

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

September 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Lynn Stoner, 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. Moment of Silence.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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ITEMS SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Bendekovic introduced Judge Peter Weinstein and his wife, Barbara Weinstein.

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

- The Annual Youth Hot Shot Basketball Tournament will be at Plantation Central Park on Friday, September 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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Mayor Bendekovic made the following announcements:

- The Autumn Food Distribution is partnering with Representative Katie Edwards to provide fresh produce, frozen meat, and non-perishable items to the community on Saturday, September 20, 2014 between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Davie Elementary School located at 7025 SW 39th Street, Davie, Florida.

- Story Time will be at the Helen B. Hoffman Library from September 4, 2014 through April 10, 2014. There are no story times during public school, Winter and Spring Break.
- Broward County Property Appraiser's Community Outreach Events; representatives will be on hand to help with Homestead, Seniors, and other property tax exemption applications and answer questions on property taxes. This is at the Outreach located at the Broward County Government Center West, 1 University Drive in Plantation, Florida.
- Learn a new language; Mango Languages is sponsored by the Friends of the Plantation Library. A new language resource is now available online through the library web page on public computers at the library and via mobile devices.
- The Greater Chamber of Commerce has two exciting events coming up; the Annual Chamber Golf Tournament held October 16, 2014 at Jacaranda Country Club, and also the Annual Economic Summit held September 25, 2014 at the Renaissance Hotel in Plantation.
- The Plantation Farmer's Market is every Saturday at Volunteer Park between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

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CONSENT AGENDA

As a Commissioner of the CRA, Mayor Bendekovic has a voting privilege on Item No. 7.

Mr. Lunny read the Consent Agenda by title.

3. Request for authorization to exercise/execute a one-(1)-year renewal with Intuition Systems, Inc. d/b/a Bill2Pay in accordance with the attached amended agreement for lockbox services for the processing and posting of utility payments and for the processing of online utility bill credit card and e-check payments. (Budgeted – Utility)

Resolution No. 11932

4. **RESOLUTION** approving the Expenditures and Appropriations reflected in the weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 21, 2014 through August 27, 2014 for the Plantation Gateway Development District.

Resolution No. 11933

5. **RESOLUTION** approving the Expenditures and Appropriations reflected in the weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 21, 2014 through August 27, 2014 for the Plantation Midtown Development District.

Resolution No. 11934

6. **RESOLUTION** approving the Expenditures and Appropriations reflected in the weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 21, 2014 through August 27, 2014.

Resolution No. 11935

7. **RESOLUTION** approving the Expenditures and Appropriations reflected in the weekly Expenditure Report for the period August 21, 2014 through August 27, 2014 for the Plantation Community Redevelopment Agency.

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

Ayes: Jacobs, Zimmerman (except for Check No.'s 1642 and 1646; paperwork has been filed with the City Clerk), Fadgen, Levy, Stoner

Nays: None

Mayor Bendekovic voted affirmatively on Item No. 7.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – None.

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LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Lunny requested that the Council allow Administration to have one consolidated hearing for these budgetary items. He also requested that Council take independent votes. You are allowed to take one vote on everything but the custom is to take independent votes after the hearing.

Councilmember Stoner noted that one consolidated hearing would be all right.

Mr. Lunny read Item Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

**First Public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Millage Resolution - City
Resolution No. 11936**

8. **RESOLUTION** adopting the tentative millage rate for the City of Plantation of 5.9142 mills for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, identifying the City only rolled-back millage rate, the aggregate millage and aggregate rolled-back rate; and; otherwise, directing the City Clerk to advertise the tentative aggregate millage rate, the aggregate rolled-back millage rate and the date of the public hearing for finalizing of such millages and budgets; providing findings; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefor.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Levy, to approve Item No. 8 setting the tentative millage rate at 5.9142 mills. Motion FAILED on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Jacobs, Levy

Nays: Zimmerman, Fadgen, Stoner

Mayor Bendekovic explained that this is about capital. If there is no increase there is 1.1 in capital. If there is a .3 increase there is 3.3 in capital. This was broken down by departments and that is the way the operating capital will be distributed throughout the City. The 3.3 would be IT and Public Safety. If it is not 3.3 the majority would go to IT but it really does not go to IT, it is distributed throughout the City.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Levy, to approve Item No. 8 setting the new millage at 5.75 mills. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Councilmember Stoner commented that she asked last time about adjusting the raise percentage. She questioned if 4% could be considered.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that she would prefer to do the 3% and 5%.

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**First Public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Millage Resolution - PGDD
Resolution No. 11937**

9. **RESOLUTION** adopting the tentative millage rate for Plantation Gateway Development District of 2.0 mills for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; identifying the computed rolled-back millage rate; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this millage rate; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefor.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Zimmerman, to approve Item #9 setting the millage rate for Plantation Gateway Development District of 2.0 mills. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

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Mr. Lunny questioned if there was a way to recalculate the aggregate millage given the Council's adjustment of 5.75.

Mr. Lunny advised that Item Nos. 10 through 14 can be done together.

**First public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Millage Resolution - PMDD
Resolution No. 11938**

10. **RESOLUTION** adopting the tentative millage rate for Plantation Midtown Development District of 1.0 mills for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; identifying the computed rolled-back millage rate providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this millage rate; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefor.

**First Public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Budget Resolution - City
Resolution No. 11939**

11. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative consolidated estimated revenue and appropriation budget of the City of Plantation; for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget; providing a savings clause and providing an effective date therefor.

**First Public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Budget Resolution - PGDD
Resolution No. 11940**

12. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budgets of the Dependent Taxing District of Plantation Gateway Development District for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefor.

**First Public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Budget Resolution - PMDD
Resolution No. 11941**

13. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budgets of the Dependent Taxing District of Plantation Midtown Development District for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget; providing a savings clause; and providing an effective date therefor.

**First Public Budget Hearing FY 2015 – Budget Resolution - CRA
Resolution No. 11942**

14. **RESOLUTION** providing for the adoption and approval of the tentative estimated revenue and appropriation budget of the City of Plantation Community Redevelopment Agency for the operating fiscal year October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015; providing findings; providing for a hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize this budget; providing a savings clause and providing an effective date therefor.

Motion by Councilmember Jacobs, seconded by Councilmember Zimmerman, to approve Item No. 10 for Plantation Midtown Development District of 1.0 mill; and to approve Item No.'s 11, 12, 13 and 14, which are the Budget Resolutions. Motion carried on the following roll call vote:

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

Mr. Lunny stated that Item No.'s 8 through 14 have a Second Public Hearing on September 15, 2014 commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers to finalize such matters.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that Priscilla Richards has to make a State required statement.

Priscilla Richards, Strategic Operations Administrator, was present. State Statutes require the following statement:

The 2015 total proposed budget is \$174,318,700.

The City of Plantation proposed budget is based on the General Fund operating millage of 5.9142 mills, which is an increase of 10.8% from the rolled-back millage of 5.3354 mills. This increase is to meet budgetary objectives, compensation adjustments, capital needs and services.

The Plantation Gateway Development District Budget is based on the operating fund millage of 2.0 mills, which is an increase of 3.8% from the rolled-back millage rate of 1.9266 mills. This is to meet services, capital, and budgetary objectives. There is no increase proposed in the millage this year.

The Plantation Midtown Development District Budget is based on the operating fund millage of 1.0 mills, which is an increase of 3.8% from the rolled-back millage rate of 0.9628 mills. This is to meet budgetary objectives and services. There is no increase proposed in the millage this year.

The City of Plantation Aggregate Budget is based on the aggregate millage of 6.1383 mills, which is an increase of 10.6% of the aggregate rolled-back millage rate of 5.5457 mills.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that on July 9, 2014 the maximum millage rate was set at .3 and tonight is the First Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget. This evening the Council and the public will be presented with Administration's recommendations. There are still decisions to be made since we are not out of the woods yet. The City has a need for operational capital and this budget addresses those needs. The goals of her Administration have remained constant. First and foremost, sustaining and maintaining the quality of service and life that is synonymous with living in the City of Plantation. She is pleased to say staff has been most successful in doing just that. In the last three years we have been able to place some funds in our unassigned reserves, we have been gradually restoring some much needed capital, and we have been holding the line on personnel benefits through our Wellness Center and negotiations. We have decreased expenditures and finally balanced the budget without using reserves or speculations. Several factors still exist, which significantly impact this year's budget; 1) We are still in recovery mode from the economic tsunami, which will take years to recoup the property values and revenues lost; 2) The cost of doing business continues to increase; 3) Additional revenue sources have declined, dried up or have been denied; 4) Benefits costs increase even though there has been a significant cost avoidance of \$2.2 million in our medical over the past years. Finally, maintaining the quality of service to our residents with substantially less resources and manpower. There is no denying the road to reach our destination has been bumpy but with the sacrifices with all entities, our businesses, our residents, and our employees, certainly difficult decision by our Council, and Plantation's resiliency, the road to recovery is just around the corner as long as the decisions made this evening provide the means to continue down the road and will prevent no u-turns.

Mayor Bendekovic commented that all of the Directors are available for any questions. She stated that staff, Directors, and everyone at City Hall has all taken the challenge and pitched in and taken on other tasks leaving no gaps and she noted how proud she is with what staff has done in order to get to this point.

Mayor Bendekovic provided a brief Power Point presentation as follows:

Agenda:

- Going into this year's budget.
- Proposed Millage Increase (Discussion on Capital)
- General Fund Highlights
- Other Fund Highlights
- Summary

It was noted that the General Fund was provided in the backup both with a 0 and a .3 millage increase; property tax comparison throughout Broward County. There should be a revised one because the original was 6.8 and now it is a 7.4. There were also City comparisons from a 1 to 9 range and a survey that was done with 25 municipalities on City Manager versus Strong Mayor.

Going into this year's budget:

- The City has faced deficits over the past several years reaching as high as \$12 million.
- More than three years ago we were at a \$12.9 million deficit.
- While the City's unassigned reserves still remain low, at approximately \$2.95 million, we are making substantial progress.
- While we still are not at our 2008 peak taxable value, according to BCPA, the City of Plantation experienced a 7.42% increase in gross taxable value.
- It is important to note that this Administration no longer balances the budget using reserves, one-time revenues, or on speculation.
- Despite the continued economic situation, the City continues to provide the level of service to which our citizens are accustomed.

Change in taxable property values:

- In 2011 we were down 25.6%. We have doubled each year.
- In 2014 we are at 3.56% and in 2015 we are at 7.42% but we are still down 11.4% in taxable value.

Reserved balances:

- The total is \$27.6 million in reserves.
- There are different categories such as non-spendable; restricted; committed; assigned and unassigned.
- The unassigned money is very important because if we ever want to go out for a bond issue approximately \$5 million is needed because they like to see at least 5% of the General Fund.
- A committed reserve would be an emergency disaster relief fund.
- The restricted would be impact fees.
- Assigned fees would be Risk Management.

Unassigned reserves: City comparison:

- We are at the bottom compared to other Cities we usually compare with.
- We are up to \$2.95 million and we really need to be up to around \$5 million and we are getting there.

Proposed millage increase:

- While we are able to achieve a balanced budget, there are a number of challenges expected in coming years:
 - The cost of doing business continues to increase.
 - Healthcare and pension costs continue to rise.
 - The City's capital assets must be maintained and improved.

- Fiscal Year 2015 proposed budget contains no major capital improvements or projects. That means there are no projects over \$1 million. We are saving those for the bond. Approximately \$3.3 million in operating capital expenditures (out of \$21 million total capital needs). We have been putting that on the back burner and it keeps increasing each year.
- In addition, during Fiscal Year 2015, the City will return to the negotiation table with our FOP union members, which will also have a cost associated with it.

No Millage Increase:

- This evening you will see a budget that has no increases and a budget that has a .3 increase.

What this buys...:

- You get a balanced budget.
- You get raises that are 3% and 5%, pension and medical benefits.
- You get a majority of capital in IT.

What you don't get:

- Needed capital improvements.
- Replenishing unassigned reserves.
- Reserved funds for collective bargaining – April 2015.
- Funding for a City Manager contingency account.

**Capital by department –
.0 mil increase:**

- IT would get the majority at \$873,514.
- Police would get \$106,400.
- Fire would get \$49,500.
- EMS would get \$45,600.
- Parks would get \$74,000.
- Aquatics would get \$21,000.

0.3 Mil increase:

What this buys:

- \$3.3 million in capital improvements.
- Raises (3%/5%).
- Pensions.
- Medical benefits.
- Funding for a City Manager contingency account.

What you don't get:

- Needed capital improvements.
- Replenishing unassigned reserved.
- Reserved funds for collective bargaining – April 2015.

Capital by department with a .3 mil increase:

- IT gets the most followed by the Police, Fire and Public Safety. There is very limited capital in the other areas.

Summary of proposed scenarios:

0 millage increase:

- Approximately \$40 million ad valorem revenue.
- Total revenue of approximately \$89,000
- Versus expenditures of \$4,092,174

.3 millage increase:

- Approximately \$42 million ad valorem revenue.
- Total revenue of approximately \$91 million.
- Versus expenditures of \$1,943,176.

Summary of scenarios

Property tax impact: annual & (per month)

- Different areas were randomly picked to show what it would cost with a 0 increase.
- The increase in property tax in Plantation for Plantation Acres would be \$179.
- An increase of .3 would be \$28.83 a month for the homeowners.
- In Park East the increase was \$11.
- If the millage rate were increased to .3 it would \$51, which averages out to \$4.23 per month.
- In Royal Palm, no millage increase would be \$17 in property tax.
- With a .3 millage the cost would be \$75, which averages out to \$6.28 per month.
- The Country Club Estates increase would be \$12 in the property taxes.
- With a .3 millage increase the cost would be \$56, which averages to \$4.65 per month.
- Plantation Park has an increase of \$11.
- With a .3 millage increase the cost would be \$53, which is \$4.40 per month.
- Fox Run would have an increase of \$22 in property taxes.
- With a .3 millage increase the cost would be \$104, which is \$8.63 per month.

She believes the monthly charges with the .3 millage increase for the much needed capital is well warranted that it would possibly be considered.

City of Plantation

General Budget Overview:

- The total expenditure is \$91,462,255.

The proposed millage rate:

- With a 5.9 we would be in the middle.

Proposed millage rate comparison:

- Our value stands out when you consider fire assessment, debt service, stormwater, solid waste collection and special district fees.

Typical tax bill:

- The Broward County School Board takes the majority.
- Plantation is \$87.13.
- Additional drainage districts are also Plantation Acres, which averages \$428.46 an acre; Old Plantation is \$140.20 an acre.

Revenue initiatives:

- Over the past several years the City has explored various initiatives that could increase revenues.
- They include: Increased charges for services performed by the City, a stormwater assessment, public safety impact fees, employee contributions for healthcare benefits and a water rate increase were implemented.
 - Other initiatives including a utility service tax, a fire assessment to offset costs associated with the operation of the Fire Department, and the sale of surplus land were not incorporated.
- During Fiscal Year 2014, the City realized several one-time revenues.
 - Without these one-time revenues the City would not have been able to fund any capital last year.
- Consumer spending and the housing market have not fully recovered.
 - This has a negative effect on all state and county shared revenues streams such as sales and fuel taxes as well as property tax values.
- It is imperative that the City seeks to offset one-time revenues by exploring new initiatives beyond ad valorem.

Change in ad valorem revenue:

2011

- 4.5142 mils \$28,876,900

2012

- 4.6142 mils \$29,677,628

2013

- 5.6142 mils \$36,667,714

2014

- 5.6142 mils \$38,088,489

2015

- 5.9142 mils \$42,665,357

Revenue by funding source

- Taxpayers generate 46.6% of the total General Fund; revenue is necessary for operations.

Expenditure reductions:

- Over the past several years, Administration has explored and implemented many expenditure reductions to balance the City's budget.
 - Wage freezes (4 years)
 - Privatization
 - Furloughs
 - Debt refinancing
 - Pension and health benefits reform
 - For Fiscal Year 2015, the cancellation of the TRAM service.
- On a daily basis, Directors continue to look for opportunities to streamline the provision of services through consolidation.
- The city continues to explore new avenues such as partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors to achieve greater efficiencies in internal operations.
- Reorganization and restructuring of departments; Administration, Finance, Design, Landscape & Construction, Planning & Zoning, City Clerk.

General fund expenditures:

- Personal services are at 77%.
- Capital is at 3.6%.
- Grants and aid are at 16.8%.
- Debt service is at .1%.
- Non operating transfers-out is at.1%.

Expenditures by department:

- The ad valorem is 46.6%. This covers the Police Department, IT, and Building Department.

Capital expenses:

- This is expenditures that we had done over the years.
- The hope is that we could go out for a General Obligation Bond for the unfunded deferred capital needs such as rebuilding Fire Station 1. There is also paving that needs to be done for a cost of about \$10 million. Renovations are needed at Pine Island Park and anything else that is over \$1 million.

Balancing the Budget:

Expenditures:

- This is the reorganization, privatization, benefit changes, wage freezes, TRAM service, restructuring and cost allocations.

Revenue:

- Millage rate, Waste Management, public safety impact, water rate increase, Storm water fee and grants.
- The grants of any significance were \$900,000 for the Firefighters for their air packs and we only had to match it with \$84,000; Deicke Auditorium in the amount of \$500,000 which was a match of \$100,000; and the pavilions at Plantation Woods at \$50,000 from FRDAP.

Other Fund Highlights:

Enterprise fund – Golf Course:

- An Enterprise Fund is a stand alone; it supports itself.
- The Golf Course total revenue is \$5.1 million and the total expenses are the same.
- The Golf Course is privatized with Guidant Management.

Enterprise Fund – Utilities:

- Utilities has a total revenue of \$54 million.
- The water rate was to pay the debt service for the \$30 million loan and we are in the process of doing infrastructure throughout our community.

Enterprise Fund – Stormwater:

- The Stormwater total revenue is at \$1 million.

Note: Fire Rescue is not shown as an Enterprise Fund. It was felt that Fire Rescue should be placed into the General Fund because it is not a stand alone; it does not support itself because the City has always had to contribute from the General Fund for it. The General Fund will show an increase of 54 full time EMS employees.

Other special revenue funds:

- CDBG Grant; the majority of this grant went to the lighting along Country Club Circle.
- CRA
- Library Board
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program; we purchased homes, renovated them and sold them. A nonprofit organization oversaw that grant.
- Plantation Gateway Development District
- Plantation Midtown Development District
- Road & Traffic Control
- State/Federal Forfeitures
- SHIP Program; this program increased this year due to the fact that the State gave us more money this year.

Summary:

- The objectives of this Administration for Fiscal Year 2015 are to restore merit increases for our employees, to replenish unassigned reserves and to fund the capital necessary to sustain and maintain our City.

Thank You:

- We are on the road to recovery and hopefully tonight we will continue on that path.

In response to Councilmember Fadgen, Mayor Bendekovic indicated that confiscated funds are Forfeiture Funds. It is not revenue and we are not allowed to put it in the General Fund.

Councilmember Fadgen questioned how much in the way of funds did we get for the current fiscal year. He also questioned what the average has been based on recent years.

Chief Harrison advised that it varies based on the seizures and forfeitures they get in as well as some of the proceeds from a multi-agency task force. It is very unpredictable. He stated that years ago they had a very large forfeiture; about \$2.6 million. Those numbers have not been seen and he does not forecast those numbers; nothing has been seized or pending with that much funding. Those funds have been used to purchase vehicles and other non-budgetary, non-reoccurring costs. Those funds have been dwindling and they are not of significance to do those large purchases anymore.

Councilmember Fadgen questioned if there is a direct relationship between the cases they are involved in and those funds or if it is spread around the County.

Chief Harrison indicated that they have specific cases they actually do, whether it is a forfeiture vehicle or a seized vehicle, and instead of taking the vehicle they sell it back based on State Guidelines. They get some funds from a multi-agency task force and Detectives are assigned different tasks within those agencies, whether it is at the airport; drug task force; money laundering, etc.

Mayor Bendekovic referenced Pages 239 and 240 in the Budget, which shows the decline. It also shows State and Federal.

Chief Harrison advised that one of the biggest changes they have done in respect to the forfeitures is that they no longer have an off site facility; in-house personnel is being used as well as a multi-agency task force. The way they have done business has been reduced along with operating costs, especially as it pertains to the forfeiture account.

Councilmember Fadgen questioned how much is projected to be surplussed that will be rolled into this budget year.

Mayor Bendekovic commented that is a difficult question until we get to the end. As of July, Expenditures and Revenue is at 83.3%. As of July 31, 2014; we received 84% of our revenue and we had 71% Expenditures. To say we are going to have that at the end would be pure speculation and she has been real careful not to base the budget on speculation. There will probably be some money in personnel because vacancies will be filled, especially with the Police, because they are trying to hire as quickly as possible. She would not be able to project what it is going to be and would not be able to tell until a couple of months from now.

Councilmember Zimmerman referenced the Financial Statement from July. He stated that last year some capital was moved into the adopted budget; we had about \$5 million.

Mayor Bendekovic clarified that we had \$6.1 million.

Councilmember Zimmerman noted that some was put into capital and reserves. In looking back at the General Fund and the Expenditures today, a lot of money was moved into capital but we have not spent a lot of it; we have only spent about 44% and there is only about two months left in the year. He will be interested to see the September Financials.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that money was also put elsewhere. She stated that more movement will probably be seen in the August Financials, which will be out on September 21, 2014. She provided the August Financials to Councilmember Zimmerman for review and noted that the capital spent to date is \$1.7 million. She assured that it would probably be spent because that is the operational capital.

Nancy Romanello, Budget Manager, was present. She stated that we have one project that is \$117,000 for aquatics; however, they will not be able to do it this year. There is another \$100,000 for air packs. We have until November 15, 2014 to account for expenses and sometimes invoices come in at the last minute.

Councilmember Zimmerman advised that he looked at the Expenditures to date and thinks we will see some savings at the end of the year. We were also able to put some money into capital and reserves.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that \$500,000 was put into Risk Management and the Other Public Employee's Benefits (OPEB); the GASB, had to be brought up to \$2 million, which we had to increase \$500,000. That is where the money went last year. If we have any excess she would put it into unassigned reserves and capital.

Councilmember Zimmerman mentioned the Golf Enterprise Fund for the Plantation Reserve and questioned if it is in the black.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that it is currently running in the black. They are paying their debt service and in the future that debt service will increase; we might possibly have to fund some money that way.

Councilmember Zimmerman stated that he looked at the last two CAFR's and the value of that property and asset has dropped by almost \$1 million in a year. The restricted assets in cash, equivalents and investments also severely dropped. We are not in the black if we are pulling from reserves or funding; we are losing value.

Mr. Romano explained that during a recent meeting it was found that the golf course will be in the black this year and next year will be another story. This is because of the debt service that was refinanced over ten years. Our debt service went up from \$377 to \$755 a year. The golf course is going to depreciate but we feel that the course holds it own; it does very well. Guidant Management has done an excellent job making sure that revenues are up and making sure that the course is in top shape for the players. We still host the PGA Web.com Tour as well as a lot of smaller tournaments during the course of the year. The course is one of the destinations for many golfers across the country. Although the numbers are changing a bit we feel we are in a good position.

Councilmember Zimmerman expressed concern that we are seeing value lost; the funding has to come from somewhere.

Mr. Romano indicated that the projections were that we would be in the hole \$175,000 next year. He noted that some of the other golf courses in and around the County are closing down. It is believed that the competition is dwindling and it is only going to help our numbers grow. In time, he thinks that our course will be stable. Once the debt service is under control and paid off the golf course will be doing very well.

Councilmember Zimmerman commented that the debt needs to be paid off; it is almost \$7 million and at the rate we are going we are going to have a hard time paying that over time.

Mr. Romano reiterated that we have Guidant Management, Paul Scott and Lou Baroletti (sic), who do a fantastic job managing our golf course and we expect that those numbers are as low as possible.

Dr. Barbara Weinstein, CEO and President of Family Central, was present. She thanked Council for including them in the budget. She respects the fact that Elected Officials have taken the challenge to make sure that the children are well served and well cared for. As of today, there are 425 children from the City of Plantation and 182 children in Plantation are on the wait list for care. Family Central provides services to over 100,000 children in South Florida; most of them living 150% below the poverty level. The donation you give to Family Central is mandatorily matched by the State and Federal Government. For every dollar they get from the City they get \$57.99 back in Federal and State Revenue. The City of Plantation's current donation this year will bring in \$1,248,700 to serve the children of Plantation. 100% of the money donated from Plantation stays in Plantation; it is not used for any other City. They have 29 facilities in the City of Plantation that they are currently funding, Family Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers, where these children reside. She stated that \$1 for every child that needs to be in care because that would eradicate the wait list. Their overhead is less than 2%; 98.18% of the money goes directly to the children.

Dennis Conklin, resident, was present. He suggested that a definition of rolled-back be included in the legal description that is required to be read so the public is more informed. He asked that the millage rate not be raised 3/10ths of a mill; that is the proposed ceiling that was done in July. He would like to the rolled-back rate.

Kingsley Smith, resident, was present. He questioned if the CDBG money went to the Country Club Estates lighting project. He was told that the bulk of the money would be spent on the playground.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that last year the CDBG money went to Country Club Estates for lighting around the MURT trail.

Mr. Leeds explained that this is Community Development Block Grant money. This year we received \$427,000 in CDBG funds. Approximately \$165,000 is going to multi-cultural park; another \$70,000 to \$80,000 is going to certain social service agencies in the community; and the rest goes to housing. It is a housing program but each year we try to find a deserving Public Works project.

Rico Petrocelli, resident, was present. He stated that he is not in support of a millage increase; he agreed with Mr. Conklin with the roll-back with the 7.4% property tax increase. He commented on financial stress and noted that we need to get the economic development back. He mentioned an article in the Sun Sentinel regarding Margate Commissioner, Frank Talerico (sic).

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that Margate has a Fire fee of \$255 and their Solid Waste was increased by \$12.72. North Lauderdale has a Fire fee, which was increased to \$143; Solid Waste was also increased to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Those Cities increase their fees rather than their millage rate and we did not do either.

Rosalie Schulman, resident, was present. She commented that she is not in favor of doing away with the TRAM.

Councilmember Levy mentioned Mr. Petrocelli's comments and stated that the City of Plantation has no Fire fee. Mayor Bendekovic has done a good job with what she was given. Council is aware of every penny we charged in order to provide services and a quality of life that is expected in our community. One of these services is that we have over 300 people in the Volunteer Fire Department. There are many ways that count on helping people, not just ad valorem taxes. We have a stormwater fee and a few utilities but for the most part we have an inclusive tax rate. People can deduct those taxes from their Federal taxes whereas if we charge fees, such as a Fire fee, they cannot deduct that from their Federal taxes. We are giving a huge break by incorporating all of this in one inclusive tax rate. He noted that no one wanted to cut the TRAM. He feels so much because the people who used the TRAM really needed it; however, we have to weigh the number of people using it versus other needs in the community and we had to make a very tough decision.

Councilmember Stoner commented that was done with a heavy heart.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that the costs doubled and the ridership fell below the threshold.

Councilmember Levy stated that the provider of the TRAM doubled their cost. It would have cost \$400,000 had we continued the TRAM, which we felt we could not do when the ridership averaged about eight to nine riders an hour. Council agonized over this decision. When we tried to collect revenue people were dropping nickels in and calling it quarters; they were not paying properly. It is a tough decision when you have to look at all aspects of community life and set a priority. Most Condos have their own busses to take people to different events. We kept the TRAM going at a deficit for many years. Had they not doubled the price we would not be having this conversation. The provider that originally owned the TRAMS and provided the service went out of business. Other companies honored his price until the end of the contract and then they said the price would double, which is what happened.

Councilmember Stoner requested that Mr. Consaul, Public Works Director, to speak with Ms. Schulman regarding the TRAM.

Councilmember Fadgen mentioned backup at the last meeting regarding an F250 truck that was being replaced with an F350 truck. After some discussion, he found out the reason for going to the F350 was because they needed a lift instead of having two or three men lifting a transmission out of an engine into the truck. The more expensive truck was used to make the job easier for the employees and perhaps safer for the employees as well. He thanked everyone for all they do for our citizens and encouraged employees to be vigilant.

Councilmember Stoner indicated that Mr. Butler could possibly expand on the issue of the newly issued FEMA maps. A great deal of the City is no longer in a flood zone.

Brett Butler, City Engineer, explained that all of Broward County has been affected by a map change; Plantation benefiting from that. He cannot define exactly what the change is percentage wise but there has been a significant change from the standpoint of properties that were formerly and what we called "A special flood area", which would dictate a certain policy premium cost to be removed from that flood plain, giving every person who has that a potential option of having their policy rewritten into what is referred to as a Preferred Risk Policy and it would result in some form of a savings. This is something they are currently dealing with as part of what they do to the Community Rating System. They are required to produce flood map determinations and they have been quite busy as a result of this recent map change. Letters are going out daily as more and

more residents fully understand that possibility and they anticipate being very busy in the near future. This is something that our residents and business owners should be aware of.

Councilmember Stoner commented that an average residential policy is usually \$400 to \$500 a year.

Mr. Butler stated that he was paying about \$460 a year and assuming his agent gets the numbers done quickly he should be down to around \$414 or \$414.

Councilmember Stoner wanted the public to know that although it did not start with us, we have pursued it over the last few years.

Mr. Butler emphasized that Plantation is participating in the Community Rating System and in as much as there are many properties being removed from special flood hazard areas there are properties that will remain. We continue to do what we do through that program to give those residents and business owners a discount off of the standard premium. That is something we do directly to benefit those property owners.

In response to Councilmember Fadgen, Mr. Butler indicated that the Community Rating System is initiated by FEMA through the National Flood Insurance Program; it is a nationwide program. Communities participate in it primarily so they can secure Federal Disaster Assistance. They rate you based upon how many of the activities you participate and perform in the program; they grade you numerically and categorize you from ten down to a one; the lower the number the better. As you reach a certain number they will re-evaluate the discount the property owners will receive. He believes we are currently at a 20% discount. We are running a little risk of losing our current rating, not by anything we have done, but the program has fundamentally changed its manual and based on the way they are issuing points we are going to be scrambling to try to keep our rating. It is going to be difficult. We are going to work hard to get a 7 as opposed to a 6 class.

Robert Castro, IT Director, explained that PGIS is the Plantation Geographic Information Systems. Residents can go on there and do research regarding their property based on folio or address. We are also working with the Engineering Department in getting some forms up for the letters needed for FEMA. Instead of having to download something and mail it or bring it in they can do it all online.

Councilmember Fadgen questioned what was done to get all of that capital money.

Mr. Castro advised that they support all of the departments in the City. The IT specific numbers for all of that capital is very small; it really is going to supporting the other department infrastructure needs in order to get their business done on a daily basis. Some of it is IT; a big part of this coming year with the capital budget is for public safety. Years ago some IT funds were spent by the Police Department and by the Fire Department; each department had their own needs; which made it very difficult for a centralized information technology network to operate. In 2005 or 2006 he met with the Mayor, Chief of Police and Fire Chief at which time he proposed bringing all of that back into IT so they could support, maintain and go forward in time to make sure they could meet needs two to four years down the road.

Councilmember Stoner commented that she is still concerned that we are not over the recession. Even though people are spending, most people are still fearful and still live paycheck to paycheck. She acknowledged that the City has come a long way in the last few years. Every financial decision was well thought out; however, she struggles with timing and whether this is the right time for a tax increase. Perhaps we should wait another year.

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QUASI-JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA – None.

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QUASI-JUDICIAL ITEMS – None.

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COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilmember Fadgen indicated that he sent an email to the Mayor and Council concerning the Referendum.

Motion by Councilmember Fadgen that we spend no more money on the Referendum Voter Guide. There was no second to the motion.

Councilmember Stoner questioned the plan on distribution.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that a motion is not needed because it is part of the daily operations. The money that was going to be spent was for 1,000 copies at \$106. The whole idea was to educate the public; we are permitted to educate but we are not permitted to indicate a vote. She will honor whatever Council wants to do with this but as a former educator there were some revisions. She feels that it is much needed because people are asking about it. She thinks that the more informed voter the better. She understands that he is reaching out to people asking them to support his efforts in a Referendum and cautioned Councilmember Fadgen because he is looking for a vote and that is not educating.

Councilmember Fadgen believes the Supervisor of Elections is going to be circulating the sample ballot. The ballot language should be sufficient and further clarification will be disseminated by him and others who are opposed to the Referendum. He recommended that the \$106 not be spent. He would rather have each of the Elected Officials circulate through the community and explain whether we want it to be passed or not.

Mayor Bendekovic commented that cannot be done; that is projecting the way you want someone to vote.

Mr. Lunny advised that anyone can advocate a position; the corporation cannot. Any Elected Official can say what they feel about voting or not voting; the corporation is prohibited from advocacy; it is permitted to educate.

Councilmember Fadgen believes that educating would be letting the Supervisor of Elections disburse what is going to be on the ballot and based on other information from members of the public or Elected Officials who oppose it to follow the recommendations or not.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that she will follow whatever the desire is. She noted that some other viewpoints were taken into consideration.

Councilmember Jacobs commented that he likes it.

Councilmember Stoner mentioned the addition of November elections. She does not believe it is appropriate since it is subjective; it may be more costly for municipal candidates to run for office. People who vote do not care what a candidate has to do or not.

Councilmember Jacobs stated that he made that suggestion. He believes this is a legitimate concern. If the cost for entry to run for Council is higher then it makes it more difficult for people to participate. He believes this is something that should be pointed out. It is not an opinion, it is a fact that more people will generally vote in a November election.

Councilmember Zimmerman agreed.

Councilmember Levy commented that there are a number of inconsistencies and errors listed.

Councilmember Jacobs questioned if we want to publish this or not.

Councilmember Stoner questioned if we want to proceed for \$106.

Councilmember Fadgen does not. He mentioned the pros and cons for a Strong Mayor versus a City Manager and noted that we can remove a Mayor with a 50% vote plus one vote but we need an 80% vote of the City Council to remove a City Manager. He thinks it puts the City in jeopardy. He believes we should let the ballot language speak for itself and let each of us promote it or oppose it and make recommendations accordingly. He says spend no more money on it.

Councilmember Stoner questioned if it would be appropriate to have Council's names and phone numbers listed so that if someone picks it up and wants to discuss it they could contact us. She thinks that the City owes it to its voters to provide some basic information. The Supervisor of Elections ballot is not going to tell anyone much beyond although most voters are fairly well informed.

Councilmember Zimmerman expressed concern to Mayor Bendekovic and received an email on Saturday saying that he had until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday to get information back to her along with any backup over a holiday weekend. He thinks that is a little limiting on her part for his concerns. He got back to her with comments and had several comments and concerns throughout the document of which none have been addressed in the rewrite. He is feeling a little disappointed and cannot support going through this. He thinks it is a little pointed in one direction and believes it could be a little clearer as it relates to our City and what the potential might be. He did ask for some information on the voter turnout and where these numbers came from of which he has not received.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that Susan Slattery got them from the Supervisor of Elections.

Councilmember Zimmerman questioned whether it was from the Supervisor of Elections for directly the percentage from the City of Plantation.

He believes that could change the percentages quite a bit in what we will see with a City of Plantation turn out.

Councilmember Stoner questioned if we come to some changes and revisions if he wants to spend \$106 to prepare this document.

Councilmember Zimmerman stated that he is not ready to do that at this point.

Councilmember Levy said no.

Councilmember Stoner advised that there is a consensus of no.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that she did not need a consensus because if she wants to do it she can.

Councilmember Stoner commented that Council does not have any say in the Mayor's discretionary budget.

Mayor Bendekovic advised that her discretionary budget is \$19,500. She noted that she took Councilmember Zimmerman's point of information; it is off the account. There are some informational facts and she can support all of the facts listed. Councilmember Zimmerman suggested using the PEPI because it does 45 cities; however, that is tri-county. We took 25 municipalities within Broward County because it was believed that would be more relevant than the 45 cities in the tri-county area.

Councilmember Levy indicated that there are inconsistencies and errors in this statement and you are saying that none of this is going to be used. The Referendum is already in so we cannot change that wording. He noted that the one word he would like to include in any discussion is the word "Qualified". With a City Manager you look for someone who is qualified to run a multi-million dollar corporation who you can fire at any time and if you do not put it in the contract you do not have to give them a golden parachute; it is up to the Elected Officials to determine that. This bothers him because it was misleading to people. A City Manager can be hired and fired by a majority or by a super majority of the City Council at any time. It is up to Council to set the salary and to decide on the individual. Council is elected by the people. Every two years some of us are up for election and the Mayor, once elected, is in for four years. His concern is that someone who is not qualified could come in to this \$200 million corporation. He believes a qualified person is what we need to run the day to day operations of our community, who is responsible to all of us.

Councilmember Jacobs questioned how you reconcile that the biggest cities in the United States have a Strong Mayor.

Mayor Bendekovic commented that it will be determined on November 4, 2014.

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Mayor Bendekovic thanked everyone. Hopefully enough information was provided so an informed decision can be made. She reminded everyone that September 15, 2014 is a Monday, not a Wednesday. After that the next meeting will not be until October 8, 2014.

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PUBLIC REQUESTS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Dennis Conklin, resident, was present. He made the following request and comments:

- A moment of silence was held for Steven Joel Sottloff.
- The City of Plantation Defined Benefit Pension Plans are designed to function the same as a cash value life insurance policy. Its form malfunctions the same way as the worst type of the cash value life insurance. He mentioned the calendar history. It is very costly to change and you go amortize to make up for the plans failure.

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Kingsley Smith, resident, was present. He made the following comments:

- He thanked the Police Department for the assistance provided to him when he needed it.
- With regard to a Strong Mayor versus City Manager, he believes that most of the voters in Plantation need to be educated. A lot of people do not know the difference and they think that a City Manager runs a City. The Elected Officials run the City; you hire and fire the City Manager depending on the circumstances and they dictate the policy of the City.
- He mentioned Plantation General Hospital leaving the neighborhood; he is angry and disappointed. He wants to know what will happen to the building. He questioned about the school.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that we are aware of this. There is another letter going out to George Hambury (sic), at Nova. A letter went to Michael Joseph at Plantation General Hospital. In speaking with doctors in the area, they want to get a group together. Councilmember Stoner also spoke with someone and there will be a contingency of those individuals supporting our efforts. Mayor Bendekovic advised that she visited the school the week before the teachers came and spoke with Tonya Faust (sic), the principal. She has provided her game plan and they will be getting additional support from the County because of their "F" rating. They also have a new magnet program, STEM, which also brings further support to the educational facility. They have high hopes that they will not be a grade "F" the next time. She is also getting the support of parents in the area and there has been discussion with one of the active parents with the PTA and the parent support at Plantation Elementary. They have also extended their hours; they will be there until 5:00 p.m. every day. These children need reinforcement. Over 47% of the children in that school are transient; none of them stayed long enough. They might be in one year and then gone; then they come back their last year and that is very difficult to have that consistency within the curriculum within that student.

- Mr. Smith indicated that he is perturbed because they are coming in to give some assistance. He questioned where the people are who are supposed to supervise. It is the point of education delivery that is most important; it is not the curriculum or the supervisor who developed the curriculum; it is the point of delivery; the teachers. Where are the people who are supposed to know what is happening before it happens?

Mayor Bendekovic commented that they were not expecting it; no one expects that kind of a grade. They have high hopes and so does she. She offered assistance if needed and makes frequent visits over there quite often.

- A group of five from the community went to the school last week. He is pleased with the school itself; it is extremely clean even though the turnover is very high. He questioned if there is any communication between the school and the car dealerships. He promised that when he goes to the Plantation Gateway meeting he will mention something to the car dealerships. He questioned if the Educational Advisory Board still meets.

Mayor Bendekovic stated there is an Educational Advisory Board meeting on September 8, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Rico Petrocelli, resident, was present. He followed up with the comment on discretionary funds. We all know that the Mayor can spend up to \$19,500 without Council approval, which is down from \$40,000 and \$20,000 in the past Administrations. He questioned how much is in the discretionary fund for the Mayor to spend \$106 at a time.

Mayor Bendekovic indicated that the discretionary fund total is \$19,500. She is not allowed to go over that. A survey was done of the other cities and most City Managers or Mayors have a \$25,000 threshold.

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Councilmember Stoner questioned if the Mayor takes another look at the comments if Council would reconsider taking another look at a revised edition.

Councilmember Levy replied absolutely.

Mayor Bendekovic stated that Council can take the information and do what they want with it. She does not think everyone will feel the same.

Councilmember Jacobs commented that you can spend your own \$106.

Mr. Lunny noted that is legal. Councilmember Jacobs is suggesting that it becomes personal correspondence; it is not issued on behalf of the corporation.

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SEALED COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS – None.

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WORKSHOPS – None.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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Councilmember Lynn Stoner, 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