



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Cubillos: I would like to go ahead and call our council meeting to order, for the record this is a makeup to the February council meeting in which we did not have a quorum. This is February's council meeting. With that said, if I can please have a moment of silent meditation followed by the pledge of allegiance.

[silence]

Council Members: I pledge 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.

Cubillos: Madam clerk, may I please have roll call.

Yenise: Roll call, Mayor Cubillos.

Cubillos: Here.

Yenise: Vice Mayor Nickerson.

Nickerson: Here.

Yenise: councilperson Mathis is running late, councilperson Dreher will not be here. councilperson Roman.

Roman: Here.

Yenise: You have quorum. Also present for the record, Yenise Jacobi Village Clerk, Christi Alou Village Manager, sitting in for Village Attorney Glen Smith.

Cubillos: Great, thank you. At this time we're going to approval of the agenda. I do need to make one change, I need to change the H2 which is the consideration of the recommendation of the January 16th administration and finance committee regarding the village attorney possible action there on.

I would like to change it to the end of the meeting, which is under unfinished business and general orders. It'll be the last item that we will discuss today. That's the only change that I have for the agenda.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Roman: Madam Mayor if I may, I have another change to the agenda. I'd like to strike out H1 village manager contract and replace that with village manager resolution to be extended until March 30th.

Cubillos: The manager is aware of it?

Christi: Yes.

Roman: Yes.

Cubillos: Okay. Any other changes to the agenda?

Nickerson: No ma'am.

Cubillos: Okay, hearing none, may I have a motion to approve the agenda with the two recommendations?

Nickerson: Motion to approve.

Roman: I'll second.

Cubillos: Motion's been made by Vice Mayor Nickerson, seconded by councilperson Roman, all of you if you have a signal by saying aye.

Roman: I.

Cubillos: Any nays? Okay, hearing none we will go ahead to approval of the minutes. I'm going to apologize I did not read the minutes entirely. I don't know if the members of the council have, we want to wait till councilperson Mathis gets here to vote on that as I will not be voting on that, at least not at this meeting, I did not read in its entirety.

Nickerson: Madam Mayor I read them, I skimmed through them and it looked good to me.

Cubillos: Okay.

Roman: I also skimmed them and they looked fine.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Cubillos: Let's wait till councilperson Mathis gets here because we will need a minimum of three to pass the minutes. All right, hearing that let's go ahead and move to acknowledgment of visitors and/or presentations. I want to thank the residents for being here today and what is your name? I'm sorry. Sitting in for Joe Gellers?

Roman: Glen Smith.

Cubillos: Glen Smith and Sinsin, welcome Glen Smith to our meeting this evening. This time, get in welfare, this is the time that anybody can come up and speak to any issues that relates to the agenda. If anybody has anything that they would like to add before we start the items, this is a good time to ask.

Corny: Corny Kirk, 265 Northeast 87th. Just a question on I2, there seems to be an error in the 4ft 0, looks like it's 4 inches 0 inches. I don't know if that's just a typo or whether that was originally set in.

Cubillos: No, that's 4ft I believe, correct?

Nickerson: Yes, I believe.

Cubillos: When we go to that we'll make amendments to the, okay, thank you. Any other questions to the agenda? Okay, hearing none, we'll go to the first item which is H1. We had village manager contract. Clarity please?

Roman: Yes just to clarify, we just need to make some changes that I need to bring to the committee or the discussion. That's why I would like for the resolution which I believe we changed the date to today to be extended for the interim manager until March 30th.

Cubillos: The date on the resolution you showed me [crosstalk] is March 5th.

Roman: It has been changed.

Cubillos: Wait, so, at this time we need a motion to accept the resolution extending the interim manager to March 30th?

Roman: It's our motion to extend the resolution that's current, madam clerk can you read the resolution number if you have it.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Yenise: It's going to be 2018/07.

Roman: To extend that to a March 30th 2018.

Nickerson: I second.

Cubillos: Okay, motion has been made by councilperson Roman second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. For the attorney, is that sufficient that we just read the resolution with an extension date?

Glen: Yes.

Cubillos: For purposes?

Glen: Yes, I'm going to read the title. Do you want me to do that?

Cubillos: Yes, do you have it with you?

Glen: I do.

Cubillos: Okay.

Glen: A resolution of the village council on the village of El Portal to extend the term of Christi Alou, interim village manager of the village of El Portal until March 30 2018 providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Cubillos: All right thank you. My question to councilperson Roman who brought it, so this is going to be discussed at committee with the reasons why we're at this juncture?

Roman: That's correct, yes.

Cubillos: Christia, you're aware? Okay, with that said we have a motion and we have a second. I will close for any public comments, if anybody has a comment with regards to these resolutions that we're about to pass which is extending the interim manager's contract as opposed to actually doing the contract this evening.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Okay, and just for clarity purposes what it means is that she's still an interim manager through the end of the month until the committee revisits the contract to address whatever pending issue councilperson Roman wants to address at the admin and finance committee. Okay, hearing none, I'm going to close public comments, open it up to the council. Madam clerk may I have roll call please?

Yenise: Roll call. councilperson Dreher is not here. councilperson Roman?

Roman: Yes.

Yenise: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Nickerson: Yes.

Yenise: Mayor Cubillos?

Cubillos: Yes.

Yenise: Motion passes three to none.

Cubillos: All right. Well, this takes us right to our first ordinance. If we can have the attorney, this ordinance is standard, we must do it every year. It's to approve our qualifying dates for elections and we do it, let me rephrase. We don't do this ordinance every year, we do it when it's an election year. If I can have the attorney please read the ordinance into the record.

Glen: The ordinance number 2018-02 first reading. An ordinance of the village of El Portal Florida to amend section 6-4 of the code of ordinances relating to candidates qualifying period providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for refiller, providing for severability, providing for an inclusion in the village code, providing for an effective date.

Cubillos: Okay, great, thank you so much. At this time, the ordinance has been read. This is the first reading, it will have to go to a second reading, madam clerk it was properly noticed correct? Okay. At this time is there a motion to accept ordinance 2018-02. Just for clarity, I want to just make sure I get the dates on the record. What are the dates of the ordinance? Attorney can you read the dates on the record please?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Roman: Yes, okay. Is that with the warehouse. [crosstalk] It's where the warehouse is. [crosstalk] The qualification period will be held from noon on August 13 2018 through noon on August 24 2018. Do you have that?

Glen: Do you want me to read that?

Cubillos: Yes. Make sure you read the dates into the record yes.

Glen: Warehouse supervisor county is obliged to remind me of dates. County has requested that qualifications of candidates for the municipal elections that will be held in November 2018 to be changed on the calendar and the village council desires that such qualification period be held from noon on August 13 2018 through noon on August 24 2018 in order to meet the supervisor's obligations under law for preparation of the ballot and of the voting equipment.

Cubillos: Okay, great. Thank you for reading that on to the record. At this time, is there a motion to accept the ordinance for 2018-02.

Nickerson: Motion.

Cubillos: The motion has been made by Vice Mayor Nickerson, is there a second?

Roman: I'll second.

Cubillos: Second by councilperson Roman. At this time, policy is that we always close the ordinances and open up of public comments. Anybody has a comment with regards to these ordinance which is something that we do every other year? Okay, hearing none, I want to close it up and back it up to the council. Any discussion before I request roll call?

Nickerson: No, Madam Mayor.

Cubillos: All good? Okay. Madam clerk may I have roll call please?

Yenise: Roll call, councilperson Mathis is not here, councilperson Dreher is not here. councilperson Roman?

Roman: Yes.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th ST Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Yenise: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Nickerson: Yes.

Yenise: Mayor Cubillos?

Cubillos: Yes.

Yenise: Motion passes.

Cubillos: Do we know if anybody from PlusUrbia is attending tonight? We don't know?

Roman: I know she gave birth but I don't know if they were going to send Camilla.

Cubillos: They were advised that it was changed to tonight?

Roman: I think she was here.

Cubillos: Okay. At this time, the next item that we have in the agenda is a masonry wall of variance. If I can have the attorney read it into the record and then I will go ahead and call the representative which I believe the architect is here. If anybody in the audience wants to actually see it, please ask the clerk and she will provide it to you. Attorney Smith if we can please read that reso into the record.

Glen: Sure, this resolution 2018-06 the resolution of the village council of El Portal Florida authorizing the approval of the variance for a new 4 foot 0 inches half privacy wall and a gate as requested by Sofie Watsle providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Cubillos: Okay, great, thank you. Can you please tell me your name again? If you can please come up and state your name and the company for the record and who you're representing and so on and so forth.

Maurizio: Good evening, my name is Maurizio Zalza address is 618 Northeast 195 Terrace, Miami Florida 33179. I am the architect representing the homeowner Sofie Watsle and my firm is called Southole Design Lab and we're requesting this variance for a privacy wall.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

We're replacing an existing privacy wall that is actually in the middle of a yard and we're requesting to push it to her property line, within her property line not encroaching into any right of ways. It's a 4 foot high wall. I appreciate the comment of our fellow neighbor here that the variance actually does, or should say 4 feet 0 inches as opposed to 4 inches 0 inches.

Again, we're just requesting this wall so she has more yard space in her backyard, and we've driven around and there are presently and examples in the neighborhood of in city of El Portal, village of El Portal I'm sorry, that have walls of similar height on the property line. We feel that it would be a respectful request. I'm happy I have a large set of drawings here, I'm happy to roll it out in front of you if that helps a little bit more and I can explain surveys or site plans of whatever is necessary having to explain.

Cubillos: Does the council have any questions for Maurizio right?

Maurizio: Yes.

Cubillos: Maurizio.

Nickerson: Know the owner. I remember the owner.

Roman: No, we saw this.

Nickerson: Yes, we saw this.

Maurizio: Just to clarify one last item. The existing wall is part of the original architecture of the house when the house is built like 70 or 80 years ago. The wall has a rounded top which we're mimicking, we're keeping, we're being honest to the original architecture of the house. Again, it's just we're placing it in a better location for the home owners so she can better utilize her backyard.

Nickerson: Your knocking down the existing wall and moving?

Maurizio: Yes. We're keeping the same height, same style, the same gate.

Cubillos: You're just moving it?

Maurizio: We're just moving it, exactly.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Cubillos: Okay.

Maurizio: That's pretty much it. Currently on her property line there is a roll of hedges which it's 7 feet tall hedges, now we're just going to have a 4 foot tall wall. I think visually it'll be a lot nicer and she gets better use of her yard as well.

Cubillos: Okay.

Yenise: For the record councilperson Mathis is present.

Cubillos: Do you have glasses on?

Mathis: Yes.

Cubillos: Councilperson Mathis you've come at a good time because we have an item in the agenda where I wanted to be sure in all fairness to you, you have more than three of us here in the event that one of us votes not in your favor. If you have any questions we're going over, we've already passed resolution-- excuse me ordinance I1 and we're on I2 which is a masonry wall variance that already came before the planning and zoning board, so if you take a moment to take a look at it please.

Mathis: I reviewed it, I reviewed my package.

Cubillos: Okay.

Mathis: I'm all right.

Cubillos: You are? Okay perfect. Any other questions for the architect? Okay, hearing none, I'm going to go ahead and request if there is a motion and then I'll close the public comments, okay? Is there a motion to accept resolution-- apologize, can you please read it to the record attorney Glen Smith, I don't think you read it to the record. He did? You did? My apologies.

Glen: Very exciting.

Cubillos: [laughs] At this time is there a motion from the council to accept resolution 2018-06?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Roman: A motion to accept.

Cubillos: Motion's been made by councilperson Roman. Is there a second?

Nickerson: I second.

Cubillos: Second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. There's a motion on the table I will close the council for public comments. The comments can be directed to us or to the architect.

Corny: Corny Kirk 265 Northeast 87th street. I'm not in love with the idea of having a solid item straight up against the work with the sideway, side walkway. The gentleman is absolutely correct, we do have this in some places around El Portal.

As a matter of fact I can think of one that's a 6 or actually larger than 6 feet and it is hideous to walk by you feel like you're in a prison. This being 4 feet is a little bit better but I would ask the council to think about ways to make it less harsh moving it back 6'8 inches to allow and planting some greenery, something to soften it up would make it a lot nicer but there is precedence the other way.

Cubillos: Any other public comment please?

Ward: Dr. Lyford Ward 415 Northwest 80 Terrace. This is a masonry wall? What are you making it out of? What's it going to look like? What color is it? Is it raw masonry or is it pretty?

Maurizio: It will be painted, it will be finished in stucco to match the rest of the house and painted the same color as the rest of the house which we are, it's going to be white. Some sort of--

Cubillos: It's a solid wall.

Maurizio: Solid wall masonry. To address the gentleman's comment, we're happy to push it back 6'8 inches to add a little bit of landscape or greenery in front of the wall if that pleases the council, we're happy to do that.

Ward: I'm not objecting. I just have a problem when we start putting up walls that we might see graffiti and the court needs suggestion about plant where, we're going to be able to plant

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

something there because we're going to have some problems, you're not that far off from the major terrace or so. Give it some thought.

I don't want-- I just know that that's just-- you've been here long enough to remember the graffiti on the school? When they got ready to raise the-- to do the fence on the park, nature trail, we did not want a wall because we knew about what the upkeep would be. We still need to have that fence done but I'm not objecting to it.

Cubillos: Thank you Doctor Ward. Any other comments from the public? Okay, hearing none I want to close the public, sorry. I want to close the public comments open it up back to the council to ask Maurizio if you have any questions with regards to this variance.

Roman: I do have a question if I may. Please remind me, this wall was with the original house?

Maurizio: Correct.

Roman: Correct? Right? What's the purpose of wanting to aside from having extra room because you just said that you're willing to push it back?

Maurizio: Well, right now it is back 13 feet into her property, so, she is losing about a third of her yard maybe even more to the street. She just wants to regain that. We would be happy to set it back a little bit, to have a little bit of green space we're happy to do that. Just 13 feet when her yard is 35 or 40 feet wide seems a lot of wasted space for her.

Roman: Does she live in the house?

Maurizio: She is going to move to the house once the renovation is done.

Cubillos: I have a question to the attorney because when this went before planning and zoning, I did not vote for it but it still made it here because you have just the three votes. The question I have to the attorney before any decision is made, is if you're willing to alter the plans in way to accommodate a recommendation that was made, wouldn't he have to redo somewhat in writing the description to what that's going to look like before we vote on it? Right now we're voting on actual plans that were submitted which is the 4 foot masonry wall that's going to go certain extent in front of the house?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Nickerson: Well, I think you can move to amend the proposed resolution to describe what he's agreeing to do, that's what you want and then he'll do his [sneeze] responsibility to bring in revised plans showing that he's complied with what you voted on.

Maurizio: Just a further elaborate on that subject. The plans are currently right now being reviewed by Miami-Dade County for the septic system. As soon as we're out of that which I expect to be this week, we're coming back into El Portal to address some comments that we have pending.

If the council recommends that we push the wall back 8 inches, then we would do this revision prior to submitting back to El Portal through addressing the comments, so, it would be part of the next revision which would happen in the next couple of weeks give or take. When it comes to the actual resolution, I don't know what the best legal way of doing that.

Cubillos: Yes, does the council have a recommendation based on reviewing the plans with regards to what we would prefer to see?

Nickerson: Yes, madam mayor, I would like to see the wall move back about 8 inches and to have greenery places between the wall and the sidewalk. Besides that, I have no other objection.

Cubillos: What does 8 inches look like? [crosstalk] that's shorter than a ruler?

Maurizio: Yes, actually on second thought I think probably a foot is a little bit more to give a little bit more soil for any planting, so, a foot. A foot would be a little bit longer than what's in this paper.

Nickerson: We can go a foot and a half. [crosstalk]

Cubillos: No, no, it's okay. Oh my God [laughs]

Nickerson: Too much.

Cubillos: [laughs] Does anybody want to make a recommendation and see if the architect wants to do something and we can amend the-- we can make a motion to amend the current resolution.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Nickerson: Yes, I'm just trying to picture as I'm walking past and I think that even the foot from walking past in foot, I would think a foot and a half maybe.

Cubillos: I don't think it's also the distance in front. I think the comments that were made also in the public which and it's unfortunate that our planning consultant is not here or a member of his team, is a masonry walls wall, right? They have some type of- what you would call it- I guess probability where not so hard, is that an option or is she stuck to the rock wall?

Maurizio: We could absolutely explore options, the house on the front side does have some what you would call a wing wall that extends out and they do have a couple of punched openings which we could mimic some of that. I wish I brought pictures of that with me. Maybe in the package, I think there may be an image of that front of the house.

Roman: I think there is but let's see.

Maurizio: We would be happy to consider that option as well. They have some, it's like a square 8 by 8 square along the walls, so, we could include some of that.

Roman: You're pushing it forward correct? The wall.

Maurizio: Yes, towards 4th avenue.

Roman: Where is it? Because currently it's attached to the house.

Maurizio: Correct.

Roman: Nicely [laughs] how is it going to attach to the house?

Maurizio: Now it's still attached to the house but on the front side and it's coming out from that existing wall that is on the front side. It's just extending that one and turning the corner along the western most property line.

Roman: It's hard to tell in this pictures but.

Cubillos: The existing wall that it has is 4 feet?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th ST Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Maurizio: Yes, it may be 3, 10, or 4'2, somewhere

Cubillos: It looks a lot shorter than 4 feet, yes.

Maurizio: 4 feet is about this tall. Just not that much tall.

Cubillos: Okay. Are you saying it's just something like that?

Maurizio: Yes, correct yes something like that.

Roman: Like what?

Maurizio: I do would like to just--

Mathis: Just the punch out not the wall.

Maurizio: Yes, punch outs. If we're proposing to push the wall back 12 inches or a foot for conversation's sake and plant any sort of greenery, the greenery would most probably block those holes anyway. I think any permeability on a 4 foot wall just gets lost a little bit. It says in our architectural point, if the whole thing is landscaped to green, that could just be an option to just soften the wall. One of the ideas that I was thinking could be nice if we could plant some of these, the creepy crawlers vine that grows on the wall.

Nickerson: It hides it a little bit.

Maurizio: It hides everything, it makes a lot softer green, I think that would be a good option.

Cubillos: Okay, thank you Maurizio. Does the council, there is a motion on the table with regards to accepting the resolution. We will need if there's going to be an amendment, we will need amendment to the motion.

Nickerson: Correct.

Cubillos: With that said, is there an amendment to the motion or are we taking a vote on the actual reso the way it's been?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Nickerson: I would like an amendment if I may. As far as I gave a suggestion of foot or a foot and a half. How does councilperson Roman-- she seems discouraged.

Cubillos: Well, a foot, foot and a half is a big difference, you chunk down 12 inches or 18 inches, so, that it's got to be one or the other, it can't be both.

Nickerson: Yes, I'm trying to see what's a distance that we can all, councilperson Mathis, councilperson Roman do you guys think, madam mayor.

Mathis: I had no comment on the matter, I've already made my decision.

Cubillos: If you want--

Roman: I would say a foot and a half.

Nickerson: Foot and a half.

Maurizio: We're happy to do a foot and a half as well. Anything less than the 13 and a half feet that it is now it's a gain for the home owners.

Cubillos: If that's the route you want to go you need to make an amendment to the motion that's on the table and answer anything that you--

Nickerson: Madam mayor I'd like to make an amendment as far as the, for resolution 2018-06. I would like to amend the motion by saying that the wall should be set back from the sidewalk 18 inches or a foot and a half.

Maurizio: Can I clarify, from the property line.

Nickerson: From the property?

Maurizio: Yes, because the sidewalk maybe further away from property line and then it would be in her benefit.

Cubillos: Is that sufficient or did you want to add something to that amendment attorney?

Glen: No, you said 18 inches from the property line, it's fine.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Maurizio: That it would say 4 feet 0 inches not 4 inches.

Glen: Correct, I've already made that change.

Maurizio: Thank you.

Cubillos: Okay, there's an amendment to the pasts amendment. The amendment that's with me is to set back the wall 18 inches back from the property line. Is there a second?

Roman: I'll second.

Cubillos: The amendment has been made by Vice Mayor Nickerson it's been second by councilperson Roman. Is there any discussion?

Glen: Mayor, I believe that the original maker of the motion has to accept the amendment otherwise you'd have to vote in the first motion first and then down this.

Cubillos: The maker of the first amendment I believe is you, okay.

Roman: I'll accept the motion with the amendment as been stated by Nickerson.

Cubillos: Okay, perfect. Okay, any discussion from the council or any questions to the architect before we ask for roll call? Okay, hearing none, madam clerk can I have roll call please?

Yenise: Roll call, councilperson Mathis?

Mathis: No.

Yenise: Councilperson Dreher is not here. Councilperson Roman?

Roman: Yes.

Yenise: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Nickerson: Yes.

Yenise: Mayor Cubillos?

Transcription service provided by





**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

[silence]

Cubillos: You know I voted no in planning and zoning

[laughter]

[silence] Yes.

Yenise: Motion passes. Three to one.

Maurizio: Thank you.

Cubillos: You're welcome. Make sure that they expand this.

Maurizio: Yes, please.

[laughter]

Cubillos: If there's any way, I'll drop by there. What time frame do you think it'll be done? Next month or--

Maurizio: No. We're still in permitting--

Cubillos: Okay, so it'll be a while.

Maurizio: It will be six months before I could pull it up.

Cubillos: Six months before [crosstalk], okay. We're going to be watching in. I'm going to take my measuring tape.

[laughter]

Maurizio: Absolutely. It'll be four feet.

Cubillos: I chair planning and zoning and I didn't vote for it but we went back 18 inches and we're going to put some vines on there so I think that it would look a little nicer. Generally, councilperson Mathis and I never really vote yes on this but your patient with us last week

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th ST Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

and you accommodated to the recommendations from the public and the council so I took that to consideration.

Maurizio: I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

Cubillos: Okay, thank you. Oh yes, Councilperson Mathis, we skipped over the minutes because I had not really read them and I wasn't ready to vote what they are. I don't know if you're ready to vote on the minutes. We need to go back to Item E-1 which is approval of the minutes for the January 23rd meeting. If I have a motion to approve the minutes, and a second.

Mathis: I'll motion.

Cubillos: Motions are made by Councilperson Mathis. Is there a second?

Roman: I'll second.

Cubillos: A second by councilperson Roman. Any comments, questions? Hearing none. Madam Clark, can I have a roll call, please?

Yenise: Roll call. Councilperson Dreher is not here. Councilperson Roman?

Roman: Yes.

Yenise: Councilperson Mathis?

Mathis: Yes.

Yenise: Vice-mayor Nickerson?

Nickerson: Yes.

Yenise: Mayor Cubillos.

Cubillos: Yes. Okay, great. Thank you. We are done. We're moving into mayor's other reports. Madam Clerk, I think we're running out of battery.

Yenise: That's fine, because it's recording.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Cubillos: All right. I'll be brief. I do have my mayor's report typed so I'll go ahead and I'll give it to you for the minutes. I want a report up against on what we have done in the last month since we last met a month ago. First and foremost, I want to thank everybody for being here and I want to go into what have we done in the last month as I've just said. We are hosting monthly town halls. We had our second town hall on Saturday, February 24th. Juan, our planning consultant was the presenter. He discussed in great detail a little about our planning and zoning process at the upcoming change and permissivity schedule.

He gave us a brief overview of our new land use map and farm based code which both are located on the website. The value of these town halls and really interacting with the residents and with our planners or presenters is things can get caught. With that said, we were able to catch something thanks to the residents that was there that we need to take a look at and made sure that we fix it. I want to thank the manager who's there and Councilperson Mathis was also there. We had about a good 22 to 25 residents that attended. This monthly town halls are going to continue all the way through June. The next town hall is going to be March 24th.

The topic is don't miss our trash talk where we're going to have waste management and World Waste Recycle representatives here. It's going to be co-hosted with Councilperson Roman. That's Saturday, the 24th. Saturday the 14th we're going to have our next one, the following one with just hurricane preparedness, Saturday the May 12th you must RSVP for that one because we'd see there's going to be a brunch and it's going to be a Q and A panel with local female elected leaders in honor of Mother's Day. Then, Saturday, June 9th it's going to be a Q and A on our village budget as we gear off for the following 2018 and 2019 budget season.

May I just recommend everybody to please visit our website because we've been diligently working to ensure that it stays updated. I want to go into briefly the public safety, as I chaired the public safety committee. I want to welcome Officer, I'm going to call him V, for the efforts not to mutilate his last name Rajkumar, who has joined our department. He was sworn in last Tuesday. I also want to thank Officer Santos. He was with us for three years but he has moved on out to the Florida Highway Patrol. One of the good things that we'd implemented in the last, probably, 10 months is that whether it's a full time or part time candidate for police officer, there's a panel now that they come before.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

We implemented this in the spirit of keeping transparency in fairness to the process of hiring a police officer. A couple of weeks ago, actually shortly right after we did the interviews, the village manager and the chief and I we were going over some of the things that we can do better. As the manager cover her report, one of the things we talked about was obviously updating our manuals which I know it's going to become-- We're going to discuss in greater length tomorrow the public safety. We also talked about and one of the concerns that we'll talk about tomorrow is the enrollment right now or of the process that we have as far as receiving part-timers.

We're in need. I know that we're working with the Miami-Dade, North Miami Campus program in the hopes that we can receive better or more part-timers. The key component that I mentioned at that meeting was identifying if there is a part-timer that has the ability, the spirit or the standard to become a full-timer, how do we catch that, how do we track their progress and to keep them motivated. As part-timers they generally have a first career already and this is just secondary. We want to hopefully track and keep them and have the opportunity to make them full-time in the event that there's something that present itself. There's a difference becoming a full-time and part-time.

We're into going a little bit about more in greater detail about tomorrow night. We covered evaluations, we covered staffs and schedules. Again, that is all going to be covered tomorrow night. It's a public safety meeting at 6:30. Also, Corporal Sharp, Chief and I, we sit on the ESAT board. I'm going to go a little bit more into that tomorrow because we have an ongoing issue with the marquees, we have an ongoing issue with our doggie bags and we have an ongoing issue with the trash.

It's something that I've sent an email to the principal. I've not gotten a response back yet but I really would like to meet with him, with the manager, with our police officers because Horace Mann is part of our community and we need to do something about that.

We've had to replace the marquee the last three months twice. Now we have to completely replace it because they damaged it completely so it's not even-- the flexiglass is the entire marquee. I understand kids and we understand all of that but these doggie bags and these trash cans have been implemented in our time frame in the last couple of years. It's our job to really ensure that public property or what belongs to the city is taken care of even by the kids and respected. We were talking about speed in our meeting but we're going to address it at the public safety committee meeting tomorrow. I talked about excess or trash left over.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

The fence at Horace Mann that has not been repaired and it's been nine months now and we need in that-- just a safety. I see a lot of people using it for dogs and I think it's great but we don't want anything to happen in the property of Horace Mann. It's going to come back to whose fault is it. Is it the village or is it Horace Mann? That fence need to be repaired. The next thing is really exciting day to day for the El Portal Police Department is back in October, actually back in August of 2017 at a conference in Orlando, the mayor of North Bay Village and the commissioner, just through conversation, we were talking about the need of cars that we have.

The commissioner Alvarez sponsored a resolution after we wrote a letter to them. The resolution was passed at the November meeting and as a result we received two donated cars from the North Bay Village. I was pretty excited when I saw the cars outside today. I've invited the mayor in North-- the commissioner who sponsored the resolution so that we can properly thank them. I believe that while Ronnie was there today, she eyed two more cars which she's probably going to try to get that. She'll talk about that and the manager will discuss about that. These things are really important. When we attend networking functions or when we attend, we're continually up there.

We do it in the spirit of promoting who we are, what we are and is creating relationships. With those relationships come things like this. We had a missed opportunity because maybe at some where of last year we had the opportunity to get two SUVs from Sunny Isles but neither one of you were here then. Unfortunately, that was a missed opportunity, we didn't follow through in timely manner and we didn't get the SUVs. Guess what, Irma decided to visit us a few months later and those SUVs really would have come in handy. Like I told Chief today, we've got to rekindle that relationship and touch base with them again.

There's many other departments and there's many other friendships that we've created and that's just me, it's all of us. We all create different relationships when we're out there. This is part of the camaraderie of attending board meetings, attending functions and establishing that kind of a relationship of helping one another out. Planning and zoning, we'll discuss more tomorrow. At the first town hall the sanctuary for parties were here to present the plans to the residents, and they have now officially turned them in.

I believe the Council is going to get the packets tomorrow at the P&Z meeting. There is a lengthy internal process that involves building department, meeting with them, having questions and it's all of us so we have questions. This the time to really call them and ensure

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

that it's what the vision of the residents want as it relates to those plans. When we get them, it's very exciting they turn them in, and they're pushing us and pushing us, but we want to be sure that we are following the proper procedure and we are reading the plans and looking it with a fine tooth comb.

If all goes according to our plan with the process, those plans that they submitted will go before the P&Z meeting in May. Unless for some reason, they're done beforehand, and if we feel fit I will schedule a special P&Z meeting at which time we can bring those plans in. I talked about this in January but I want to remind the Council that at the January P&Z meeting Tishla Bice was here. They are a fiscal and economic planning analysis company. Where they come in or they are hired by a municipality that is going to be impacted by development. They will do an analysis based on who we are, what we have financially, what are our assets, and what the developments are going to look like, and how is it going to impact all of our departments.

This analysis is done with the hopes that we are little bit more aware of what that financial impact is going to be, so that when we are sited at the table with the developers that we're making or asking for legal recommendations that they can do as a partnership because they're coming into our city and clearly it's going to be an impact to our police department, our building department, our planning department, our clerk department, and our village manager and even the Council. It's really important that if the Council has not done so yet that they contact the manager with ideas as to what based on that analysis, what is a reasonable ask that we can ask.

There are three areas of developments, so it will be very different what each of them are. The first one that clearly is coming to fruition is the sanctuary. There is probably not much we can do or get there but I'm sure there's something that we can do. I really, really encourage the Council to think, take a look at that analysis, and make some recommendations and email the manager.

Okay, PlusUrbia is not here this evening. We want to congratulate him his wife at the Juan, his wife had a baby, so congratulations. They have been rapidly working on a couple of areas one of them that we really need to solidify is the medical marijuana dispensary ordinance, which has not been solidified. The second thing they were working on is the internal application process. The Council has looked at it but we've not approved it or reviewed it. It's something that I'm going to bring up at the P&Z meeting with regards to we need to move

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

that forward so that the building department is fully prepared to be able to handle any variance that comes in.

We saw the application process from Juan as a presentation, but we all either had questions or wanted to look at it again. I'm going to be bringing that up tomorrow with the hopes that we can actually solidify something so it can be implemented.

The next thing I have for PlusUrbia as a reminder to the Council that on January we voted for the permanent fee schedule to change. It requires two readings, it's an ordinance, and we spaced it at out for the second reading to be in March so that we can have Town Hall where the permanent fee schedule was discussed. That is going to come up for a vote in March. If you have any questions you must call Juan to answer those because there was an error that we caught by a resident who's here. We have to adjust it with Juan so that we be sure that when it comes back to reading that we are ready to pass it because Yenise can tell you that all these ordinances are time-based on posting and noticing-

Yenise: An interesting advertise as a matter of fact.

Cubillos: Yes. Okay, la, la, la the Little Farm. I have emailed them twice, I've put the manager on copy, we've had nothing from them. I don't have their local contact, I just email the Attorney to really find out what's their intent, what are they doing, the fence is up even though that's more the city of Miami. The Brownfields was passed in December by the Council where it was designated Brownfields, but we've not had anything since.

I would like them to come to the Council with something. We have no idea what their intent is. It's time that we need to continually reach out to them, let them know that we're here. I've emailed them twice. I've emailed Iris over in greenfields. I've put the manager on copy and we have not heard anything just yet. I'll give them another week then I'll follow through with her.

She did reply back and she said, "Thank you for your email, happy new year. I will get back to you soon as I can," and then I haven't heard anything.

Mathis: Who is Iris?

Cubillos: Iris from Greenberg. I don't know.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Mathis: The one I spoke to?

Cubillos: I don't know. I've emailed them twice but they haven't back. Transportation and public works, the really important just like we had a charade here, the Northeast corridor also had a charade. The manager and I attended. It was posted for three separate times and I heard other residents went so that's great, but it was great. We went this Saturday the morning of February 10th where had an opportunity to really mingle with other mayors of the Biscayne corridor to really let them know what we wanted to foresee happening here as the Biscayne corridor is going to change greatly in the next 5, 10 to 15 years.

To ensure that the vision that we have here is not all dramatically changed all of a sudden here. It's going to change a little because clearly there is only for the Little Firm is also different in the zoning for most of the El Portal, but we were there to be able to ensure that they know that we are here, we are present, this is El Portal, and this what we like to see happen, and that was back in February 10th.

La, la, la, let's see what else. The Councilperson Roman and I also attended, here we had the clerk sent an email blast out advising us that FDoT was going to have a public meeting. It's actually Rodolfo Roman who writes for the *Herald*, now is the information officer. It was just an FYI, it's not an El Portal, but the area that's going to have the project is abuts our town. They just let us know that it's going to start next year. We might see congestion and traffic. When the clerk sends those emails out it's really the FYI to make note of it and keep it your calendar because hey it's going to be that date that you're going to be in a hurry to get somewhere and you're in bit traffic you'll be like, "What is that?"

Well, we are trying to give as much notice as we can when we know that things are going to be happening even if it's not directly El Portal, but it surrounds and still impact us greatly because if streets are closed around North Miami gets jam, Northeast second gets jam and everybody is cutting through all those streets. It's really important to know what's going on out there.

We went to Tallahassee late January. The village manager Councilperson Roman and I, we traveled for two full days. We meet with many state representatives and senators continually to lobby for state funding for both our Stormwater project which is the continuation of the El Hadeen and our design for the Northeast second avenue septic to sewer.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

I can say that I don't believe that our lobbying effort is going to prevail this year with the tragedy that happened at Parkland, a lot has changed. As a result, the pause in Tallahassee or what I would say their priorities have shifted.

These are the things that happen when we are not continually doing the right thing every year, but now all of a sudden this is a priority. I don't think we will prevail, I don't think may cities will prevail. One area that is going to prevail will be the schools which is understandable. They had asked us to submit the last hour what would be some of our emergency needs as it relates to our police department or our school if we had one in our town.

We sent them a list but they still decided- and by they I mean the state legislators- that all the money is going go to one pot, and that's going to be Miami-Dade County as opposed to just schools and towns, which is unfortunate because we don't know how that money or where it's going to be fed and now it's got follow through if that actually goes through like what is Horace Mann going to get, what is Fellowship Miller going to get. I'm not positive feelings of what going to happen but I'm always hopeful.

A little bit of about what we've done throughout the community Councilperson Mathis and I attended the February board meeting for the Miami-Dade league of cities. Councilperson Roman and I joined the El Portal's women's club at the at the 5K purple strides supporting pancreatic cancer awareness is something that we've been doing for years now.

I want to thank the residents and I want the Vice Mayor Nickerson and the manager for coming to the 2 Mile Heart walk that we had for Go Red For Women in February an event that women don't know. Cardiovascular disease kills one woman every 80 seconds, and the disease it truly can be manageable and it starts with you. We had an awareness walk which is really nice. I want t to thank those that came out. I know you all may have forgotten because we're so busy but the Little Free Library is still there. We accept books please come Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 5:00 drop them off to the village clerk. Believe it or not, our little free library is celebrating its third anniversary. Time goes by very, very fast.

We hosted our Annual Black History Lunch. I want to thank the clerk, and I want to thank the manager and the police officers for helping the logistics come together for that event. Councilperson Roman attended along with our school Board Member, Dr. Brendon Mendago

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

here. We had North Miami councilman, Alex Asumu was also here. It was a fantastic event. The food was delicious, other pictures are posted up already.

I was invited in the spirit of Women's History Month. I was on a panel this past weekend. It was a panel of women where we had the opportunity to speak to young women in the crowd with regards to either entrepreneurship or public service, and so on, and so forth. Last Tuesday, we presented plaques to CAP Government and Ken Barrington. They were sponsors to our 80th Anniversary. We can't forget to recognize the sponsorship because they really helped us over the hump and they saved us money on our budget for all of our events. I'm sure Mathis is going to talk about the event.

I just want to remind everybody, Arbor Day is coming out this Saturday. If you still want to cook a dish, please contact Maribel Frudstone. Actually, you could go to the website of the Village of El Portal. The information under events is on there, who you can contact. We still could use some dishes if anybody wants to help out. That also goes for the council, and manager, and clerk.

That concludes-- Does that concludes my report? Always remember to please visit our website if you want to stay up to date with events and all the village happenings. I want to close off and say, before I move on to the manager's report, that I've had residents contact me with regards to the Parkland tragedy and what El Portal is doing. I just want to go on the record, and as I told the residents today, no one has not been talked about at the council.

I believe it's something that we will start up at the committee level. It's a topic that when I sit in a forum with mayors, and we talk the issue, it's not about banning, it's not about this. It's a scope of things but I'm not prepared to put El Portal in that highlight.

What do I mean by that? Like if we're going to make a decision and we're going to discuss it as a group, we're going to do that, but we're not going to go to the newspaper, we're not going to come out in the Herald. To me, I don't want to politicize it. To me, it's about doing what's right. That's something that I want to share at the committee level. I don't think drawing that kind of attention to a ton of our size is something that would be in our best interest.

I have spoken and met with the manager and the chief. We actually have a formalized meeting tomorrow and go over a lot of issues because one of the things that we have done or we're working on immediately is ensuring the safety of this village, and ensuring the safety

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

of this department, and ensuring the safety of every employee in this office. It would be who was not to make any drastic public decision without ensuring the safety of our family, which is us.

We have had conversations with Horace Mann with regards to what they're doing, and their action. I'm a business owner. I had a meeting with my staff as far as what are the do's and the don'ts. Training is key. I've asked the chief to not only formalize the training for her Police Department but I want it for every single employee in this village hall and the council because we all need to be in the same page as it relates to reaction and protocol.

You do know that if this were to ever happen, it's not like the chief and the manager we're all going to be here that day. It's always going to happen when we're not here. It's really important that it doesn't matter who's here. We are all on the same page. We all know exactly what to do and we're not looking for the binder to read what we have to do. We know what we have to do. That's a part of our conversation that we have tomorrow.

In that sense, while we have them in public, we have internalized it and we've made note that there's things that we have to do to protect ourselves as well. In the event that anything should ever happen, we are all on the same side. It's an immense tragedy but we are hoping that everybody just does their part and does what's right. That concludes my report.

At this time, we have the manager's report.

Christia: Mayor, you covered a lot of the things I was going to cover but I'll just touch on a few things briefly. Yes, the developers of the sanctuary project officially filed their application on February 21st. That is proof that we're moving forward on that project. That's very exciting because I think everybody in the community is excited to see something happen with that property and something that's going to benefit the entire village.

The staff and I are coordinating with the mayor and council member Roman on the execution of our national Arbor Day celebration. We have been working pretty hard on just beautifying the village. In that, we have dismissed all our former landscaping contractors because we had four of them. We now have one. I have to tell you, they started last Tuesday. There's a lot. You can see the big change. One contractor handling everything from tree, maintenance, and clippings to taking care of the sprinklers. They finished the sprinklers today.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

They do pressure washing so they'll clean the signs tomorrow. There's a lot that's happening. I'm happy to say that it has been a cost-benefit to us to reduce it down to one. We also know which company is doing the trees, which company is cutting the grass over here. We didn't know that before because we had to go through the list of all four. Sometimes they call you back, sometimes they don't. I think this is a good economy for the time and money for the village.

Moving on from that though, [chuckles] we are partners with the Florida Department of Transportation in the relaunch of the Drive Safe campaign. I attended a meeting on February 13th. Alden Darrel, they're centered to partner with FDoT. El Portal police and I would be meeting with FDoT here and El Portal to review our safety needs for the speeding. We're looking to do more enforcement and getting the word out. They will be partnering up with us to do outreach as well. We'll meet with them next week to start our part of that campaign.

Please know that we've put some things on the website. We've also been passing out cards about the relaunch of Drive Safe because, as we know, speeding is an issue. As people get off of High 95 and speed through our streets trying to get to this game or wherever they're trying to go. Yes, did you ever see two new vehicles for North Bay Village? I inspected one today. It looks really good. I didn't know it wasn't new [chuckles] but it looked really nice. I'm excited that our part-timers will now get their vehicles because our full-timers have the very new vehicles, but these part-time officers got the hand-me-downs.

Well, these are nice two vehicles that are more equipped and have the things we need to add our equipment into them. That's an exciting gift. We're happy to have that from North Bay Village. Yes, if anybody else wants to give us some cars, we'll take over. Acting chief, Huff Nigel, and her staff have been working hard on just improving systems. The chief actually attended a five-day seminar entitled, *Moving Up To Supervision*. She did that last month. That was a five-day seminar, so without her, but she came back with some good information that she'll be implementing.

Officer Botagli continues to work with the Miami-Dade Crime Watch Board. He's trying to implement some things here so residents are aware. He'll be working with us to get the word out for that. Other officers are taking more leadership roles as well. We're excited to see that and we're excited to see that our acting chief and the corporal are being more visible by doing career day panels and being active in the community. They've been taking Arctic out as well. That's nice that our Police dog gets a little sunshine, too.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Yes, we lost one officer, Officer Santos but we gained a fantastic new full-time officer, Vishwar Rajkumar. We're really excited about that. He has such a wealth of experience and maturity to add to our police force. I'm excited about seeing him on a regular basis as a full-time officer and he can teach our newer officers. But yes, we will be implementing more retention measures for our police officers as they come up through the ranks. We are still working with the PBA to negotiate that contract but it's coming to an end at some point, I promise you.

[chuckles] Illegal dumping continues to be a problem near the footbridge. That is an issue. Again, the broken signs, this is out of control. We fix it, two days later, broken down, kicked down again. Some things got to be done. We need our residents to shine the light. If you see something, say something to residents. You have to say, "I see you dumping, I see you putting that there or don't." We have to help each other out because we can't be everywhere all the time. Unfortunately, we don't have cameras but maybe that will change in the near future, but we need to call on everybody to help with certain things like vandalism and just trash.

Cubillos: That's so upsetting.

Christia: So sad that people do that to a village we are going to take pride in. Outside of that, the legislation, the mayor did update you on what's happening there due to the Steelman and Douglas shootings. The legislative priorities have changed in Tallahassee, so we may have to start thinking about some other ways to fund our phase two, but we'll come up with something, we always do. That concludes my report. Thank you.

Cubillos: I have a question. The company is going to pressure clean the Welcome signs?

Christia: Yes.

Cubillos: Okay. Can we buy the, I don't really know what it's called, but there's a system that can be put into the sprinkler or something so that the well water doesn't rust it.

Christia: That's already been put in place. They've already put that in but they're going to clean them just because they need to be cleaned as well, I guess. We've already gotten the rest of the treatment.

Cubillos: Okay, and they're going to fix the lighting on the medium or is that an electrician?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Christia: No, the electrician is working on that story for them, but that's a separate, but that's also being worked on. Also, we asked that our police and community, if you see lights out, we don't work all day, so we don't know, if you see lights out in Sherwood Forest or the other parts or just [unintelligible 01:01:43] public library, let us know because we don't know unless you tell us.

Cubillos: Perfect. Any questions for the manager?

Nickerson: No. I would just like to say that for the lights, you guys, there's numbers. If you look at the light poles, there's a number in the pole. You could write those numbers down and give them to us so we know exactly what lights that are out. Thank you.

Cubillos: Thank you Christia. We're going to go into the committees. We're going to start off with public affairs and we have council person who's the chair, Mathis, of public affairs.

Mathis: Public affairs. We have a ton of events coming up and March seems like all of them are coming out, let us say, once. For March 10th, we have the Arbor Day festivities. What I like about this event is all the top chefs in the village come out and bring their different dishes. That's what I'm really looking forward to. Foods around the world and Courtney I know you'll be bringing the ADs to accent the foods around the world [laughs]. That's going to be at Mayo River State Park that's on the corner of Northwest 86th street and 2nd avenue. There's going to be jazz music, there's going to be people, there's going to be fun, there's going to be kids.

Cubillos: Prosecco.

Mathis: Prosecco for toasting. We also have March 31st is our Easter egg hunt. I'm looking forward to working with Eunice on this one because she's the queen of egg stuffing, so I'm looking forward to that. I have something for April 2nd, but I think that's one of my deadlines. The mayor already discussed the Mothers Day brunch. One of my favorite events coming up is the 5K which is May 19th. I'm really looking forward to that. This will be our 10th annual. I want to thank the mayor for bringing this to us.

Cubillos: It's crazy.

Mathis: It truly is a love because it was one thing when Mayor Cubillos first came onto the diet she was given public affairs. It's one of the committees that everybody wants but they

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

don't want because once they get into it, they realize the work that it involves. One day we were out running and she's like, "You know what? We should do this." "Oh my God, I don't think it's a good idea." It's stuck with us ever since and I want to thank you for that.

Cubillos: You all have to come. Courtney's been there every year.

Mathis: The police officers do a fantastic job of keeping everybody on course. Again, it is a timed accredited course, so all you avid runners please come out and join. You don't have to run. We have walkers, we have skaters, we have everything. We have more events throughout the year but I will come back later with those. With that, that concludes my report.

Cubillos: Little River.

Mathis: Wait, we have the Little River clean up. Is that what's April 2nd?

Cubillos: April 7th.

Mathis: 7th. Little River clean up. Is there food involved in that at all?

Cubillos: Sandwiches at the end. That's so fantastic. We're there to clean up the river. We've been doing it for five years now and it's truly great. You get sub sandwiches, canola football's closed or something. Yes.

Mathis: You didn't know that?

Cubillos: Tragic. Very tragic.

Mathis: You didn't know that?

Cubillos: Christine McClean who is a resident here really heads up the event. If you go at our website, her e-mail is there.

Mathis: That concludes my report.

Cubillos: Public works. Councilperson Dreher is not there. You're the vice chair. Do we have an update on where we're at or we're going to get that on the Tuesday of public works?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Mathis: I did get an e-mail that was very lengthy. Everything will be discussed at the meeting because I need to speak with Councilperson Dreher, but you know I can't do that so I have to do that for him.

Cubillos: We have lots of questions so this will cover all that, not tomorrow but the following Tuesday. Public safety, that is me. I said most of that at my report with regards to public safety, but tomorrow, the committee meeting is on at 6:30. If you have an issue that you want us to address, please attend. That is 6:30 sharp here on public safety. Code enforcement. I'm not the chair. Sorry, Vice Mayor Nickerson.

Nickerson: Thank you very much madam mayor, I appreciate it. It's all good. It's good to see everybody here tonight as always. I just wanted to say for code enforcement unlike public affairs with my man Councilperson Mathis. There's not too much I can say about code enforcement because I can't put everybody's business out there. I would like to say though that I do appreciate- there's two ongoing issues right now that are really big with that dealing with neighbors and those are being handled. I would like to say that I appreciate about three weeks ago, two different residents came to me. It's not these two issues.

Two different residents came to me about their neighbors and things that have been going on. I went out there and spoke to the neighbors. Sometimes communication is just the issue and sometimes it takes a person that's outside of the situation to handle it, and I spoke to the neighbors and those two situations were taken care of. I just want to say that if you do have a situation that you want to say something about but you don't know how to say it to your neighbor or you just don't feel comfortable doing that, definitely contact me and then tell me what's going on. It says in the chair of code enforcement it's a code issue and I'll see if I can handle it.

I've become a pretty good mediator in that regard.

That's about it. As I said before, there's not too many things I can say about code enforcement because those issues I won't put out there in the public like that, but thank you very much. Madam chair.

Cubillos: This is from the comment. At the town hall on Saturday in February and I'll bring it up in greater detail, one of the things that came from that was code enforcement because it's deciding what we're going to potentially focus in on. That's an issue and address it even

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

across the board. I will bring that up at code enforcement. I don't know if I'm in the committee, but I'll bring that up or I'll e-mail the manager so that you all can take a look at it because what happens is that we understand that there are other violators of parking on the swale or you pressure cleaning your roof or what have you.

If we could pick maybe our top five and evenly and consistently address it across the board as a village because we know that not many people are going by the code whether the swale or this and that, so what some of the residents at the town hall asked if we can just identify five and consistently side them across the board. Doesn't matter if it's the mayor, doesn't matter who it is. Everybody, if there is violating the code and those are the five things and that's going to be our focus for quarter 3, then that's what we're going to address. I'm going to bring that up for code enforcement as a recommendation to consider, the committee to consider.

Nickerson: Definitely. Thank you, madam mayor. The last thing I just want to say is that we do have code enforcement officer, so understand that, as I was giving the examples earlier that that happened recently. I'm not the code enforcement officer. He is the one that goes around and he cites and things like that, but if you do have a problem with your neighbor or something that you see, you can contact me and if I can handle just by taking care of situation I will, but we do have a code enforcement officer that handles all of those things thank you.

Cubillos: Planning and zoning, I'm the chair. I discussed it during my report, I just want to remind everybody that the next planning new zoning committee meeting is March 13th at seven o'clock. Admin and finance chairperson Councilperson Roman.

Roman: Good evening everyone. What I want to report is I had an active February, so I want to just touch base really quickly on them they're not all for admin and finance, but I'll start with admin and finance. On the admin and finance, as some of you may know or may not know, the council just changed committees, so we had our first meeting a couple months ago and we're about to meet again admin and finance next week. I do invite residents, the committees are great to come in and give your feedback also offer suggestions. I do invite everyone to be as active as they can with those committee meetings.

With the admin and Finance, we are looking at getting all the reviews up to date regarding the administration, so everyone, all the employees within the village. We're also looking at

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

getting all the contracts updated. That's for all of our contractors and also any internal contracts that need to be updated. We're also, and I don't know that the manager mentioned it on her report, but we did hire an HR person. That person is going to be doing some training and our CFO as well as some of the employees and our manager will be helping out with that training.

We're excited to have that position because as the village is growing, it's important that we have someone who helps out, helps to make sure that we stay in compliance with all of our HR. We're also, I think the manager did mention or the mayor that we're working for the employee handbook to get that updated. There's a lot of updating in that department that's taking place and finalizing the contracts for the manager as well. In regards to my other items, I do want to share in regards to my day days Tallahassee trip. It was my first trip I went along with America videos in the village manager.

It was very educational for me to go and really my first time there especially in this capacity. I was able to meet with the representatives in those meetings that we were all in. Very interesting to just see the process and I think what came out of that the most was to see the presence at El Portal has in Tallahassee. I was really impressed by that. I really want to thank the mayor and the lobbyist for all their hard work because everyone knows in Tallahassee who El Portal is. We were recognized by the house and then in the Senate during those meetings and we're not being forgotten.

Even if everything has changed now with what's happening to schools and we may not get any funding, we still have a voice there. Thank you, mayor, for all your hard work there and our lobbyists they were there. Then I also want to update everyone on the 4th annual Art Fair that took place on February 10th. We had a great turnout. I want to especially thank the El Portal Women's Club president Maribel Fruitstone for chairing the children's tent and curating the children's art submissions. We have some beautiful artwork from some of our villagers. I also want to thank former resident Russell muskie who came out and really rescued us at the last minute with his band The Goat doesn't launch.

We had an emergency. The band that we had contracted originally had an emergency that day, that morning and Russell came to the rescue and did a fabulous job.

Cubillos: He was very good.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Roman: Yes, he was very good.

Mathis: Very good.

Roman: I want to thank Russell for being there with us. I also want to thank our village manager because she worked very hard and making sure that along with ShareMedia and with me as the chair that everything just worked out nicely. The police department, everyone was there. We had a great presence so I want to thank them for their help. They also helped with the cleanup so thank you so much I appreciate that. Then last but not least, code enforcement. Carlos, he worked really hard before, during, and after. I especially want to recognize Carlos our code enforcement for doing that. Last but not at least, our sponsors, we need to thank them.

I wanted to mention them here. First off, the antiques in the Sign Mall, then the village of El Portal because, obviously, they put up the event. Starbucks Coffee provided coffee for us, and [unintelligible 01:15:30] Miami provided the yoga, Miami-Dade County provide our staging. OrthoNow was one of our cash sponsors. Then Florida Community Bank was also a cash sponsor. Ms. Claudia's Village Academy provided for staffing for the children's tent. Maniac Marketing was also a cash sponsor. I want to thank all of our sponsors and I look forward to what we bring next year.

I also participated in the family food truck night Q&A that the El Portal Women's Club hosted for us as a kickoff for the Women's History Month. I want to thank the Women's Club for inviting me to take a part of that. It was great to see some new faces. Unfortunately, we didn't have a great attendance that was right after the unfortunate shooting at the school, so that may have something to do with it, but it was really great and I do hope that we have other opportunities-

Mathis: It was an accident.

Roman: - to get in front of the residents for the Q&A at some point. I'm also on the code enforcement committee, and so I sponsored the home of the month program. We were donated signs, these beautiful signs by David Ward and Cecily [unintelligible 01:16:53]. I have a picture of them and I brought it if council hasn't seen them and anyone who wants to see it. It's a beautiful sign. We have two that were donated because every month we will be recognizing a home on the east side and at home on the west side. Then, for January, we did

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

not have any nominations because our signs did not come in yet, but we did move forward on February.

I'm happy to announce that Barbara Joseph from 425 Northwest 88th Street was the winner on the west side. Then Camila and Luis [unintelligible 01:17:32] over here in Sherwood Forest 336 Northeast 85th were the winners on the east side. They have their signs in front of their homes and we took some pictures so you'll be seeing them on our website and also in our newsletter. I want to thank the chair Andrew Miller for taking time to make sure that he drives throughout the village and takes the phone calls or the emails in regards to nominations that are being made and also his partner Richard Canal.

The next selection will be March 15th, so if you have any nominations please email those to elportalhomeofthemonth@gmail.com. Then last, the March town hall which the mayor mentioned is on March 24th. We had a workshop where we cover recycling back in November of 2017 which I hosted. It was very popular and, by popular demand, it's coming back but this time around we're also going to be discussing waste, the bulk pickup and the waste as well as recycling. I invite all of you to come and that concludes my report.

Cubillos: Thank you. At this time we have the village attorney report. I'm sitting on behalf of Joseph Geller is Glenn Smith.

Glenn: Yes, Mr. Geller is still in the legislative session, he could not be here and I do not have the report.

Cubillos: Okay great, thank you for being here. Unfinished business. Earlier in the agenda, I had asked to move H2 over to K1 which is a consideration of the recommendation of the January 16th admin and finance committee regarding the village attorney and possible action thereon. This was an item that we discussed in great length in January with regards to the consideration of a new attorney. It was asked to be brought back to the February meeting and we are here, well, we're in March but this is really the February council meeting. I will start off by saying I don't want to really go into much of it with regards to any type of dissatisfaction, what have you.

I just have come to the point where I asked the council. While I know these decisions are really hard and were elected to make very hard decision.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

While we're up here, we create relationships and friendships and sometimes when you have to part ways it's not easy, but, at the end of the day, I'm elected to do what the voters want and need me to do. I have found it a little difficult in the last six or seven months, well, a little longer, but I'll say six or seven months to do my job. I'm at the point where I'm always waiting for answers and we as a village have too much responsibility, we have too much going on. I really asked the council that while we're not breaking friendships but it's time for us to really consider the next step.

It's one of those things that we must address before things really spiral out of control as it relates to work that's not getting done. When we are up here, we are the final decision-makers, but all of our decisions are weighed by a staff report whether it's coming from the manager or it's coming from the planning department, and it always a legal opinion. We cannot make decisions on certain things and they linger because we're waiting for legal opinions. As a result, I'm only one person, but it's been brought up again and I opened it up to the council with regards to what the next step is going to be. I'm sorry Glenn Smith that you're here for this, but it's where we're at right now.

Roman: Mayor, if I may. I expressed my concerns first off to the committee which is how we were able to bring this to the January meeting. Now, in my role as committee chair for the admin and finance, I'm seeing even more of that my concerns are valid. I do believe as I've mentioned in previous meetings and in the committee and as well as the January meeting that our operations at times is at a standstill. It's not going as fluid as it should. Therefore, things aren't happening, decisions aren't taking place. I'm, as a resident not only as a council person, as a resident of the village of El Portal, I feel we need to move in a different direction.

I feel that, again, it's not personal, it's just business. Business needs to be done and I want more for our village. I think that as we grow, we deserve to have someone who's got our full attention and that where we can lean on and pick up the phone and have phone call. I had something this afternoon and our attorney's not available. My recommendation or what I would like to make a motion on but I'd like to hear the rest of the council first.

Nickerson: Madam mayor, if I may. When this came up in committee, there was more than enough evidence and wherewithal to do something and take an action there. Then, he wasn't there for the committee meeting our attorney, so I said that I wanted to give him a chance to speak. Then I said, "Let's move to full council" and we did that, and he was not there for that council meeting that was last month. There was a reason to take action then. I said, "Can we

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

please move it to next month." I said, "Regardless whether he's here or not," guys, remember I said that.

I said, "Whether he's here or not we'll make the decision at that next month which is tonight." Next month's meeting. Unfortunately, he's not here tonight, but I stick to what I say. I've been saying for months now that now we would have liked him to be here to his side, but the village and the residents come first and that's all I need to say. Madam mayor.

Cubillos: Councilperson Mathis.

Mathis: Councilperson Dreher is not here, so I'm not ready to do this. I want the whole council to have a discussion and decision on this so that's where I'm at.

Cubillos: With all due respect, Councilperson Dreher missed two November meetings. Councilperson Dreher, I believe possibly missed the October meeting. Councilperson Dreher missed last Tuesday meeting and he's not here tonight. We all got the agenda, we all know what the agenda is and clearly if he's not here there is something that really must have been incredibly important that he's not here. Yes, we received a letter from Joe Geller, if you all like, you can read it on the record that's fine, but that goes exactly to my point with regards to we'll continue waiting. I have plenty of printed out material of things that we're waiting answers on, but I'm not here to bash anybody.

I'm here to get a job done. I've waited and we've waited and waited.

Mathis: Madam mayor, I understand what you're saying. I just said where I'm coming from. I want the whole council just to weigh in on this, not just the four of us or three of us, the whole council. That's just my stance on it.

Cubillos: If Councilperson Dreher misses another meeting in March and there are things lingering, so we're going to wait till April?

Mathis: My stance is that I think the whole council should weigh on in on this and with you saying that, you know I know the charter like the back of my hand, there are things that need to be taken into consideration

Cubillos: It's a consideration when you miss that three meetings.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Mathis: Yes. With that being said on that same note, there are some of us that are sitting up here that need to review the charter and know what they can and cannot do with regards to employees and so forth. Let's just be careful on certain things.

Cubillos: We can adjust that at admin and finance if need be. Anyway, if there's an item on the agenda, if there's a motion, I'll open it up to the public for public comments.

Roman: Mayor, I think you should open it up.

Cubillos: I will close. That's right. Either way, either there's a motion or not, either way, I'm going to open it up for public comments. At this time, I'll close this agenda item and open it up to anybody in the public that would like to address this issue in any way before motion may or may not be made.

Courtney Kirk: Courtney Kirk, 265 Northeast 87th Street. I know you guys are sick of hearing from me, but I've been to a number of council meetings where Mr. Geller has come in either significantly late or been extremely distracted and that's been frustrating. My question to the council is do we have another firm lined up? Do we RFP it? Do we have significant increase in cost or lower cost understanding there may be a difference in service level that would justify an increased cost? Have we gone through what that means or is this proposal just to start the process of looking? Thank you.

Cubillos: As a government entity, we must have an attorney on record. I definitely agree and believe that we need to do an RFQ hands down, but, either way, an interim attorney will have to be appointed. I have an attorney that I've met at the League of Cities that I would make a recommendation tonight only as an interim, but we must do an RFQ, we must see what's out there. I really want to interview firms. I really want to see what our options are as it relates to even having a contract.

I've asked for the attorney's contract which I haven't seen in years, so while I'll be ready to make a recommendation, it is not a friend, it is nobody, it's only somebody that I met in the last six months who sits as an interim manager right now for another municipality. He would come in as an interim because we will need an attorney on record, but an RFQ hands down would be the next thing that has to move forward so that we can properly do research.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Maribel Fruitstone: Hey, Maribel Fruitstone 157 Northwest 88th Street. I have lived in El Portal since 2001 and I have come to council meetings since 2001. Our council would come late, he's been doing it all the time. Before they used to serve refreshments and he would serve himself. He would also proceed to fall asleep on the dais. Whenever there were questions that the council needed clarification on, I have witnessed since 2001 that he is unable to answer those questions clearly. That, as a taxpayer, does not make me happy because if the council is supposed to be working for our village, then he should be working actively and know what is going on with everything that we're doing.

We have had opportunities where the village has been able to make money with leans, they take forever, they get settled. It's just very disappointing. I have a cold [coughs]. I'm sorry. Whenever he has representation here while he is out, they are unable to answer the question nor do they feel compelled to try and answer the question because they have to ask him. In my opinion as a person that comes here, then for me, it's like, "Why are you here? Are you here just to sit in the seat?"

I really feel that if we are a village and we are moving and shaking and changing this village, that we need to have council that supports that and works directly for the village and is not conflicted with different places and scattered all over the place. That they deliberately believe in our vision and they want to support what you all and what the village of El Portal wants to become and supports that. That's what I wanted to say.

I absolutely agree that it needs to take time that we need to find somebody that can do that. In the meantime, you all know, I'm tired of paying for no work.

Cubillos: All right, thank you. Any other comments? Okay, Hearing none. At this time, is there any motion on the table?

Roman: Madam mayor, I'd like to make a motion. I'd like to make a motion to end our relationship with our current council attorney and the law firm.

Cubillos: A motion has been made to terminate our current relationship with the attorney and the law firm. Is there a second?

Nickerson: Second madam mayor.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Cubillos: There is a second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. There is a motion and then there is a second. I would open it up for discussion from the council.

Nickerson: Madam mayor, according to our charter, we do need to have a village attorney.

Cubillos: As I mentioned to the resident, I will recommend an appointment, an interim attorney and then I'll also make a recommendation to do it. I'll talk about the RFQ, the admin and finance and then move it to the March counsel to agree on the RFQ and then it goes out. 100% it needs an RFQ asap. There is a motion, any discussion?

Nickerson: No madam.

Cubillos: Do I need to close for public comments again? I can close council, but if for public comments it's the same. Hearing none, I'll go back to the council meeting. Madam clerk, can we have roll call.

Clerk: Roll call. Councilperson Dreher is not here. Councilperson Roman?

Roman: Yes.

Clerk: Councilperson Mathis?.

Mathis: No.

Clerk: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Nickerson: Yes.

Clerk: Mayor Cubillos?

Cubillos: Yes.

Clerk: Motion passed is three to one.

Courtney: Mayor, when does this take effect?

Cubillos: I'm going to make a recommendation to appoint the interim attorney. This has been an initiative that has been in our agenda at the Miami-Dade League of Cities about

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting**

Date: 3.5.18

Meeting Start: 7:00 pm

Meeting End: 8:52 pm

Meeting Length: 01:51:23

maybe four or five months ago. I met Norman Powell who is an interim attorney at North Bay Village. He is a Miami Shores resident. I'm not going to read his bio even though I printed it out, but it's extensively long. I welcome you to go to the North Bay Village Council. He has a local and state municipal experience. He's got a private practice in North Bay Village. I've talked to the mayor and vice mayor there. After having a conversation with them, he seemed quite engaged.

He actually attends the Miami-Dade League of Cities which that in itself to me, I've been doing this for nine years and this is the first time that I've had a clerk and a manager that actually attends the League of Cities with us. As I said earlier in my report, there's a lot to be said about relationships. I've seen him in the last three out of six League of City meetings and we've had extensive conversations. I think you've met some of their members on the dais as well. Hold on, I have his bios right here. He is currently the interim manager at North Bay Village. I don't know if they are keeping him or not.

His private practice is at the second or third floor from the North Bay Village. As I said, his name is Norman Powell. He graduated from the Florida International University in 1987. He received his Juris Doctors from the University of Florida College of Law in 1990. He was admitted to the bar the same year. As I said, it's really extensive, so I'm going to try to pick what I would think would be-- He sat on the board of city of North Miami Beach Redevelopment and Advisory board. He sat in the Miami's first Planning and Zoning board.

He served as a special master for the city of North Miami Beach, North Bay Village.

He has served as a traffic court magistrate for Miami-Dade County. What was the other thing that I saw here? Since graduating from the University of Florida, Mr. Powell has concentrated his practice of civil litigation, real estate transactions, and state and local government law. He is a member of the city-county and local government law section of the Florida bar. He is admitted to practice before the United States supreme court. He, in '91 through '94, he successfully represented the Florida Senate in the state of Florida. Redistricting of its Senate and House District and the reappointment of Florida Congressional District.

I can go on and on. As I said, I do not know him personally at all. I have only met him through the Miami-Dade League of Cities. I've asked my peers which is the mayor of North Bay Village and the vice mayor of the North Bay Village their opinion on him. The one thing

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351

www.fullmooncreative.com

(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

that they said to me that was most appealing is that he attends all the meetings, he attends even meetings that not necessarily on committee or council level, but meetings with other developers and so on and so forth. It's somethings that we need right now. Whatever firm or attorney we are going to look for, we need to look for that.

I remember in 2014 when we were interviewing planning firms. It was Plosobia and there was two other really big firms. One of the reasons that the council voted for Plosobia was because there was small boutique like us because they can hand-held this throughout the whole process and you know what they do. As a result, we've been quite successful with that relationship. I applaud that attorney Geller is a big shot legislature, but we need someone that's going to be at our level and that is going to hand-held the manager, the mayor, and the council through all of these transactions that we are about to move forward and hopefully in a speedier way.

It seems that this gentleman, from the experience that he has and from what he's doing right now in North Bay Village, could be a great interim person for us. As we go through our RFQ because 100%, I really want to see what's out there. I think it's really, really important for all of us. It's time that we really take a look at all of our vendor contracts because we have long-standing relationships. The other contract we are going to be looking at is our waste management contract. Things get really hard up here because we establish such great report, but I try to make the decisions as sound as possible and with the best interest for the village.

At the end of the day, I have a job that I have to get done for you all. This would be my recommendation on an interim basis. You have a computer, you can Google him. I pass this, I see in Google you can have. If anybody has met him, I think most of you have met him at the league, but he would be my recommendation. If he could start and then I would ask the clerk to please contact him tomorrow and then we'll formalize something.

Nickerson: Madam mayor.

Cubillos: Yes.

Nickerson: I just have a couple of things that I just quickly want to say. First of all, because of the charter, we need to hire interim attorney. That's the first thing. Second of all, as long as that we go through the RFQ as quick as possible so that this is not lingering as far as we have an interim attorney for the next year or something like that. That's the second thing. I guess I

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

have three things. Third of all, I just want to make sure that him being the interim manager, he has time.

Cubillos: Interim attorney, I keep saying manager too. Interim attorney. I confuse with the word manager.

Nickerson: I thought interim manager. Good. I'm thinking about our lovely Christia Alou. I'm like, "How busy she is." This guy must be up to, he's not going to have time for us. Okay, interim attorney.

Cubillos: I've been saying that.

Nickerson: That makes a difference.

Christia: It's an interim attorney.

Nickerson: That makes a difference, but still, I just want to make sure that he has time for us also, but besides that, madam mayor, besides that, I have no more questions.

Cubillos: I know Councilperson Mathis has met them. I don't know if you would like to say a few words.

Mathis: I knew him before he went to North Bay also. He's a great guy. Great attorney. Very thorough, meticulous.

Cubillos: That is my recommendation. I make a motion to appoint Norman Powell as the interim attorney with the intent of discussing the RFQ process at the admin and finance and then deliver that to the March meeting so we can move forward with that.

Nickerson: Can I make the motion?

Roman: I second.

Cubillos: Uh?

Nickerson: Can I make the motion?

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Cubillos: Mayor has made the motion, it's been second by Councilperson Roman. I will open it up for public comments. That was done by Vice Mayor Nickerson years ago.

Courtney: Sorry. Really quickly. Sorry, Courtney Kirk 265 Northeast 87 Street. If he is interim attorney somewhere else, are we going to have conflicts on meetings because we meet on Tuesdays and they meet on Tuesdays and that kind of thing? I'd be concerned on that. Then are we putting something in that says he's interim but he or his firm cannot apply to be the full time so that he's not helping to craft the RFP and then respond to it?

Cubillos: Yes, we'd have to take a look at that. That was a recommendation made by a resident when we had the interim manager. One of the recommendations that the resident made was that they didn't think or believe that the village manager should apply if there was an RFQ or a search. We're looking to stay with the interim manager so we'd have to just take a look at that, the proper legality. Clearly, we're not going to have him do his own RFQ and then that's something that it would not make sense. To answer the second part of it, when I had a preliminary conversation with him at the last league meeting, he looked at his dates and his dates were fine.

It does not conflict with neither committees or North council conflict with North Bay Village. Any other questions for the public? Okay, hearing none. I'll close the public comment. Any comments from the dais?

Nickerson: No madam mayor.

Cubillos: Madam Clerk, did you get the motion?

Clerk: A motion for Norman Powell to be the interim attorney while putting out an RFQ.

Cubillos: Yes. Can I get a roll call?

Clerk: Roll call. Councilperson Dreher is absent. Councilperson Roman.

Roman: Yes.

Clerk: Councilperson Mathis.

Mathis: Yes.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Clerk: Vice Mayor Nickerson.

Nickerson: Yes.

Clerk: Mayor Cubillos.

Cubillos: Yes.

Clerk: Motion passes.

Speaker 9: Might I ask a question?

Cubillos: Yes, of course.

Glenn: I'm not clear as to when the termination on my firm takes effect. I'm assuming it's immediately.

Cubillos: Yes, I'm going to actually ask the clerk to please contact Norman Powell to let him know what basically is just part of this evening, and then I will contact the manager tomorrow and there are steps to follow. I've been here for nine years, I've never been through this process before but everything is pretty much laid out with regards to what we have to do by law and we'll make sure to call Joe Geller as well. We'll make sure that we follow the proper procedures as it relates to what we need to do. There are steps to take, so we'll take all the appropriate necessary steps.

Glenn: I'm a little slow at this myself. Is the firm still, for a period of time, the senior attorney for this village or is the termination effective now? Immediately.

Cubillos: Yes, the termination is effective immediately. What happens is the clerk will contact the attorney tomorrow and we'll have him handle a part of it clearly as the attorney of the village on record to make recommendation as we move forward. I'm sure one of the things that we're going to ask him is to contact Joe Geller. Just like we have a resolution for our interim manager, we'll have to put a resolution in for him as well. We have meetings tomorrow. If we need to have a special council meeting then that's something that I will ask the new attorney and the former attorney which probably a special council meeting will have to come up forward with the reso.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Mathis: May I make a suggestion?

Cubillos: Yes.

Mathis: I would make a suggestion that doing this, Norman is more than capable, I know that but he's going to need some catch up time and time with them, so I would think that we would give Greenspoon a week, two weeks, something, so that we can have somewhat of a smooth transition.

Cubillos: That was one of the things that I tried to cover in as much as I can in the event that anything would happen. In the conversation that I had with other mayors that have been in this predicament is that you make the termination, you have the clerk contact the new attorney. They actually said that the termination would be immediate and that he will come in tomorrow and we'll take it from there. He'll meet with the manager and the if a special council meeting needs to be called to design a resolution or if he needs or there needs to be a time frame, and then that's the time frame at a professional courtesy.

He said that that would be the next step is that the clerk has to call. Most likely, I believe there would probably be a special council meeting that we need to call maybe by the end of the week or something, but I'll wait till the attorneys handle that legal matter together. What I will recommend is once you discuss, arrange and call him, and then I'm sure one of the first things he's going to do is contact Joe Geller and then we take it from there.

Glenn: If he can't reach Joe Geller because of the legislate session, would you please have him contact me?

Cubillos: Yes, can you give your number to the clerk?

Glenn: Certainly.

Cubillos: Okay. Joe Geller like Norman Powell, they're attorneys and they have a professional courtesy so I'm more than sure that they're going to talk to each other and they're going to advise us what the proper procedure would be and the next step. Any other unfinished business? A new business? The only thing I want to add is we went through- I recently asked for the council to put together some articles for the newsletter. I really ask you all to please do so. When it's not done, it makes the work a lot longer.

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th ST Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

I really encourage the manager if you want to put an article in, the clerk used to, but, apart from that, if you want to put an article in, the same thing with the police department, you're more than welcome to do that. I think it's important to put something in and that it really makes it a little easier because if not then I've got to fill in all these spaces and then there's a lot of pictures. I really encourage you could put a message from the manager, the clerk. Especially as we have elections coming up, you may want to say two things, but with that said, the next deadline for the newsletter is going to come upon us pretty quickly.

Irma delayed everything, so the newsletter that came out in January really should have probably come out in November. The newsletter that came out now that's coming out this week, really should have come out a couple months ago. The next deadline is actually going to be, I would say if you could have something by maybe end of April so we can have something in May. The newsletter, I did put the 5K in there, so it's end of the whole flyer is in there, but I would like to really kick out something for summer before summer.

If you can please just note that in your calendar and put something in there as it relates to your committee or anything else that you're doing for the village would be really, really helpful to the lady who puts together as well as myself. With that said, Good and Welfare would like to come up and say anything?

Courtney: I apologize. This one is actually for myself as well as a couple neighbors. We've been trying now, I've been here for over 12 years, we've been trying for 11 of them to get a telephone pole that is now like this, that is being supported by rope in the neighbor's backyard.

Cubillos: Mr. McCullen?

Courtney: No, this is the Hector's. Joni and Ken, it's in their backyard. It's been there, I wrote to our previous village manager, I've written to FPL, I've written to AT&T. It's an AT&T pole, FPL has finally moved their stuff over and it's still sitting there, the cable and the telephone are on it. I cannot believe it survived Irma, but it was only like cap one.

Cubillos: It's behind where?

Courtney: Joni and Ken, they're what, 216 Northeast 88th?

Nickerson: FPL came out and moved their--

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th St Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622



**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

Courtney: FPL moved their power to the new pole and now there's this thing that's getting ready to, again,-

Nickerson: I know which one it is.

Courtney: - it's falling down. It's right by the car park.

Nickerson: It is an AT&T.

Courtney: Yes, it's right by the top part. I don't know what to do anymore.

Nickerson: I'll call tomorrow.

Courtney: Thank you.

Nickerson: I'll call tomorrow and then I'll call you, Courtney. I always do.

Cubillos: Anybody else in Good and Welfare? Okay, hearing none, do I have a motion to adjourn?

Roman: Motion to adjourn.

Nickerson: Motion.

Cubillos: Motion's been made by 8:52, is there a second?

Roman: Second.

Cubillos: All in favor signal by saying aye.

Council: Aye.

Cubillos: All in favor?

Council: Aye.

Cubillos: Then motion concludes at 8:52.

Transcription service provided by





**Village of El Portal
Council Meeting
Date: 3.5.18
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm
Meeting End: 8:52 pm
Meeting Length: 01:51:23**

[01:51:23] [END OF AUDIO]

Transcription service provided by



10001 NW 50th ST Suite # 202 Sunrise, FL 33351
www.fullmooncreative.com
(954) 742-2622