any vegetation within the lot itself.

Councilmember Jacobs agreed with no vegetation in the lot, however he would like some trees added on that north side to buffer that view from Sunrise Boulevard. He requested Mr. Rolls work with the City to get trees somewhere in there.

Discussion ensued with regard to the vegetation.

Rick Case, owner, stated that after speaking with staff and doing everything that they required he would like to proceed as requested.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Fadgen, to approve Item No. 18 as presented. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy
Nays: Zimmerman

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NOTE: Councilmember Levy requested this be deferred before Item No. 3 then there was a motion after Item No. 18.

19. REQUEST FOR PARKING WAIVER AT LA VAN & NEIDENBERG LOCATED AT 7067 WEST BROWARD BLVD.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Zimmerman to DEFER Item No. 19 to the February 26, 2014 City Council Meeting. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Stoner, Zimmerman, Fadgen, Jacobs, Levy
Nays: None

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COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilmember Stoner asked the Mayor about the County changing the CRA rules. She wanted some clarification pertaining to the CRA ending in 2030. She wanted to know how much funds the City traditionally get from the County and how are the funds affected from now until 2030.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that there are a few conditions of the CRA, one of which is that they were not permitted to extend and secondly they aren't permitted to extend the boundaries or the time frame. Once 2030 comes they will only be able to have it for the 30 years.

Larry Leeds, Planning Zoning & Economic Development Director, stated that he could not give an exact figure of how much the City receives from the County. The funds come from four sources: The City of Plantation, Broward County Government, North Broward Hospital District and the Children's Services. They did a projection on how much money they think will come into the CRA, based on the sources until 2030. The amount depends on the millage of each of these entities that contribute to CRA. From now until 2030 they estimated approximately \$1 million a year will be made available.

Discussion ensued with regard to the CRA funds from Broward County.

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Mayor Bendekovic requested that Council read the memorandum from Bob Camric about the Midtown Charette. She informed Council that the Historic Commission wants to take away their Home Rule on designating historic sites so they are watching that very closely.

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PUBLIC REQUESTS OF THE COUNCL CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Allan Radziwon, Plantation Police Officer, stated that at the December 18, 2013 Council Meeting the exodus of American Express was discussed. Apparently they are leaving Plantation and moving to the City of Sunrise, a \$10 million incentive was cited as a reason for their departure. During the discussion Councilmember Levy stated that “It was sleazy for a city to pilfer from another city in such a way”. Unfortunately the City of Plantation is in the midst of creating a perfect storm for other municipalities to come in and pilfer from their most valuable commodity, its employees. Morale is at its lowest point that he has witnessed in his 18 years working for the City, as a result applications are going out. They are leaving to receive fair market value for the job that they perform. It was his view that the City of Sunrise, Town of Davie, Broward Sheriff’s Office, etc. value Plantation Police Officers more than the City of Plantation itself. He knows of eight officers currently seeking employment elsewhere. He was told that the Department has received 35 applicants for the most recent police officer opening, of those 35 one was up to their standards. He reached out to Sunrise to see how many they were receiving, he found out that they had received 130 applications. He reached out to Davie and they have received 337 applications, 97 of which are certified officers. The reason for this disparity is because the word is out “don’t work in Plantation.” He urged the Councilmembers to stand up and lead, he believed that they owed it to the residents of the City of Plantation to provide quality and continuous public safety. There should be no lapse in their ability to attract and keep the highest quality of public safety personnel. He believed that there is still time to make it right.

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Greg Murphins, Plantation Police Officer and FOP Vice President, expressed his concern and discontent regarding the current status of the Police Contract. During the past 18 months, he has listened to the misinformation from the City’s negotiating team. He discussed some of the various things he has done in his 18 year long career as a Plantation Police Officer. He stated that what the City has proposed will decrease his benefits substantially and add considerable time until he may receive that benefit. He wanted to know why. He urged Council to not let outsiders decide the fate of the dedicated employees of this City.

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Dennis Conklin, resident, mentioned President’s Ronald Reagan Birthday and Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday.

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SEALED COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS – None.

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WORKSHOP – None.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Councilmember Robert A. Levy, 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 _____, 2014.

Susan Slattery, City Clerk