



**CITY OF COOPER CITY
CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2019 at 6:30 PM**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ross: Okay. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. If you'd please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance, which will be led by first grader Vaughn Silvera and fifth grader Samuel Rodriguez, both from Franklin Charter School.

Vaughn Silvera and Samuel Rodriguez: I Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, and if the commission will join me down at the podium. Background: Could you both come around this way? Come on around this way...whoops sober up there (laughter). First, I personally would like to thank both of you for leading us in the pledge of allegiance, but I do that on behalf of the City Commission who is standing right behind me. We also have certificates for you. It's a Certificate of Appreciation presented to both Samuel Rodriguez and Vaughn Silvera for leading the City Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance signed by me, as Mayor, and dated today 22 January. More importantly, we got a bracelet for you and the best thing is the pin for the City. Thank you both very much. (Clapping).

Background: And if you would. Background inaudible.

(Taking pictures).

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Gentlemen. (Background).

Commissioner Meltzer: Good evening everybody (background).

Mayor Ross: By the mic...by the mic.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

a. Yard of the Month

Commissioner Meltzer: Sorry, once again. Good evening everybody and thanks for coming out tonight. We are going to do our February, even though it's still January, our February 2019 "Yard of the Month" presentation. This month it's my turn, I'm just new on the dais here so I - I don't know a hell of a lot about

yards, so the Green Advisory Board was nice enough to volunteer their services, and who more qualified than Diana Guidry and her board. So, I'm going to read a little something here and then Diana you'll come up and read the presentation. Nothing creates curb-appeal like a well-kept yard. We are fortunate to have a climate that allows for year-round foliage to remain healthy and vibrant. Some homeowners take advantage of that by planting and maintaining their own little oasis. We found an oasis this month. We recognize the lush landscape of Bruce & Margaret Marchette. Could you please stand up? Where are you, Bruce and Margaret? Big round of applause, why don't you come up to the podium receive your recognition. Bruce and Margaret will enjoy the distinction of displaying their "Yard of the Month" sign in their yard throughout the month of February 2019 as our way of saying, "thank you for keeping Cooper City someplace special." Congratulations. Now I'll turn it over to Diana Guidry.

Diana Guidry: Thanks. Congratulations. As you may know, Cooper City is a Certified Community of Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation and every year we have to increase the number of homes that have been certified by a small number to keep that active and current. We selected this home in District 2 because it is a beautiful example of a Florida friendly yard. The tree canopy, which is, as you can see from the picture, oh where's the picture? Is consistent with a wonderful wildlife habitat with all of those native live oak trees and the native bald cypress tree. And particularly at this time of the year where we are in full swing of spring migration for songbirds, we looked at this yard and thought this is a wonderful example to represent how we would like tree canopy increased in Cooper City. Using native plants, a well-kept yard, and it has a wonderful swale in the front, which serves as a temporary water source. Because this yard has food, water, shelter and places to raise young, we would certainly like to congratulate the homeowner for maintaining it this way and to encourage them to certify their yard as a National Wildlife Certified Wildlife Habitat for Cooper City. (clapping)

Commissioner Meltzer: Thank you Diana, and congratulations again to Bruce and Margaret.

Background: And here is your sign and certificate. You get to display this proudly in your yard.

Background: Inaudible.

Background: Commissioner Meltzer: Anyone else from the Green Advisory Board come on up.

(Taking pictures).

(Clapping).

Background: Inaudible

b. Proclamation for DRW Magazine

Mayor Ross: Who here reads DRW? Are you kidding me, everyone reads DRW! Jared Blaut, come on up (clapping). That is Mr. DRW. We have Jared with us tonight from the DRW magazine. This is a local publication and it's celebrating the 30th anniversary. We have come to depend on the ever-present representation of DRW magazine at virtually all of our significant community events. We did miss you at Eat to the Beat.

Jared Blaut: You know what, we were at a Cooper City Optimist Soccer Tournament in Naples, so we have a very legitimate excuse.

Mayor Ross: You get a pass (laughter).

Jared Blaut: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: We are proud to have you with us tonight, Jared, and to recognize you and your monthly journal for 30 years of excellence in publication and distribution. So, I thank you for all your hard work. I would like to read the Proclamation in total whereas, in 1989, Diane Epstein founded two publications, the Davie Express and the Weston Express, to provide community news to the growing populations of Cooper City, Davie, Weston, and Southwest Ranches; and whereas, in January of 2005, Suzanne Blaut purchased the Davie Express, and renamed it Davie & the Ranches Express. The publication served Cooper City, Davie, and Southwest Ranches; and whereas, in November of 2005, Jared Blaut joined his mother in the business; and whereas, in February of 2017, Davie & the Ranches Express became the first local publication of its kind to publish a corresponding online edition each and every month, which continues to this day; and whereas, in May of 2008, the Blaut family took over the Weston Express and merged it with Davie & the Ranches Express, to create DRW magazine; and whereas, since 1989, DRW and its predecessors have served as a valuable resource for elected officials, families, charities, local businesses throughout West Broward county, providing articles and photography that cover a wide range of local activity and history; and whereas, 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Davie Express and the Weston Express, and therefore the 30th anniversary of DRW magazine. Now, therefore, I, Greg Ross, Mayor of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, and the City Commission, celebrate the 30th anniversary and thank DRW magazine for its valuable resources over the past years. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Cooper City, Broward County, Florida, to be affixed on this 22nd day of January 2019 and congratulations. (Clapping). Come on back.

Background: Inaudible

(Taking pictures).

Background: Inaudible (laughter).

Mayor Ross: Say a few words.

Jared Blaut: Alright, I'll make this real quick because I know it's a long agenda. In the 14 years I've been covering Cooper City two things are constantly true: one the politics are never boring and the community spirit is second to none. You know, I go to almost every major event that Cooper City puts on and Davie and Weston and Southwest Ranches and they all have their unique qualities, but in Cooper City, the tagline "Someplace Special" is not just that, it's not just a tagline, it really is a true neighborhood community. It's always an amazing pleasure to cover it, run around with the camera and my baseball cap looking like a slob, and you don't know that I'm actually running the business, but that's fine and that's it. I want to give a shout out in particular to the events team of the past years in particular, it's really-the game has been-was anyone here for the Mother Daughter tea? No, nobody was? The Mother Daughter Tea was the most amazing thing. I was at it three or four years ago and it was relatively mellow and this last one, it was as if the dads of the world should be jealous. The team has really amped things up and you guys are lucky to live in such a wonderful City, you really are. So thank you for all you do to support the magazine. (Clapping).

c. Teachers of the Year

Mayor Ross: And tonight we have some additional presentations, "Teacher of the Year" and "Non-instructional Employee of the Year" 2018-2019. Each year we celebrate those members of the education system who go above and beyond and are recognized by their peers and the Broward County School Board as "Teachers of the Year" and "Non-instructional Employees of the Year" in our Cooper City schools. It truly takes a village folks, and these folks stand out amongst their fellow villagers. First, we have Franklin Academy, standing in for Principal Fox is Assistant Principal Jason Ratner, come on up. (Clapping). You get to introduce your award recipients.

Principal Ratner: I get to go first, perfect. So we have the "Non-instructional Staff Member of the Year." First of all, thank you all for having us here, this is a great opportunity for us to showcase our instructional and non-instructional staff members. Many times teachers, we don't really get recognition and we don't look for recognition, so it's really nice that we actually get it from this group of people. So first, our Non-instructional Staff Member of the Year, Mr. Cabrera. Mr. Thomas Cabrera was nominated by his peers for this award and it is very well deserved. He is a resourceful team player that can multitask with the best of them. If you stop by our upstairs office, you see all the super hero references, especially the Incredible Hulk, his favorite-and you don't want to make him angry. That is truly how he carries himself; he puts his all into each task. From the day that they contact the staff, students, and parents, he always has a smile on his face with positive energy. As we continue to have Mr. Cabrera as a Cooper City parent at Franklin Academy, he was also promoted to our Sunrise Campus as a Business Manager, we wish him well in this incredible journey. Here's to our 2017-2018 Non-instructional Staff Member, Thomas Cabrera. (Clapping, taking pictures). And our Teacher of the Year, Mr. De'Mon Williams. Mr. Williams was nominated by his peers for this award, and as a middle school teacher in a K-8, he was outnumbered by elementary peers, but he did come out on top. Mr. Williams crossed over into elementary grade levels this past year. He wanted to grow relationships with any student who wanted to chat about anything that is bothering them. He is a self-proclaimed Anti-Bullying ambassador and presented an Anti-Bullying parent night with our guidance counselor last year. He taught our young men about the honor of the gentleman's handshake. Once an incident was brought to his attention, he spent time with all parties involved to solve problems that were present and then shook on the matter to ensure there were no future incidents. This year he was promoted to a new position, Director of School Operations. He is still very visible to all students and continues to be the anti-bullying ambassador; however, he is not visible tonight because he has the flu. So he's home and resting, hopefully he will be back to work this week. So we thank you for recognizing Mr. De'Mon Williams for 2017, 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year. (Clapping, taking pictures).

Mayor Ross: From Cooper City Elementary School, Principal Schlosser, come on up and Assistant Principal Prineda.

Principal Schlosser: I am so honored to present our awards this evening from Cooper City Elementary. I am a 3-year principal at Cooper City Elementary, born and raised in Cooper City, so I feel like I'm so blessed to be able to give back to my community by having amazing teachers at our schools. When I tell you that being at our school is like being at home. (Music plays in background). (Laughter). So the two people I'm about to present to you tonight are beyond amazing. I cannot run my school without these two employees. Caroline Darcy has been at Cooper City Elementary for 22 years, at the same school, and that's amazing, she works with our special needs students, attends all of our events, is an active part of our PTO,

and when I tell you I will put my own children in her classroom, she is that good. So on behalf of Cooper City Elementary school, Caroline Darcy, I would like to present this award to you on behalf of the Commission for our "Teacher of the Year." (Clapping) (Taking pictures). I would like to add; also, she is a high impact teacher according to the State of Florida, because of her 3-year trend data, so that's amazing. That means she gets learning gains every single year from every child. So another one of our fabulous employees- that's right it's very difficult to do, so congratulations Caroline. Another one of our employees is our Non-Instructional Employee of the Year. I have only been at Cooper City Elementary for 3 years and Natalie has been there for about five or six years, so she has really helped to train me and I'm so thankful and blessed for that. Natalie is like my left hand girl because she's on the left side of me in the office and she will hear me calling over to her, "Natalie! Natalie I need you!" When I tell you how Natalie has gone above and beyond the call of duty in our school in the past year, we moved her from secretary in the front office to our bookkeeper and she has taken that position and ran with it. She singlehandedly organizes all our honor roll awards, she single handedly organized our first graduation assembly for our fifth graders at Cooper City High School, and she will do anything you would ever ask of her. I am so blessed to have her on my left hand side every day. So Natalie is not here because she is an enterprising person and over achiever, she is in college tonight and she had a very important lab that she had to attend. So I would like to accept this award on behalf of Natalie, and I would like to say thank you to Natalie, all that she does, and being such a great team spirited employee. Thank you. (Clapping) (Taking pictures).

Mayor Ross: Griffin Elementary Principal Silig is here to introduce you to her school's award recipients. (Clapping).

Principal Silig: Good evening. Thank you to Mayor Ross and the Commissioners for having us out tonight. I would like to start with my Teacher of the Year, Ms. Donna Menendez. She is absolutely amazing and she would do anything I would ever ask of her, and she actually offers before I ask. Every year before I make my classes, she offers up and says, "You know what Ms. Silig, if you have one class over or one under, I'll do the combination class." She has spent the entire summer in our school organizing our science materials, she made a science lab for us, and she does everything and anything. If I say, "Can you serve on this committee," she goes and serves on the committee. Donna is a born teacher, she is genuine, she is dedicated, and she is such a great teacher. She has taught kindergarten, first grade, second-third combination, she's just done it all. She's my team leader this year, she's getting her reading endorsement, and she's a wonderful mother and wife. Donna, come on up, I'm so grateful for everything. (Clapping). It's an honor and privilege to have you represent us at Griffin Elementary. My Non-instructional Employee of the Year is Ms. Tanya Lacasse. I can't say enough about her. First, she works with our special needs students. She is very patient, kind, and caring. I don't know what they would ever do without her. She is absolutely amazing. She is a very, very special person. Tanya also has another side to her. We are a 'green' school we are eco-friendly. We have won many awards for that and Tanya has spearheaded many of our initiatives and projects. She works with our sustainability initiatives. She was recognized last year at the P3 challenge awards and for her sustainable environment. She has wildlife care under her belt; she takes care of all that for all of us. We have habitats on our campus, we have an environmental center, and she's now spearheading a new project and it's called 'Feed Rescue,' which is where we take the untouched food from the cafeteria and donate it to the food banks, so that's her latest and greatest. Tanya is amazing; she is an amazing person and an amazing employee. So come on up Tanya. Thank you. She's an amazing

mother and wife as well (clapping). Her wonderful children went to our school. (Clapping). So thank you Tanya. (Pictures). (Clapping).

Mayor Ross: Embassy Creek Elementary School Principal Becker here to introduce his school award recipients (clapping).

Principal Becker: Good evening, everyone. The best of the best is being recognized tonight and it is always so nice to come. I believe this is probably the 12th or 13th year the City has done this. Do you know Mayor? Background: inaudible - 12. It has been quite a few years and I'm so glad to see that each year they recognize two unbelievable people at each school. Congratulations to all of those being honored tonight. I do have two; one is here this evening with us, and the other one is in Phoenix, Arizona attending a conference. That is my Teacher of the Year, Ms. Beth Castro. Beth used to work with my wife over at Pembroke Pines Elementary school and when I got appointed Principal of Embassy Creek, there was no doubt. I put out my feelers and got one of the best that Broward County has to offer. She's been teaching now for 26 years, six years at Embassy Creek, and she is so good at just individualizing instruction for all of our boys and girls. There's been times were she's co-taught at the school where she has 36 students in one classroom along with another teacher. And Beth would do anything we ask her to do, so in honor of Mrs. Beth Castro, congratulations to her and thank you. (Clapping). Now the other person sitting over there, and she was saying to me, "Do I have to step it up? All those people are doing such amazing things." I said listen Mrs. Ann Hiller, there aren't many people here that grew up in Scotland and lived very close to Saint Andrews, so those of you that like golf know the area in which I'm talking about. She attended Queen Margaret University and I was told to pronounce this correctly, Edinburgh- Scotland, so I hope I did that justice. She got her Hotel and Management Certification and then decided to move here about 20 some odd years ago with her husband Steve. She has done quite a few of the positions in the office, she's been a registrar, she's been a secretary, she's been an IMT, which is where I hired her, and now she is my office manager and confidential secretary and I couldn't say more great things about her. She's someone I go to with any kinds of concerns or questions and she has a Scottish accent that just makes you relax, so on behalf of Embassy Creek, Mrs. Ann Hiller come on up and congratulations. (Clapping). (Taking pictures). Oh, she is a mum too, not a mom, a mum.

Mayor Ross: Actually two more, Renaissance Charter School, Cooper City Principal Goldberg... where is Principal Goldberg? Not here. Okay well then I'll be glad to go ahead and produce for you Teacher of the Year, Staff Member of the Year, and New Teacher of the Year. Teacher of the Year, Mr. Leonardo Reyes, are you here? Maybe they didn't get the memo. Non-Instructional Employee of the Year, Mrs. Yvonne Tripoli, and New Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jeanne Alonso. They did get the memo (clapping). Jeanne you are getting all three certificates.

Ms. Jeanne Alonso: Fantastic.

Mayor Ross: And I would love to tell them about you, but I'll be a liar because I don't know, so please give us a few words. (Laughter).

Ms. Jeanne Alonso: Oh boy hi, I transitioned to teaching last year, my first year. I was a lawyer prior to that. I did criminal law, real estate law, and corporate law. I never found fulfillment so I started teaching

and since I walked into a classroom, I don't feel like I have worked a day in my life. I started a math club and we have many learning games with my gifted students. Last year I taught 6th grade math, this year I teach 7th grade math and 8th grade geometry honors, and I'm loving every minute of it. (Clapping). (Taking pictures).

Mayor Ross: And we have, if you couldn't figure it out, Pioneer Middle School Principal Consaul. Please come on up and introduce your award recipients. (Clapping).

Principal Consaul: Thank you Mayor for having us this evening, you saved the best for last. Background: inaudible (laughter). High school doesn't count. I'm Mr. Consaul, the proud Principal of Pioneer Middle. I'm going to dare to be a little different, I'm going to bring up my recipients and have them stand next to me while I talk about them and embarrass them. Steven Rosenhoch my Non-Instructional Employee of the Year (clapping). He is my Assistant Head of Facilities and as any principal will tell you, that is one of the critical positions of your building. What is the first thing you notice when you go by somebody's house, how clean is it? How does it look? And I have my Head of Facilities this evening, Steve inaudible and he works together with the other Steve. If I call for a Steve, I can never be wrong. I always have a Steve on hand. But he was an extremely easy hire. How many years have you been with us, four, five? He stood out in the interview and we knew he had that one thing you have to have in that position and that's a work ethic. Steve inaudible calls him a workhorse because in the summers, he's like a mule out there. He does a great job for us, and I think if you ask any teacher, we can ask inaudible when she comes up, but Steve has never said no to anything, whatever you need. You need furniture moved, you need work on this, or whatever it is, it's "yes I got it Mr. Consaul, no problem." And the work gets done and he does a fantastic job, he's very deserving of this award. We're extremely proud of Steve Rosenhoch (clapping). My Non-Instructional Teacher of the Year is Jo McKerlie (clapping). You may notice she's a little on the thin side, that's because she's constantly flying around Pioneer. She doesn't have rollerblades, but I swear sometimes that she does when I see her going through the hallways. Just another tremendous employee, she works with our inaudible students, supports them, and just does a fantastic job. I know she is eyeing retirement in the near future and she will definitely be sorely missed. I think she's another highly effective teacher that gives great learning games, but more than that, the biggest compliment that I could give her, I know her daughter is here this evening, but she treats each and every child as if they're her own. And buying them lunch, getting them clothes when they need them, and shoes. I have seen a little bit of everything, and snacks, and even one-day last week the football coach felt sick, she took the flag football team and gave them snacks in her room after school because they were mad that they didn't have practice. That is the kind, caring, giving, and loving person and that definitely comes across in her work with our students and teachers, so congratulations Jo. (Clapping). (Taking pictures).

Mayor Ross: Mrs. Doll from Cooper City High School, come on up.

Principal Doll: Yes, the last, the best for last. That's right Mr. Consaul. And yes, high school does count. Where do you think they graduate from? But that is thanks to my colleagues K-8. Good evening, everyone. Ligia Trask, come on up. Ligia Trask is our Non-Instructional (clapping) Employee of the Year and 5 years ago, I was fortunate enough that she came and applied for our open Budget Keeper position. That is obviously the position in which she and I have to work very closely as a team and it is her sole responsibility

to keep me out of the red, which she has indeed done very successfully over the last few years. When the Office Manager position became open about a year and a half, 2 years ago, I was fortunate to have her apply for that, because in a school, you cannot run a school without a very effective Office Manager. So, with a school that has about 165 employees in which her most important task is obviously is customer service and that is, it doesn't matter who walks into her office she does it with a smile. She's helpful, caring, and resourceful, and will do anything that anybody asked her for in regards to being helpful with customer service. So between being my Budget Keeper for a few years and now the Office Manager, she makes me look good, so I thank you from the bottom of my heart for that and I know that our entire facility and staff are extremely appreciative for all that you do, so thank you very much. (Clapping). She's great at breaking the ice and the breaking and tension and making me laugh so that's an important job too. Our Teacher of the Year come on up Ms. Coyne (clapping). Loretta Coyne really is the epitome of what an incredible teacher, awesome, extraordinary, all those incredible words that we use for effective teachers, highly effective teachers. Ms. Coyne has been in our science department for the last 23 years at Cooper City High School and has been a key and integral part to the success that we have had over the years with our biological scores. Ms. Coyne has her instructional leadership, which is paramount to our success. Her collaborative efforts with working with new teachers, she's always been a mentor for them. And she has really gone above and beyond in making sure that all the new teachers that come in into our department are successful. She has taught biology not honors, honors, regular, AP bio, and bio 2. She teaches it all and she really has been instrumental in the success of the department. She epitomizes that caring teacher who indeed goes above and beyond and has that ability to build relationships and make connections with kids. So I know that over her last 23 years she has truly made an impact on millions, thousands of kids that have come through the halls in Cooper City High School, so we thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the teaching profession. Thank you. (Clapping). (Taking pictures).

Background: Inaudible

d. Eagle Scout Recognition

Mayor Ross: We've only got a couple more folks. If I can please have eagle scout Michael Williams come up to the podium. (Clapping). This presentation - ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. Mr. Michael Williams completed his Eagle Scout Project on December 6, 2018. We, in Cooper City, are the fortunate recipients of Michael's hard work and ardent efforts to bring us the Veterans' Memorial Pergola and Monument, located on the grounds of the Cooper City Pool & Tennis Center. We are grateful for Michael's tribute to our veterans and we are very proud of Michael's Scouting accomplishments, in particular, climbing to the ranks of Eagle Scout. We thank you Michael, and we would like to present you with a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement and a commemorative Cooper City/American Flag Pin for you to add to your collection of your many hard-earned embellishments. Mr. Williams, please say a few words before I read the certificate please.

Michael Williams: Thank you Mayor Ross. To obtain the Eagle rank in the Boy Scouts of America, the highest rank a young person can obtain in the organization, he or she needs to lead a service project that requires significant effort and will benefit the community. I chose to design and build a veteran's memorial for Cooper City. I've always felt a reverence and gratitude for all those who served or are still serving in the United States Military. I wanted to create a peaceful place where people could remember our men

and women who are willing to sacrifice their security for ours. And for people who have served in the military to know and feel how appreciated everybody and everyone is of their willingness to serve and fight for our freedom and security. I hope this memorial can be that place. Last Saturday, the City was kind enough to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the memorial and I was able to fully thank those who helped me on the memorial. And inaudible Commission I'm grateful for all our Commission leaders who decided to invite me here tonight and thank them again and I will do so in a more brief manor. Thank you to everyone. So many people are willing to donate their time, talents, and materials as an expression of their own gratitude towards veterans. When they learned I was building this memorial that was definitely one of the greatest blessings in this project, seeing how people wanted to help honor our veterans. First, I would like to express my gratitude to Scott Harrison and Chris Garcia from Cooper City Recreation (clapping). They believed in me from the very beginning and showed me the desire for this memorial inaudible to make this happen. I would also like to say a very special thank you to Mayor Ross, all the Commissioners, and any influential voice from the City who gave their approval and allowed this project to happen (clapping). I am so grateful for all of you trusting me and for all your support and patience. I know how much could have gone very wrong, which makes your faith in my ability to complete this project all the more incredible. I know it is in large part because of you, who care about the veterans and want to honor them at this memorial. I liked to thank Todd inaudible, who is a general contractor and was very supportive in helping me in the planning stages and was always there for me whenever I needed him. He introduced me to Bob inaudible, who consulted on the landscaping donated inaudible plan. Jerry Clawson, who is the architect for the beautiful pergola, we have gotten a few requests from people at the park even asking us to build them a pergola. Next, I would like to take my time to recognize a very special person, Roddy Giford. He was one of my first leaders when I joined the boy scouts and was there to help me at the end when we were struggling to build the pergola. He really saved us with his guidance. Roddy is a veteran himself and I know he would do anything for another veteran. I know that he really cared about this project. He introduced me to his friend at inaudible construction, Carlos Barbudo, who so generously donated all of the pergola wood. I have a couple of really great neighbors who came through and really helped saved the day as well. First is Kyle Oaks, the Oaks family has lived in Cooper City for many years since Kyle was young. He owns a landscaping business and he brought his heavy equipment to help dig the massive holes needed for the footers. His team was there at the end to do the very first round of landscaping. Kyle also introduced us to a new friend, Gary, at Pops Nursery, who so generously donated all the sod, which is a very large expense. So thank you to Kyle and Pops Nursery for all your help. My other neighbor is Victor Chapman, a Cooper City resident for over 30 years, saved us with his carpentry knowledge and skills. He helped us build our big sturdy benches and speaking of the benches, a big thank you to Mr. Cesar Gonzalez over at our local 84 lumber, who donated all the wood to make the benches. He's the manager and he personally did everything he could to help us. Home Depot in Pembroke Pines and Cooper City each gave me \$50 to spend on hard inaudible and sealer, and Jimmy's Concrete gave me a discounted rate for the footers and he did a really good job at far less than anyone we could get a quote from. I'd also like to thank Terry at inaudible who helped us select the stone monument and get it just right. I want to say a very big thank you to mom and dad, my sisters, and my extended family, my extended family of parents and friends in my scout troop 141. Together we spent over 450 man-hours to make this happen. I love my troop and my family and their willingness to serve. Finally, and most importantly I would like to say my most heartfelt thanks to all of our veterans. Thank you for your courage and your bravery and your willingness to serve our country. I wanted to build this memorial so that you know that you will always be remembered and for you to be reminded that people all across the country really care about

your sacrifices and are grateful for your service. We hope that this memorial can be a place that everyone can come and feel peaceful and inaudible and reflect on the sacrifices of those who have served our great country. Thank you.

(Taking pictures).

Mayor Ross: We have a little presentation of what he did. >> (video plays). (Clapping).

Finally, we've got a Certificate of Appreciation presented to Michael Williams, with sincere appreciation for your contribution to the City of Cooper City in choosing to construct a Veterans Memorial Pergola and Monument as your Eagle Scout project signed by me, as Mayor, today, the 22nd of January, and I do congratulate you and present to you a commemorative flag pin.

(Clapping).

Mayor Ross: We've got a presentation for our own Cooper City passport acceptance facility, so in a letter from Kathleen Tolbert from the Passport Services' Office of Acceptance Facility Oversight, City Clerk, Kathryn Sims, Kathryn, where are you? Kathryn, come on down! Kathryn Sims oversees the passport acceptance function of the City Clerk's office and its 6 fully-credentialed and certified passport acceptance agents. Rolando Llamera is the newest agent to the team, and the first agent most applicants will encounter. His courteous, professional demeanor makes it a positive experience for all who visit our facility. Rolando was the main person on deck while the audit was being conducted, and therefore deserves particular extra special recognition for grace under pressure. Rolando, where are you? Come on up. (Clapping). He is well-trained and is backed-up daily by Ruth Freeston, Ruth, come on over (clapping), in addition to Jenna Montoya, Jenna, come on up. When needed, the auxiliary team of Michelle Alvarez, Michelle, are you here? I don't see you? Alan Funez, Alan, I don't see you either, and Tina Hudson, I see her, are called in to take turns manning the passport ship. The general oversight of the team by City Clerk, Kathryn is to be recognized and commended and we thank Kathryn Sims and the entire team for a job well done and in light of that, we got a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement presented to the City and each of you get one. The City Commission of the City of Cooper City wishes to congratulate you as a valued member of the Passport Acceptance team at Cooper City for your outstanding achievement earning a perfect 100% score on your 2019 Acceptance Facility Audit by the Office of the Acceptance Facility Oversight signed by me, as Mayor, today January 22. (Clapping). (Background inaudible).

In addition, Kathryn, you can proudly display this on your wall. It is a Certificate of Superior Achievement presented to Cooper City for receiving a perfect score on your Acceptance Facility Oversight compliance inspection on November 29, 2018, signed by Keisha Williams as Customer Service Manager and Ivette Rodriguez as well. That is out of the Department of State, United States of America, couldn't make me more proud.

Background: Inaudible

Mayor Ross: We've got some announcements and that is Cooper City Open Play Chess and Chess Challenges. Cooper City Open Play Chess continues each Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Cooper City Pool & Tennis Center in Rock Creek with the Mayor's Chess Challenge on each third Saturday of the month. Cooper City will be hosting the countywide Mayors' Chess Challenge on Saturday, February 9 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Please come out to the Pool & Tennis Center and join the Mayors from across the county and me in a friendly game of chess and please continue to take

advantage of our Cooper City Open Play Chess opportunities at the Pool & Tennis Center in Rock Creek. Challenge me, personally, on the third Saturday of each month and please support the scholastic chess in our community. We all have the next regular Commission meeting will be the following, well let's see we don't have the dates, my apologies, next week the 29th is a Workshop starting at 6:30 PM and you can check the City's website for upcoming meetings and hearings at www.coopercityfl.org or contact the City Clerk's Office directly 954-434-4300 Ext. 221. In addition, Commission meetings and the Workshops begin at 6:30 right here at City Hall, we welcome all the residents to please come out and attend.

Commissioner Meltzer: Good evening everybody, Touch-A-Truck is this Saturday January 26. Kids love trucks! Fire trucks, police cars, heavy construction equipment, etc. Here's a chance for children to get up close, sit behind the wheel, honk the horn, and explore their favorite vehicles they see on the road every day. From 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. this Saturday the 26. All ages invited to the Cooper City Sports Complex at 10500 Stirling Road. We'll see you, At the Park! For more information, please call the Cooper City Rec Department at (954) 434-4300, # 233.

Commissioner Pulcini: Cooper City's Annual Pageant Applications for Cooper City's Annual Pageant are available now at the Community Center and on our website. The Pageant will be held on Tuesday February 19th 7:00 p.m. at Cooper City High School - Cooper City Little Miss, Teen, Miss and Senior Pageant. For the first time, Cooper City will be offering scholarship awards to the winners. For more information, please contact 954-434-4300 #233. Also, I attended the first Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting that they appointed me to, thank you, it was really a great experience and I hope to be able to contribute great things to Cooper City on that board.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross, The Cooper City Business Advisory Board, in conjunction with Amplification Inc., will present an evening of business development and networking. All Cooper City Businesses are welcome to attend. The event will be held this Thursday, January 24, from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Cooper City Pool and Tennis Center in the Multi-Purpose Room. The address is 11600 Stonebridge Parkway, Cooper City, FL. Please RSVP to: Info@AmplificationInc.com. Thank you Mayor.

Commissioner Curran: Cooper City water bottles that you see in front of me right now are being sold through Denise Lasarte at 954-434-4300 Ext. 263. They are on sale this month for \$7.00 dollars each or three for \$20.00. Please support, all monies and proceeds go to Relay for Life fighting cancer. Also, Founders Day Participation, Saturday, March 9th will be our 60th Annual Founders Day parade and celebration! Vendor applications are now being taken and are now available. This year's parade theme is "Through the Decades." For more information, please call 954-434-4300 #233. Thank you Mayor.

e. Presentation on Goal Setting/Strategic Plan

Mayor Ross: Any additional announcements from anyone? Hearing none we will move onto the next presentation on Goal Setting and Strategic Planning, Dr. Leslie Leip and if you have someone with you.

Dr. Leip: I do.

Mayor Ross: Will you please introduce?

Dr. Leip: This is Karen Sweeting. She is one of the Masters of Public Administration alumni, but she is also one of our current PhD students and is very interested in strategic planning and she's here to support us as well. Can you hear me? So if we can go ahead and bring this up. Do I do it? Oh, there it is, excellent. We are so excited to be here and when we walked in and we saw all the people I thought it was all for you, well, yes as a matter of fact, but indeed it was not. Nevertheless, in all seriousness we are excited to be here. I have worked with numerous different cities on helping them with their strategic plan and I am glad I can be here to be of service to the Mayor and Commission, and to the City. So the Interim City Manager and City Clerk have asked me here this evening just to talk through a couple of things in terms of this process and I'd like to go ahead and share some of that with you. As I'm sure you already know strategic planning is such a good management tool. Do you have this presentation in front of you as well? Background: Yes. You know that it allows for proactive policymaking management, helps for the development of mission and goals, and allows for activities to be tied to the budget, all of these things are very important. It allows for evaluating services provided for empirically based changes in programs, which is always a good thing and provides data to use for all sorts of grant applications, whatever that might be that helps to bring resources into the City. Most importantly, it provides a road map to the future. So essentially, what we need to do in order to work through this strategic planning process and inaudible. The first thing we need to do is establish a planning team, and we have pretty much already done that it's here, and here, and here, and your City residents and your City staff essentially. We are the planning team in pulling this together for you. Our first objective is to complete the front-end analysis so you are well informed in terms of moving into developing targeted issues or priority areas and goals. This is to make sure you have a clear understanding of what the residents believe, of what you all believe, and what the City staff believe are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. Therefore, we will do the front-end analysis and then present that to the City to make sure that you have an understanding of what people are thinking in terms of priorities for the plan. From there, we use that as a foundation to develop the vision of the City, the mission of the City, the goals, and the strategies to achieve all of those goals. Eventually, we want to evaluate and make those changes. I would like to just tell you a little bit of the detail in terms of the inaudible analysis just so you understand we're going to ask you all, your advisory board members, the City staff, and residents what they think the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and the challenges are that exist in this City. Just to get an overview of what people are thinking, their perceptiveness of what is happening in the City. From there, then we are going to go into identifying the priorities for that point and this, we will also get this from you all and from your City staff and from your residents, asking people what they think we should focus on in terms of building this strategic plan. Providing that information to you, so you can make an informed decision about guiding the City. All of this will be written up and the analysis will be completed for you so you have everything readily available before we move forward from that. I do want to just share a little bit with you in terms of identifying priorities. In the City, I have seen on the website you refer to those as target issues and target issues and priority areas are identical things, it's just a little bit different terminology. However, in terms of what some examples are from other cities strategic plans that I have worked with, inaudible is a priority area that people wanted to focus on and develop goals. Reliable public safety, I've also worked with cities where they have pro-active safety as well and that might be something you might want to consider enhanced resource management. All of the things that you are already doing fall into almost all these categories. I looked at the 2017 City State

of Address, which about scared me when I downloaded it, my screen went blank, you know that already don't you? Is that a joke? Inaudible that on purpose (laughter). Well, as a professor who has her whole life on her machine, it went blank, but then up came your City Address. So, you are doing so many of these things already in terms of sound governance and in terms of building infrastructure. I saw that you were doing your water main work, which falls under your facilities and your infrastructure; I know that that is important. I know that you're a Tree City, one of the very few down in southern Florida and so I know just from being here that going green is a very important issue for you, perhaps innovating and adapting for the future may also be something strategic inaudible management. I saw that you have the Sheridan at Cooper City, your senior assisted living, which I think is a very purposeful sort of an initiative. So, all of the things that you've already set up in terms of public policy, and some of the initiatives that you're doing in some ways, self-identify the priority areas for the City, inaudible issues because that is what you have put your emphasis on. This also gives us the opportunity to think about other things that the City might want to accomplish now, so it's a very exciting endeavor as well. In addition to the SWOT analysis and understanding, making sure we're understanding where the priorities are, we also are going to do a resident survey and this is going to be a very, very good information peace for you all. Depending on what we end up doing, and I'll work with the Interim City Manager and the City Clerk on this, is we can get all sorts of information depending on what you want. One of the main focuses is to get the priorities, what they think we should focus on in terms of the strategic plan. But the resident survey inaudible based on the preliminary talks are planned to go out in your March 2019 newsletter, so every resident who has a Cooper City address will be receiving the survey, which is a wonderful way to do it. So I'm quite sure that we will have a representative sample based on that with probably only plus or minus 5 percent margin of error. You are going to really have some good information at your fingertips in terms of what people think you should have for your strategic plan, but you may also ask questions about quality of life and experiences with government. I've done, I don't know, I think over 20 now different citizen resident surveys all over Broward County, Palm Beach County, and Miami Dade County, so I have a plethora of different surveys that we're going to use as well. So all of that information is going to be inaudible, combined, and presented to you and from there then once we have that inaudible analysis we will finalize the priorities. The priority areas are the foundation and come back to develop the vision, the mission, the goals, the objectives, and the strategies that we can use to get to those goals, which is what we'll do. Then, like I said before, we'll evaluate and make changes. I don't need to go through all of this with you; I just thought it might be advantageous to make clear in your mind. I don't know the last time you had a strategic planning class, but I teach it, so if you'd like to come do your Masters or PhD we could be happy to talk with you about that, I'm always recruiting. Nonetheless, this is just the vision, the mission, the goals, and strategies, just so you'll have an understanding of all the work that is going to go into this. Of course your City staff will fill in all the details for you, what is so wonderful about this, you'll be able to in a very knowing and understanding way, provide priority areas for us, target issues for us, we can develop those goals, come back and talk to you about that. In addition, we can do some of the detailed work in terms of putting the goals, objectives, and strategies together. So eventually, what we are going to do is the final analysis. My hope is that we will be finished in April. You will have that report in April if the survey goes out in the newsletter, but you'll have the priorities, vision, goals, objectives, and strategies, so that's the planning. Then eventually we are going to set up a reporting system for you as well, maybe, maybe nothing is final. If you have a reporting system, then you actually have empirical data that aligns with your strategic plan, but one step at a time. And so we start with the strategic plan. Our next steps will be to get the surveys together, for the

advisory boards, for the residents, and for the City staff. We'll get all of those together with the City administrator, all of those analyses, all of that information, and present that to you. I'll be here again, and then you'll go from there. So does anybody have any questions for me? Yes, Sir?

Mayor Ross: Time frame on that?

Dr. Leip: So there is a time line in your packet I believe, so in our fantasy world, is it there? Oh, it's not there for you. Okay, I have it right here. The idea is to get the development of the instruments in February and administer them in March. So the surveys would go out in February and March, if we can move quicker than that on some of the SWOT online analysis, depending on what we decide to do we'll move faster than that. The resident survey is somewhat limited because that has to go out in the March newsletter. And as I said before, in April we will do all of the analysis and get that report together for you, so then in May we can make some final determinations, probably the end of April – beginning of May to make some determinations. Marie, did you want to add to that?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes Mayor if I may, we are trying to have the time frame in order for this to factor into next year's budget in terms of priorities and information from the residents to factor into fiscal year 20's budget.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Dr. Leip: The hope is that you will have the final strategic plan August/September, September of this year. So you'll have it ahead of your budgeting season.

Mayor Ross: Thank you very much. Any other questions.

Commissioner Curran: I have one, what is the cost of this program?

Dr. Leip: That has not been determined yet.

Commissioner Curran: I'm sorry, say that again?

Dr. Leip: That has not been determined yet.

Mayor Ross: Depends on the scope of work.

Dr. Leip: Right, because of what we were doing tonight at this meeting, making some final determinations, and then the final scope of work is going to go to the Interim City Manager. My hope is for tomorrow.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: The maximum cost of the contract I believe is, please correct me, I think is \$15,000.

Dr. Leip: It's not going to be that much because you're not going to do a performance management system. I think it's right around, I'm not quite sure, I don't know because we haven't finalized the scope of work.

Commissioner Curran: I have a question again. We don't have money to advertise for a City Manager, but we have goal setting. I think that we are jumping the gun. I think that if we're not out looking for a City Manager right now because of the \$16,000 cost of the search, why would be spending \$15,000 to learn to play in the sandbox, set goals, and stuff like that? I understand there is more to it, I just think that we are moving past the problem that we have today and creating a better tomorrow, but I would like to move as a team going forward. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Anyone else have any questions?

Commissioner Meltzer: I have one question, what are a couple other municipalities that you've done work for locally?

Dr. Leip: I have worked with Hallandale Beach, Sunrise, Wilton Manors, Southwest Ranches, and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Meltzer: Thank you.

Dr. Leip: They are all listed in my cd, it is under funded research.

Commissioner Meltzer: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Dr. Leip: All of them were great fun by the way, but I think Cooper City is going to be great too.

Mayor Ross: Thank you very much, appreciate it.

Dr. Leip: Alright, great thank you.

Mayor Ross: Ms. Williams, next time don't talk so much please (laughter), I believe it.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Now it's time for Open Public Speaking, Open Public Meeting, first one is Mike Bufalo, Mike.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mike Bufalo: 11648 SW 59 St. Good evening everybody, I just want to hit on a couple of topics tonight. I'm going to try and run through them, I'm not going to drag along. And thank you for adding the extra minute to the time; I got four minutes now?

Mayor Ross: Hasn't passed yet, but go ahead. (Laughter).

Mike Bufalo: So parks as you inaudible, you may or may not know, a resident had an issue with the park over the holiday weekend the parks were closed. If you guys can address that as you see fit. It's ridiculous, I thought we handled this, the parks were going to be open, and it wasn't posted anywhere that the parks were closed. The parks were all locked up over the holiday weekend when the people wanted to go play. The grass looks great right now, by the way, so whoever took care of that did a good job. Second thing is the Finance Advisory Board, I have heard a lot of talk about it and I don't see anything on this agenda about it. I would like for you guys to address the Finance Advisory Board. I think that it is a fantastic idea; we have advisory boards for what color our grass is, but not the important things. I think we need to start addressing the important things and finance is one of those major things. Thirdly, I just wanted to, someone mentioned earlier about all the fantastic events that are in the City, I want to personally thank Felicia Trainor. I know she brought many of those events and has really taken them and owned them at the direction of her boss of course, but I think that her personal involvement has really made those succeed. I've seen her involved with them and I just wanted to give her a shout out. I know she's doing a great job with them, everybody praises every event that she is involved with. I don't know who else is involved with them, and I'm not trying to steal the thunder from anybody, but I know she does a great job and she's very involved with them. Couple of other things looking through last year's budget, we are talking about the finances again. I'm just curious about all the things we outsource now, like tree trimming, grass cutting, pressure cleaning. What do we do with all the employees that used to do those jobs? Do we just keep all those employees and then add contract services on top of that, or did we get rid of those employees? What happened with that? I'd like to know the answer to that, please. Third thing, trees are trees. Mr. Meltzer on his campaign addressed the issue of the trees in our City. It is a huge problem and I want to know what we're going to do about it, we need to address that issue if we can, I got thirty seconds. If you can just talk about that, I want to know what the long-term plan is with the trees and the sidewalks and the tearing everything up and costing us a fortune. I would also like to know what the deal is with the status of our water meters. I know we had multiple millions of dollars invested in these faulty water meters, we got a new attorney, I say we sue somebody because we cannot let that money go to waste. That's a lot of money we spent on water meters inaudible blah, blah, blah, we need to go after somebody and if we don't, I'm going to give you guys hell for it. And one last thing on the young lady that just spoke, strategic planning is a key item. Jamie, I know you're worried about the \$15,000, and you know me, I'm a money guy, you can't succeed unless you have a plan. I have preached it up here before, we develop and plan – we say do this, do this, do this, and that and all of a sudden in the middle of a plan we go, oh look a tweedy bird and we go a different direction. We can't do that anymore, we need to stop that. It's been a major problem in the City for a long time, I credit the Interim City Manager with making a choice to develop a strategic plan, because without that, you have no guidance, you don't know where you're going, you don't really know what people want unless you ask them. Sending out surveys, asking for their input, that is a fantastic thing, that is what we should be doing. The residents should be giving input and the Commission should be responding to that input. It's a great idea. Finally, there has been a lack of changes, which I was hoping to see more of with this new Commission. I want to see more change, we haven't seen a change that I have expected so I'm little disappointed in you guys right now and I hope to see more change coming sooner and faster. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you Mike. In response, go ahead Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: Mike, in response to your comment about the trees and infrastructure and, yes, that was the main point of contention during my campaign. I've already had talks with Marie and Public Works and the plan will have to be put together to tackle this problem or these problems. You'll see something coming up on the agenda very shortly, so it's being addressed. Thanks, Background inaudible. You're welcome.

Mayor Ross: And in relation to your other questions, Denise or Marie, can you explain what happened with the parks this weekend that they were closed? And Mike, you are talking all the parks?

Mike Bufalo: Yes inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Were all the parks locked, and if so were any notices given?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: I will defer to the Public Works Director, Mrs. Yoezle.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Mayor, the parks were closed on Memorial Day. It has been a long-standing tradition in Cooper City. As far back as 20 or more years ago on national holidays the sports complexes are closed and there are no activities scheduled there. Many times residents will go to the 21 passive parks that we have for recreational purposes. On national holidays the two sports complexes have been closed for more than 20 years.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, and on the outsourcing?

Commissioner Pulcini: Can I make a comment?

Mayor Ross: Sure.

Commissioner Pulcini: I think that's a complaint that residents have, is that we're closing the parks on holidays. Their comments are probably that we should open the parks even without an attendant, just leave the parks open and let people use the parks, and then close them at the end of the day so people can use them. That will maybe be a discussion for another day.

Commissioner Meltzer: Furthermore, I agree wholeheartedly with Commissioner Pulcini. I'm also hearing from residents both yesterday and today that were agreeing that the parks were closed and I understand it's a tradition to have them closed on national holidays, but when residents are telling me they have to go to Pembroke Pines and Davie to use their parks, which are open, it is a problem. I don't understand why they all need to be locked in the first place, so like Commissioner Pulcini said, I'd like to discuss this perhaps at the next meeting and let's put that on the agenda and come to an amicable solution so that everyone is happy.

Mike Bufalo: Just a quick point of clarification, I think the Commission did address this item with a resolution. If I'm not (Background Inaudible) mistaken I can look it up, I have the information I think. I'm pretty sure that the City Commission directed staff to have parks open. There was a list of holidays in

which they are closed, this Martin Luther King Day; I don't believe this is one of those holidays and changing the times.

Mayor Ross: We'll take a look at it, not a problem.

Mike Bufalo: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: And if it is not being enforced, it will be.

Commissioner Pulcini: On the Finance Advisory Board, I think we reached a consensus that we would form it after Marie's presentation, so probably at the next meeting I think we'll be discussing the Finance Advisory Board and that's when we can probably form the board. The Finance Advisory Board can discuss contractors and other budgetary items.

Mayor Ross: And the trees and sidewalks as well.

Commissioner Pulcini: The trees, sidewalks, and the budget.

Mayor Ross: And one issue I do want to ask, and Jim, you're in the hot seat right now, or actually, I'll ask Marie about the water meters. Anything going on with that? I don't know if you had a chance to talk to Interim City Attorney.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: I can defer to the Interim City Attorney. We did have discussions and he can provide a brief overview if you would like.

Interim City Attorney, Jacob Horowitz: Good evening. As the City Manager said, she and I did sit down last week and go over a number of pending items. This was on our list and is one of the items we are beginning to review.

Mayor Ross: Okay. So it's to be announced, thank you very much. Moving on, we have David Nall.

David Nall: 3620 NW 89th Way. Before I start my time, I would like to defer this meeting and hopefully you guys would approve resolution 9A before I start.

Mayor Ross: I appreciate that opportunity.

David Nall: No, it's not going to happen.

Mayor Ross: (Laughter). Good try though.

David Nall: You've been you talking about it for four years Mayor.

Mayor Ross: Change takes time.

David Nall: Inaudible do we know.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

David Nall: First, I want to say that the fields in our City parks look phenomenal they look absolutely beautiful. What happened during the bond referendum? Wow, why do they look so great during the non-rainy season? But when it was raining, they looked like crap? You have to question that one. Again, why are they closed? Davie is open, Pembroke Pines is open, County parks are open, and City parks are closed. I know we have two Commissioners who were sitting up here during the bond referendum that ranted and raved that their parks were phenomenal. That the parks were great because they kept our kids off the streets, it kept them out of trouble, yet here they are out of schools and we lock our parks up. Where does that put them, back on the streets? Wow, does that makes sense? You know, we have a commitment to have a Finance Review Committee, and I'm looking here, and we have good grief, what five or six resolutions that have appointed board members and yet we talked about it right after the election, which I thought we were going to have some change. The last time we talked about our finances, they resembled the contents of a inaudible. We talked about having a Finance Review Committee and then this Commission, Commission meeting after Commission meeting, after Commission meeting kept punting it. The most important thing that is attributable to this City and you are worried about all the other committees. Still amazes me. So that leads me to the next item that I'm really kind of losing my patience on because I have bitched and I have moaned for years, especially in the last 12 months about the back up. Commissioners, Mayor, has anybody seen the back up of our Special Commission Meeting scheduled from a week from today? No? Can someone answer that just real quickly? I'm going to extend my time, has anyone seen the back up? What is missing?

Background: The plan.

David Nall: The backup, how the heck are the residents, even you guys, supposed to have a logical discussion over a strategic financial plan that is not there. What are we, the United States Congress? We have to pass something or approve something to see what is in it? Really? You know, you can't post it online two or three days before the meeting with something, that is this involved, and I'm a financial mind. I can't look at something like that in 24 or 48 hours and decipher what the hell has gone on.

Background: Time.

David Nall: And I sure as hell don't think you guys can either. Thanks.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. We will see to it that that is put on there.

Interim City Manager Marie Elianor: Yes, Sir.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Pulcini: And just a comment. Transparency, I believe is a process, it's not the end result. The information of the plan should have been a transparent process, a work in progress with the residents,

open to the residents. The residents should have seen how we work towards the plan; they should have understood how each budget line item is going to be affected and why it's being affected. That I believe is what transparency is, not showing them the end result. It's them understanding how we're reaching the end result and the process we are undergoing to reach that end result. That's what I believe. (Clapping).

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: This question is directed to Marie. Where do we stand with the Finance board?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: I believe as the Mayor mentioned, excuse me, as the Mayor mentioned earlier, the finance board item was going to be brought back I believe, either in February or March.

Commissioner Meltzer: All right. You know, Mr. Nall, where are you? You are 100 percent correct; this thing has been kicked off at the last couple of meetings. It was spoken about. At what point can we add emergency items to the agenda for tonight?

Interim City Attorney, Jacob Horowitz: If I may Mayor, the Broward County Charter Review Commission recently had an item on the agenda last November that requires 48 hours' notice for agenda and backup information. So given the context, this item would not constitute a specific emergency.

Commissioner Meltzer: Dave, I apologize, but rest assured it will be on the next agenda.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross. I wanted to make sure that, I know that the comments that was heard by one of our residents and I have some questions for Mrs. Yoezle concerning the park closure. You mentioned that the parks, the sports complex, and Bill Lips have been closed for the last, what did you say, 21 years? I don't recall.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: I did speak with a long time employee earlier today who informed me that for more than 20 years the two sports complexes have been closed on national holidays.

Commissioner Green: And the other the passive parks, they're open?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: They are open and by opening the sports complexes, that would be the restrooms, gates giving access to the playground, and at least one field, but on national holidays those two sports complexes are completely closed and the 21 passive parks are completely open, they have no restrooms.

Commissioner Green: Okay. And concerning the fields, I was out there recently as well, and the grasses, I had an opportunity, I believe you all reseeded the field, has there been any activities on the fields since the reseeding? Or could you, for clarification purposes, let the residents that are here know and those that are watching, what typically happens when we're reseeding the fields, are there any activities on it?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: No, we typically reseed the fields after heavy usage because they become unplayable and muddy and are closed in early December. They just reopened January 9 for use, so that we could reseed, re-sod, and revitalize the fields for usage again. They did just reopen and they do look beautiful right now, because we are only two weeks into using them. Again, that will change quickly because there are little feet running on them almost constantly.

Commissioner Green: And currently what particular sports are coming or currently being played on the fields? What particular sport? What season is it right now, baseball, soccer?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Currently baseball is being played, and soccer is kicking off shortly.

Background: Inaudible football?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Flag Football.

Commissioner Green: Mrs. Garcia, and please forgive me I should be probably have been posing these questions to you, I do apologize. Can you tell you us the number of kids that are going to be participating or are currently participating in soccer?

Recreation Director, Chris Garcia: Historically, soccer is anywhere from 1,200 to 1,400 athletes participating in that program.

Commissioner Green: And I want to say last week, did we have any activity on the fields last Saturday?

Recreation Director, Chris Garcia: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes, we did, we had Grandparents Day.

Recreation Director, Chris Garcia: Yes.

Commissioner Green: We had a number of kids out there that are starting to use the fields, so I wanted to make sure that the residents understand that the City has given opportunity for those fields to be reseeded and replanted and to that end, the grass can grow back, and it does take some time for that to happen. So when there's no one out there you see that it does look lush and it does look green. I would encourage the residents that when soccer and baseball is in full bloom that they go back out there and that they look at those fields because I guarantee, I promise you, those fields will not look the same and that is all I have. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, Commissioner Curran.

Commissioner Curran: I am 100% in support of opening the parks on national holidays if that's what this Commission wants to do. I never ever had a problem with it. I will say that five-on-five soccer registration just started this weekend and that 950 kids that will be added. On March 9, no February 9, regular soccer season ends, flag football starts, baseball starts, softball starts, every day at 3 o'clock the parks are all open, the complex and Bill Lips are open to the residents so there's always one or two fields open and the playgrounds are open. I think that was the big argument and it wasn't an argument that was the big point of contention from the residents is that they wanted access to the fields, which they've gotten. Some have gotten it, not on national holidays and that is something that we'll address moving forward and I'm in full support, let's open them if that's what they want. They realize they're unmanned, and that's fine because you know that's exactly it, the residents pay for it, so if they want the restrooms open and they don't want an attendant there because it's going to be hard to get them on national holidays for people to work, I have no huge problem with that at all. Just so everybody inaudible that Broward County School Board and I'm not going in a different direction, I just wanted to put it out there, has found it to be the cost was too high to re-sod the high school athletic fields this year, inaudible, they did not inaudible high school football fields and they are playing in the dirt. By February 9, please go by and look at your fields, it will astonish you from what they look like today and what they're going to look like on February 9th. Winter inaudible does not stay, has no root plans at all, it doesn't grow-when you cut it looks beautiful and it does, the fields look amazing, great job guys. We all know that it grows by inches and is killed by feet. But I am in total support and I don't want anyone to think anything different. Let's open the parks on holidays if that's what the people really, truly want, that's what we will do. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you and in regards to that, I don't have any problem doing that, the only thing I'm going to ask, is Marie that you do, and I'm talking as a lawyer now, please contact our insurance carrier to see what their requirements are. They may hesitate to have those parks open without anyone there, just saying, so just if you would find out, go ahead.

Commissioner Pulcini: We have 21 parks, 19 are not attended.

Mayor Ross: Okay, Jennifer Goldfarb.

Jennifer Goldfarb: 11869 SW 55 St. Am I on? So I'm following up, am I on? I feel like I'm on? I'm following up behind them, and they kind of got a lot of my minutes, which is great. I'm going to follow behind them every time. My first thing, actually I've had an issue with this previously and I never mentioned it, but its kind of annoying, you know, you say you're introducing the person, this is Dr. Leip, Dr. Leip, from who, for what, gives us, is she an employee? Does she work for a firm? Is she your cousin? I don't know who Dr. Leip is. Like just a little bit more of like who is she would have helped me.

Mayor Ross: Would have helped me, too.

Jennifer Goldfarb: I was going to mention the Financial Advisory Board. Obviously, it has been discussed previously, I just want to make sure again, that it is on the agenda for the next meeting, it was said it was going to be on the agenda for the next meeting. And be added to it is the parks reopened on the holidays will be on the agenda for the next meeting so then then the agenda for the next meeting is going to be

revised and that's going to be added to it. The parks being open on the holidays will also be on the agenda for the next meeting, because I see many times we say, we're going to do this at another meeting, but then it doesn't end up actually happening. We never go over old business; it kind of is brushed under the rug. Yea Yea Yea, well talk about next time. And my last thing is, I guess mostly for Jamie, my canal.

Commissioner Curran: Can I answer that? Jen, you know I'm working with Mr. Bailey. He e-mails you, I email back, I feel sorry for you, but I think that it's going to be a rude awakening for the residents. I think it's going to hurt your feelings when it comes out.

Jennifer Goldfarb: Right now it hurts my feeling because I'm living with rats.

Commissioner Curran: I understand that, but I have a feeling that it's going to drop on the residents shoulders to fix that.

Jennifer Goldfarb: And the legal and BSO code enforcement, I don't care someone's got to resolve it. I will pay myself to get it cleaned it is disgusting. It's disgusting and that, not the canal, it connects I guess that's Tamarind Park to the canal behind Publix, and long story short, it's not being maintained and disgusting is a nice word for me describing it. So anyways, that's it for today, I would like to see the new agenda with some back up and some new items added to it. So, thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Curran: I have a point of order; I have been working with Ms. Jen Goldfarb for at least 8 months at least.

Jennifer Goldfarb: Probably closer to a year.

Commissioner Curran: It belongs the end result and here it comes Mr. Meltzer, you're going to hate to hear it, it is Broward County Water District baby, but all indications right now and they're looking for a document. There was a document when those homes were built no, no not us Cooper City, but Broward County. Broward County has a document that says the residents are responsible for the maintenance. Maintenance and maintaining of that canal some 25 years ago, there was a group of homeowners that came in and decided they were going to take up 100 dues or 70 dues across the board and they have this paperwork. Well somehow, somebody left who was taking care of the canal and that all went by the way side and it was left on the residents, who it technically belongs to anyways, for the residents to take care of their canal. Mike Bailey has written to them numerously, he is working back and forth. It has even gone up to the State to find out how they go back to the builder's original documents, but the original documents say that the residents that live on the canal, are responsible for maintaining the canal.

Jennifer Goldfarb: There is still that same association, but there only taking care of...

Commissioner Curran: They're inaudible

Jennifer Goldfarb: They're only taking care of the canal behind Tamarind Park, not the canal, the whatever it is, the lake.

Commissioner Curran: The lake.

Jennifer Goldfarb: And they are still maintaining that, they are not maintaining the canal.

Commissioner Curran: And their response was everyone that lives on the canal stop paying their dues, and that they said okay, but I'm just telling you we're not giving up and it's constantly going.

Jennifer Goldfarb: And I'm still knocking.

Mayor Ross: Thank you very much, we got Brenda Kezar.

Brenda Kezar: 4979 SW 90th Way, Cooper City. Obviously first, I want to start with thanking Chief Caruso and inaudible actually here Lieutenant Jerry inaudible, paramedic Louis Hernandez and Shana Scott, did I say those right? For the public's, what do you call it, the senior expo. Maxine, it ended up being a little more than we thought and they're still watching her, but you know she wasn't going to go so they did a nice job and I don't know I just want to say thank you. Thank you very much and I know she will be writing a little note to you guys. Here again. Update on the assessment. I would like an update on the water bill situation. Status on the building department, what is going on with that?

Commissioner Pulcini: Hold on Brenda before you continue, you asked about the assessment. It will be on the next agenda.

Brenda Kezar: Okay. We're making progress?

Background: Yes.

Brenda Kezar: Okay good. so building department status, the assessment status, which we're saying next time, and the water bill status and eventually we're going to find out some information on that or is it going to be taken care of and we'll think everything is good? You can answer me in a minute cause I also want to address the trees and the sidewalks. My neighbor called, they had a problem, and they were out the next day spraying doing this, doing inaudible. Send somebody out to look at the trees, it is slanted this way or that way, okay we're going to fix this, we're going cut out that root and they resolved it in a week, so it's not all bad. Prior employees I know a lot of personally from growing up in Cooper City retired, just plain out retired Kurt, inaudible he is probably the salt of Cooper City, but they retire. I don't know if that is the case for all of them. Next week's special commission meeting is not on the calendar of events supposedly, I personally have not verified that, but if you want residents to come you got to let them know. Alright and I think that's it thank you all.

Mayor Ross: In relation to that, Marie, the billing on the water issue.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Thank you Mayor. At the last City Commission meeting, there was an item part of the agenda backup regarding utility account update and that was provided to the Mayor and Commission. We did provide an update on a couple of issues that were mentioned, particularly that one development that had an outstanding utility bill that has since been brought up to current and what have you, so that was addressed at the last City Commission that was part of agenda back up.

Mayor Ross: If we can, just to make everyone feel a little more comfortable, let's bring it back and let's make sure everyone is aware of what's going on.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Will do Mayor.

Background: It is on the calendar, no, it's not. It's not.

Commissioner Pulcini: That's a town hall meeting the day before is a budget meeting, so we do need to add the budget meeting.

Mayor Ross: Kathryn indicated she will make sure it gets on, I appreciate that.

Brenda Kezar: You're welcome.

Commissioner Curran: Point of order.

Background: Point of order.

Commissioner Curran: On the last meeting when Mr. Bob stood up and talked about the 650,000 dollar deficit, I thought we all had a consensus that, that was going to start being part of the Commission of the City Managers monthly report, so every month there would be an update of where the 650 is, did it drop, did it come down a little, we're not going to lose that. We were going to keep an eye on that; is that correct?

Mayor Ross: And that's why I'm saying to make sure it inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: Just to clarify that's not a deficit.

Commissioner Curran: I understand.

Commissioner Meltzer: Do you want clarification on that one? Marie, could you be so kind.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Mayor and Commission, Bob did speak regarding the utility item and I believe there was a commitment by staff to provide a monthly update in terms of the accounts. That presentation was done January 9, so the next, the first meeting February, we will have another status update regarding the utility billing accounts and what have you.

Brenda Kezar: Because I thought I also had heard Baffy Woods was in there for about a year or more inaudible.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: It is 9 years and several months and they again, that's what I mentioned they have been brought inaudible.

(Multiple voices).

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: There was a miscommunication with their management company but they are current.

Brenda Kezar: And then just a quick question, if any of you know, don't we already have a strategic plan for the City? Like with this lady earlier that was presenting a process to have a strategic plan, but I was under the impression we already have a strategic plan?

Mayor Ross: We do, but you need to continue to review it and change it, yearly.

Brenda Kezar: Oh. okay. All right.

Mayor Ross: Things change.

Brenda Kezar: Yes. they do.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Brenda Kezar: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Bob Sands.

Bob Sands, 11803 SW 54th Street. This is a side note, strategic plans are good, but need to be executed upon, so that's important. It would be good to see if we went back and actually executed our last one. So a couple of things we were talking about recreation tonight and there's something that's kind of gone. It has been discussed before from some other folks, but then somewhat left it and I want to have the Commission revisit this. It has to do with recreation and since we're talking about the fields, let's talk about our Optimist club and our liaison situation. Number one, there has been some discrepancies as to whether a sitting Commissioner also can be the liaison according to the Charter was the issue. What is the issue with that, because at the last I checked with our last City Manager, I kind of left it. I was told that one Commissioner is actually holding two, two of these liaison positions, one for BSO, and one for the Optimist Club? So what's the – is there a ruling on this what are we...?

Mayor Ross: I'm not sure that Jacob is up to speed.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: I'm not sure what the issue is Mayor, but I can look into it.

Mayor Ross: In the Charter, it indicates that the Rec department, I think it said the Director of Rec should be the liaison and to the last of my knowledge, it's been the appointment of Commissioner Curran, who has been the liaison.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Liaison to the?

Mayor Ross: To the Optimist as well as, and you're correct in indicating he's the liaison to the Broward Sheriff's Office as well. That I don't know if it is covered inaudible position is covered in the Charter. I can't give you an answer until the attorney really looks into it.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: And we'd be happy to look into it.

Bob Sands: Number two, while you're considering all the financial things, I may well be the guy to bring this up, and it's this. There have always been some discrepancies about the Optimist Club and the 70-30 rule. I can't get seem to get a straight answer as to whether it's been followed or not. My suggestion is, which is happening in other cities is that all of the financial registrations be moved to the City, that it be overseen by the Recreation Department or be overseen by a department. Then everything comes in through them and I think it would offer more accountability and it would create less questions here. The fact of the matter is that any, and I'm going to run out of time, but you guys were answering, so I want a little bit more time. One of the optimist club, actually one of their board members, we had a discussion and I said to him, I have been a Rotarian, I had been a Rotarian for years, Rotary doesn't ask anything of the City, they do not even promote as any type of board members political candidates, as a matter of fact Mayor, when I was there, you were allowed to come in and speak at the Rotary Club, but only because you were not up for reelection. They kind of stay steer clear of it, and I was actually asked, well what is the rotary, I never heard of it, I said they happen to be the only organization that have a seat on the United Nations, so they're a pretty big organization and they've banned all of that. I think we have some sort of co-mingling, not of finances, but of all of these things I've asked about. You know, whether sitting Commissioners should also be on the boards or members of the optimistic club, you know, so there's a whole thing that's going on and I think we have to look at this. I would suggest you guys make this a part going forward that those registrations come in here, you'll be able to see then flat out what's going on, it doesn't mean they don't get the money, but I think it will give accountability and openness and a good thing because they're working on our behalf.

Mayor Ross: And regarding that, if we can, let's put that on the agenda as well for discussion. We need to do that. Thank you Mr. Sands. Anyone else for Open Public Speaking? Seeing none, we are going to move to the Agenda Concerns. Larry Gonzalez.

Larry Gonzalez: 11803 SW 54th St. This is my first meeting and I brought pictures regarding, the last picture is my home. I'm here tonight because I wanted to see if there's a way the trees, I'm the palm tree guy that planted two trees in my swale recently, and I wanted to see if there's anyway I can keep them there. Not that I've been dealing with this since December 2nd, I've driven around Cooper City looking at trees and other swale trees and just looking at Cooper City in general. I've been here 21 years; I live in Flamingo Gardens West. I take pride in my home. I maintain my home and I spent a mini fortune on the trees. It wasn't for me trying to go behind the City's back or plant the trees, my biggest concern is the fact of the

years I have been here, if palm trees are not allowed, permitted on swales, and these palm trees do not damage sidewalks or anything they look nice in my opinion, in other people's opinion. Why hasn't the City, the code compliance, held all the other people that have palm trees or coconut trees on swales accountable? Now they're asking me to move my trees, and remove my trees. So I went around even 90th Avenue right in front of Pioneer Middle and there's a corner house where the gentleman parks on the crosswalk. That guy has like 10 royal palms alone in his swale. And there's coconut trees right by the City Hall on swales and it's never been addressed and now that I planted both my trees, I wanted to see if there's any way, that I can pay a fine and keep the trees, and I'm not sure. Like I said it's my first meeting, I didn't know how to address anything so – I'm a little nervous.

Mayor Ross: Don't be, I appreciate you coming forward. Commissioner Meltzer has on the agenda, item 10-d, which addresses this and I think if you stick around you'll have a better discussion of what's going to happen and why maybe it did happen.

Larry Gonzalez: Okay.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Larry Gonzalez: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Anyone else wishing to speak on any agenda item? Seeing none, we'll move on to the Police Chief's Report.

6. POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Police Chief Cates: Good evening, I don't have much. I'd like to start off, if you remember approximately a month ago, at one of the Commission meetings, we talked about a vehicle that was stolen out of Embassy Lakes, it happened on a Sunday morning about 11:00 a.m. We developed some information on that and we did arrest the subject that committed that act last week. So good work by the detectives on that. It seemed to be an isolated incident there in Embassy. We've had in the last week or so, we had an individual that was flying drones over Cooper City High School and today it happened again. The deputies that were out there were able to locate him across the street in the construction area across Stirling and he happens to be a Cooper City High School student, so we're looking into that we notified FAA they're going to look into it. What's interesting is our schools where, what we found out are not considered a no fly area, so we're actually going to bring this up now with the school board to see, what we, you know, what could the FAA do. Maybe you would think that would probably be a good idea to have schools be a no fly zone. In one way, if someone goes over the fence, you got a security breach, but if you have a drone flying over there to me that's still in a lot of ways a security breach, so hopefully something good will come out of this. We have some upcoming events for the City, we'll be out there for Touch-A-Truck and also the Embassy Lakes Run, which every year we're out there participating and we look forward to it. Also we have an upcoming event in our district Tuesday, starting at 12 o'clock, our district office will be hosting a meeting with all the district captains, majors, colonels, and it's possible that the new sheriff will be there. I will get a confirmation on that and let the Commission and the Mayor know in case you want to come by and meet them, or greet some of the command staff that will be showing up at our facility. Lastly,

Mayor, we do still have three vacancies and I just received Paulette Bruno's retirement papers today, so if anyone knows Paulette she's been with us for 21 years, so it's always bitter sweet. I'm happy for her and I wish her well in her retirement. That's all I have.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Is the sheriff going to make a trip out here other than what you discussed regarding City Managers, and the command staff to actually sit with Cooper City and meet us?

Chief Cates: I'm sure he will.

Mayor Ross: Inaudible

Chief Cates: I don't have, Mayor, he hasn't. I have not spoken to him about that and I'm sure right now he has a lot on his plate, but will hopefully we'll get it to happen soon.

Mayor Ross: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Pulcini: Hi Captain, thank you for your service. Did you ever hear back about those budgets I had requested?

Captain Cates: No, I have not. I did pass that information on in fact, and I'll pass on the information that the City Attorney was asking for. Some figures on one of them was an issue, I will follow up again tomorrow, but I have sent out two emails already requesting that information.

Commissioner Pulcini: Do you have any expected ETA on it?

Chief Cates: I wish I did. I'll make a call tomorrow and see what's going on so we can get this wrapped up.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay and the explanation on the price increase, remember that too.

Chief Cates: Yes.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay, Thanks.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Any other questions for the Captain, seeing none, Police Chief's excuse me Fire Chief's report, Chief Caruso.

7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Caruso: Thank you Mayor. As Ms. Kezar said, we did have, actually two patients that were transported from the Senior Expo, the one that Ms. Kezar was speaking of, and what's interesting about that one, was that was brought to our attention by a CERT member, who through training noticed some signs and symptoms that just didn't seem right and went and talked with higher authority so I commended that person for their awareness. The other patient that we had was through Memorial wellness check,

and this is actually the second year that they picked up some conditions and some people that have just come by the Senior Expo to enjoy the different vendors that are there, and as Commissioner Meltzer and I spoke for at least the last two or three years, how valuable this is to our citizens here, so we were going to continue that, it is a great program. Our basic CERT class, you've heard me speak about, starts this Thursday, January 24th at the Cooper City Pool and Tennis Center in Rock Creek. The classes will be from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. and the classes will be meeting for the next 9 weeks. We've actually had a great response and are up to 19 residents. Also, we will be participating in the upcoming Touch-A-Truck event with some additional resources that we are going to be bringing in, along with activating CERT for the Richardson 5k in two weeks. Thank you very much.

Mayor Ross: Thank you and questions to the Chief? Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: Chief, again I know we spoke last week, but I want to say thank you again, and to your staff for doing what you do. It's funny because until someone needs your services they don't know you're there and thank goodness you were, because you just saved two more lives. So thank you for everything.

Chief Caruso: You're quite welcome.

Commissioner Meltzer: Please pass that on to your staff, okay. Thanks.

Chief Caruso: I certainly will. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Anyone else have a question for the Chief? Seeing none, we will move on.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Mayor, I'm sorry we didn't take roll call at the beginning of the meeting, so if you could do that now. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: My apologies. Let's take roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Here.

Commissioner Green: Here.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Mayor Ross: And we, for the record have all been here from the very beginning (laughing).

Mayor Ross: Okay, moving on to the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Pulcini: Can I ask a quick question inaudible Department heads?

Mayor Ross: Sure.

Commissioner Pulcini: How is the progress of the Building Department? When do we expect it to be completed? Is it all progressing on budget? Who do we ask?

Mayor Ross: If you want, you can do that during Commissioner Concerns, or it may come up during the City Manager's report.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay.

Mayor Ross: Okay, like I said Consent Agenda. Do I have a Motion? Going once.

Commissioner Curran: I have one question.

Mayor Ross: Do you want to pull something?

Commissioner Curran: I'll pull it just for the question. I want to pull the financial reimbursement for the travel for the 2018 League of Cities.

Mayor Ross: Not a problem. Is there anything else anyone wants pulled?

Commissioner Meltzer: I have a comment on Item 8-the, minutes from the January 8 meeting.

Mayor Ross: So you want that pulled?

Commissioner Meltzer: I just have a quick comment, if anybody wants to discuss, we can discuss.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Okay pull it. Okay seeing nothing else being pulled, we'll take a Motion to approve the remainder.

Commissioner Pulcini: Second.

Mayor Ross: You want to make that Motion?

Commissioner Meltzer: So moved.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Moved by Commissioner Meltzer. Seconded by Commissioner Pulcini. Call the vote.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To approve Consent agenda except Items 8-A-1 and 8-B-1. **Moved by Commissioner Meltzer. Seconded by Commissioner Pulcini. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

Mayor Ross: Moving on, A-1, the minutes, Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: Real quick, and this might seem trivial, but I read the minutes and under Commissioner Concerns, I believe it was item 12, there was some missing information there. I believe Commissioner Pulcini, during Commissioners Concerns, thanked Chris Garcia for her service to the City and may have made another statement or two, but there was no mention of it. The other four of us were all accounted for. Again, and it seems innocuous, seems like a small thing, but this is why we need to go back to detailed minutes, you'll get a full picture of what happened at the meeting. The video is not meant to replace the minutes, it's meant to augment them. I know we're going to discuss this later on I believe, it's on the agenda tonight and that's all I have.

Mayor Ross: Do you have a motion?

Commissioner Meltzer: Motion to approve, what is that Item 8-A?

Mayor Ross: One.

Commissioner Meltzer: No just 8-A.

Mayor Ross: 8-A-1, regular City Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Like I said 8-A-1, it was on the back page.

Mayor Ross: Do I have a second?

Commissioner Pulcini: Second.

Mayor Ross: Second. Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To approve Item 8-A-1. **Moved by Commissioner Meltzer. Seconded by Commissioner Pulcini. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

Mayor Ross: And Jamie, you had...?

Commissioner Curran: I have you brother. Can you explain it?

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Very simple. Apparently, our Executive Assistant may not have put in for it because she felt that it would be approved. I was over the limit and I was reconciling my own records and realized that it was not put in for, so I asked her to do it. Most of the time, if the maximum aggregate amount was not used for travel, which is was not in 2018, then while I went over my personal limit, it would extend to be utilized in so far as what the reimbursement was for. Being equal to everyone's reimbursement that were made to Commissioner Mallozzi and to Commissioner Green, who both attended the Florida League of Cities annual conference as well.

Commissioner Curran: Okay here is my question, and I have no problem with it, I'm going to fully support it, we all have a certain amount of money, but you just said aggregate, so what you're saying is, there's \$15,000 and the first one to use it gets it type thing?

Mayor Ross: No, no, no.

Commissioner Curran: Because that's the way I kind of...

Mayor Ross: First off, we're past that budget.

Commissioner Curran: No, no, and that's the main reason why I brought it up tonight.

Mayor Ross: Okay.

Commissioner Curran: I know for a fact I didn't use any travel last year.

Mayor Ross: There you go.

Commissioner Curran: So I don't know why you didn't ask or somebody didn't ask and just take it from last year's budget.

Mayor Ross: And I won't, that's for another discussion regarding that process and I won't throw anyone under the bus at this point. I'll just say it could have been handled differently, could have been handled better. Wasn't handled at all.

Commissioner Curran: Okay and with that I'm going to say something. In the past, the process may not have been perfect, but if you ran out of money and you came to the dais and one of us was sitting here, it wasn't, and just so you know, it wasn't a City Manager or City Clerk or an Executive Assistant, it wasn't their job per say to find your funds. If you were short and you came to the dais and said 'hey guys, there's a \$1,000-dollar trip that I really want to go on,' John Sims and Jamie were always first to raise their hand and say, 'we're not going anywhere,' and I'd like to see if we can get back to that.

Mayor Ross: I would love to get back to that.

Commissioner Curran: Okay. Because of one reason I don't travel, and if you do travel, I would more soon see you guys go travel and use the money versus coming back six months later and asking for money.

Mayor Ross: I agree.

Commissioner Curran: So I fully support it, but at the same time, if there was money in that budget we should have used it.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Commissioner Curran: Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Anyone else? Call the vote? Wait, we didn't have a motion. Do I have a motion Jamie?

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Do I have a second?

Commissioner Green: Second.

Mayor Ross: Second, Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To approve Items 8-B-1. Moved by **Commissioner Curran. Seconded by Commissioner Green. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

Mayor Ross: Moving onto Resolutions, number 9, and that is going to be read by the attorney, Jacob.

9.Resolutions

a. Resolution No. 19-1-4

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Thank you Mayor and Commission, I have 9-A, Resolution 19-1-4, is resolution of the City of Cooper City, Florida, amending Resolution no. 05-5-1, as amended, by further amending the administrative procedures and policies for the conduct of City Commission business; providing for additional time for public comment; limiting City Commission members' participation in commission meetings by telephone; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Ross: Do I have a motion?

Commissioner Green: So moved.

Mayor Ross: By Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Meltzer: Second.

Mayor Ross: By Commissioner Meltzer. Further discussion, Commissioner Green?

Commissioner Green: I have none. Thank you sir.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Meltzer?

Commissioner Meltzer: Nothing for me.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Pulcini?

Commissioner Pulcini: Nothing

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Curran?

Commissioner Curran: No, sir.

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may, inaudible and we had the opportunity to work on this item following the last Commission Meeting. There was some discussion at the last meeting regarding the extension of time past 9:30, but there was never any Motion on that particular item. There were Motions on all the other changes that were made and my understanding was that it was the Commission's desire not to change that provision; I just wanted to clarify that was in fact the intent of the Commission?

Mayor Ross: I think that the consensus.

Commissioner Curran: That's what we did, we said inaudible.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Right, Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: May I say something?

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To approve Items 9-A. Moved by **Commissioner Green. Seconded by Commissioner Meltzer. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

Mayor Ross: Now you want to say something?

Commissioner Meltzer: No (laughing).

10. REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor Ross: Regular Agenda, Public Safety Advisory Board Update. Marie?

a. Public Safety Advisory Board Update

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: We have the Chair of the Public Safety Advisory Board. Mr. Shrouder, would you like to give an update? We have a meeting coming up on Monday.

Background: Inaudible.

b. Discussion on verbatim minutes

Mayor Ross: Fair enough, Thank you. Discussion on verbatim minutes, Commissioner Pulcini.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay. Commissioner Meltzer already explained why we need to have verbatim minutes; I believe we'd all be better served if we had better records and we can go back and search a PDF file with the detailed minutes of what happened. The cost now are not prohibitive to record the minutes, there's software that will transcribe the verbal minutes. The reason why we went from verbatim to summary minutes was because of the costs and I think that reason no longer exists, so I have spoken about this before and I thought you had looked into alternatives and prices, but I don't see any backup.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Some of the software that we already have in place, Granicus has closed captioning, so it's already being real time transcribed so we can use that to use the verbatim minutes as well as our recording equipment. FTR gold offers options for verbatim minutes as well, so it should be no cost other than a little bit more just for staff time to make sure all the words are spelled correctly and is formatted and everything.

Commissioner Pulcini: I like no cost.

Mayor Ross: Are you making a motion?

Commissioner Pulcini: Motion.

Commissioner Meltzer: Second.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: I have a second and further discussion, Max anything further?

Commissioner Pulcini: No.

Mayor Ross: Howard, anything further?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green?

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross. So I had some questions for Mrs. Sims, so you said we already have the equipment in place, the closed captioning that is already transcribing?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Correct.

Commissioner Green: You said that it would be some more work. When you say some, is it a lot or is it a little bit? Because I know that we heard earlier about the passport processing that we do a lot here in the City on behalf of the residents and I know that you have a small staff of how many?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Four.

Commissioner Green: And who is responsible for processing the verbatim minutes?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Jenna, the Assistant Deputy or Assistant City Clerk does the minutes right now.

Commissioner Green: Okay, so she does that now, so what you're saying is that it's going to be a little bit more for her to do?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Correct.

Commissioner Green: Will she be able to do it?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Okay I have nothing further.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, Commissioner Curran?

Commissioner Curran: No I'm good inaudible the question.

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To approve verbatim minutes. Moved by **Commissioner Pulcini**. Seconded by **Commissioner Meltzer**. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.

c. Discussion on competitively bidding street repairs, specifically asphalt services

Mayor Ross: Moving on to 10-C, Commissioner Pulcini. Discussion on competitively bidding street repairs, specifically asphalt services.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay. In the previous year we had, I believe 100, 150, 200,000 dollars, for street repair, and this year we have 600, 650 dollars, for street repair, so our budget has increased drastically increased. I think it's the inaudible has changed that we should probably starting bidding for that contract and see if there's other vendors that offer competitive prices. The one we have may be the best option available, I'm not saying they're not, there's no specific reason to bid, just to see, since we have an increase of at least three times the budget for street repair, let's see if there's something else available.

Commissioner Curran: I'll second for discussion.

Mayor Ross: I'll take that as a motion and that's a second, anything further Max?

Commissioner Pulcini: No.

Mayor Ross: Jamie.

Commissioner Curran: I have two points to ask about that. The 600 value could actually change after next week, that could be part of the financial that we're looking at. Second, Ms. Denise, you're in a contract, correct?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: The contract we utilize that came to the Commission in October was for approval to utilize the Broward County contract with Weekly and the Miami contract with Arrow Asphalt.

Commissioner Curran: My question is, are you in a contract? Could I go to a new contract right now and tell Weekly and Arrow we're done with you?

Public Works Director Denise Yoezle: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Okay, Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Commissioner Meltzer? Commissioner Green? I got one. That contract that we're in now that we're not in.

Commissioner Curran: It's not a contract.

Mayor Ross: Right, did we have that competitively priced going out for an RFP?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: That contract was competitively bid by Broward County at the quantities that Broward County would use meaning huge quantities, meaning the bidders provided their best prices possible because they knew they'd be getting a lot of business. When I saw the item on the agenda we did do a little research, staff did. We contacted some similar size cities, similar budgets, and similar populations, to see if they were actually going out to bid internally or utilizing some of these big contracts to get the better pricing. We contacted, Margate, Oakland Park, West Miami, down in Dade and none of them go out to bid, simply because it's a question of scale, and the big players in the game will not bid on small contracts, especially in a City like ours, where we have not had a consistent budgeted amount of money for asphalt resurfacing over the years. While that may be changing for us, it is unlikely that we would get good prices if we were to go out to bid on our own. The fact that we can utilize a contract from Broward County with a large quantity numbers in it, which everyone sharpens their pencil on those contracts, and those same contractors often won't even bid on a small city's contract. We can also utilize the City of Fort Lauderdale's contract, which is another huge contract with some of the best prices available, so those are the things we need to evaluate when we want to use our own procurement process on some of these items. For instance, when we did Summertime Isles last year, to do the southern half was approximately \$225,000 dollars and the price we have to do the north side of Summertime Isles is \$200,000 dollars and that's from the Broward County contract. If we had used one of the smaller contracts its 35% more money.

Mayor Ross: No, I understand that and I get that, but I guess my question was, did we go out for an RFP or did we piggyback?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: We piggybacked.

Mayor Ross: Okay, Thank you.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: You're welcome.

Mayor Ross: Jeff.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross. I just had I had one additional question. Typically, if we were to go out to bid or put out an RFP, about how long would it take for that to take place?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: A minimum of three months.

Commissioner Green: So it would take a minimum of three months, and we don't, and there's not a guarantee that if those proposals, when those proposals come back that they are going to be lower than what is currently being provided through those bigger contracts.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: That's correct, it as a matter of fact, it's unlikely those prices will be better than the bigger contracts.

Commissioner Green: Thank you I have nothing further.

Commissioner Meltzer: Denise, I just have one question, you mentioned Summertime Isles.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Yes

Commissioner Meltzer: What is the expected start time for resurfacing the North side of Summertime?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: I'm ready to go anytime the Commission is ready. We've had the price ready; we had budget reexaminations, so I am ready to go. I would like to put it on the next agenda.

Commissioner Meltzer: Sounds like a good idea.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Meltzer: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Curran:

Commissioner Curran: One additional question. For you to put an RFP and a bid out is there a cost with that as well?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: It would be staff time and the time itself.

Commissioner Curran: Well they're being paid to be here anyways so, there is no newspaper article, Sun Sentinel is there not?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Sure, there's a cost to it, it needs to be advertised on DemandStar, but I don't know the full procurement process.

Commissioner Curran: So about what, a couple thousand dollars as far as real money, and then there's staff time involved as well?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Staff time and the time it takes.

Commissioner Curran: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, all the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: No.

Commissioner Curran: No.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To approve Item 10-C. Moved by **Commissioner Pulcini. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. Commissioners Pulcini, Meltzer and Mayor Ross, Yes. Commissioners Curran and Green, No. Motion passed.**

d. Discussion on possible moratorium on citations regarding swale trees

Mayor Ross: Discussion on and we're going to 10-D, Discussion on possible moratorium on citations regarding swale trees. Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: Thank you Mayor. And this goes beyond a moratorium on swale trees citations. Mr. Gonzales got up and addressed us earlier, provided you with some photographs, I've spoken with him several times in the last six weeks or so and visited with him at his home, and by the way, the trees are magnificent. My problem is that he was cited and rightfully so, the trees, the palm trees are not on the approved list of acceptable trees in Article III Section 25-49 in our Code of Ordinances. But you drive around Cooper City and there's palm trees all over the swales, and other people haven't been cited. I've heard the terms grandfathered in, and met with Marie. I also met with Jeanette and Denise last week, and we ascertained that there's no such thing, nothing is grandfathered in. I would like to propose to our Commission for discussion allowing changing the list of acceptable trees to include palm trees. This would include palm trees that are aesthetically beautiful, that aren't invasive, that don't cause a sight obstruction, and that can't cause injury to residents that are walking. I think that it's long overdue, especially since we haven't cited anybody else with palm trees in their swales, and you know, frankly, the trees are being noninvasive I think that's a big plus. I think they add beauty to the City and I think it's something that I'd like to have everybody support and move forward with.

Mayor Ross: In a form of a Motion.

Commissioner Curran: Second for discussion.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. For discussion, anything further?

Commissioner Meltzer: No, I'd like to hear what everybody else has to say.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Curran.

Commissioner Curran: I am in full support. I spoke with coaches' daughter in soccer, but once everybody else start to get involved, once he had told me the he spoke with other Commissioners, I decided it was time for me to step back. He knew how I felt about the situation, the trees are beautiful, I see them every week as I go to Bill Lips, you see them right there on the side of the road, on the left hand side. The

problem with the moratorium that I see and I hope we all understand it, is that it is a lot of work to add to the arborist as far as tree trimming. When you're trimming oak trees and you're trimming this one tree, or you're trimming that type of tree, and then you come across a 40 or 50-foot palm tree, who's responsible? If we're going to rewrite the Ordinance, because there is an Ordinance, I would hope that Mr. Meltzer, that you would add at the owners' expense to be trimmed and stuff like that, then I would fully support this. I know this gentleman has whole heartedly said he'd maintain it, he'd keep it up, but I think there's other trees in the City that are not being maintained and not being up kept, because I rode around the neighborhoods as well, and I have seen them as well.

Commissioner Meltzer: Let me just direct the question to Jeanette. Are there palm trees in the City right now that you are maintaining on swales, that the City is maintaining, to your knowledge?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Jeanette, come on up to the podium.

Commissioner Curran: Can you stop my clock?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: You're on.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Okay, if we're in the area and there's a palm that's easily accessible and has a couple of dead fawns on it, we're doing the block side trimming on that street, then they'll go ahead and knock a couple of, you know, dead fawns off of it. If it's a Sylvester Palm, or something along those lines, that needs an extensive amount of work, then that falls on the burden of the homeowner, as well as if the palm tree dies, we are not paying to do a removal on a dead palm tree.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Meltzer: May I?

Mayor Ross: Go ahead.

Commissioner Meltzer: And I guess this is something that I'm going to address to the Commission, maybe we should talk about a height restriction on the palm trees, no hear me out, so they are easily maintainable by the residents.

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: Okay, yes you're right, so motion as it was.

(Laughing).

Mayor Ross: Motion stands.

Commissioner Meltzer: Motion stands.

Commissioner Curran: Is he going to add that piece? You're not adding the residents...

Commissioner Meltzer: Oh absolutely, residents are responsible for maintenance of the trees, but absolutely, I support that absolutely.

Commissioner Curran: And let me make sure I say it right, if a resident decides they're going to put a palm tree in their swale, which is highly discouraged because palms don't like the water to start with, and they're going to go ahead and go for it, then they need to be responsible for it. And it means that if Code finds that this gentleman's two trees are hanging out there with 400 branches hanging off them, then Code can cite the residents for that as well. Therefore, I am fully in support of this, as long as the resident takes full ownership of removal, upkeep, and trimming, as needed. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Pulcini.

Commissioner Pulcini: I agree with Jamie, with Commissioner Curran, as long as the Commission finds another reason not to have them, I think they look beautiful.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross. Jeanette, are there, aside from palm trees, are there other types of trees that are being maintained in the swale by the residents? Or is it just strictly palm trees and different species of palm trees?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Some residents do want additional pruning beyond the scope of the pruning that we provide, so they'll pay to have their trees trimmed more, you know, to their aesthetic likes and that kind of thing.

Commissioner Green: So you bring up an interesting point. So you said that some residents want more pruning than what the City is providing, my question, and I have two questions. First one is, the residents are they the ones that are planting the trees in the swale, yes or no?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Some residents do plant trees in the swale.

Commissioner Green: And we prune those?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Okay.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: And we also plant trees for residents that request them.

Commissioner Green: Okay, so the concern that I have is that we are contemplating putting the ownership on the residents for pruning the palm trees, but the same inaudible is not being placed on other residents that have different types of trees that they have planted that we are maintaining for them. I think when we do, if we're considering something like that, we have to be cautious. The next group of folks that come in here may not necessarily have palm trees in their yard, or I'm sorry the ones that have palm trees, they're going to come in and they're going to say this Commission, 'well, wait a minute, you're requiring us to maintain our palm trees that we planted, but the same responsibility is not being placed on other residents that have non palm trees that they planted and the City is maintaining those.' So I think that as a Commission, we need to proceed cautiously with whatever decision that the Commission makes. I think that it needs to be consistent across the board, so if we're going to have residents have the ability to plant in the swales, providing that you and Public Works and the Code, or whatever the case may be approve it, I think that it should be one code for all. If everyone is going to plant trees in their swale and they're going to be responsible, or people are going to plant and the City's going to be responsible, it can't be types of rules, standards for residents, and I'd like to hear further what my colleagues have.

Mayor Ross: Here is my difficulty, Mr. Gonzalez. I think the trees are terrific, but sitting previously as a Magistrate, I look at it and it's very easy to decide that they're not allowed. Now I go back to the intent of the Ordinance, that where I'm going to have a problem, the intent of the Ordinance is for canopies. So Jeanette, I'll ask you, by changing the Ordinance to allow these kind of trees, will that have any bearing on our certification as a Tree City? Secondly, if we, and I love Cooper City when I drive down 90th Avenue and I see the canopy, I love Embassy Lakes where I drive down my own block and I see a canopy, then I'll drive down your street and I won't see a canopy, I'll see straight up palm trees. That's not the intent of why the Ordinance was written, that's why it wasn't an approved tree. Am I against it? Candidly, no, because you are going to be maintaining it, although we haven't decided how many times a year it's going to be maintained and what happens when it's not enforced, or if we go to enforce it and tell the people, 'hey you haven't cut it down,' 'well I don't have any money.' Now we're going to be accepting a whole different scenario. So, with all the issues I presented, please give me a scenario that we can do this, maintaining Tree City status and maintaining canopies.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: The Tree City status comes down to how much money you spend per capita on your tree care. It would take a long time of losing all of our canopy trees and having all these palm trees that we don't maintain, where we would be at such a point where we would end up losing that status.

Mayor Ross: And what about the canopy?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: What about the canopy?

Mayor Ross: Well these kinds of trees, the palm trees, don't have canopies

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Correct.

Mayor Ross: The Ordinance was written specifically for tree canopies. When I go down, and I don't expect every street in Cooper City to have a canopy, I don't, but then why on that street, which has no canopy on both sides, candidly, next to nothing is canopy, why are we enforcing only on him and no one else?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: You would have to talk to code enforcement.

Mayor Ross: Okay, so why the selective enforcement Chief?

Background: Inaudible.

Chief Cates: We received three calls about the trees being in the swale, inaudible three to our code, so what are they supposed to say, 'well, we're just not going to enforce it?' They went out, they met with him, and I believe they just gave him a courtesy warning. He wasn't cited, a courtesy warning, is that correct?

Background: Inaudible.

Chief Cates: And they said, 'hey listen, we're sorry, but you can't put those trees in.'

Mayor Ross: Did you go around to everyone else on the block and tell them the same?

Chief Cates: No we did not. They weren't planting new trees, he was the only one planting new trees. These other trees have been there 10, 15 years.

Mayor Ross: Alright I thank you for your response.

Commissioner Curran: I got...

Mayor Ross: Hold on, we're going to go around again.

Commissioner Curran: I don't want her to leave.

Mayor Ross: Okay, stay right where you are.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: I'm here.

Mayor Ross: The motion was made by Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: Thank you, Mayor. A couple of more points. You know and I know that we have a list of trees that are acceptable; frankly, the oak trees are destroying our sidewalks right now. The beauty of the palm tree is that they don't have nearly as invasive of a root system as the oaks and some of the other trees on the list. We're not going to have the issues with the sidewalks and the streets getting destroyed by the roots. Additionally, you talk about maintenance and potential cost to the residents, let's say for having to maintain the palm trees, it's one heck of a lot easier to maintain a palm tree and snip some fawns off then it is to try and keep a shape on a 30 foot oak tree. I just don't see the difficulty there, and correct me if I'm wrong Jeanette, but the reason why the City does go and trim the big canopy trees is to keep a 14-foot clearance over the street, 8 foot over the sidewalk? I don't think you're going to have any of those problems with palm trees, it's a totally different animal, and that's all I have to say.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Curran.

Commissioner Curran: I guess the easiest way to do this would be through the permitting process. If that gentleman behind you had gone to pull a permit, he would have found out that he was running into a roadblock to start with. I think that if we're going to go forward with this plan, I believe the permitting process will be the golden ticket. It will have to be rewritten – if the tree that they're looking to put in does not fall under your premise, well, not under the City's guidelines for trees, there should be a separate permit that they sign that acknowledges their responsibility for maintenance and appearance. If the top of the palm tree is falling out, there's a 25-foot tree stump laying out there with no palms growing on it, and it is aesthetically displeasing to the residents that live on that street, then they are responsible. I believe that where we start with is, and I believe that Code would automatically pull a trigger if it was a different permit that required a different set of trimming versus the City trimming, if a resident has to trim it and the palm trees in the first five years are leaning into the sidewalk while the kids are riding bicycles or walking home and they're hitting the palm trees, that's a code violation. They get a citation, they have to trim the tree and life goes on. I believe that is the most user-friendly idea that we have going for this. I also have a question for you, going on to 116th where there are palm trees, who owns those? The City's or the residents?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: The City.

Commissioner Curran: Excuse me?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: City.

Commissioner Curran: So the City planted palm trees when it was convenient for the City.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Way before my time.

Commissioner Curran: Way before everybody's time. That's right, they were the first trees ever planted in Cooper City, palm tree wise and that's fine, all I'm saying is it, it has to be good enough. If it's good enough for the City, it's definitely better for the residents and that gentleman, and we all know that he could have moved the trees onto his property, but aesthetically they wouldn't look as pleasing as they are right now. My only concern with this whole thing is that we take the time; we put Mr. Meltzer in charge to work with you, to bring back a plan that's going to take care of all these pieces. As far as making sure that everybody, and I understand Commissioner Green if you're going, who's going to stop me from putting up a inaudible next, put me a nice inaudible its beautiful, until it reaches out and grabs kids as they walk by with the thorns and everything on them.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: We have a section in the code that would address something.

Commissioner Curran: That's what I'm saying, that's what I hope, that we work together here going forward for trees and canopies because palm trees don't count as canopies, they're nothing but space savers. They look great for a while, but at the end of the day, I'm okay with it as long as you're okay with it. And Mr. Meltzer has time to put this plan together, but in the meantime, I would definitely fight to take that gentleman's code violation and put it on frozen ice until after this Commission comes up with a plan to approach it. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Pulcini.

Commissioner Pulcini: I'd go a step further than Commissioner Curran would and I'd put that code violation in the trash can rather than ice and whatever Jeanette recommends. If she believes palm trees are fine, I think they're fine too. In my neighborhood, we only have palm trees, and Cooper City approved the plans of a 500-acre development with only palm trees so...

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: That was in the pre-annexation agreement.

Commissioner Pulcini: Pardon me?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: That was in the pre-annexation agreement that they were given the right to have the palm trees in there.

Commissioner Pulcini: I don't know what it was.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: I did not support that.

Commissioner Pulcini: But its only palm trees, so it's fine to have.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Since they annexed into Cooper City.

Commissioner Pulcini: So palm trees are okay?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: We had to accept everything that was already approved at the Broward County level.

Commissioner Pulcini: Alright, so they're okay?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: I think all of the palm trees in your neighborhood are extremely dangerous to have in swale areas.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay, so forget I said that. (Laughing).

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Green: Just very quickly, and I've heard what the Commission has said, what I haven't heard is the inconsistency or double standards with regards to some residents maintaining a particular tree in the swale that they planted and other residents not maintaining another type of tree that they planted in the swale. Moving forward, if we have something, one code ordinance that addresses that, I have no problem with supporting. But this Commission is going to run into, I believe, potential challenges once – if the word gets out, 'hey, the City's maintaining my trees that I planted in the swale,' 'really, because I'm having to foot the bill for my own tree in the swale,' so that's my only, that's my biggest concern as we move forward. I have nothing further.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: We might need a legal opinion concerning that.

Mayor Ross: And I think that's a smart idea, and you don't need to do it right now, believe me.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: May I offer a couple of observations?

Mayor Ross: Sure.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Given the discussion, if I may Mayor and Commission, a few comments one, to the gentleman who's been, in my understanding, is cited with a courtesy warning, not an actual notice of violation. Once a notice of violation is entered, the process is really in control of the Magistrate according to chapter 162. If they haven't been actually cited, then the process still rests with the Code Department and the City Commission. What I'm hearing now, is a motion on the table to direct us to amend the City Code to allow for palm trees as a permitted tree within the swale and to allow for residents being responsible for maintaining palm trees in the swale. If that's the motion before the Commission and to the extent that the Commission wanted to adopt that motion, we'd have to bring back an Ordinance to that effect.

Mayor Ross: That's correct. And before we discuss it further, let me just indicate a few things of concern to me. Someone said, I think it was you Commissioner that you wanted a height restriction on it, and we know how tall these trees get. The difficulty with that is if it starts hitting power lines, if not properly placed, if not going through the right permit, then we'll be able to figure out where the trees should be placed. We also need to have the number of times it must be pruned per year and an agreement that if they move, the tree has to literally go with the property, that's a covenant with property, so that when the new owners take ownership they are aware and responsible for that. In addition, when we do not get compliance, and it's going to happen because it's costly to get a truck out there for the high trees and people are going to say I can't pay it, we're going to wind up doing it and I want the capability of putting that on the utility bill for them to pay.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: I don't know, just because somebody doesn't maintain a palm tree that wouldn't obligate us to trim it. Palm tree trimming is technically aesthetic trimming.

Mayor Ross: It's going to be at a point where it's a safety violation, welfare of the people, because you ever had a, I had a fawn come down on my car busted the rear window of my car.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: Well that could happen with anything.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Correct. However, if they are not being maintained and we see it, it's like the grass not being cut. We have an obligation to the neighbors to keep up what we take pride in, that is Cooper City. So unless the Ordinance that you're going to prepare addresses all these issues, I can't be in favor because I think you're attacking something with a...my inaudible viewpoint. So, having said that, we'll go ahead unless you want to go around again, we'll take a vote on giving, well actually just direction we need.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: It would be direction.

Mayor Ross: Does anyone here have any objection to public input?

Commissioner Curran: Who wants to give it (laughing)?

Mayor Ross: That is not the issue (laughing). Does anyone object to public input?

Background: No.

Mayor Ross: Jamie?

Commissioner Curran: No, I don't care.

Mayor Ross: Come on up.

Background: Inaudible.

David Nall: 3620 NW 89th Way. Listen, you know this could open up a lot of worms. I think what the Commission needs to do, and I'd really hate to say it, is to workshop it, and I'm going to tell you why. You talk about intent of the canopies right? That's great, but it's not consistent, I had two inaudible that got a fungus, City went there and removed them, guess what canopy I have?

Background: None.

David Nall: I don't have anything. So what's good for the City is good for the City, but not the residents. You understand what I'm saying? I'm glad the trees are gone because they were just horrible, but they got a fungus and the City removed them, but it was a recession and they couldn't afford to replace them, I said I was fine with it.

Background: Lets inaudible (laughing).

David Nall: I don't want them; I don't want them, because I'll cut them down.

Background: Inaudible.

David Nall: No, you didn't because you didn't have it in the budget; guess what, I remember, I'm not throwing anybody under the bus. I approved it that I didn't want them there; they were ugly to begin with. Anyways, what I think you need to do is come up with some sort of species of trees that residents are allowed to put in their swales. Grandfather whoever's in okay, because god knows we got so many

trees in swales, but grandfather everybody in. Come up with a new Ordinance and say from here forward, these are the trees that are allowed to be planted and the City is responsible to maintain the rest. I'm going to tell you why, let me ask you, it's an approved tree, I'm a tax payer, you're cutting my neighbors tree, which the City planted, the City approved this palm tree, why can't they trim that too, I pay the same amount of taxes.

Commissioner Curran: You just said it. The City planted it.

David Nall: Oh my goodness, okay, I tell you what, we re-direct the City. I don't want that oak tree I want this palm tree, you plant it. Workshop it, that's where you can work out these details because you're going to open up a can of worms.

Mayor Ross: Thank you David. Anyone else from the public wishing to speak?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Apparently, it hasn't been noticed as a violation, it's a warning, a courtesy warning. Okay.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Go ahead.

Bob Sands: 10582 Grove Place. You mentioned we're a Tree City, what does that entail? Like we're a Tree City, because that seems to be an issue, do we get funding for that? Do we get special badges or pins? Who is the recognition from and what does that mean?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: The Arbor Day Foundation.

Bob Sands: Okay, so do they have some kind of, like there I see that, but is that saying what kind of trees we have to have and that's what we're going by?

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: No it's the amount of money that you spend to maintain your trees.

Bob Sands: Okay, so what was your issue over this? You mentioned about being Tree City USA.

Mayor Ross: Right, I asked a question, would it affect it.

Bob Sands: Okay.

Mayor Ross: Because it's not canopied.

Bob Sands: Well that's what I was asking, so in order to do that you have to have a certain canopy?

Mayor Ross: No.

City Arborist, Jeanette Wofford: It's the amount of money that you spend per inaudible.

Bob Sands: The amount of money.

Background: Inaudible.

Bob Sands: So you were asking about money, okay.

Mayor Ross: Not initially, but that was the answer (laughing). Go right ahead Ryan. (Laughing).

Ryan Shrouder: Commissioner Pulcini uses a palm tree on inaudible, I don't think it's inaudible in the City. The second thing, a former Commissioner De Jesus planted palm trees in his swale, and anyone who has been to his house would know that because you can't park in the swale, you have palm trees all the way through it. Therefore, I think Max should change his palm tree, even though Monterra has it, and conform to the rest of the City. (Laughing).

Mayor Ross: Thank you Ryan. Anyone else?

Background: Inaudible (laughing).

Mayor Ross: I got little use to it.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Mayor?

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: If I may, at the last City Commission meeting I did mention that City staff would like a series of Workshops. One workshop was going to be about infrastructure, to talk about trees, sidewalks, resurfacing and what was the third item? Staff is ready and willing to have that workshop to provide that information, take a comprehensive look at this particular Ordinance, and make sure that we address all the issues related to infrastructure, including road resurfacing and the sidewalk issue

Mayor Ross: Do we have the date?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: That is the next item, which is regarding Commission dates for February.

Mayor Ross: Oh, look at that, what a segway. Number 10-E, discussion on upcoming Commission meeting dates, Administration, City Clerk, so let's talk about that.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may Mayor, just very quickly, I'm sorry you still had a motion on the table.

Mayor Ross: My apologies, refresh my memory the motion was to?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: The motion was to direct me to prepare an Ordinance to add palm trees and then provide for the maintenance by the residents of those trees.

Mayor Ross: Right, call the vote.

Commissioner Curran: Point of order.

Mayor Ross: That's why I just had him...

Commissioner Curran: If we're going to do a workshop on this why would we vote on it now?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Because the motion is on the table, inaudible it's a better procedure inaudible.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (Called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: No.

Commissioner Curran: No.

Mayor Ross: No.

MOTION: To direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance to add palm trees and then provide for the maintenance by the residents of those trees. Moved **by Commissioner Pulcini. Seconded by Commissioner Meltzer. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

e. Discussion on upcoming Commission Meeting dates

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Ross: Thank you; now let's move on to discussion of upcoming Commission meetings.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: I would defer to the City Clerk regarding the schedule.

Mayor Ross: Okay.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Sure, thank you. At the last commission meeting, the Commission discussed the February 12 meeting and moving that to February 19 because a number of Commissioners will be at the Fast Fly In during that week. We came to find out that February 19 is also the Cooper City pageant, so we have requested through this item to change that date to either February 20 or February 21, but we do know that the City Attorney may not be available that week.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: No that, that's not an issue, I may physically be unavailable those two days, but Sam Goren or somebody from my office will be here that week. That's not an issue for scheduling from our perspective.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: But then we do have another Commission meeting the week right after on February 26 as well.

Mayor Ross: On the 21, just so you know, Kiwanis has their fundraiser of golfing the 21st, that night.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: The 21st?

Mayor Ross: The 21st.

Commissioner Green: That's my daughter's birthday, I won't be here.

Mayor Ross: Okay so no good for that, so back to the 20th.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Is the 21st good, I mean the 20th? Wednesday night? Hearing no objection, we'll set it for the 20th.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Sure. And just so you know, we will have a meeting then Wednesday, February 20 and another Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 26, so there may be some delay or short turnaround time on that agenda for the 26th depending on items discussed at the 20th.

Commissioner Curran: The 20th is a workshop or a Commission meeting?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: A regular Commission meeting. So, we'll have a regular Commission meeting on February 20 and a regular Commission meeting on February 26.

Mayor Ross: Good. Not a problem.

Commissioner Green: We're having a regular Commission meeting on the 20th for?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Because...

Mayor Ross: For this item.

Commissioner Green: That's a workshop.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: We have a special meeting next week on January 29, and then we moved the February 12 regular Commission meeting to February 19, which we now are changing to February 20.

Mayor Ross: Okay. We're good. Thank you.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: And then the other item on this agenda is that we would like to...

Commissioner Green: Point of information, can we have one meeting?

Mayor Ross: It is possible, you can, and it depends on how heavy the agenda is.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: This is also the agenda that I believe Renaissance will be on, so we've already been given direction to make that a shorter meeting.

Mayor Ross: Because that's going to be big, it's time consuming. I'm going to ask, as a matter of fact regarding that, I'm going to ask that we get an attorney report right after the City Managers report regarding that, so that were somewhat up to speed on everything. Having said that, do you all want to try to do it on the one meeting? I think it's going to be very long meeting, I really do.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may, if it helps the decision that the Commission is considering regarding Renaissance, that issue given the discussion that we had at the last Commission meeting and my update, which you'll here in a few minutes, may be less of a timely issue for that particular meeting, but again I would defer to the Commission.

Mayor Ross: Yes, we could try to do it in one, if we can't we can always overflow to the.

Commissioner Curran: 26.

Mayor Ross: Exactly. Is that good for everyone?

Background: Inaudible.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: I'm sorry, so I'm hearing you're talking about having a combined meeting on the 26, a stand-alone?

Mayor Ross: No, no, no, no on the 20.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: The 20th.

Mayor Ross: Right, and if there's overflow we'll have noticed for the 26th and then we can always cancel.

Commissioner Curran: Most important up front, leaving down the rest if inaudible.

Mayor Ross: I'm sorry?

Commissioner Meltzer: Can I say something?

Mayor Ross: Sure.

Commissioner Meltzer: Thank you Mr. Mayor. Look, we still have today, the 22nd of January. We have four weeks until the next Commission meeting, and five weeks until the proposed second meeting. I suspect there's going to be a plethora of stuff that's going to go on the agenda for the next meeting, and I don't know if it's going to be sufficient enough. I think we should have two meetings, even if they're back to back, just my take on it.

Mayor Ross: Like I said if we need it we can, that's all. I have faith in this Commission to run through items because you are absolutely prepared.

Commissioner Curran: And that was my point right there, if it's easier for staff to get one meeting ready to go versus trying to split and get two meetings going, I'd rather have the information for one meeting for all of it rather than waiting till the second or third day to get the information for a meeting that's two days down the road from that.

Commissioner Meltzer: Marie, may I ask you one question, do we have any proclamations or any awards, no I'm being serious, for the...?

Mayor Ross: Presentations.

Commissioner Meltzer: Presentations, for the 20th, February, I'm sorry for, yes, the February 20 meeting?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: No, I don't believe looking at the comprehensive agenda that staff circulated most recently.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: I don't believe that we have anything, maybe one will come down the...

Commissioner Meltzer: Okay, thank you.

Mayor Ross: And that can be pulled if there's no time of the essence situation.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Absolutely, sure.

Mayor Ross: That will be good, anything else? Okay, we're all good then.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: There's one other item, the date on this item for the code workshop that we would like to schedule. We have offered the week of February 25, as one week to have that meeting, of course there is that February 26 Commission meeting as well. So we wanted to have you look at your schedules to see if you would like to have that code workshop that week.

Mayor Ross: I'm free, so I'm flexible. What about everyone else?

Background: I'm good, which day?

Mayor Ross: The week of the 25. Knowing that the 26, we have a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Meltzer: Monday is not good.

Commissioner Pulcini: Monday is not good for me, I teach on Monday.

Mayor Ross: Okay so let's do it Wednesday?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Wednesday the 27?

Mayor Ross: The 27.

Commissioner Curran: Is that a Commission meeting or a workshop?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: It's a workshop, a code workshop.

Commissioner Curran: Thank you, polo shirts.

f. Discussion on Special Magistrate appointment

Mayor Ross: Inaudible everything by clothing, okay (laughing). We're good on that then, anything else? Alright we got F, discussion of Special Magistrate Appointment, City Clerk, Administrative Services.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Thank you. Over the past few years, we've brought to the Commission a Resolution reappointing Scott Kleiman as Special Magistrate and Brad Hartman as alternate special magistrate. This year with a new Commission, we thought we would ask you for direction on whether or not to bring a Resolution back reappointing them, or if there was any other direction you'd like to give us for Special Magistrate.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. We'll go with Max first.

Commissioner Pulcini: I don't know how other cities do it, do they have a rotation system where they have a pool of magistrates to select and rotate or do they just have one magistrate?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: May I respond Mayor?

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Very briefly, there's not necessarily a right or wrong way to arrange a magistrate hearing process. Some cities have one magistrate that sits on as the magistrate for that particular city, some cities have a roster of two or three magistrates that rotate. There is some unique component to the code enforcement process where you often have cases that carry over to multiple hearings and there's some benefit in having the same person hear the same case as subsequent hearings, but that could typically be coordinated from a notice perspective. As it relates to when matters are heard, sometimes it does in effect, delay the process. Sometimes you have an item being heard every other month, as opposed to every month, in order to get before the same hearing officer, but it's not uncommon to have a roster of special magistrates that provide services on a rotating basis. Again, that's up to the

Commission. But you have some cities, for instance, the City of West Park, I serve as their as their special magistrate and I'm the only one that they have.

Mayor Ross: Consistency is important.

Background: I'd agree.

Commissioner Pulcini: Makes sense.

Mayor Ross: Howard.

Commissioner Meltzer: I don't have anything to say, thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Green: I'm good.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Curran.

Commissioner Curran: I'm good.

Mayor Ross: I say absolutely, let's get new blood involved because it's always nice to get a fresh set of eyes and the talent out there is overwhelming. There's nothing preventing the present magistrate or the alternate from applying, but I say open it up and let's see what else is out there, so unless anyone has a problem with that?

Commissioner Curran: Well you need a consensus inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Yes, I know that what I'm saying.

(Laughing).

Mayor Ross: Is anyone opposed to that?

Commissioner Green: Mayor, you just said that consistency is key with regards to what we have in place.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Commissioner Green: I'm good with how we have it.

Mayor Ross: Okay, so you just want to have a motion to reappoint as opposed to getting anyone involved, who may be for arguments sake, be better talent if you will, for handling a better docket than has been.

Commissioner Green: I would make a motion that we keep what we have in place based on what I just heard this Commission say concerning consistency. Our Interim City Attorney has said that there are advantages to having people that are already in place to hear certain cases because there is continuity and there is context concerning those issues. So that would be my motion that we keep the individuals that we have in place.

Mayor Ross: Do I have a second to that?

Commissioner Curran: I'll second it for discussion.

Mayor Ross: Further discussion.

Commissioner Curran: I would like to see the pool before we release anyone. I have to wait because that's a discussion item that I have coming forward on how you're going to get the word out that you're looking for a magistrate, so before I go, but I want to make sure that we have a pool. And if it's as full and robust as the Mayor says, and I tend to agree that there probably are attorneys waiting to get on this, but before I ever voted to get rid of what we have, I would much rather wait to see what's out there before I go any further with this. So right now, I will support Jeff with leaving it alone until we see what's out there because we don't know, we're going on the word of the Mayor, which may be enough, but he's the only one that knows that there's a pool of people waiting to go to work. Thank you.

Commissioner Pulcini: So you're supporting?

Commissioner Curran: I'm supporting staying with what we have until we see what's out there, if they want to run an ad and bring it back.

Mayor Ross: Put the mic on.

Commissioner Curran: I'm okay with staying with what we have, running an ad or putting it out there to see what pool of people we get, and then we decide if we want to change. I don't want to change and then end up with interim magistrates in here as well. I would rather wait to see what we get in the pool and then go move forward from there.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Pulcini.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay, well obviously, it makes sense what you're saying, we wouldn't be able to change unless we know who we have. So I agree with Commissioner Curran, we would start a search and see or advertise and see who's out there.

Background: Can we comment?

Mayor Ross: Hold on just a moment.

Background: Okay.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: Jamie, I would support exactly what you said. I don't want to make a change for the sake of change, because frankly I haven't heard anybody, I haven't heard any rumblings that he's not doing a great job and I've been to last three magistrate hearings.

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: Give me one second Brenda, I've been to the special magistrate hearings and it seems like he's being very fair with everybody yet, enforcing the rules. You got that look in your eyes.

Background: I do.

Commissioner Meltzer That's all I have.

Mayor Ross: And before you go Brenda, let me just say, Jeff, what Jacob was saying, and Jacob correct me if I'm wrong, when you were talking about consistency, you're talking alternating or pulling from a pool of magistrates every month or every other month?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Correct, and again the benefit of consistency is assuring that when a matter is heard and its heard over subsequent hearings that the same person is hearing that matter rather than have it rotating, but it's not uncommon to have two or three magistrates engaged by a City to preform those services.

Mayor Ross: Right, okay, thank you. Having said that, Brenda. Again, no one has an objection from the...

Background: No.

Mayor Ross: Okay, go ahead Brenda.

Brenda Kezar: 4979, SW 90th Way. I do agree with seeing what's out there and seeing if anybody is interested in being a magistrate in Cooper City. I don't think you'll have difficulty finding somebody, I implore upon you Commissioner Green that you rethink your position specifically with Mr. Kleiman. We can go back to John Sims and the issue there where he put on Facebook that "I wasn't going to charge you this inaudible number amount of money, but you upset me, so now you're going to have to pay." I was called to the magistrate because a previous Commissioner used code enforcement to harass me, literally, I'll bring the binder if you guys would like to see it; the 3-inch binder I have of code violations on my home, which I take great pride in. My attorney, a seasoned prosecutor, represented me at the magistrate, David Frankle, not a defense attorney, but he said he had never seen such a joke it was ridiculous. He said inaudible evidence, no you can't enter evidence, you can go back, I have it on video somewhere, because I had the associated press here videotaping it. He was anything but professional and an embarrassment, a complete embarrassment, for not just Cooper City. Remember, he was making public posts when it came to John Sims, and I'm sure I can get those posts for you. All right, you can speak to David Frankle, whose credentials far proceed anything Mr. Kleiman could possibly even ever think about having alright. And maybe it's a little bit of a personal issue, but it's something that I would really ask you to consider when wanting to bring that back. You know we're trying to clean up the name in Cooper City, we're trying to get all the black eyes to heal and go away, and he's a black eye.

Mayor Ross: You can respond.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Ms. Kezar and I appreciate that, but since you have brought that up let me remind you that former members of this Commission have made some very mean, nasty, and ugly things as well.

Brenda Kezar: Right.

Commissioner Green: And former Commission's had cited them for, hold on let me finish, cited them for that, and I can only tell you, I can only speak to the times that I have been to the magistrate court during my eight years here. I was not at the magistrate hearing when you were here, or when Commissioner Sims was. I'm not on Facebook so I did not see what was posted, I heard about it, but I can tell you that just from my own experience being here, I believe that Mr. Kleiman has been consistent. He's been fair with the residents that I've heard him preside over. I don't have an issue with the two that we have in place, if this Commission decides that we want to bring in some additional people that could handle those magistrate issues, I don't have an issue with that. I'm not in favor of doing away with what we currently have because that individual unfortunately had two instances where he was not, and the City was not presented in the best light. I completely understand what you're saying, I have to look at the body of work that was conducted. I too, like Commissioner Meltzer, was at the last magistrate hearing, last week or the

week before and I thought the way he presented, the way he presided over the case or the cases, I thought he was fair and professional. Again, I hear what you're saying. I don't have a problem with it if we're going to open it up and we're going to have more people to come in, but I'm just not in favor of doing away with what we currently have and then going out and looking in hopes that we're going to get what we're hoping for, that's all.

Mayor Ross: I think we're doing it in reverse as per Jamie, we're going to see what's out there before any change is made.

Brenda Kezar: Which is I think a valid way of processing it, I was asking Mr. Green just to reconsider his position. I can give you the information, I'm sure I can dig it up somewhere with the, "if I don't like what you say," and, "how you look, you're going to pay thousands of dollars," and he literally put that on a thing, I swear to you, he outright said, "I was going to charge you less, but..." Being a Commissioner didn't release Commissioner Sims of having to follow code I firmly believe that, but the way that it blew out of hand should never have happened. Inaudible. Thank you. Can I bring up...?

Mayor Ross: No time, sorry.

Background: Inaudible.

Ryan Shrouder: I think first you have to figure out what format you want to do before you can seek applicants; this is not like that hard of a spot to find. I don't think you have to post it and do a bunch of crazy things, but a lot of cities have more than one and they rotate. It's very weird in Cooper City, you have an alternate who never gets to get up there unless there's a conflict and so it's very odd. Another thing I think you guys should maybe consider is picking a magistrate who's not a City resident, it's odd to me to have my neighbor judging me. I've been in front of Mr. Kleiman plenty of times, I think he does a horrible job as a magistrate. I just found an email from 2016 where he said, "Mr. Shrouder your flurry of recent correspondence to my clerk," and it turned out I had sent one email to his clerk. He never corrected that, he said he wouldn't allow me to negotiate with the City Attorney, and it says, "as such Mr. Arrango is not in any position to negotiate or accept changes to an order in which, I, as the judge in the case prepared while it was not announced at the hearing, which was an oversight on my part, the administrative fee is inaudible and payable." So I've had very different experiences with him. I've known him a long time and I don't know if he holds a grudge because we had parties at his house in high school, you know with his kids, I don't know what it is, but I've had a very different experience. I think it's probably best if the person who's sitting in judgement of these code issues isn't a resident. I'm a resident and I think it's a cool job, but the whole idea of the magistrate is an independent judge, not your neighbor, not who your friends with. The Commissioners might have a great experience with him, but they also happen to be the people who hired him. I thank Mr. Kleiman actually, for meeting with some of the Commissioners to discuss some of the recent things in the Charter school, and I don't know if you guys want to disclose that or not, that's an ex parte communication. Mr. Kleiman treats it as if he's working for the City, not as if he's sitting independent, and so I think maybe you guys should talk about changing the format. Davie, as inaudible said, has more than one and they'll rotate it if it's a case that needs continuity. They'll just put that on the agenda, maybe have an A agenda and B agenda and they rotate, but if you change the format, who's going to apply to be the alternate in three, four years you never even get to go do one case. Discuss that, then maybe open it up, and maybe consider an attorney who is not a resident in Cooper City.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Yes, go ahead.

Commissioner Pulcini: In other cities, is a magistrate usually a resident or not a resident?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: May I respond Mayor? The answer is no, and there are a number of individuals in Broward County who serve as magistrates for a variety of cities currently. I also wanted to bring to your attention, our code currently requires the City to engage one Magistrate and one alternate and to give a preference to residents of the City, so again it's not a mandate that the person be a resident, but the code does provide for a preference. To the extent that the Commission would like to have more than one magistrate, it would require an amendment to the code as well.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, right now we have the motion made by Commissioner Curran, seconded by...

Commissioner Curran: No it inaudible Jeff.

Mayor Ross: Oh, I'm sorry Jeff made it, and you seconded it, my apologies. Any further discussion on this? Hearing none. Call the vote.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: To keep it the way it is right now. Call the vote.

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: Could you read the motion back please?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: The motion right now is to keep the Special Magistrate and the alternate special magistrate, the present Scott Kleiman and Brad Hartman.

Commissioner Meltzer: And that's it?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green made that motion; I don't think you made a friendly amendment to it.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Jeff, am I correct?

Commissioner Green: So the motion is...

Mayor Ross: So do you want to accept Jamie's friendly amendment?

Commissioner Green: I'll accept the friendly amendment.

Mayor Ross: Okay that includes.

Commissioner Curran: Looking.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Commissioner Curran: Looking for a pool to choose from at a later date.

Mayor Ross: And now that we're going to look, are you only going to put it on the website?

Commissioner Curran: No, no.

Mayor Ross: I'm sorry.

Commissioner Curran: No, I want it on social media, I want it sent to the League of Cities, I want it everywhere that it can legally go free, free, free, free, free.

Mayor Ross: I think you made that point. You want no payment.

Commissioner Curran: And you're going to hear why in a minute.

Mayor Ross: Okay, everyone clear on the motion and Jeff you accepted it. Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (Called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To keep the current special magistrate and alternate, while looking for a pool to choose from at a later date. **Moved by Commissioner Green. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: If I could also add, we will be bringing back a Resolution reappointing the Special Magistrate and the alternate special Magistrate for not a time certain. We'll put that language in the resolution with the City Attorney's help for the next meeting.

g. Discussion on possible change to special event ordinance

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Moving on with the discussion to a possible change to the special events Ordinance. I asked that it be put on, simply stated, Potential Church is very active in Cooper City and they put on different events, special events, and they have indicated that they want to put on more events than the two that they are allowed per code, and in fact were asking for I think it was six. I'm sorry.

Commissioner Meltzer: Four to eight.

Mayor Ross: Four to eight, excuse me. Okay I got to go on the computer; they want to add four more.

Commissioner Curran: So it will be a total of six.

Mayor Ross: No, from four to eight. They go from four to eight, so I'm not saying one inaudible how I'm feeling on this, I'm just saying it was brought to my attention they want this, and they're doing it the right way. We have a great partner in them in that they had stopped doing anything without our approval. They always get the right permits, they always go through us, they partner up with us, and so they're saying, "now look, we're allowed four, we want to go to eight, is that possible? And if it is, we're going to have to change the special event Ordinance." Discussion and no motion is being made by me at this point, I'm just looking for discussion on how everyone feels about that so I'll start with Max.

Commissioner Pulcini: I see no reason why they shouldn't, they have these events on their property, do we ever have problems with their events?

Mayor Ross: Initially we did because they weren't getting permits, but now they do.

Commissioner Pulcini: I have no problem.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, Commissioner Meltzer.

Commissioner Meltzer: The only concern I have, if you look at the log that was prepared for us, four is the limit currently, they did have five events and I don't know if all five events were permitted, who would that be? I guess Ted. Nope, Denise maybe?

Commissioner Curran: Kathryn.

Commissioner Meltzer: I'm sorry.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: I'm sorry. The special event permit goes through the City Clerk's office, then we engage other departments to approve the permit.

Commissioner Meltzer: Okay but the code states, the Ordinance states that right now they're only allowed four special events per year, but they actually received permits for five.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: I believe at the end of last year we granted them a variance from this Ordinance so they could hold up to six events last year.

Commissioner Meltzer: Okay, and let me ask another question, does the, and I think the Mayor alluded to this already but, these special events are they any, are they any kind of burden to the City? Be it police protection, or fire, or I can't think of any other thing, is there any burden to the City when these organizations hold a special event?

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: Hearing none, that's all I have to say.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green?

Commissioner Green: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Curran?

Commissioner Curran: No.

Mayor Ross: Alright, so do I have a motion to go from four to eight on the special events permit.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Yes, I'm...

David Nall: 3620 NW 89th Way. Commissioner Meltzer asked a very good question.

Commissioner Curran: And nobody answered it.

David Nall: (Laughing). That's a good thing. Exactly. When these entities put on special events, I need a clarification, because I asked the question and Mr. Meltzer just asked it again and didn't get a clear answer. Do these institutions or entities pay for their own detail, traffic detail, at every special event?

Chief Cates: Only if they're needed, it depends on the size of the event.

David Nall: Now there's the question, depends. I have no problem if a church wants to put on eight events a year, inaudible, Halloween, holidays, I don't care, but I know because I have a client over there that traffic can be a nightmare. There's police, and BSO does a great job getting the traffic in and out, but the question I have is who's paying for that? If it's us, now I go a problem with it. If it's them, I have no problem but that's, I think, what we need to get clarified. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Chief when they ask for details, you provide the details?

Chief Cates: Well that goes to our special detail office downtown, but yes, they have details there for years for traffic and their events.

Mayor Ross: And Chief Caruso, when they have anything to do with cooking, you send the inspector out there?

Chief Caruso: Yes, we do.

Mayor Ross: That's as a service, or do we charge for that?

Chief Cates: No, there's a charge, that's an afterhours inspection, there's a permit fee to the City for that and there's a charge for us to send an inspector out there. We do not incur those costs.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Curran: I have one or two things. Is there a size on how big the events that they're asking for, because I know that there was a discussion last year of three helicopters dropping 100,000 Easter eggs along Flamingo and Stirling Road. As far as in the property yes, they wanted to do helicopter egg drops for Easter. It was nixed at the last minute. And I also have one other question, we're opening this up for Potential, but are you potentially opening this up for other churches, businesses, and also City yard sales are going to go to eight now as well?

Mayor Ross: Do those qualify as special events? I don't believe so.

Commissioner Curran: Yes, they are, that's what they're called.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Yes, they do. Well, yard sales are different, they have a different permit, but I believe the only language that we're discussing right now is only for institutions.

Mayor Ross: Right.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: As proposed by Potential Church themselves in the backup.

Commissioner Curran: So what you're saying is, every church or every institution?

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Every freestanding church I believe is.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may Mayor, the language currently being proposed relates to institutes, institutional exception for noncommercial free standing buildings with adjacent parking specially defined as churches, schools or similar institutions.

Commissioner Curran: I will only support this if it has no financial impact on the City at any time and all permit fees are paid and not waived.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Commissioner Curran: Okay.

Mayor Ross: I have no difficulty with that, that should be part of the motion.

Background: I have no difficulty with that either. It's your motion.

Mayor Ross: No, I didn't make the motion.

Commissioner Pulcini: Inaudible make a motion?

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: There is no motion pending as yet.

Mayor Ross: I can't because I chair also.

Commissioner Curran: You can pass that gavel right over here inaudible.

Commissioner Green: Point of order. You can pass the gavel Mayor Ross and you can make the motion.

Mayor Ross: I can, but do I have a motion to extend the meeting?

(Laughing).

Commissioner Green: So moved.

Mayor Ross: Thank you do I have a second? Laughing.

Commissioner Pulcini: Seconded.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (Called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To extend. **Moved by Commissioner Green. Seconded by Commissioner Pulcini. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

Mayor Ross: Okay, do I have a motion to extend the special events from four to six, with the clear understanding that is to be of no cost to the City, and in fact, all permit fees are to be made. Hearing none. I'll go ahead and make it.

Commissioner Curran: I want the other piece (laughing).

Mayor Ross: You're not going to inaudible.

Commissioner Curran: Eleven years waiting, eleven years. (Laughing).

Mayor Ross: The motion has been made, do I have a second to the motion.

Commissioner Green: Second.

Mayor Ross: You have the second. Any other discussion on this?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: I'm sorry Mayor, just to clarify your motion said six, the request said eight.

Mayor Ross: Eight, I'm sorry eight.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Eight. Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: (Called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: Yes.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To extend the special events from four to eight with the clear understanding that it is to be of no cost to the City, and in fact, all permit fees are to be made. **Moved by Mayor Ross. Seconded by Commissioner Green. All aye on roll call vote. Motion passed.**

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: And we will bring back an Ordinance for the Commissioners to consider. Thank you.

h. Discussion of possible amendment to Section 25-67 of City Code regarding administrative approval of architectural elevation(s)

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Discussion to possible amendment to section 25-67 of the City Code regarding administrative approval of architectural elevation, Growth Management, Matt Wood.

Growth Management Director, Matt Wood: Thank you Mayor. This item is a code change to address allowing administrative approval of new architectural elevations for buildings with previously approved floor plans. This is presented for Commission approval now as it has already been recommended for approval by the Planning and Zoning Board. At their meeting on June 4, the P&Z Board unanimously recommended approval of the proposed code revision, and if there is consensus of the Commission to

move forward this evening, the draft Ordinance can be presented for first reading at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Curran: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Green: Second.

Mayor Ross: Do we need a motion Jacob, or is this just direction?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: This is just direction, the Ordinance will be coming back for consideration this is not the first reading of the Ordinance.

Mayor Ross: Okay so the two of you are in favor of it.

Background: Yes.

Mayor Ross: How about you two guys? Yes.

Background: You only need one.

Mayor Ross: Doesn't matter (laughing). You got your direction, go ahead and do it we have approval of that. Okay. City Manager's report, code change status update.

11. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Good evening Mayor. I will defer that particular topic of discussion to Mr. Matt Wood, but before he begins, I would just like to make a comment. Today is Chris's last City Commission meeting and from administration's perspective, I would just tell her thank you so much, thank you for your service and we will miss you. (Clapping).

Mayor Ross: I thank you.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: And with that, Matt if you can briefly just provide a summary of the status report regarding code.

Growth Management Director, Matt Wood: Yes, I will. There is a staff report in your backup material. I'm going to read an abbreviated version of that staff report, again this item is a status update on code amendments and a request for policy direction on the code workshop. This item is to advise Commission on the status of the code amendments to date and to summarize the need for the upcoming workshop since the Commission directive last year to address code change priorities. There have been eight code amendments processed through the City Commission for approval. Those eight code amendments are listed in the staff report. In addition to those eight that have been through for Commission approval, there's an additional eight code amendments that have been processed through the Planning and Zoning board to date. In addition, the staff report indicates an additional sixteen code amendments for code changes that have been adopted since 2012. Now, as far as asking for future direction from the Commission particularly at the upcoming workshop, the staff report includes the additional code amendments that were developed last year with input from other City departments and the City Attorney's office. These are not listed in any rank, order, or priority, and this is by no means an all-inclusive list, but rather one for initial discussion on policy direction. Due to the complexity and timeframes associated with adopting code amendments, clear direction on policy and priorities is necessary on these items, as some may be controversial. It will be important to stroke the right balance between, for example

business interests and the aesthetics of the community. These code changes include areas of consideration, everything from, again this in the staff report, everything from signage, parking, and vehicular issue regulations, business regulations, permitted use regulations, and other miscellaneous standards such as landscaping plans, and driveway standards. We had some suggestions from the previous City Attorney's office; those are listed in here as well. As well as other various departmental provisions that could be included. Everything from Public Works to Utilities, and even Finance and Utility Billing. As we move forward with the additional code changes, staff would like to use this list of potential code amendments as the starting point for discussions at our upcoming workshop. At the workshop, staff is looking for direction on if these priorities still stand and if there are any additions and deletions to this list. Code change prioritized to date include the simpler, less controversial amendments that could be expedited in the first year of implementation. Staff advises, however, that as this effort moves forward, more significant amendments to the code may be necessary, which may entail longer time frames, surveys from other cities, and including time for review from the P&Z Board, or business related items to the Business Advisory Board, and for ultimate adoption by the City Commission. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Any questions to Matt regarding this?

Commissioner Curran: Motion to approve.

Mayor Ross: Do I have a second? Actually, we don't need it again, do we?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Correct, this is just an update from the City Manager.

Mayor Ross: Right, that's what I thought. But thank you for your motion.

Commissioner Curran: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Okay.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: One more item Mayor if I may.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: I just wanted to provide a brief update. We had our first Broward Sheriff's Office internal strategy meeting with our new member of the negotiating team and the City attorney's office. We met, we had a very good meeting, and I think it was at least two and a half hours long. We do have some subsequent meetings coming up in terms of internal strategy, talking to the pension attorney, and meeting with the new negotiating team on the Broward Sheriff's Office side.

Mayor Ross: Did we ever get a response from the pension attorney as far as an answer as to how to apply the duties that we have regarding the pension?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes, we are going to meet with the pension attorney to go over details for how to move forward and what in regards to negotiations is regarding the pension.

Mayor Ross: Okay. Thank you. Any questions?

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes, I got a question. When negotiating even inaudible of the contract, we have to first understand what our budget is, how much we have budgeted for the contract, and the problem I have with that, and I know we don't have the plan yet, but the numbers that we have available to use

our numbers from September. The last Manager's report is Bruce's manager report and we don't anything, any updated numbers available to us, and I would suppose available to Marie to go and negotiate inaudible to know what we can afford and what kind of service we can afford to buy from BSO.

Mayor Ross: And from my understanding, the numbers you're referring to are from BSO?

Commissioner Pulcini: No, our numbers. The last manger's report that we have on our website is from September and I don't know if you guys received the email that I sent out from the report from the GFOA.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Commissioner Pulcini: The trend that cities are going towards of increasing expenses, but revenues are not increasing as fast as expenses. If you look at our last managers' report, our financials from September, you'll notice that of our amended budget of 64 million, we have revenues of 51 million so we were 13 million short in revenues and our expenses were 57 million, so we were 6 million dollars short in 2018. So that's something that we need to take into consideration when...

Mayor Ross: You have to balance what are the needs for safety and welfare of Cooper City residents against the revenue that we have.

Commissioner Pulcini: And I understand that. The problem is that we had of this 13 million; 9 million is appropriation from fund balance. So we budgeted appropriation from fund balance and we used our reserves to pay for operating expenses. The last meeting I had with our auditor, it appears that the preliminary numbers of our fund balance may be worse than expected, so we may have less. Our fund balance may be more negative than expected. Has any other Commissioner met with the auditor?

Commissioner Meltzer: May I? No, I met with the auditor as well and it could be we could have a deficit up to a million dollars in the fund balance.

Mayor Ross: What?

Commissioner Pulcini: So let me go back to where I was, last year we operated by appropriating 9 million dollars, and in 2019 we're budgeting appropriating 5 million dollars from fund balance. That's 25% of our budget. We have negative a million, so we don't have anything to appropriate, so before we go and negotiate a contract we have to fix our budget, that's the first step. The first step is fixing our budget and before we fix a budget, we have to get our numbers; we have to start reducing financial statements and that's independent from the plan. We have to have monthly balance sheets and monthly income statements.

Mayor Ross: Jeff, I know you want to say something.

Commissioner Green: I'm going to direct this to our Interim City Manager and Finance Director, I know that we are having a budget workshop next Tuesday that's going to address all of this, yes?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes, and if I may, I understand that two of the Commissioners did

meet with the auditors, and the auditor at the time had very preliminary information. I can assure you that our fund balance for fiscal year ending 9/30/2018 is not negative one million dollars and it is not in a worse position than we initially estimated. He did not have complete information and with all due respect Commissioner he did provide me an email today saying he is going to update the Commission because he has received additional information and has more complete information in order to provide an estimate of the fund balance.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay I'm basing it on the information that I received, but that doesn't change the fact that our expenses are greater than our revenues and that we're appropriating 15 million dollars from fund balance.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: That has been the budget strategy directed by the Commission or approved by the Commission in terms of using fund balance to pay for capital improvement projects and to balance the budget.

Commissioner Pulcini: Correct and we passed a policy changing that strategy.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: On a go forward basis and that is going to be part of the presentation at the Special meeting next week, Tuesday.

Commissioner Pulcini: Correct, so without going into what our plan would be, going back to an individual point before we start negotiating a contract, we have to figure out what we have now, what our position is now. That means that every meeting I want to have financial statements, I want to have a balance sheet and an income statement at every meeting. I don't think that's unreasonable to request. Added to the Manager's report there should be a Finance Director's report and we have to at least present the financials, at least present a check register. The last check register that we have is from September, the last attorney's invoice that we have is from September, we do not have a new attorney's invoice. We haven't seen anything.

Mayor Ross: It hasn't been a month that they're here. You get billed on a mothy basis correct?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: From our perspective that's correct yes.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Commissioner Pulcini: But we have attorneys from September on.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Commissioner Pulcini: But we haven't seen an invoice since then.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: You're talking from Weiss Serota?

Commissioner Pulcini: Right.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Commissioner Pulcini: Inaudible of the year has passed and we haven't seen an invoice.

Mayor Ross: Then they won't be paid, will they?

Commissioner Pulcini: I have no idea what we've paid; I haven't seen the check register either.

Background: The bill is....

Mayor Ross: I don't get a bill, I don't pay anything.

Commissioner Pulcini: And the same way I have not seen a check register, the residents have not seen a check register. We should put a check register online on a monthly basis.

Mayor Ross: I think you'd be the only City that does that, but I could be wrong. Howard.

Commissioner Meltzer: Well no, I believe in the name of transparency they should absolutely, all the information that available to us should be available to the residents online. I agree with Commissioner Pulcini whole heartedly. Now, as far as negotiations with BSO goes, maybe we are just being a bit premature until we see what the plan is because we don't know how much money we have to spend potentially on a new contract. We can't be negotiating for a Mercedes Benz and only be able to afford a Plymouth, I don't know, does anybody know?

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: No, but the point's again, it just it's the, at this point.

Commissioner Pulcini: How much money do we have today?

Background: That's a good question.

Commissioner Meltzer: I would direct that question.

Commissioner Pulcini: How much do we have today? That's a reasonable question to ask, how much do we have today? Not September 31 or September 30, how much do we have today?

Mayor Ross: Marie, are you able to answer that question?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Commissioner, I believe we have kept up the practice of providing the City Manager's monthly report. I do not have access right now to email or to the website, however, I do believe we have provided the last three or four months of the same financial City Manager report, that has been provided to the Commission in the past. So I believe those are on the website.

Mayor Ross: Do you want to say something additional? Okay so can I just say one thing, and while I commend the two of you for going ahead and talking to the independent auditors, the minute that you go in and start asking questions, they don't become independent anymore. Bear with me.

Commissioner Pulcini: Let me correct you.

Mayor Ross: My time now.

Commissioner Pulcini: The auditor works for the Commission.

Mayor Ross: Max it's my turn, Max you know that hammer that you want to be, okay. So the auditors work ultimately for the City to determine not what's on your schedule, or on your schedule, or on your thoughts, but to be independent. That's why I don't jump to the conclusion that you have, I wait for the report to come out, read it, understand it, and if I don't I'll ask questions of them then. But to be premature is not a good idea, to go running around saying things like that, and particularly when they're now coming and saying, "no we didn't have all the information," that's always the case. Let's wait and see there's no rush to judgement. If it is not good news, we're going to deal with it. If it's better than expected news, terrific. But I'm not here to attack the independent auditors when they're here trying to do the job. You can afterwards; you can certainly ask all the questions you want. But while they're here, while they're investigating, while their determining and trying to do the job, I think it behooves us to turn around and say, please finish up and then we can ask you.

Commissioner Pulcini: It's actually a process that the auditor has to go through communicating with those in charge of governments and...

Mayor Ross: Absolutely.

Commissioner Pulcini: The auditor works for the Commissioners, so he reports directly to the Commissioners and he should be talking directly to Commissioners to find out what our concerns are to find out if there's anything in particular he should be looking at. So we actually did the right thing to be talking to him because that how he knows if there is any specific issues he should be looking at.

Mayor Ross: Timing is everything.

Commissioner Pulcini: And going back to the manager's report, the last manger's report I see online is a September one so that's all I see, if there's anything else on here, anything after September there.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: I will follow up with our Public Information Officer and make sure, because we have provided the information and the information is available and we'll get those to the Commission and make sure they're posted on the website. That information has been provided. We have produced monthly financial reports as part of the City Manger's report. And I will have those provided.

Mayor Ross: Thank you.

Commissioner Meltzer: And Mr. Mayor, I do take on bridge with what you said because the implication is that we did something wrong and inaudible.

Mayor Ross: No. Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: It's my time now. We all received an email asking if we wanted to meet with auditor, your prerogative not to, it was my prerogative to. There are questions I wanted to ask. I asked them, I received responses from the auditor and that's what I'm going with now. If there are adjustments that have to be made, that's fine. I wasn't told that. I was given a broad range of where to expect to be and that's what I'm taking at face value until I know otherwise. So no I don't think it's premature to go ahead and disclose.

Mayor Ross: And that's where we differ, that's all, and that's fine I don't have inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: But you had the same opportunity to go in there and speak with the auditor.

Mayor Ross: Without a doubt and I will not do that and I never have because I do not want to prejudice him one way or another.

Commissioner Meltzer: But I don't believe that's what happened at all.

Mayor Ross: Okay.

Commissioner Meltzer: I don't believe they were prejudice one way or another, I think they just like inaudible we get the facts.

Mayor Ross: But here we're getting inaudible. The problem is you know, I have Max saying he got the facts and I have Marie saying they're the wrong facts, so let's not.

Commissioner Pulcini: Preliminary numbers, so he did say preliminary numbers.

Mayor Ross: Okay, preliminary to me means nothing until you give me the final.

Commissioner Pulcini: But still the numbers that we have from September, which are the final actual numbers that inaudible 6-million-dollar difference between our expenses and our revenues.

Mayor Ross: That I do not dispute.

Commissioner Meltzer: And one thing I agree with our Interim City manager, moving forward we will have monthly interim reports showing cash position, budget to actual, things of that nature, correct Marie?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes, we will provide a financial report that will be presented to the Commission and provide some narrative in terms of context.

Commissioner Meltzer: And that will be on a monthly basis moving forward?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes.

Mayor Ross: And the other item, which I would like on a monthly basis, is an Attorney's report, which I think should be either before or after the City Manager's report.

Commissioner Curran: And while we're still adding, any item that's left undone from the previous month needs to be brought back on the City Manger's report to.

Background: I couldn't agree more.

Mayor Ross: We're all in agreement. Moving on, Commissioner concerns.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may, I'm sorry to interrupt you Mayor.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: But before we go to Commissioners concerns, inaudible the City

Attorney report.

Mayor Ross: Laughing.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Thank you Mayor and Commission, I just wanted to provide you all with a brief update. As you know well our office since being engaged as your Interim City Attorney has been heavily engaged in some dialogue and negotiations with the Renaissance Charter School related particularly to the special magistrate process that they're in the midst of. On October 15 of the last year, they were cited for violating their conditional use approval, which goes back to 2010 and 2012. There was a hearing before the special magistrate on January 9 that we had the opportunity to attend. As an outgrowth of that hearing, the respondent, the school, along with our office, was given the opportunity to provide supplemental legal briefs to follow up on the arguments that occurred that morning, which we in fact did, along with the respondent. Since that time, we have been engaged in a number of good faith dialogues with the council from the respondent regarding the particular issue. Keeping in mind that the special magistrate process is a very narrow process related specifically to the condition that they provide a School Resource Officer on location at the school, which was memorialized as a condition in 2010 and then reaffirmed in 2012. The Magistrate two weeks ago tomorrow had indicated that he'd be rendering an order last Friday in advance of an order being issued. Our office, in collaboration with the respondent's council, had requested that the Magistrate delay that order because we'd been involved in some very productive, very positive negotiations in an effort to reach a stipulated agreement to resolve that particular issue and I wanted to bring some of the terms of that agreement to the Commission tonight to consider. Keep in mind that any terms that we ultimately have the authorization to present to the respondent are ultimately subject to ratification by the special magistrate who controls the answer under chapter 162 of the Florida Statutes. In essence, we have worked with the magistrate's council to offer three specific terms, which as your Interim City Attorney's office, we would recommend and support legally in an effort to resolve this particular issue related to the special magistrate, related to providing a school resource officers. Specifically, in 2010 and 2012, they agreed as a matter of conditional use to provide a school resource officer at the school I think that's very clear and the key terms of the approval was to provide and to fund. Now the citation they were issued back in October was a result of their alleged failure to satisfy that particular condition in December of last year. As we know, the school entered into a school safety officer agreement with the Broward Sheriff's Office. That agreement was entered as a matter of evidence at the hearing on the ninth and one of the terms of the stipulated agreement would be the schools reaffirmation of their commitment to provide a school resource officer or a school safety officer on sight as either of the terms are defined by Florida law. Chapter 1,612 defines both of those specific terms, those terms are memorialized in their agreement with the Broward Sheriff's Office that was entered into last year and they intend to reaffirm their commitment to satisfy that particular condition. They also, and this was not part of the Magistrate process, but they have also reaffirmed their commitment to provide a detail officer during peak hours to address the traffic issues which was part of the 2012 amendments to the condition. That person will be a separate officer, not the same person who's serving as a SRD School Resource Deputy, or a School Resource Officer or a school safety officer, and the term, school resource deputy and officer, are

interchangeable because the Broward Sheriff's Office doesn't have officers, they have deputies and those two terms are generally interchangeable. The third condition which they also agreed to, and I'd like to be able to discuss this further with them, is we know that the City, I should say BSO, at the City's expense, has been providing a School Resource Officer at that school. I'm inaudible of their obligation to provide and fund, but the City's been incurring that expense and we'd like to go back and suggest that going back to the date of violation, which was October 15 through the date that they take on that expense, that their willingness to essentially reimburse the City for the cost incurred. Assuming that the Commission either by motion or by consensus would support those three terms, we'd like to resend those terms to the school and subsequently present them to the magistrate for ratification, which would then resolve then the special magistrate code enforcement issue on that particular narrow point, so I present that for your consideration.

Mayor Ross: I appreciate that. Jeff are you shaking your head? Then you got unanimous.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: So just for the record, if it will show it was unanimous consent to go ahead and offer those terms.

Mayor Ross: Absolutely.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: And we would have to again keep in mind that it must be presented to the Magistrate for ratification and we will memorialize those terms in writing with council for the respondent. The other issue if I may just bring up, at the last Commission meeting, which was alluded to earlier, there was some discussion regarding the status of the school's conditional use on a more global scale. We had some initial concerns as to the nature of those discussions and respectively I'd ask the Commission to defer that item from the next hearing if the Commission will be so inclined. This way, we can resolve with the Special Magistrate process and the school expressed an interest in opening up a dialogue with the City to try to resolve any broader global issues that may currently exist. While they may not be in violation of the conditional use per say, to the extent that there are other issues the school has expressed their willingness to reach out to the City, to the City's professional staff, and try to work to resolve whatever issues may remain outstanding. So again, I ask for your consensus on that point as well.

Mayor Ross: Jamie, you okay with that?

Commissioner Curran: I'm awesome.

Mayor Ross: Max.

Background: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Again it shows unanimous.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Thank you all for the support and I appreciate it Mayor.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Nothing further? Then we have Commissioner Concerns. Commissioner Pulcini. Excuse me, I have someone from the public who wishes to speak. I'm sorry, go ahead Jennifer.

Jennifer Goldfarb: 11869 SW 55 St. I just have two questions. Number one, I know Chris is leaving and I love Chris and I told you we're going to miss you enormously, but I wanted to know, are we hiring another Recreation person what is, are we listing that job opening or what is the plan?

Mayor Ross: Marie.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: If I may Mayor.

Mayor Ross: Please.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Currently we do have Recreation on a temporary basis being led by Denise Yoezle. We are planning on recruiting for the position in maybe a couple of weeks before we go through that process, but we do intend to fill the position.

Jennifer Goldfarb: Okay so that's temporary and then...?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes, it is temporary.

Jennifer Goldfarb: And when are we going to start listing the City Manager position?

Mayor Ross: It was listed on the website.

Background: We are waiting on inaudible the recruiting inaudible.

Mayor Ross: And ultimately and to answer that, it's already been listed on the website, but the recruiting firms are still being compiled.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: I believe so.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Yes, I will be bringing back recruiting firms at the February meeting.

Mayor Ross: Okay.

Jennifer Goldfarb: Okay that was it, Thank you.

12. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS/REPORTS

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Commissioner Concerns. Commissioner Max Pulcini.

Commissioner Pulcini: Do I do one at a time or...?

Mayor Ross: Whatever you want.

Background: Inaudible on for 5 minutes

Commissioner Pulcini: Just rattle on, okay. First, the building department, when do we foresee completion and are we on budget? Any surprises?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: We are on budget, no surprises.

Background: Surprise.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: That's the surprise, things are moving along well, we're looking good, is that all you needed to know?

Commissioner Pulcini: And the completion date, approximate month.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Approximately February 28.

Commissioner Pulcini: Oh that's exact.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Or very early March.

Commissioner Pulcini: Perfect, thanks.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: You're welcome.

Commissioner Pulcini: I don't know when we want to discuss it, but when do we want to discuss hiring or changing the attorney from Interim to regular City Attorney? I couldn't be happier I think it's inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Anytime you want to put it on the agenda, you can.

Commissioner Pulcini: Can we put it on?

Commissioner Curran: No, go ahead I'll wait.

Commissioner Pulcini: Can we put it on the agenda for the next meeting?

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: That is the inaudible of the Commission.

Commissioner Curran: We can do it right now?

Commissioner Pulcini: Can we do it now?

Mayor Ross: You could, there's nothing to prevent you.

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Pulcini: But we don't have a contract though...

Mayor Ross: You have an Interim contract.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may just...

Mayor Ross: Sure.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Candidly, and I certainly appreciate the Commissioners comments and the support, to the extent that the Commission asked us for an agreement on a permanent basis, it would be identical to the one previously submitted with one word stricken.

Mayor Ross: Right.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: The terms would be no different.

Commissioner Pulcini: I would rather have a not by the hour, but on flat fee, so we don't get charged

every time we speak to him.

Mayor Ross: I think.

Commissioner Pulcini: I know they do that with other Cities, where you charge a flat yearly fee, and you provide the work for the City and we can call you as many times as we want.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: May I respond?

Mayor Ross: Please.

Background: Inaudible.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Let me first say, irrespective of whatever pricing structure the Commission wanted, you could always call us whenever you want, so let me make that very clear. We do in fact have several cities that we represent on a retainer basis, cities that we've represented for quite some number of years, but it is not a flat retainer. In certain cities, we have a retainer for certain general matters work and then we have the a la carte services for a variety of other legal matters. We have a number of cities that we bill on an hourly basis, much like the proposal that we offered to Cooper City, which is not uncommon. We believe that it is competitive and fair with the market. We have some cities that we will bill on an hourly basis to a cap, we're happy to work with whatever pricing structure you would like and we are always happy to revisit that in six months or some point down the road if whatever structure the Commission agrees to and we agree is not working at any particular time.

Commissioner Pulcini: I make the motion then to change the firm of Goren.-what's the firm -help inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Well, you don't want to change the firm.

Commissioner Pulcini: Well, no.

Mayor Ross: You want to change the title from interim to permanent.

Commissioner Pulcini: Change it from Interim to permanent.

Commissioner Curran: Second it.

Mayor Ross: We have a second. Any further discussion, Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross. I'm going to say for the record, and I said this back in November, on November 20, while I know that pursuant to the Charter that we are certainly within our rights to make this decision, I'm going to stand with my convictions in that, and I stated this at the last Commission meeting, that if we're going to do this, that we need to put out an RFP to give other firms an opportunity to compete for this position. I'm going to also say what I have said publicly before, I have no issues with the Goren, Cherof firm, they're a phenomenal firm, I appreciate Mr. Horowitz being here, he's fantastic. That is not my issue, my issue, and I'm going to remain confirm in my conviction is we should go out for an RFP and I said that on the record at the last Commission meeting. I do believe that this Commission was told that an RFP was going to be put forth to the Commission, or that an RFP

was going to go out, so I wanted to know, where? Was I the only one that heard that? Has an RFP gone out to obtain legal services?

Background: Marie, staff.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Mayor if I may, we are putting the final touches on that RFP. The staff person that is leading that particular item was out sick with the flu for a couple of days, so we were a couple days behind, however, we're putting the finishing touches on that. We anticipate actually sharing that or putting the RFP out on the street this week; however, if the Commission should change direction we would not put that RFP out.

Commissioner Green: Okay thank you. I wanted to say that, again publically, this Commission can make any decision that it wants to, but I know that members of the Commission wanted to make sure that we are being, that every process that we have going forward, that it's transparent and that every person has an opportunity or the residents have an opportunity to come in and weigh in on that. That's been just an inaudible of what's been stated here the last several months in Cooper City. And so I know that members of our City have said that this Commission or the former Commission doesn't listen to the residents, they talked about the lack of transparency, the residents not knowing what's going on, and that's my only objection to the motion being put forth now. This Commission can make that decision, but won't be able to say to the residents that are here and the residents that are watching out in our community that this was made, this position, the City legal services for the City, was put out and other firms had an opportunity to compete for the job. I have nothing further. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Howard.

Commissioner Meltzer: What's the motion that's on the table already?

Mayor Ross: The motion to change Goren Cherof from interim to permanent.

Commissioner Meltzer: My question is, and Jacob you explained another pricing structure, retainer and then an la carte services, if that's something that the Commission would like to explore further, I would certainly support that. Maybe what we do is we make a motion to get those numbers from the firm, look at it at the next Commission meeting, and then go ahead.

Mayor Ross: You don't need a motion for that.

Commissioner Meltzer: Okay well can I ask for direction, may we get a pricing structure? I guess you can talk to Marie and inaudible a retainer for general services and then the a la carte menu as you described.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Does the City Manager have something to add?

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: No, I just wanted to say, I stand ready to accept whatever proposal the City Attorney's office presents. If you would like to give a second proposal for the City Commission consideration, I stand ready to accept it.

Commissioner Meltzer: I would just like to hear what everybody else has to say.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Max, you spoke already.

Commissioner Pulcini: I spoke already. Jamie?

Commission Curran: You know what my problem, inaudible, here it is. One employee is out sick and the Resolution doesn't get done to send out the bid. My problem is this. Maybe the best law firm walking and we have them. But Commissioner Green is totally correct in his statement that he said we want to be transparent let's put it out to bid. We have an Interim City Manager that we asked 45 days ago, when you guys all took the seats up here, we all sat up here, we had a 45-day plan that we're going to come together in 45 days and we're going to put the City Manager's job out. 45 days. That ended January 18, where's the plan? Anybody seen it? No. We have a director leaving; we have Denise, which is awesome, thank you for stepping in, in case Chris changes her mind on her way to work. Inaudible. No plan. We have no plan. Budget workshop next week and what are we missing? The plan. What's wrong with this picture up here guys? The plan. Would I permanently, what have I said since day one? You have a Finance Director that is phenomenal in Finance working as City Manager, trying to do both jobs. Do you not see the cracks starting to get wider and wider and wider? If this is the intent that we're going to take one person, we're going to split her into two positions, and we're going to save twelve dollars at the end of this fight, we're going to lose a whole lot more, a whole lot more. We just had the discussion earlier today about the Magistrate. The same exact thing when you think when you think about it. Three rotating, one not in the City, have an automatic wheel where they just roll, that's smart, it makes sense I wouldn't want to be the alternate either. I think Brad has been the magistrate maybe three or four times. I wouldn't want it either. And I kind of agree with the fact that maybe they shouldn't live in the City, it shouldn't be your neighbor, you shouldn't be able to drive to the judge's house and talk to him. And the judge better not ever call me, so whatever Scott Kleiman has called anybody on this Commission, I am not one of them, he has never called me in regards to a case.

Commissioner Pulcini: What do you suggest?

Commissioner Curran: What do I suggest? I suggest that we do go ahead and I don't understand why an RFP can't be put out this week. I don't understand why it can't go now. I don't understand why we don't have the three firms for a City Manager yet, or we have them we're just not ready to show them. I'm getting blown away and when we get to Commissioners Concerns, it's going to get worse.

Commissioner Pulcini: Well we have them we had them.

Commissioner Curran: Have you seen them?

Commissioner Pulcini: We had them two months, last month.

Commissioner Curran: Have you seen them, have you seen them?

Background: Inaudible.

Commissioner Curran: Has anybody seen them?

Commissioner Pulcini: We had them last month and inaudible.

Commissioner Curran: Talk to me.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Sure. I did bring three firms to the Commission two months ago now, and was directed to find firms in the tri-county area and was given till the meeting in February to bring those back to you. That's the path that we're on right now, unfortunately, I cannot find any executive search firms for City Managers in the tri-county area, so what I plan to bring back to you are the firms that have done the most business in the tri-county area. That may not be in the tri-county area, but have done the most business in this area and that's what I'll bring back to you.

Commissioner Curran: But you have them?

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: I have three right now, yes. That you have already seen.

Commissioner Curran: Okay.

Commissioner Pulcini: Those are the same ones that were in the backup.

Mayor Ross: Max we're still on your concerns.

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes, I forgot. Oh, my concern was the Attorney I think, and it digressed.

Mayor Ross: Because it turned into a motion.

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes, so what happened to the motion.

Mayor Ross: We haven't voted on it yet.

Commissioner Pulcini: We haven't voted on it, did we decide to postpone it to the next meeting?

Mayor Ross: Inaudible.

Commissioner Curran: It's yours, it's whatever you want to do.

Mayor Ross: I was discussing that all.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay, so I would like to change them into a permanent.

Mayor Ross: Okay so the motion stands.

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes, it stands.

Mayor Ross: I get that everyone spoke, I haven't. When you look at hiring an attorney, it is what I call, 'a personal service,' because you're getting the person consistently and if it's not him you're getting someone, no offense, even better if Sam Goren happens to step in.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: No, no, no he's not chopped liver. Okay. (Laughing).

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: I've been living in Sam's shadow for a long time Mayor. (Laughing).

Background: Breaking out.

Mayor Ross: And you're doing great okay, I can tell you that. So when you're looking to have an RFP, and I'm the one who always says let's get an RFP, I've told everyone sitting over there, 'let's get an RFP,'

then you look at getting an RFP for attorneys. Being in the business and being familiar with the City Attorneys, if you will, there aren't very many firms out there that can do what Sam Goren's firm can do, or what Weiss Serota did and are their others? Of course, there are others. I have my opinions as to whether they can do as good a job or not. I know that we are all very happy with Jacob Horowitz and the firm of Sam Goren and to boot we got him at a lower price than we did with Weiss Serota. So when you're asked to put out an RFP and on a personal service, this isn't putting asphalt on the street, that anyone can really do, this is a personal service, and that's who your hiring, so putting out an RFP, you're mixing apples to oranges, not a good deal because you're not going to get what you want. I think we are all based on everyone's statements happy with Jacob Horowitz and the firm of Sam Goren, so I don't have a problem in going forward, in particular because we are getting a better price now. Having said all that, Howard brings up a point where, 'hey wait a minute let's take a look at a different pricing scale,' if you will. I am familiar because I am an attorney and the contract you have now is a fair contract to both of us.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: I believe that it is Mayor.

Mayor Ross: And I do too. And having said that, I don't have a problem in going forward with it if you want to do it tonight, but candidly, it's important that the public get an opportunity because it hasn't been put on the agenda. So in trying to be fair and following a process, I don't have a problem with putting it on the next agenda so that there is a process. There is absolute transparency in that. Jim you may not agree, and I'm sorry but...

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: When I'm, no, no, no, do you want to come up to the podium? No, no, no come on up to the podium.

Background: Inaudible.

Jim Federici: But I'm sitting there listening this evening and going from the budget, how screwed up we are financially, and I know Jamie, you're shaking your head yes, and Jeff Green, and you Mayor. Part of the thing, you had this young lady here having, wearing two hats, so to speak, is because we have to make up for six months that we gave a gentleman, who really to be honest with you, screwed the City up. I mean we have a bunch of people back here that we sit here every time at a meeting and listen to all this B.S. going on, this maneuvering and this political posturing. I think it's sad, I think that we have a gentleman here, that's the first thing we said the other night, the first time he was here. Wow this guy is pretty good. No offense.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: Thank you sir, how much do I owe you? (Laughing).

Jim Federici: As for the professionalism, as for knowing the topics, the issues, the law, I don't get it. And you're trying to be a mediator and I think that's a problem, make a damn decision already.

Mayor Ross: Inaudible.

Jim Federici: You said that you want to do an RFP for what?

Mayor Ross: No, no, no I didn't say an RFP.

Jim Federici: What if another City that wants to take him and we lose them, I mean I don't get it, you know. And Scott Kleiman, when you go to the Magistrate, personally I'm not a big fan of his, I know what he did, but I can tell you, when I sat in a couple of his magistrate hearings, and the guy's good, and let me tell you, I'm not, you know, whatever, and that could be a political thing, let's face it, everybody has a political problem, a political axe to grind, you know. Jeff is not wrong to a certain degree, but sometimes Jeff, you have to excuse me, think outside the box yourself, you know. You try and be fair up there, I mean I heard you say something and I'm going to go off on something else, I'm going to go back to the thing in inaudible, when you made a statement for instance, yourself about that wall, you know if we put a wall up for one person, we got to do it for everybody, well you know how you guys screwed that one up. The wall was like 50 grand, Rock Creek was going to pay half of it, so it was 25 ,so what did we do, we go and we hire a traffic study, alright I guess it was Calvin Giordano, what do you know that's a surprise. So we're with Calvin Giordano, we eventually come up with something 35, 40 thousand dollars, so if you want to talk about being prudent and smart with money, you guys are dropping the ball. And you would have had a nice wall up there, now you have some kind of a guardrail, that's a damn joke. So my opinion is s*** or get off the pot, hire the man let's do it.

Mayor Ross: We'll delete that last statement.

Ryan Shrouder: You guys take forever to do everything and you claim transparency, hire the attorney, if you don't like him, you fire him the next meeting. RFP is to get pricing, so what is another law firm going to come give you the pricing. There's no such thing, so you simply hire him, and if you want to change it, you can change it anytime you want, if you don't want to change it, you're not locked in.

Commissioner Meltzer: May I make a suggestion?

Ryan Shrouder: Sure.

Commissioner Meltzer: I suggest we kill the RFP, I suggest we hire the Firm of Sam Goren Et al with the stipulation, with the stipulation, I want to ask this correction for Jacob, if we were to do that, can we talk subsequently about the price structure.

Background: Of course, yes.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: If I may Mayor, just to respond very briefly on a couple observations. The short answer to your question Commissioner is yes, and if it's 90 days, or six months, or some point down the road you want to revisit the status of the current contract as it stands, we would welcome that.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes, because that is the only concern I have. And it's not you know, look we're about saving money, Cooper City, the residents demand that and that's where the transparency comes in.

Interim City Attorney Horowitz: And if I may just offer one other comment, Mayor. A couple of things. One you're obviously my name and I certainly appreciate the confidence, and as I've said to some of you

privately, and I'll say again publicly, trust and confidence are things that are earned and we certainly welcome and appreciate that opportunity, but again whether it's Sam or myself, there's a whole law firm behind us. And we really are an outsourced legal department, I mean we're thirteen attorneys, and while I am sitting in this seat, we are a whole full service law firm and every one of my law partners and associates will be at the City's service.

Ryan Shrouder: And here's the thing, the City has lawsuit that an Interim City Attorney is not going file on, notice on, and take over if they're interim, I mean the hiring of a lawyer is so different than anything else because you can get rid of them any time you want. The agreement may be doing a portion of it as a retainer. Maybe that should be addressed in three or four months when they can see how much time you guys are actually taking and then you strike a balance, but if you don't like them, you just get rid of them the next day, it's not like a City Manager where you have to pay them out, but you guys take forever to do everything it's like just inaudible the federal government. This inaudible. They suspended Scott Israel and they had his name off everything in two hours. It's unbelievable. Here you guys take every meeting, and a meeting, and a meeting, it's ridiculous please just get some stuff done.

Commissioner Pulcini: Can we call the vote?

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Green: I just have one further thing to say and I'm finished after this. We sit up here and we talk about that and the comments are made about how it's taking us forever to do things, I get it. Granted it. Unfortunately, that's part of government and it should be more efficient, I agree, and we're going to get there, but the thing that you all are saying was not the thing that happened earlier in the meeting. Item 10-C with the sidewalks and the repairs. Mayor you asked a question of Mrs. Yoezle if we had put an RFP out or did we piggyback on a contract. Mrs. Yoezle said that we contracted we took the contract from Broward County and North Miami or Miami Beach, that they had already done all of the work. Mrs. Yoezle, I believe that you said that with a fine pencil they went over everything with those companies that were bidding for business at the County level, you also stated that with most of those firms, chances are that they would not bid on little jobs because it's not worth it for them to do so. You also said that there was a good opportunity, or a good chance, that if we put it out, they may not bid on it, that there's a good chance that if they come back they're going to cost us a lot more money. And this Commission by a three to two vote, voted to forget about that process that was already in place to go out and to put something to bid and now all of a sudden, now it's not good to put it out to bid. So here's the thing, it's different to you; it's not different to me. The principle regardless of if you agree with me or if you disagree with me, my principle is if you're going to do something a certain way that you be consistent. That's all I have to say.

Mayor Ross: Anyone else need to say anything before the vote is called.

Background: No.

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: No, no no, no, no I will never.

David Nall: 3620 NW 89th Way. I want to say something.

Mayor Ross: Go right ahead David.

David Nall: Mr. Green, do you remember the Waste Management contract?

Commissioner Green: I do.

David Nall: Did you vote on it?

Commissioner Green: I did.

David Nall: How did you vote?

Commissioner Green: I voted yes.

David Nall: Yes, you did.

Commissioner Green: I did.

David Nall: That was a no bid.

Commissioner Green: The bid had already gone out.

David Nall: I understand that.

Commissioner Green: The bid had already gone out.

David Nall: What I'm trying to say is, I understand where you're coming from, but there are differences.

Commissioner Green: There's four other people up here.

David Nall: I understand that, and you know what, inaudible had a good thing, you guys have all seen me doing this, the few meetings you guys keep punting stuff down the road, down the road, down the road. Coming from a resident, I sit here and I listened to David Wolpin for years. It is a pleasure to have fresh blood because I'm sitting back there and every time he speaks, he's articulate; you ask him a question, he answers it. He doesn't float around, he answers it knowledgably, it's refreshing so let's not kick the can down the road because this probably right now the way I see, it's two to two with a swing vote. Get it done.

Mayor Ross: Call the vote.

City Clerk Kathryn Sims: (Called roll)

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes.

Commissioner Green: No.

Commissioner Curran: Yes.

Mayor Ross: Yes.

MOTION: To change the interim city attorney to permanent. **Moved by Commissioner Pulcini. Seconded by Commissioner Curran. Commissioners Pulcini, Meltzer, Curran and Mayor Ross, Yes. Commissioner Green, No. Motion passed.**

Mayor Ross: Do you have other concerns Commissioner Pulcini?

Commissioner Pulcini: Yes, one more. Two meetings ago Kathryn, I had asked you for the email regarding Franklin.

Kathryn Sims: Yes.

Commissioner Pulcini: And you said you sent it to Marie.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: Yes, I believe Marie has responded to you.

Commissioner Pulcini: I still don't have that email, if you can please send me that email.

City Clerk, Kathryn Sims: I believe that it has been sent to you through Marie.

Commissioner Pulcini: I need inaudible that email.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Commissioner, you will get that email and my apologies if you have not received that email.

Commissioner Pulcini: Okay, alright.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes, just a few things, a lot of my thunder was already stolen. I want to thank Chris Garcia. First, I want to thank you for your three years of service here. You've taken the Rec department; you've elevated it to a new level. I'm going to miss you; I know we're all going to miss you. We wish you only the best in your future endeavor up in Parkland, our loss is their gain. I also want to thank the Rec department for Eat to the Beat Friday night, terrific event, I love the fact that it's in January, the weather cooperated, it was nice and cool out, it didn't rain. Great music, great food, everybody seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and I thank you for that. And I also want to thank you for the Senior Lifestyle Expo. Our fifth Senior Lifestyle Expo, I believe it's your third, and at least 500 residents came through and that's terrific and I look forward to greater things next year, maybe we'll get some more vendors in there. My goal ultimately is to outgrow that cafeteria and have to move this thing to Joe Robby stadium, so thanks for everything and I look forward to seeing to seeing you soon. The other thing I wanted to bring up, as we all know with federal government shutdown, a lot of our residents are on furlough, including the gentleman to the left of me here.

Commissioner Green: I'm still working though.

Commission Meltzer: He's still working just not collecting a paycheck.

Mayor Ross: Inaudible.

Commissioner Meltzer: I'd like to see if there's something we can do to just help our residents that are in a little crisis right now by not receiving a pay check, maybe with utility bills, maybe on the magistrate level with fines and administrative fees. I'd like to put that up for discussion on the next agenda if we could Marie.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes, sir, and I do believe was it two Fridays ago that we did communicate that we have something in place in terms of utility bills, but we can look at other services.

Commissioner Meltzer: Yes, yes I would like to, and I think the sooner the better because now we have three weeks until the next meeting, actually it's four weeks until the next meeting and you know, if this thing continues on, a lot people may be in dire straits by then okay so I'd like to do that. Thank you. That's all I have. Everybody have a good night.

Mayor Ross: Commissioner Green.

Commissioner Green: Thank you Mayor Ross and I want to echo what Commissioner Meltzer said about Mrs. Garcia, thank you so much for your dedicated service to our residents. The past years you have been family, we're going to miss you, and you can always come back home, but thank you so much and thank you for the wonderful team that you assembled they are absolutely phenomenal. I believe that they are going to continue to provide that quality service that they have been doing under your leadership and we are going, I'm going to miss you, but your just a stones' throw away from us. And also to your folks, to Denise, to your folks, Police, and Fire for your participation at the Eat to the Beat, it went off without a hitch. It was very well received and our residents thank you so much for what you all have done and then thank you to Commissioner Meltzer again for the senior expo, I think you did a phenomenal job.

Commissioner Meltzer: I didn't do anything.

Commissioner Green: You did, it was them, but you were there working and we also had some, I want to say thank you to Jim because Jim was driving the cart, driving folks there. So we do appreciate all that you all do on behalf of this City. Let me just say for the record, I have paid my utility bill, so I don't want anybody to think that I've asked the City to do anything for me on my behalf. Finally, I'd just like to welcome Mr. Jacob Horowitz here on a permanent basis, thank you so much.

City Attorney Horowitz: Thank you.

Commissioner Green: Your firm is absolutely phenomenal and I'm grateful that you're here. That's all I have. God bless.

Mayor Ross: Thank you, Commissioner Curran.

Commissioner Curran: I have a few. First, I would like to ask the Commission to ask Mrs. Garcia if it's possible for her to come back and join us for our workshop on our budget. Because we all know that she's put in all the time as far with her staff and her knowledge. I know that she has Denise filling in for her and I know it's just an ask, but I believe she can bring a vast amount of knowledge to the items and things that she can cut from her program more so than Denise can. If a question is asked, I would love to be able to ask the person that's been sitting in that chair for three and a half years. She could look at us right now and say no, but I would love to ask her if it's possible if she would join us for that workshop, Danny you get to inaudible, go get the car started brother. For that purpose, is the first question I have.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: If I may ad, she can answer, but she has already graciously offered to come.

Commissioner Curran: It's the least she could, it the least she can do.

Interim City Manager, Marie Elianor: Yes, you can ask her, but she had already offered to attend the workshop. Thank you Chris.

Commissioner Curran: Thank you, alright here we go. At the last Commission meeting, I asked for support to put the City Manager's job on the website. Did I know that it meant just the website and not our social media page and not the League of Cities, all free avenues? It's almost like we're hiding the fact, and with all due respect to Mr. Federici, to you, you made a comment that I was waiting to hear and that was we're paying for a last, for a City Manager who is no longer with us. It's not the reason why we don't hire another one, I'm going to say it right now for one simple reason, your money ahead, we can all agree we're money ahead right now. Your two and a half, three months into this, we're into February, we owe him March and April 2, he's done. It takes two to three months to hire a City Manager, I am blown away, I cannot even tell you guys how blown away I am and it's not against Marie. It is against what we're loading her plate with, we're going to financial budget workshops, we're asking her for questions, we're asking for documents that have to do with finance, but she's busy being the City Manager. She's dropping the ball here, then she drops the ball there, and she's not dropping it on purpose, she's not dropping it because it's ten hours a day that she's putting in here, she's dropping it because she's juggling to many jobs at one time. She holds the two highest positions in this City, and while it may be great for a couple of you guys up here that's she's working, no, no, what I'm saying is being able to juggle both and be able to do both, it's not working out. If you have not noticed, it's not working out, and I don't know what the fear is of putting it out on the website, the Facebook page, the League of Cities, everywhere that was free. I left here the other night honestly believing that when we said the website it meant all free advertisement that we have a job opening, that's what I meant. Then I come to find out because I asked Kathryn the next day and she said, 'no sir it is going on Cooper City's webpage only.' And I'm like no. And she said, 'yes Commissioner and if you want it, you want to wait until the next Commission meeting and then you're going to ask your fellow colleagues for direction to add it to all the free sites.' So we lost two weeks, two weeks we lost, and here's the biggest problem that I have with this guys, the biggest. Do we have a City Manager's job or not? If we do, can we tell everybody for free? And at what point are we going to pull the trigger and put it on the next agenda to look at the three or the agenda next, I don't care, put it on the agenda. Bring those three companies forward and let's start the hunt. I am dumbfounded that we would sit up here tonight and approve a pyramid, build a scheme, build a better team for 15,000 dollars, but we won't pay 16,000 to go find a City Manager that can come in, you hire, you go with this program, now you spend 15, 16 thousand dollars they teach us how to build a pyramid. We hire a City Manager that comes in and does it a totally different way, we just blew 16,000 dollars on a pyramid that he's not going to use, but we won't spend 15,000 to hire a City Manager. Somebody please tell me what's going on, please. Thank you.

Mayor Ross: Thank you. Jamie, you said the same difficulty that Jeff did the other time when he didn't follow if you will, what's written out. What's true is true, so here I'm supposed to be clairvoyant as is your City Clerk and well I meant to say that it should be on all the websites meaning, Facebook, etcetera, when in fact, when you go back and take a look, not once did you ever mention that it was only the website.

Commissioner Curran: Okay just so you know, every job we advertise in this City goes on Facebook.

Mayor Ross: I'm not, so there may have been a reason why you only wanted the website. I don't know, I'm not here to read your mind. But am I opposed to that, I don't think you'll find anyone up here opposed to that. Jeff you opposed to it? Max you oppose? You see that, you see how simple that is.

Commissioner Curran: Two weeks to wait though.

Mayor Ross: Dude, next time figure it out like Jeff did. (Laughing). You see, he knows how to do it now. So blame no one, but yourself. It's a two-week delay that's what it is. Now having said that, Chris let me just say, DRW said it best tonight, we have got a great team and it starts at the top. I said it before I'll say it again, yes, you are always welcome, I'm thrilled you're coming back for a guest appearance, but you did bring it to another level and it's going to be very difficult for the next person because of what you have obtained. On behalf of the residents, thank you. I got two other things that I wanted to discuss, actually three. Jamie, I believe that the strategy is more important than a City Manager because we have an interim right now, because you heard it before and I'll say it again, fail to plan, then plan to fail, we need to have a plan, then you can go forward. Having said that, the building department was touched upon earlier today as to when it would be ready, but I guess my concerns are the ceiling is now open, am I correct?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Yes, that's correct.

Mayor Ross: What, has anyone looked at the duct and the repairs or the cleaning that's necessary for that? Or was it inaudible up at one point? What's the story with that?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: The air conditioning has not been operating in the building department since construction began. So it's not been sucking up any dust or debris so it's put back in place. It's in the ceiling and we can have a firm come in and clean that once all of the renovation is done, as we can do with any ductwork in any of our City buildings.

Mayor Ross: But the ceiling is open, wouldn't be quicker and easier way to do it now?

Commissioner Curran: Inaudible.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: No, it would not, because the method they use is simply removing the coils and you'll see the supply grills. In between, grills are in place and when any company comes in to do the ductwork, they remove those supply and inaudible grills. They put their equipment up in the duct work all the way back to the air inaudible equipment brush it, vacuum it out, etcetera so we're not losing anything by not doing it now.

Mayor Ross: Is there any infestation of any animals, bugs, anything along those lines in the building area?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Not that I'm aware of. There is one area back there, termites, back in the far corner that we had treated.

Mayor Ross: Spot treated. Correct?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Spot treated correct.

Mayor Ross: Has that worked?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: It's been retreated and at this time there is no evidence of live termites.

Mayor Ross: Has anyone looked elsewhere nearby to determine if we have termites elsewhere?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: When the company came out last I'm sure they did a thorough inspection because when they have to retreat they do it for free.

Mayor Ross: Well that would beg to be the question begs to be asked then how thorough of an investigation are they going to do.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Well let me ask you, has anyone reported to you that they have seen droppings?

Background: Yes, there.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: Where, where back there, we haven't seen them and we can absolutely get the company out here to inspect.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: No, no, no, you know me, I don't play that, I don't play that. No, no, no.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: I'm not aware of any, but help me if there are.

Mayor Ross: No, I'm trying to avoid what happened like last time and see, oh, we need a firewall going all the way up. I like to think ahead; I think to see if there are any problems. You don't see any right now?

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: No, we see no evidence of live termites right now.

Background: Inaudible.

Public Works Director, Denise Yoezle: If anybody has, please, I can meet you tomorrow and you can show me where.

Mayor Ross: I appreciate that. Thank you Denise and I appreciate you stepping in as well, it takes a lot more of your time and I appreciate that. No one had mentioned the welcome to your new home pamphlet book, I got to say I superficially looked it over had some questions. They were right in there and I appreciate the effort and I think it's a wonderful thing, I think distributing will be an issue as to how you'll distribute it, maybe it's just through the utility department, maybe its getting all the realtors involved out here, that's implementation, that's on you, but as far as the booklet goes I think it's great, so I thank you for that. If there comes a point Marie that you feel what Jamie has said to be true and accurate that it's way too much and you can't handle it. I think you know that you can come to the Commission and let us know.

Background: Inaudible.

Mayor Ross: Very funny, remind me about that the next time you get up to talk.

Background: Laughing.

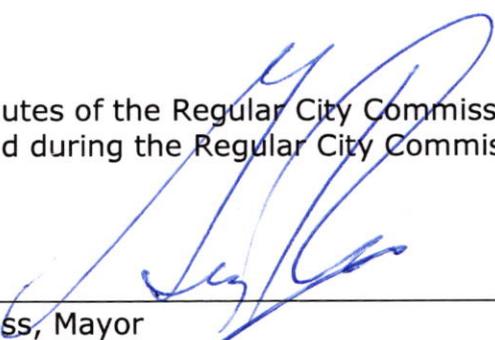
Mayor Ross: Having said that Thank you very much.

13. ADJOURNMENT

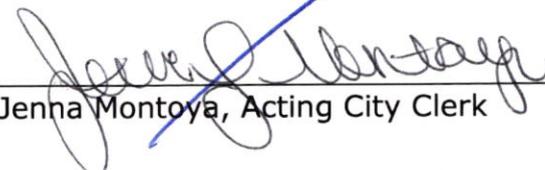
Background: Motion.

Mayor Ross: Motion to adjourn.

The minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting of January 22, 2019 were approved during the Regular City Commission Meeting of August 20, 2019.



Greg Ross, Mayor



Jenna Montoya, Acting City Clerk