



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **REGULAR MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

The following were present:

- Mayor Xavier M. Garcia
- Vice Mayor George V. Lob
- Councilwoman Jennifer Ator
- Councilman Bob Best
- Councilman Dan Espino

Also Present:

- City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
- Asst. City Mgr./Finance Director William Alonso
- City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
- Chief of Police Peter G. Baan
- Comptroller Alicia E. González
- City Planner James H. Holland
- City Clerk Magalí Valls
- Clerical Assistant Elora R. Sakal

2. Invocation: Councilwoman Ator offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: Students from the Springview Elementary School led the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Garcia presented baseball caps to the students who participated.

3. Awards & Presentations:

A) Proclamation – Mu Alpha Theta Math Club

Mayor Garcia presented a proclamation to the Miami Springs Senior High School Mu Alpha Theta Math Club for their outstanding achievements in local, state and national math competitions, having placed 10th in the State of Florida and 1st among all Miami-Dade County public and private schools at the State Convention.

Mayor Garcia presented a Proclamation of Recognition to Mu Alpha Theta Club sponsor Sam Koski for thirty-three years of dedication to his students and the mathematic program at Miami Springs Senior High School.

B) Proclamation of Recognition – Grace Bain

Mayor Garcia and the City Council presented a Proclamation of Recognition to Grace Bain for unselfishly serving the community through various volunteer activities and for countless hours of community service that contributes to the quality of life in Miami Springs.

Ms. Grace Bain said that she loves her community and she thanks God everyday that she lives in this safe, wonderful City and she volunteers because it is a team effort. She thanked her husband former Mayor Billy Bain and her children Jon, Nick and Holly for allowing her to spend the hours volunteering because it is very gratifying to give back to the community. She would like to share the award with all volunteers who might not be recognized and thanked everyone.

Mayor Garcia recognized former Mayor Billy Bain and Virginia Gardens Council member Jorge Arce who were in the audience.

C) Certificates of Achievement to All Angels Academy Students who Participated in the 32nd Annual Florida History Fair

Mayor Garcia asked All Angels teacher and sponsor Terry Alexander to come forward to explain what the students had achieved.

Ms. Alexander stated that the students participated in the 32nd Annual Florida History Fair that is sponsored by the Florida History Museum and it is an affiliate of the National History Day Program. This year's theme was "Revolution, Reaction and Reform" and the students created a topic to fit that theme, with nine different categories to choose from. All Angels Academy was the only school that participated from Miami-Dade County this year and out of 1,050 students participating at the state level competition, All Angels had two entries that made it to the finals and one entry that placed first in the State of Florida.

Ms. Alexander announced that students will travel to the University of Maryland from June 10th to June 14th to compete in the National Competition. She mentioned that in addition to much research, the students must interview people who were there at the time of the event. The girls had the privilege of interviewing a lady from the All American Woman's Baseball League who is present this evening.

Mayor Garcia presented Certificates of Achievement to the fourteen students from All Angels Academy who participated in the 32nd Annual Florida History Fair. He also presented a Certificate of Recognition to teacher/sponsor Terry Alexander.

D) Presentation from All Angels Academy Students Regarding "When We Were Men" – Carolyn Bernal, Amanda Gard, Dakkea Jester, Jackie Mesa

Students Carolyn Bernal, Amanda Gard, Dakkea Jester and Jackie Mesa performed their Florida History Fair winning presentation "When We Were Men" about the impact of the changes in women's social roles during the World War II era, acting out the roles of a housewife, air force pilot, steel worker and an All American Woman's Baseball League player. They showed how women gained their rights over the years and today more than 70% of women work outside of the home.

The students explained that traveling to the National Competition in Maryland will be costly and they understand that that the City's budget does not include funds to support their trip. They asked Council to spread the word to local businesses to see if they can assist in raising funds.

E) Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" to the City

Mayor Garcia presented the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Government Finance Officers Association "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" to Controller Alicia Gonzalez.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that she is honored to accept the plaque; however, she cannot take 100% credit because William Alonso is a great Finance Director and the Department has a great Staff that helped make it possible.

City Manager Gorland added that the City had received the award ever since Alicia Gonzalez was the Controller and Mr. Alonso was the Finance Director. He said that the award is important to the City and it is really appreciated.

Mayor Garcia stated that Councilman Espino requested the floor in order to read a statement and he granted him that privilege.

Councilman Espino stated that he officially announced and kicked-off his campaign for the School Board and in order to duly qualify, the State of Florida requires that he resign his post. He presented the City, through the City Clerk, and to his colleagues a letter that he read into the record.

“Dear Ms. Valls,

With a goal of further working for the community in my heart, I respectfully ask you to please allow this letter to serve as my formal notice to the City of Miami Springs that, effective May 16, 2012, I resign from the Miami Springs City Council pursuant to Florida Statutes Section 99.012, so that I may duly qualify and appropriately run for the District 5 seat of the Miami-Dade County School Board.

For more than three years, it has been my incredible privilege to serve the residents of Miami Springs on the City Council. It has allowed me the great opportunity to give back to the City that has offered my family and me so much over the course of my life and to immerse myself further than I ever thought possible in the community that I love. I cannot thank the residents of Miami Springs enough for the amazing confidence they twice had in me, as well as for the extraordinary support they are showing me now as I run for the School Board.

I regret that Florida Law requires me to resign from my post on the Council in order to run for the School Board because I consider the Office of the City Council to be a great honor and a sacred charge that my neighbors, family and friends have bestowed on me. I have upheld their confidence by working uncompromisingly hard to enhance the quality of life in Miami Springs on a host of issues from the budget to City operations, from economic development to recreation and from strategic planning to community culture. It has been an incredible experience to work towards and see the opening of our Community Center and Curtiss Mansion, the renovation of our Senior Center and the improvement of our parks and walkways all over the City. Not all issues were of the same weight, but all were greatly important, and looking back, I can certainly say that the journey that began in my early 20's by serving on City boards and escalated in 2009 with my election to the Council is one that I will never forget; one that has made me a better citizen and a better neighbor.

I feel called to do so much more for this community. So I consider having to step-down a temporary sacrifice that, God willing, will yield the opportunity for me to further serve in a brand new way. I will miss working from the Council to solve City issues and to improve our community, but, if District 5 will have me, I will look to improve the future of all Miami-Dade County by tackling the pressing issues in education, which I consider the foundation of all communities.

I thank my friends and family for being my foundation during campaigns and while in office. I thank my colleagues, Mayors Billy Bain and Xavier Garcia, Councilwoman Jennifer Ator and Councilmen Bob Best and George Lob, for their dedication to Miami Springs, for the leadership and professionalism they have always exhibited on and off the dais and for the collaboration that has led to the moving forward of our community. To our City Clerk, Magali Valls, City Attorney Jan Seiden and City Manager Ron Gorland, I too thank you for your professionalism, assistance in the job that I have had to do and your commitment to Miami Springs. And lastly, to the residents of Miami Springs, thank you for your vote, your ideas and opinions and the support with which you have blessed me. You have kept me anchored in my mission and energized in the face of challenges. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Though I may be stepping down, I will always be at the service of Miami Springs, not only because I have served and hopefully will continue to serve in elected office, but also because I am one of its sons, and I will be there for it as it has been there for me. I pray God continues to bless the residents of Miami Springs and everyone across our community, State and Nation who work to make tomorrow just a little bit better than yesterday for us all.”

Councilman Espino stated that many people in the room that not only made serving on the City Council an incredible experience, but made it possible because as anyone serving on Council will say, there is nothing they can do alone and there are a lot of things that require the motivation, the support and the enthusiasm of the community to accomplish. Whether it was for items that did or did not pass, allocations of funding that were made or not made, solutions that were discovered or that took long to come across, he thanks the community of Miami Springs. He may be stepping down and running for higher office, but he is certainly not going anywhere. He is sure that his colleagues will be hearing his opinions on issues from time to time and he will not be bound by Florida Law not to speak to them.

Councilman Espino thanked everyone for their support over the past several years. He looks forward making everyone proud during his campaign and he hopefully looks forward to representing all of them on the School Board.

4. Open Forum:

Bullying Prevention Initiative

Kim Werner of 1016 Meadowlark Avenue reminded everyone that on Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rebeca Sosa Theatre at the Community Center there will be a Community Bullying Prevention event for everyone to come together and find a solution.

Handicap Ramp Access

Carl Malek of 333 Corydon Drive, Apartment 5, noticed that in the crosswalk in front of the Stadnik Pharmacy and Starbucks there is an ADA ramp on either side for wheelchairs, but many times over the past several months he has seen cars parked on the crosswalk and blocking access to the ramp.

Mr. Malek said that on three occasions, he noticed that the cars were Miami-Dade County Police Cars, and he would suggest placing some type of posts or a curb so people do not park there.

Education Advisory Board

Education Advisory Board Chairman Robert Gordon of 89 Corydon Drive announced that the Board will hold its last meeting for the school year. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support that has culminated in the I-Tech Academy at Miami Springs Senior High School, which is the first gaming and programming academy in the District. Gaming, from a mathematical basis, is extremely important and combined with programming it is incredible. He said that the academy builds on the power of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Club at the High School and takes it all the way down to the elementary school level.

Mr. Gordon invited everyone to attend the Education Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. District Representatives will be in attendance who will speak about their hopes and dreams for the Miami Springs Schools and hopefully the community will continue to support their goals and lead them in their direction.

Mayor Garcia commented that his son expressed an interest in the I-Tech program and the word about the program has spread so much that it is being talked about in the private schools and at the elementary school level. He congratulated the High School Principal for implementing the program.

5. Approval of Council Minutes:

5A) 04-23-2012 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the April 23, 2012 were approved as written.

Councilman Best moved the item. Vice Mayor Lob seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

6A) 04-19-2012 – Historic Preservation Board – Minutes

Minutes of the April 19, 2012 Historic Preservation Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6B) 04-24-2012 – Ecology Board – Minutes

Minutes of the April 24, 2012 Ecology Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6C) 04-26-2012 – Code Review Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the April 26, 2012 Code Review Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6D) 05-01-2012 – Code Enforcement Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the May 1, 2012 Code Enforcement Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6E) 05-02-2012 – Architectural Review Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the May 2, 2012 Architectural Review Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6F) 05-07-2012 – Zoning and Planning Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the May 7, 2012 Zoning and Planning Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6G) 05-08-2012 – Recreation Commission – Minutes

Minutes of the May 8, 2012 Recreation Commission meeting were received for information without comment.

6H) 05-09-2012 – Golf and Country Club Advisory Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the May 9, 2012 Golf and Country Club Advisory Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6I) 05-07-2012 – Board of Adjustment – Approval of Actions Taken at their Meeting of May 7, 2012, Subject to the 10-day Appeal Period

Actions taken by the Board of Adjustment at their meeting of May 7, 2012 were approved subject to the 10-day appeal period.

Councilman Espino moved the item. Councilwoman Ator seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

City Attorney Seiden informed Council that one case involving the placement of a boat in the side yard was appealed and the Board of Appeals Meeting could be scheduled for the next Council meeting.

By consensus, Council scheduled a Board of Appeals Meeting for Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

7. Public Hearings:

7A) Ordinance No. 1034-2012 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Amending Code of Ordinance Section 150-011, Utility Shed, by Defining and Providing Regulations Governing the Location, Size and Maintenance of Portable Storage Modules; Providing an Exception to Regulation for Storage Containers; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Effective Date (First Reading: 4-23-2012 – Advertised: 04-26-2012)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the second reading and public hearing. Section B (2) was revised to eliminate the requirement for the hold harmless and indemnification agreement and language was inserted that warns that module units are required to be dismantled prior to serious storm activity that could cause the units to be broken or picked up by high winds and cause damage to other neighboring properties.

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak. There were no speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Lob moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1034-2012 on second reading. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

7B) Second Reading – Ordinance No. 1035-2012 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Amending Code of Ordinance Section 150-164, Northwest 36TH Street, by clarifying and Expanding the Principal Permitted Uses and Corresponding Qualifying Conditions; Correcting the Minimum Floor Area Ratio; Clarifying the Height Limitations of Structures; Revising the Required Materials for Construction of Pedestrian Walkways and Bike Paths; Establishing Applicability of Code Section 93-10 for Dumpster Enclosures; Clarifying Landscaping Requirements; Expanding the Defined Height of Parking Lot Lighting Fixtures; Expanding Prohibited Amenity Advertising; Providing a Substitute Exemption Provision from the Applicability of the District Boundary Regulations; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Effective Date (First Reading: 4-23-2012 – Advertised: 04-26-2012)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the second reading and public hearing and there have been no changes since the first reading. The purpose of the amendment is to make the ordinance easier to implement. He called attention to the addition of a use for the specific building on South Royal Poinciana Boulevard.

Mayor Garcia opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak. There were no speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Best moved to adopt the ordinance 1035-2012 on second reading. Vice Mayor Lob seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

8. Consent Agenda: (All items approved with one motion)

8A) Approval of the City Attorney's Invoice for April 2012 in the Amount of \$12,467.25

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Councilwoman Ator moved the consent agenda. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

8B) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure to Variety Army Surplus, LLC, the Lowest Responsible Quoter, in the Amount of \$9,556.90 for Holsters, Flashlights and Tactical Slings, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (C) (2) of the City Code, to be Paid with Law Enforcement Trust Funds

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Councilwoman Ator moved the consent agenda. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

8C) Recommendation that Council Approve Expenditures to CDW-G Computer Centers, Inc., the Lowest Responsible Quoter, in the Amount of \$1,300.32, for Attachmate V9.2 Licenses for Computer and Operating System Upgrades, and \$810.00 to Server Supply for 3 LAN Server Hard Drives, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (C) (2) of the City Code, to be Paid with Law Enforcement Trust Funds

Recommendation that Council Approve Expenditures of \$4,720.00 to MTS Software Solutions to Increase Fortis SE Licensing and Upgrades, and \$156.55 to AllProSoftware.com for StatTrack Software Upgrades, as Sole Source Providers, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (E) (6) (c) of the City Code, to be Paid with Law Enforcement Trust Funds

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Councilwoman Ator moved the consent agenda. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

8D) Radar Trailer Donation to the Hialeah Gardens Police Department

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Councilwoman Ator moved the consent agenda. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

9. Old Business:

9A) Appointments to Advisory Boards by the Mayor and Council Members

Councilman Best (Group I) **appointed** Michael G. Hunter to the Education Advisory Board for an unexpired term ending on May 31, 2013.

Vice Mayor Lob (Group III) **appointed** Alternate Bill Tallman to the Board of Adjustment/Zoning and Planning Board for an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2013.

City Attorney Seiden explained that it would be Councilwoman Ator's turn now to appoint an Alternate member to the board.

Mayor Garcia **confirmed the appointment** of Fred Suco to the Revitalization and Redevelopment Ad-Hoc Committee.

9B) Report on PBA Contract Negotiations – Magistrate’s Decision and City’s Response

Nery Owens of 332 Payne Drive expressed her concern about settling the contract because the Police Department is one of the key elements that make the City great.

Ms. Owens said that when there are labor disputes and the Police Officers are not paid the same as comparable cities, there is a chance that the City could lose them, and they are the core of the residents’ existence. She added that the contract had been going on for two years and it is time to settle. She thanked the Police for serving the residents.

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland stated that the Magistrate’s decision was received two weeks ago with the responses of both the P.B.A. and the City. The next step is to schedule a Special Meeting with the P.B.A. representative, the City representative and Council. He would like to schedule the meeting in the last week of May or the first week in June.

City Attorney Seiden added that it will be a Special Meeting that will strictly be a legal proceeding with no comments from the public; the public is invited to attend and the materials will be presented by the P.B.A. counsel and the City’s labor counsel.

City Manager Gorland advised Council that they may not participate in any discussions with anyone regarding the content of the Magistrate’s decision or possible responses to it.

To answer Councilwoman Ator’s question, City Attorney Seiden explained that the meeting is called a public hearing, the public is invited to attend and it would be advertised as a Special meeting and not a participatory meeting for the citizens.

10. New Business:

10A) Resolution No. 2012-3544 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Calling for the Holding of a Special Election for the City on Tuesday, August 14, 2012; Specifying the Purpose of the Special Election; Providing Authorizations and Directions to the City Clerk; Effective Date

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the resolution by title.

Attorney Seiden stated that this is the resolution that was prepared in advance in anticipation of the announcement made by Councilman Espino this evening. He explained that it calls for a Special Election on August 14th to coincide with the Charter election that was previously set by Council. The purpose is to fill Council seat Group II to replace Councilman Espino.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that the advertising period specified within the resolution will be met, as confirmed by Miami-Dade County Elections, and there will be a qualifying period from Tuesday, May 29th until noon on Friday, June 8th.

Vice Mayor Lob moved to adopt the Resolution No. 2012-3544. Councilman Best seconded the motion which was unanimously carried on roll call vote.

City Attorney Seiden stated that the City Charter requires that Council consider an interim appointment between the time of the resignation and the time of the election of the new party. He recommended scheduling an agenda item for the next meeting for Council to discuss the process of how the seat will be filled.

(Mayor Garcia called for a 5 minute recess at 8:17 p.m.)

10B) Presentation from Calvin Giordano & Associates, Inc.

- 1. Airport Golf District**
- 2. Wayfinding/Lighting Pilot Project**
- 3. Business Façade Program**

Lorraine Tappen, Senior Planner from Calvin Giordano and Associates stated that tonight's presentation will be an update from the last report in the fall and will be focusing on two work orders. The first work order is work order number two which is the Commercial Revitalization Aesthetic and Theme Package which discusses the wayfinding and lighting program and the business façade program. The second work order would be work order number seven which would discuss The Airport Golf District Boundary Regulations.

Douglas Taylor, P.E. commented that he would be discussing the wayfinding and signage work order and showing a PowerPoint. Mr. Taylor presented pictures of the approved color palette that was used on the wayfinding signage and the street lighting, an example of the Circle designed in Pueblo Mission style, the Miami Springs logo used on gateways signs and wayfinding signage examples.

Mr. Taylor explained that the signage meets the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) wind load and materials standards which are important for getting the approval from Miami-Dade. He said that the signs were made by Guideway, LLC and the lighting was reviewed by Beacon. The lighting consists of lantern style with LED lighting and was done by a distributor of Beacon called Lighting Dynamics.

Mr. Taylor noted that as a demonstration, five bollards will be replaced, some of the Florida Power and Light (FP&L) lighting poles will be replaced and some of the signs will be replaced on Curtiss Parkway and Deer Run. Calvin Giordano and Associates met with Joan Shen, Assistant Chief of Traffic Engineering Division, and she provided a letter describing what would have to be done to seek approval.

Mr. Taylor stated that the initial approval would be with the Florida Department of Transportation District Six for the structural capability of the sign; meeting the wind load standards and the durability of the materials. Once approved, it would be permitted through Miami-Dade County for the Manual and Uniform Traffic Control Device (MUTCD) standards which are distance from the edge of pavement, breakaway flanges, heights of the signs, and whether they are typical signs used for traffic.

Mr. Taylor commented that Calvin Giordano and Associates work with two suppliers; Lighting Dynamics will provide Beacon products such as the lighting, benches and waste receptacles and Guideway, LLC will provide signage. Guideway, LLC is present to answer any questions that Council may have. He noted that the presentation showed an installation cost which could be installed by the City workers or a local subcontractor who the suppliers have spoken with as well.

Mr. Taylor explained that the construction cost for the demonstration area is \$97,424, which included the installation cost, construction, a permit, restoration and utility adjustments.

To answer Councilman Espino's question, Mr. Taylor clarified that the total amount of \$97,424 is for the product and installation for the Deer Run and Curtiss Parkway area.

Councilman Espino asked if the addition of other intersections would cost roughly the same amount and Mr. Taylor replied that it would not necessarily be the same cost because each location has a different amount of signs.

City Manager Gorland explained that he was under the impression that the demonstration was going to be on Pinecrest and Curtiss Parkway. There was discussion of moving the demonstration closer towards Fair Havens.

Mr. Taylor assumed that the cost would remain the same if it were moved closer.

Councilman Espino commented that he recalled discussing the demonstration being on Deer Run and Curtiss and also near Morningside Drive because of the architectural symmetry with Fair Havens.

City Manager Gorland said that Council would be able to see how Fair Havens and the wayfinding and signage would look together and it would be more effective. There was no final determination on whether to add that location to the demonstration.

To answer Councilman Espino's question, Mr. Taylor explained that the lighting is roughly comparable and is probably equal to what the City would get for Cobra head lighting which is higher and standard. The City is renting the lights from FP&L and will be compensating them over time.

Richard Goldberg of Guideway, LLC commented that the pricing for the architectural signage is fairly comparable. The most important thing when something like this is done is to make sure that the theme, brand and identity can be incorporated first from an aesthetic standpoint to ensure that the signage is unique. He also ensures that the materials that are used and all of the requirements based on the breakaway and non-breakaway and foundation come into play so there are no issues with FDOT.

Mr. Goldberg said that from a standpoint of the sign systems that he has built for communities it has been fairly comparable. There are certain areas where the City could value engineer a little on the base caps and on the bollards depending on whether the City wants to use real stone as opposed to using a faux stone or a painted stone look.

Councilman Espino explained that the bollards that are currently along Curtiss Parkway tend to fade and parts of them break and begin to turn sideways. He asked what the level of maintenance and wear and tear would be for the new bollards.

Mr. Taylor stated that the maintenance on the sign system is very low. He described the type of aluminum that is used for the signage and said that it is powder coated, graffiti proof and UV resistant. The signage can be maintained by spray washing them approximately twice a year. He noted that there is a maintenance program that can be taught if the City wishes for someone in particular to maintain the signage.

Councilman Espino commented that if the City replaces any street signs or street names, the City will no longer receive any funding. He asked if that policy was still accurate in terms of any of the conversations the consultants have had with Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Taylor replied that the agreement was that it would be the City's responsibility to maintain the signage if it were to be replaced.

Councilman Espino mentioned that Doral's signage including the lamp posts, cross lights and street names are blue as opposed to the typical green. He asked if Doral decided to encumber the funds when they began developing the City or if they received a special dispensation from the County.

Mr. Taylor responded that Doral maintains their signage system.

Councilman Lob asked if there was a price break if the City decided to replace all signage and Mr. Taylor responded that a price deduction would be given to the City along with a base cap.

City Manager Gorland asked if Guideway, LLC was a sole source provider or if the City will have to change their procurement practices for accommodation.

Mr. Taylor replied that one of the discussions is if there is a possibility of a “piggy back” contract. Another question is if the City wants to buy the signage from Guideway, LLC and install them with the City’s personnel which would cut the cost. He noted that installation cost is approximately 33% or more of that cost.

Councilman Espino asked City Manager Gorland if the City has an existing contract in place with any current vendors and if their service could be expanded to include the installation and City Manager Gorland replied that he does not know the answer to that question but would assume that the answer would be no because it is custom work.

City Manager Gorland explained that the City’s procurement practices called for competitive bidding. He believed that the cost might be a peak price and assumed that Guideway, LLC would be willing to bid on the work.

Mr. Taylor advised City Manager Gorland that Guideway, LLC is the designer and the supplier. The customization of the sign program for a community is usually a sole source situation because there are very few people that do it and the beta sites should be done correctly the first time.

City Attorney Seiden agreed with Mr. Taylor in saying that for the experimental program, the City is being asked by the designer to abide by their choices. One of the issues is regarding the reuse of the molding for the bases and it being inexpensive if it were reused. He noted that it would be hard to do better in a bidding situation.

Ms. Tappen commented that Jeff Oris would be discussing the implementation of the façade program.

Jeff Oris of Calvin Giordano and Associates commented that the program is a way to enhance business façades within the community. One of the goals is to enhance property values by assisting property owners that are looking to enhance their buildings to meet the new design criteria that the City has had the foresight to adopt already.

Mr. Oris said that what is important is to enhance street visibility of some of the commercial properties. The program is designed to match private funds and a design has been made that recommends a one-for-one match. Applicants may choose from one of the sample façade elevations that promote the themes that have already been put forward.

Mr. Oris stated that Calvin Giordano is recommending that the City puts forward \$200,000 in the first year. The recommendation is three matching grants at \$50,000 in the N.W. 36th Street area because they are larger properties and facades, and five matching grants of \$10,000 for the Downtown area. He recommended that the City keep flexibility that the dollars be there and look to see which businesses are interested.

Mayor Garcia asked City Manager Gorland what the estimate was to do the façade for City Hall and City Manager Gorland replied that the estimate came from Calvin Giordano and Associates it was between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

Mayor Garcia asked what the City could expect for a property or business owner to do with \$50,000 a match which would total out to \$100,000 from the City and business owner. He said that it seems very minimal to entice someone to renovate the façade.

Mr. Oris explained that the scope of what the business owner is going to do would not be as in depth as what would be done with City Hall. The recommendation is also per bay, so there may be multiple bays in a building and suggested that Council should think smaller when it comes to the discussion on those buildings.

Mr. Oris said that there will be business owners who will get very involved in their own building and will make a substantial change that will be noticeable throughout the entire community. Sometimes the funds are not enough; however the City should not be funding a \$500,000 improvement to a building, but rather spreading it throughout the community to encourage people to move forward.

Mayor Garcia asked what the City can do with the funds that Calvin Giordano is recommending they set aside and Mr. Oris replied that what the City should try to do is focus on the small shops that are not reinvesting into the property.

Mr. Oris stated that the recommendation may prolong over the course of two fiscal years. The program is designed as a reimbursement and nobody gets compensated up front. The funds are collected after it is spent and proved that the business owner has met all the guidelines and requirements.

Mayor Garcia commented that they have already begun the process on 36th Street by implementing the color palette and asking business owners to paint and offering them funds to paint them. There are a lot of buildings on 36th Street that have painted without the City having to ask them to paint. He noted that he would like to see examples of what type of things can be done in a small bay with \$50,000.

Mr. Oris explained that some of the modern building technologies and materials are not as expensive as expected.

Mario Cartaya of Cartaya and Associates stated that there will be requirements in the zoning for anyone who wants to do business in the City that has relations with redeveloping property. The building itself is a destination because of its design. Council should be vigilant in making sure that the City has people to provide excellence in architecture.

Mr. Cartaya said that business owners have to make substantial investments in their own business in order to survive.

Councilman Espino agrees with the Mayor in terms that he is a proponent to the façade program; however this is the second attempt with the façade program.

Discussion ensued regarding property owners on Westward Drive who engaged in a façade program that did not work out.

Councilman Espino commented that many property owners are absentee landlords. The City set up a fund for the property owners to use for painting and many have not responded and there were actually a few complaints. In other areas that implemented a façade program the cities have invested some funds, but they also match it with code enforcement, incentives or tax incremental financing so that it is not fully burdened on the city.

Councilman Espino explained that the business owners are afraid that rents will increase and for the most part the building owners do not want to make improvements and they have not seen the City take any proactive measures in the Downtown area. He added that on N. W. 36th Street there is new lighting and Council is working on the code regulations, while in the Downtown the parking lots are not well lit, there is no signage, etc. He would love to implement a façade program, but the reality is that the building owners are not going to do it and the City has to earmark \$100,000 to \$200,000 in the budget.

Councilman Espino emphasized that the City itself had not done enough on Westward Drive in order to show the property owners that it is time for them to give back and serious thought must be given to motivating the absentee landlords to improve their buildings. He receives complaints all the time about the condition of the Downtown properties and he would like to know how to get the process started when the finances and the building owners are not there.

Mr. Cartaya said that in working with other cities he found that property owners complained the first year or two and no one wanted to spend any funds because they did not believe that their neighbors would do the same. He said that part of the problem is that the vision changes when there is a change in the elected officials and they must remain steadfast and not waiver from the vision.

Councilman Espino asked if tax incremental financing had ever been used to implement a program and Mr. Oris explained that normally it is a combination of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and general funds.

Councilman Espino commented that there are community improvement districts, business improvement districts and other financing sources. He said that some commercial properties might be paid off and their taxable values are extremely low so the owners do not feel market pressure to make improvements to their buildings. He noted that Delray Beach has a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and tax incremental financing and without some type of incentives and code enforcement it is going to be very difficult for Miami Springs to get revitalization off the ground.

City Attorney Seiden stated that the last façade program was probably going to be the most successful venture the City had ever done, but unfortunately there were side issues that resulted in the loss of financing. The program would have succeeded because people were interested and the Downtown Administrator stayed in touch with the business owners on a daily basis. He explained that CDBG monies were available for façade improvements and the cost at that time was much less. In addition, the University of Miami School of Architecture made a commitment to the City and provided renderings and offered to produce standard plans at no charge. He would image that one of the downsides is the cost related to the design and engineering work before construction even begins.

Councilman Espino reiterated that putting \$100,000 to \$200,000 into an account every year for a façade program is not going to work on its own; there would need to be a combination of code changes, incentives, financing and code enforcement. There must be a concerted effort and a number of tactics to move the process and it might take five years.

Vice Mayor Lob felt that \$200,000 would be best utilized on the lighting and signage program to show the businesses that the City is doing their part. He agrees with Councilman Espino that there are many absent building owners that do not know what their buildings look like and code enforcement has a hard time contacting them. The City could begin improvements with parking, signage and lighting and perhaps the tenants would put pressure on the owners to do something to make the buildings look better.

Councilman Best stated that during the process of selecting the Downtown consultant one of the questions that he asked every firm was how they could attract developers and identify property owners that would invest money in Miami Springs. He said that the City can impose regulatory controls to cause the owners to improve their property, but funding is limited. He feels that without a couple of anchor stores it will be hard for redevelopment to move forward.

Councilman Best agreed with Councilman Espino that there must be a vision that is carried forward by the elected officials and instead of five years it could take ten years to see the results. He emphasized that funding must be identified in order to move down a clear path and he is in favor of some proposal that would help the process move forward.

City Manager Gorland added that when the consultants were selected the economy was on the decline, but there was no idea at that time how bad it would become. The assumption was that grant monies were readily available and that was the case at that time. The consultants met with the Finance Department staff to go over the grant programs and they were impressed with Staff's knowledge and how few dollars the City was receiving because of the economy. The City is in good financial condition, but \$200,000 is substantial when there is an \$800,000 hole in the budget for next fiscal year.

Mr. Oris explained that the first people to participate are owners who occupy their own building because they have a personal stake and they want improvements. When CDBG funds or tax dollars are spent for these programs they usually provide for signage to identify the source of funding and it is promoted through the media. The most difficult step is getting the first person to do something and then the tenants will begin to pressure the property owners who will slowly begin to participate. It starts with the local owners who occupy the buildings because they have an immediate vested interest.

Councilman Espino noted that a few property owners began improving their buildings ten years ago and it never progressed further because most of the buildings are tenant occupied and there is 41% vacancy on Westward Drive. He explained that allocating funds will not make it happen; \$20,000 was set aside to provide incentives for painting and there have been no reimbursements.

Councilman Espino emphasized that he would like the consultants to return with a multi-step plan with a combination of funding sources and an explanation of how it has worked in other areas. The fact is that funds are not available and Council is responsible to the residents for how the available funds are allocated.

Councilman Best stressed that it is all related to marketing the City since it is centrally located and close to the airport. The City needs to attract developers who want to build and he thought that this would be part of the process going forward.

Vice Mayor Lob stated that given the budget situation and the economy, viable companies who can afford to develop need to be identified. He agrees that the architectural drawings are beautiful but it will be difficult to get anyone to make the improvements.

Ms. Tappen responded that Councilman Best's comments would be considered and the team will review the possibility.

Ms. Tappen reviewed the Airport Golf District and the gateway concept. She explained that the Work Order includes updated regulations, design guidelines, and a development review procedure. She explained that the current area does not reflect the other areas in Miami Springs that are generally beautiful and the area could be re-envisioned as "Curtiss Village" that would be a mixed use area with hotels, residences and retail and service uses. Eldron Drive would be more appropriate for a hotel, residences or town homes.

Ms. Tappen explained that direction is requested on proceeding with the code revisions or a master plan concept. She said that the vision is for a 3.0 floor area ratio (FAR) that would attract hotels. The building height fronting Curtiss Parkway would not exceed 38' in order to compliment the residences to the north and west, while Fairway Drive could accommodate buildings up to 120'. She noted that the City Charter does not allow buildings with more than two residential units to exceed 3-stories or 40' in height.

Ms. Tappen stated that Mr. Cartaya would elaborate on the design guidelines since that is his expertise. She said that the approval process for any applications for new buildings or redevelopment in the area would be similar to the process in place for N. W. 36th Street, with an optional pre-application meeting with City Staff and the Revitalization Specialist, followed by a full review of the site plan and approval by the Architectural Review Board, the Board of Adjustment/Zoning & Planning Board and the City Council.

Councilman Espino referred to a past development proposal in the Airport Golf District six or seven years ago and noted that the developer said that he needed to have a certain building height in order to make the project economically feasible, and property values have dropped since that time. A mixed-use property that is capped at 40-feet will not allow for the kind of redevelopment that is viable. He asked if the consultants were satisfied with the FAR and the height.

Ms. Tappen replied that the consultants were comfortable with the FAR and the height.

City Attorney Seiden explained that the Charter amendment limiting the building height for mixed-use buildings came up during the time when annexation was being considered and many people who opposed annexation did not want to develop a separate constituency outside of the residential area of the City.

City Attorney Seiden said that during the Comprehensive Plan review process, it was agreed that the FAR would be 1.0 and to get to 3.0 it would require another plan amendment.

City Planner James Holland stated that the 2009 Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) amendments state that a FAR of 1.0 is allowed as a right.

Councilman Espino commented that a Comprehensive Plan amendment would not be difficult with the new expedited process.

City Attorney Seiden said that when the FAR was considered it was proposed to be 1.0 to 3.0 and the previous Council restricted it to 1.0 in the Airport Golf District. He added that the voters could revisit the building height for mixed-use because that is restricted by the Charter.

Ms. Tappen stated that she would work with the City Planner and City Attorney and contact the Department of Economic Opportunity to review the procedural issues. The City Council had asked the consultants to “think outside of the box” and they began talking about a master plan concept last fall that they would like to propose to Council to see if they want to move forward.

Mario Cartaya explained that Miami Springs is special since it is located next to the airport and he is amazed at the amount of construction along 36th Street, which is good for the City. He said that the developers must first go to the architects and when they start getting busy, construction begins and unemployment drops.

Mr. Cartaya said that the economy had been bad the last three years, but he is optimistic because the architects are getting busy, which means that the economy is headed in the right direction. He noted that the construction of hotels and apartments is increasing.

In order to attract a major hotel, there must be support from the surrounding area and that is where Curtiss Parkway comes into play, according to Mr. Cartaya. Hotel developers do not want to be surrounded by empty run down structures; they want their customers to have places to go to at night, similar to Delray Beach or Las Olas.

Mr. Cartaya noted that there is a nice area bordering the Golf Course with beautiful homes, the Curtiss Mansion, and the area to the south has hotels that are not fulfilling their destiny due to the limited density. He pointed out there is also an area that is not very nice with dilapidated structures, code violations, graffiti and horrible situations that must be corrected and it will not be easy. If the building owners will not do their part, then the City needs to find new owners and this requires a vision.

Mr. Cartaya referred to the rendering of the Marriot Hotel on the corner of Curtiss Parkway and 36th Street that would be 120-feet in height that would be next to buildings on Curtiss Parkway that are limited to 40-feet in height with retail on the first level and two levels of residential or business. The proposed setback to any new buildings on Curtiss Parkway is 30-feet to allow for future 10-foot parallel parking, which is important as a buffer. The remaining 20-feet would accommodate a sidewalk, landscaping areas and a five-foot covered area similar to what other cities have done like Delray Beach.

Mr. Cartaya stated that the Eldron alley would serve as the parking area for some of the businesses and there is a 30-foot setback, leaving more than 100 feet of depth for retail offices or housing units. He said that Fairway Drive along the Golf Course would accommodate very nice hotels, especially with the airport on the other side of 36th Street. The area along Curtiss would provide a synergy, a theme and harmony. The success will rely on bringing people to the area at night and the best way to make this happen is to provide housing, and multifamily town house units are proposed to the east of Eldron alley.

To answer City Attorney Seiden's question, Mr. Cartaya explained that people would access the town homes from Eldron alley since it would become a street.

Councilman Espino referred to a recent development at 500 Dixie Highway where an alley was utilized to allow parking for a building and access to garages of residential town houses.

Councilwoman Ator stated that the proposal is very nice and there is no problem with a 30-foot setback, although she is concerned with the parallel parking on Curtiss Parkway. She agreed with the consultants that the current area around Eldron alley is a horrible situation and it is very hard to understand how it will improve by changing the code.

Councilwoman Ator commented that she asked the City Manager to pull the item and the presentation has been going on for 1 hour and 40 minutes. She feels that what the consultants have to say is important and she appreciates their coming to the meeting, but she does not feel that it was properly noticed and people did not have the opportunity to understand what was being presented. She added that there should be more people present, especially members of the Revitalization and Redevelopment Ad-Hoc Committee and the Architectural Review Board.

Councilwoman Ator explained that had she known that the presentation was going to be almost two hours she would have recommended holding a Special Meeting. The presentation should have been seen by more than just the five Council members and perhaps it could be placed on the City's website.

Councilman Espino stated that a master plan concept is exactly what needs to happen and this is the first step in getting there. He thinks that the area is underserved for hotels, as far as a large international destination. He would encourage the hoteliers to include restaurants, lounges and other amenities in their hotels. He likes the combination of the residential component, especially town houses because of the economy and people who cannot afford homes or senior citizens who want to move out of their homes.

Councilman Espino said that if Council approves the concept, the question that must be answered is how to make it happen and how to attract the first developer.

Mr. Cartaya called it "thinking out of the box" and Mayor Garcia responded that the City Council had been thinking out of the box for ten years and a developer proposed something similar for the area at one time.

Mayor Garcia agreed with the consultants that it could be possible and it is all about attracting an investor or the hotels.

Mr. Cartaya stated that he is glad that someone else had a similar vision for the area because it is the right way to go and it will require a commitment over a long period of time. He explained that it would be a combination of many things that funnel in at the same time that all lead to the same solution.

Mr. Cartaya commented that in addition to the renderings, dollars must be set aside and there should be incentives like code enforcement. He would ask Council to allow them the opportunity to take what has been said and apply it to the façade program so that they can come back with a well thought out plan for what can be done to make it happen.

Councilwoman Ator reiterated her concern about properly noticing the meeting and allowing the citizens an opportunity to understand the process, even if it requires a special meeting.

Mayor Garcia stated that it is the City's job to notice the meeting, not the consultants.

Councilwoman Ator said that Council did not receive the backup until this afternoon and it should have been on the website or in the lobby to allow people an opportunity to review the material. She specifically asked the City Manager to pull the item because the consultants did not provide the information in a timely manner, which is the same thing over and over again with the consultants.

Mayor Garcia pointed out that no major decisions are being made and there is plenty of notice given on many issues and the same three or four people show up at the meetings, even when Council is balancing the \$18MM budget and deciding the tax rate. He emphasized that he asked the City Manager to keep the item on the agenda because it needed to be presented.

Mayor Garcia asked the consultants to keep the buffer in mind for Curtiss Parkway in the setback so that it is more like the entry way of a park and not open to the street. He said that he would like to see the plan come to fruition and for the people and the investors to see the opportunity that exists in Miami Springs. He would like to reach out to any businesses or hotels that would want to develop or build here.

Councilman Best referred to the past development proposal for the area and recalled that there were three owners of the entire block who met with the developer to discuss the plan and due to some regulatory changes, the project was dropped. Since that time, one of the three owners has passed away and it is in a family trust.

City Attorney Seiden added that the Miami Springs Golf Villas property has been in foreclosure for a long time.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden said that the consultants need direction as to what Council would like them to do on three issues. He asked Council if Calvin Giordano should move forward with the Test Pilot Program and if they are prepared to move forward with the \$97,424 construction cost.

Mayor Garcia replied that Council is not prepared to move forward with the \$97,424 construction cost.

Councilman Espino explained that there are fundamental questions about how to compensate that have not been answered including whether or not Citizen Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) Funds are an applicable use for wayfinding and signage programs. It is to his understanding that CITT funds are applicable. There is information about financing that need to be found.

City Attorney Seiden asked if Council wants Calvin Giordano to find information on CITT funding or other financial sources and Mayor Garcia asked for clarification from City Manager Gorland as to whether Calvin Giordano or staff should obtain information on CITT funds or other financial sources for the Test Pilot Program.

City Manager Gorland commented that the CITT is going to compensate for some of the costs but he is not certain how much they are going to compensate.

Mayor Garcia asked City Manager Gorland if he could place on the next agenda all of the possible funding sources for the initial project and Council would discuss if they are willing to waive the procurement process for the Pilot Program.

City Attorney Seiden asked Council if they would like Calvin Giordano to do anything further on the façade program or to put it on hold.

Mayor Garcia said that he would like to place the façade program on hold.

Councilman Espino noted that he would like to see if there is a multifaceted way to get the façade program accomplished. He said that the reality is that the City does not have the funds and if the City did have the funds, he does not feel that the façade program would be successful. He would like to see strategies on how to keep the façade program successful while keeping in mind that the City does not have the funding for it.

City Attorney Seiden asked Council if they would like Calvin Giordano to do anything in regard to the proposal or if they would like them to come back at another time so that there is more transparency.

Councilwoman Ator was under the impression that Calvin Giordano was going to prepare the code regulations.

Ms. Tappen explained that the initial work order was to prepare the code regulations. Calvin Giordano is now proposing a master plan concept which may involve code regulations and more because it involves changing roadways and coordination with the County. She needs direction on whether to continue on the existing work order or to step back and work out the details to bring back the master plan concept.

Councilman Espino stated that revisiting a comment from a meeting in October; code by itself is not going to take the City where it needs to go. Council needs to agree to do the master plan concept.

Councilman Lob commented that Council is in agreement that the proposal looks beautiful and it is what they want, however they need to know how to get to that point and what code regulations are needed.

City Attorney Seiden advised Council that Calvin Giordano's request is to develop a master plan development change for the entire area which may or may not be able to go into application within the next few years. Council needs to give them direction on how far they want this plan to go. He added that renovation would not be part of the process since the buildings would be demolished and with new buildings from the ground up.

Councilman Espino said that some of the questions that Council has are going to dictate how far along Calvin Giordano will be told to work and if they cannot provide Council with some of the answers on how to get the project off center, he cannot give them direction on how far to go on working on the plan.

City Attorney Seiden asked if Council is asking for Calvin Giordano to come back with some kind of economic feasibility for the proposed master plan for this area before they do anything.

City Manager Gorland commented that he is hearing an economic plan and not an economic feasibility.

Councilman Espino noted that it is an implementation plan. Based on what the code may be in this area, he wants to make sure that it is able to be implemented before time is wasted.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that Council would like Calvin Giordano to come back with a proposal on what are the costs and procedures involved in accomplishing this master plan.

Councilwoman Ator stated that her only concern is that the code is still needed. She encourages that when Calvin and Giordano comes back, the code requirements should be discussed because it is needed.

City Attorney Seiden commented that before Calvin Giordano and Associates are given direction to do the code regulations, he, City Planner Holland and the consultant need to resolve the issue regarding the FAR.

City Attorney Seiden explained that Calvin Giordano and Associates will not be working on the code regulations.

Council directed Calvin Giordano to bring back an approach on how to implement a Master Plan concept explaining what it would entail, how much it would cost and the resources to implement it.

10C) Recommendation that Council Waive the Competitive Bid Process to Little Smart Arts, LLC for the Utilization of the Multi-Purpose Room on the Third Floor of the Community Center on Tuesday Afternoons from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for the Operation of the Little Smart Arts Program, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (E) (6) (g) of the City Code and Pursuant to the Provided by the City's Existing Contract for an Additional One Year Period

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland read the title of the award.

City Manager Gorland explained that the Little Smart Arts program has become a very popular program at the Community Center and it provides the residents with an opportunity to register their children in fine art lessons. The participants learn the basic elements of art, drawing, painting and 3-D art.

Councilwoman Ator moved the item. Councilman Espino seconded the motion.

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden clarified that this is not a waiver; it is simply another agreement for use of the facility and there is no procurement involved.

Councilwoman Ator added that her son participated in the program and all of his work is framed in her office.

The motion was unanimously carried on roll call vote.

10D) Request for City Council to Authorize the Execution of a “Release and Indemnification Agreement” in Order to Qualify for a Potential Grant Award to the City

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland read the title of the award.

City Manager Gorland explained that the City was notified by a local well-known entity that is under consideration for a grant award for various equipment to be used by the kids in the community. In order to qualify for final consideration and award, the City has been requested to execute a “Release and Indemnification Agreement” which contains an exemption from all liability except for those instances involving gross negligence or intentional acts. In addition, the indemnification provision would require either for the City or for an attorney hired by the City to represent this entity should both the city and the entity get sued by a third party, since the City’s insurance coverage does not extend to non-governmental entities.

City Manager Gorland explained that the City Attorney believes that a decision on the execution of the proposed Release and Indemnification Agreement is beyond the City Manager’s singular authority.

Vice Mayor Lob moved the item. Councilman Espino seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Ator asked the City Attorney if he is comfortable with the agreement, since she is not familiar with the facts and cannot make a judgment.

City Attorney Seiden responded that he did not think the City Manager should take it upon himself to authorize the agreement. He did speak with the attorney from the organization who is proposing the agreement and based upon his knowledge of the proposal, he feels that there is very little risk that either one of the incidents might come up, but there is always a chance and it is important for the City Manager not to expose himself to this kind of risk.

Councilman Best asked City Attorney Seiden if he feels that the City should hire an attorney to represent the third party.

City Attorney Seiden explained that in order to qualify for the grant program, the City will be required to execute this type of release to protect the party that is offering the grant to the City. Since it is a private entity offering the grant, if the City were to be sued and the other entity is joined in the suit, the City's coverage with the Florida League of Cities would not cover the private entity. He said that it is unlikely that there would be a lawsuit, but in that case, the third party would be represented by him or outside counsel.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that if the City is awarded the program as part of the grant, the providing entity would hire other third party entities to do the installation of equipment and they would insure both the entity and the City for their service.

The motion was unanimously carried on roll call vote.

10E) Recommendation that Council Waive the Competitive Bid Process and Approve an Expenditure of \$15,000.00 to Firepower Displays Unlimited, LLC for the Purchase of the Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (E) (6) (g) of the City Code

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland read the title of the award.

City Manager Gorland explained that Firepower Displays Unlimited, LLC had provided the fireworks display to the City since 1999. It is one of only two local vendors that provide displays for several municipalities, including the City of Homestead, Town of Davie, Dania Beach and the City of Pembroke Pines. The company works directly with the Miami-Dade County Fire Department on the City's behalf, which expedites the permitting process and inspections.

To answer the Mayor's question, City Manager Gorland explained that there are currently no contracts that the City could piggy-back off of at this time and the 4th of July is only seven weeks away.

Mayor Garcia asked if next year the City could request proposals in advance in order to see if the other company offers a better price.

City Manager Gorland replied that the display is not based on price; it is related to the amount and type of fireworks in the display. He said that another company was hired a few years ago and there was a lapse of two or three minutes between firework shots and the quality was not the same.

Councilman Best asked if the total cost of \$15,000 included the donation from the Village of Virginia Gardens and City Manager Gorland replied that Virginia Gardens gives the City \$3,000 so the City's cost would be \$12,000.

Councilman Best moved the item. Vice Mayor Lob seconded the motion which was unanimously carried on roll call vote.

10F) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure to Superior Park Systems, Inc, the Lowest Responsible Quote, in the Amount of \$19,992.19, for One Model # BLG10A21V4F4-21' 10 Row Galvanized Steel Frames 8" Rise Bleachers with Safe Vertical Bar Guard Rails and ADA Compliant that Meet all Required Specifications, Pursuant to Section 31.11 (C) (2) of the City Code

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland read the title of the award.

City Manager Gorland explained that subsequent to the receipt of this recommendation and his agreement to placing it on the agenda, a budget kick-off meeting was held and it was announced that there is an \$800,000 shortfall, which is substantial. He would like to pull this request and will not recommend replacement of the bleachers at this time.

City Manager Gorland suggested considering the request for new bleachers in next year's budget, since \$20,000 is a large amount and it would make a clear statement to the community about the seriousness of the budget shortfall.

10G) Board of Parks and Parkways Yard of the Month Recommendation for May 2012 – 286 Minola Drive

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland stated that at the Board of Parks and Parkways meeting on May 10, 2012, the Board is recommending 286 Minola Drive to be the Yard of the Month for May and in speaking with Chairman Eric Richey, he would like it to be for the month of June in order to allow time to prepare the signage. Photographs were taken of the home and a release was signed by the homeowner, according to the process that was set by Council.

Councilwoman Ator explained that at their meeting last Thursday, the Board of Parks and Parkways discussed how the process would work going forward and they will be recommending two properties next month.

City Attorney Seiden complimented Building and Zoning Office Director Tex Ziadie for taking the photograph and having the release signed by the homeowner who was very appreciative and is looking forward to the recognition.

Councilman Espino moved to approve the recommendation of the Board of Parks and Parkways for the Yard of the Month for June. Councilman Best seconded the motion which was unanimously carried on roll call vote.

10H) Request Council Approval to Serve Alcoholic Beverages in the Rebeca Sosa Theatre During the Annual Officer of the Year Dinner

City Manager Ronald K. Gorland clarified that one hour ago he found out that the dinner might not be relocated to the Rebeca Sosa Theatre so this approval will be just in case the event is moved.

Councilman Espino moved the item. Councilman Lob seconded the motion which was unanimously carried on roll call vote.

11. Other Business:

11A) Report on Status of CITT Funds

City Manager Gorland stated that he would defer this item, but for Council's information he would like them to know that intensive meetings are being held with the communities in Miami-Dade and the outcome might not result in the same amount of funds that the City has been receiving. The amount will be reduced, but there is no idea how much since it is being coordinated by the County.

11B) Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Process and Timeline

City Manager Gorland reported that the budget schedule was distributed to the Department Heads at the budget meeting this morning. He pointed out that Council would hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, July 26th at 5:01 p.m. During the process, the Administration will be meeting individually with each Council member to discuss and receive feedback on key points.

11C) Scheduling of Board of Appeals Meeting to Hear Case No. 03-V-12 – Julio Somarriba – 661 Falcon Avenue

Council scheduled the Board of Appeals meeting for Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

12. Reports & Recommendations:

12A) City Attorney

Councilman Espino

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden wished Councilman Espino God speed. He knows that the election will bring him nothing but success and he has no doubt about his abilities going forward.

12B) City Manager

Councilman Espino

City Manager Gorland stated that he has the same comments as the City Attorney except that he is sure that he will see a lot more of Councilman Espino and that is good.

Police Officers Memorial Day

City Manager Gorland reported that President Obama issued a proclamation designating Tuesday, May 15th as Police Officers Memorial Day in honor of all federal, state and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty. The President called upon all units of government to direct that the United States flag be flown at half staff on May 15th, which the City will do.

Education Advisory Board Meeting

City Manager Gorland emphasized that the Education Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, May 15th, as reported by Chairman Rob Gordon, is terrific and everyone should attend if possible.

Bullying Prevention Initiative

City Manager Gorland announced that the Bullying Prevention Initiative presentation would be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16th in the Rebeca Sosa Theatre at the Community Center with a cast of professionals. Kim Werner has done a terrific job organizing the event and they would like to see a great turnout.

Installation Dinner

City Manager Gorland reported that the Miami Springs Airport Area Chamber of Commerce would hold their installation dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 17th in the Tapas Room at Holleman's Restaurant.

All Angels Academy

City Manager Gorland announced that All Angels Academy would host a prospective student Open House on Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Officer of the Year Dinner

City Manager Gorland reported that the Miami Springs Optimist Club supports law enforcement and will be honoring the Police Department and the award winners at their annual Officer of the Year Dinner on Friday, May 18th at 6:00 p.m. Those interested in attending should call Patricia Bradley at the Recreation Department.

Campus Life Dinner & Auction

City Manager Gorland announced that the Miami Springs Campus Life Dinner & Auction would be held on Saturday, May 19th at the First Presbyterian Church of Miami Springs.

Vice Mayor Lob moved to extend the meeting for five minutes. Councilman Espino seconded the motion and it carried on voice vote with Councilwoman Ator casting the dissenting vote.

Historic Tax Credit

City Attorney Seiden informed Council that he and the Administration had been working hard with the historic tax credit situation involving many documents and discussions. In his opinion, the closing date could be extended from May 21st until the first week in June pending additional work. He speaks with the City Manager and Assistant City Manager/Finance Director on a daily basis about the matter, not counting the discussions that are held with the other parties.

12C) City Council

Councilman Espino

Vice Mayor Lob wished Councilman Espino good luck on all accounts, including his future and his new baby.

Councilman Espino

Councilman Best thanked Councilman Espino for having the opportunity to serve with him on Council and even though they have not always agreed they have helped each other and he appreciates that camaraderie. He wished him well with the School Board election and thinks that he will win.

Thank You

Councilman Espino thanked everyone and said that it had been an incredible experience serving on Council. It is unfortunate that he must resign, but he feels called to run for the School Board and he has a good feeling about it. He thanked Council for their camaraderie and professionalism, including former Mayor Bain and the previous Council for wanting nothing more than to move the City forward. He said that it has been an educating experience that has made him a better neighbor and citizen. He announced that he and his wife are having a baby boy at the end of October.

Variance Case

Mayor Garcia stated that he attended the Board of Adjustment meeting when a resident wanted to show the Board members that the City Planner had gone by his house to take measurements before making his recommendation. He discovered that his appointee and the other Board of Adjustment members did not visit the home and he would like each Council member to ask their appointee to make an effort to visit the properties.

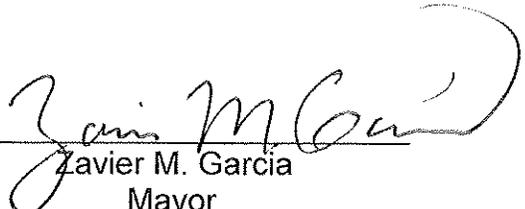
City Attorney Seiden clarified that the Board members can visit the properties as long as it is not an organized activity by the Board, which was done in the past and he put a stop to it. There are photographs taken of the properties with five or six different views in order to be able to show the Board the condition of the violation. A Board member might drive by when there is no condition with a violation and it would be a misjudgment of the case so they should not make judgment until they receive their agenda packet with all the documentation, which is the evidence of the case.

Vacant Council Seat

Mayor Garcia recommended that each Council member should bring at least one name of a person that they would like to recommend to fill the vacant Group II seat to the next meeting. Council will discuss the process at that time.

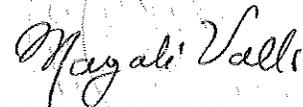
13. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.



Zavier M. Garcia
Mayor

ATTEST:



Magali Valls, CMC
City Clerk



Approved as written during meeting of: 5-29-2012.

Transcription assistance provided by Suzanne S. Hitaffer and Elora R. Sakal.