

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 3, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

PRESENT AT MEETING¹:

MAYOR RONNIE FELDER	MAYOR FELDER
CHAIRPERSON JULIA A. BOTEL, DISTRICT 4.....	CHAIRPERSON BOTEL
CHAIR PRO TEM DOUGLAS A. LAWSON, DISTRICT 5	CHAIR PRO TEM LAWSON
COUNCILPERSON TRADRICK MCCOY, DISTRICT 1	COUNCILPERSON MCCOY
COUNCILPERSON SHIRLY D. LANIER, DISTRICT 3	COUNCILPERSON LANIER
COUNCILPERSON KASHAMBA MILLER-ANDERSON DISTRICT 2	COUNCILPERSON MILLER- ANDERSON
CITY MANAGER JONATHAN EVANS	CITY MANAGER EVANS
CITY CLERK CLAUDENE L. ANTHONY	CITY CLERK ANTHONY
CITY ATTORNEY DAWN S. WYNN	CITY ATTORNEY WYNN

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¹ List of City Employees, Public Speakers and Others on Page 93

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MARCH 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

(The following may contain unintelligible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

[Gavel]

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Botel: I call to order the Regular City Council meeting for Riviera Beach. The date is March 3rd, and the time is 6:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Botel: Madam Clerk, please call the roll

City Clerk Anthony: Mayor Ronnie Felder?

Mayor Felder: Here.

City Clerk Anthony: Chairperson Julia Botel?

Chairperson Botel: Here.

City Clerk Anthony: Chair Pro Tem Douglas Lawson? [Pause]. Councilperson Tradrick McCoy? [Pause]. Councilperson KaShamba Miller-Anderson?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Present.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Shirley Lanier?

Councilperson Lanier: Here.

City Clerk Anthony: City Manager Jonathan Evans?

City Manager Evans: Present.

City Clerk Anthony: City Clerk Claudene Anthony is present. City Attorney Dawn Wynn?

City Attorney Wynn: Here.

City Clerk Anthony: [Inaudible].

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Botel: We'll have a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilwoman Miller-Anderson.

[Moment of silence]

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: I pledge allegiance...

All: ...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.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: ANY PERSON WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM, PLEASE COMPLETE A PINK PUBLIC COMMENT CARD LOCATED AT THE FRONT DESK PRIOR TO THE ITEM BEING TAKEN UP BY CITY COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE GIVEN A TOTAL OF THREE MINUTES TO SPEAK ON ALL ITEMS LISTED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA, AND THREE MINUTES TO SPEAK ON EACH REGULAR ITEM. THE TIME LIMIT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE REDUCED BY A VOTE OF THE CITY COUNCIL BASED ON THE VOLUMINOUS NATURE OF PUBLIC COMMENT CARDS. IN NO EVENT WILL ANYONE BE ALLOWED TO SUBMIT A COMMENT CARD TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM AFTER THE RESOLUTION IS READ OR THE ITEM IS CONSIDERED.

AGENDA APPROVAL

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, SUBSTITUTIONS

Chairperson Botel: Would someone care to make a motion to adopt the Agenda?

Councilperson Lanier: So moved.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Second.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. The motion has been moved and seconded, Madam Clerk, the adoption of the Agenda.

City Manager Evans: Madam, Madam Chair?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Madam Chair?

Chairperson Botel: What?

City Manager Evans: Staff would like to remove Item 3...

Chairperson Botel: Oh sorry.

City Manager Evans: ...from the Agenda.

Chairperson Botel: I'm sorry. Item 3. And that is recognition of outstanding work?

City Manager Evans: Yes, Madam Chair.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: He wants... What did he...

Chairperson Botel: I'm sorry. Any other additions, deletions, or substitutions?

Mayor Felder: Madam Chair, I have a deletion..., I mean, addition, to add the water tank project.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Where?

Chairperson Botel: Where would we put that on the Agenda?

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, we can make that Item under presentations.

Chairperson Botel: Okay. So that would be Item No...

City Clerk Anthony: [Inaudible].

City Manager Evans: We'd like to remove Item 3, recognition of outstanding work of police sworn and civilian personnel.

City Clerk Anthony: [Inaudible].

Chairperson Botel: Alright. So we now have an Item No. 2A.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Wait a minute. How's it 2? 3A or 2?

Chairperson Botel: I'm sorry. One, two, [inaudible].
[Inaudible].

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: What's there that...

Chairperson Botel: Oh, well, it's gonna be... I guess...

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: 3A.

Chairperson Botel: We don't have a 3 anymore.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: But we did, right?

Chairperson Botel: Yeah. Madam Clerk, what number's it gonna be?

City Clerk Anthony: [Inaudible] or we can...

Chairperson Botel: Okay.

City Clerk Anthony: ...make it Item 3A. We don't have an Item 3, so...

Chairperson Botel: We'll make it 2A under awards and presentations.

City Clerk Anthony: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: We don't have a 3. Thank you. Any other comm'..., excuse me. Any other additions or deletions?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: No.

Chairperson Botel: If your name is called..., when your name is called, please answer yes or no if you want to adopt the Agenda. Madam Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Are we doing disclosures? [Inaudible]. We'll do disclosures that Council...

Chairperson Botel: Oh. I'm so anxious to get [inaudible]...

DISCLOSURES

Chairperson Botel: Any disclosures?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: None.

Chairperson Botel: None. Thank you.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairperson Botel: Madam Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Lanier?

Councilperson Lanier: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Pro Tem Botel. I mean, Chair Botel.

Chairperson Botel: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: My apologies.

Chairperson Botel: Yes. The Agenda is approved by unanimous decision. We're all a little...

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Botel: Consent Agenda.

Chairperson Botel: ALL MATTERS LISTED UNDER THIS ITEM ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE AND ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THESE ITEMS UNLESS A COUNCILPERSON SO REQUESTS, IN WHICH EVENT, THE ITEM WILL REMOVED FROM THE GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS AND CONSIDERED IN ITS NORMAL SEQUENCE ON T HE AGENDA.

MINUTES

1. SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CLAUDENE L. ANTHONY, CITY CLERK, 561-845-4090

2. FEBRUARY 3, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CLAUDENE L. ANTHONY, CITY CLERK, 5661-845-4090

RESOLUTIONS

COMMUNITY BENEFITS REQUESTS ON CONSENT

Chairperson Botel: Does anyone want to pull any Item from the Consent Agenda?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: No.

Chairperson Botel: Does anyone wish to make a motion to approve the Consent Agenda?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: So moved.

Councilperson Lanier: Second.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. The approval of the Consent Agenda is moved and seconded. If you want., ass your name is called, please vote yes or no. Madam Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Lanier?

Councilperson Lanier: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Chair Botel?

Chairperson Botel: Yes. The Consent Agenda is approved unanimously. Okay.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR FILING

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

2A. City Clerk Anthony: Item 2A. Madam Chair and Members of the Board, the presentation on the water tank from the Office of the Mayor.

Madam Chair, Members of the Board, we do not have any public comment on this Item. The acceptance of public comment on this Item is now closed.

Chairperson Botel: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Felder: Yes. Good evening, Madam Chair. Thank you.

Back in October, we brought this project to the Board and it was a unanimous vote yes, but a couple questions that were asked, did we put it out for bid? What, what the rendering would be? Who would we put on the, on the water tank? All those questions have been asked. We do have a artist right now. I think he just signed the contract. We put it out for bid. He was the only bidder that went for this project. And I just want to know today, what would it take for us, or could we have your blessings to go ahead and get it started?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Madam Chair?

Chairperson Botel: You're recognized.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: I, I, I., I saw the news on Friday, I think it was, when it was unveiled. And, I just wasn't quite sure if we had had an opportunity to see it. Specifically, the, the Board sees some of these things before they are unveiled to the public. So, with this, did it ever come back to us for us to see? Or to discuss since Oc'..., what, October?

Mayor Felder: No. No, it wasn't.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Is there a reason why it wasn't shared with us before it was unveiled publicly?

Mayor Felder: I think we had a meeting with Procurement, CRA when we were getting the event going for Friday. And, we just thought that it would be a good idea just to present why we were at the water tank having the..., recognizing our Black History Month pioneers in the City, we just thought that it would be a good idea to kind of bring it forward to the community and let them know what we're gonna be doing with the water tank and why we were out at the water tank that day.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: I, I really think it was a great idea, but I think..., and, you know, it would have been nice had the Board had an opportunity to see it. Typically, we are provided this information [overhead tones] before it's put out in the public. Especially if it's something that we have all voted on, and supported. And, I just think as Council Members, we should have had an opportunity to see that before it was unveiled publicly, and to..., and to the news. I mean, it was obviously something that you wanted to show, so I agree with that, but I just think that was..., I don't think that was proper. And we should've had an opportunity. 'Cause we haven't talked about it since October.

But, I just think that was something that... And I..., most times we see these things before they go out, especially like when we did the public art in the CRA Depar'..., area. The community had an opportunity to participate in it, we all saw it, we talked about it, and, and then it went out. But, I just..., I didn't understand how that happened that way. But I certainly appreciate the way in which it was done with the Black History Month, but I think that, you know, the Council should've had an opportunity to be a part of that. Not, not necessarily a part of your, your event that you had but to have seen it before it went out that way.

Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. [Inaudible].

Councilperson Lanier: Yes. I, I agree, Madam Chair. I'm sorry, with Council Miller-Anderson. I know that I took some heat from the Southside Coalition issue when there was a plague that was put on the door for the Southside Coalition and I had not spoke with Members of the Board prior to that happening. And, I thought that we had had some understanding that that would not happen again, at this level. That when you were having unveilings, or we're having events, that the Board has voted on it. That it is something that we should be able to see first at least. But it is a very nice project and, of course, that's the reason why we voted for it. But we would certainly have liked to seen it first before it was unveiled to the public and to the community.

Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. I agree that it would've been proper, I think, for the Board to have seen it. And I'm wondering what community involvement there was in deciding what's going to go on the water tank. I'm, I'm rereading the memo right now, and I see that there are..., it, it said the figures will be memorialized and this art project is still being finalized. But, some names that have been considered are as follows. And I'm

just wondering what public engagement will happen prior to anything actually being painted on the tower? Will there be any'... We had community meetings when we had the other public art projects, and I would think that members of the community would like to weigh on this. I mean, after all, it's the first thing you see when you come over the tracks. It's sort of gonna be, you know, 'Welcome to Riviera Beach,' even though you're in Riviera Beach already but it's pretty visible on that spot.

So, I'm just wondering what plans might be in place to be sure that we involves the community as a whole?

Mayor Felder: I, I think this is the beginning of that..., this project, where we will have more community participation. That's..., we plan on adding more to the tank, and we'll have some more art projects that we're gonna bringing forth, that we will have more community participation.

Chairperson Botel: So, what's the plan then?

Mayor Felder: To get this done first.

Chairperson Botel: No. But, I mean, what's the plan for getting community engagement before you paint anything on the water tower?

Mayor Felder: Well, we've been going through this for several months now, working with Mr. Evans' office, the CRA and Procurement, and this is what we came up with.

Chairperson Botel: Okay. So, there's been no community input?

Mayor Felder: No.

Chairperson Botel: None? Well then, I object to that because I think, given that that's the largest structure that you see as you, as you come in, we really need to have community input before we paint anything on that water tower.

So, I'm, I'm..., if you're looking for a vote of support tonight, I support it wholeheartedly. I, I believe that it's a good project, but I would certainly think that you would want some community involvement before you go ahead and paint something.

Mayor Felder: Question. I mean..., Mr. Evans, does it have to go for a vote then, if it's up under the threshold of the \$25,000?

City Manager Evans: The, the project itself is under the Manager's threshold, so conceivably it doesn't require any legislative action from the Board, but being that he Board has stated some concerns with regards to that, it would be hard pressed for Administration to proceed forward without having at least the majority of the [stammer] Board in agreeance with, with moving forward with the project as, as developed.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. So, can we get a commitment from you, Mr. Evans, that we will have community meetings as to what artwork is gonna go on the water tower?

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, if I may? And, and I'll consult with the Mayor on this particular matter. If I'm not under'.., if I'm under the same impression, I think the artist is anticipating to start sometime towards the end of the month. So, we can conceivably spool up some community meetings and get some discussions on the, the artwork, and then bring it back at, at the appropriate venue. And most likely, your second meeting in March to show you what the community input is, as well as the final rendering. Assuming that the community agrees with the project as presented.

Chairperson Botel: Okay. Thanks very much.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Madam Chair?

Chairperson Botel: Yes. You're recognized.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: So they will have several options to choose from or the rendering, that has already been designed, is what will be put before them and just get their input?

City Manager Evans: The intent would be to.., and, and, Mr. Mayor, correct me if I'm wrong, is to show this particular rendering but then also share the.., all the list of the names of the persons. Because I think the artistic style will remain the same, it would just be the portrait of the persons that would change.

[Inaudible comment]

Mayor Felder: Correct.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Do you have anything?

Councilperson Lanier: Yes. Madam Chair.

Chairperson Botel: You're recognized.

Councilperson Lanier: I'm.., I think I'm a little confused as to what we're doing here. This, this is not on the water tank [inaudible]?

Chairperson Botel: No.

Councilperson Lanier: Okay. I, I.., when they said unveiling, and they talked about this being on Friday, I didn't know what was going on, in terms of the water tank. So, what we're doing now is proposing to have community meetings so that people can have input into what it is that goes on. I thought we decided that that's what we're going to do anyway.

Chairperson Botel: Not yet.

Councilperson Lanier: Okay. Alright. Well, that, that... I certainly agree with that. That we need to be able to have some input from the people who actually live here to say what goes on that water tank.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Anything else?

Mayor Felder: That's it. Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCES ON SECOND AND FINAL READING

4. Chairperson Botel: Madam Clerk, Item No. 4.

City Clerk Anthony: **ORDINANCE NUMBER 4162 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS", ARTICLE II, "BUILDING AND TECHNICAL CODES", SECTION 22-31 "BUILDING CODE ADOPTED" AND SECTION 22-32 "ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE, CHAPTER 1, ADMINISTRATION.", BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ENTITLED "RIVIERA BEACH AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE 7th EDITION (2020)" ; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

CLARENCE SIRMONS, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, 561-845-4060

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Chair, Members of the Board, we do have public comment on this Item. The acceptance of public comment on this Item is now closed.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Would someone care to make a motion to...

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: So moved.

Chairperson Botel: ...approve Ordinance 4162, second reading?

Councilperson Lanier: So moved.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Do we have a second?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Oh. Second.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: I thought I...

[Chuckles]

Chairperson Botel: Do we have a presentation, Mr. Evans?

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, there has been no modifications to Ordinance Number 4162. Staff rec'..., recommends approval on second and final reading. If there are any specific questions that the Board may have pertaining to this Item, Director Clarence Sirmons can address those.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Madam Clerk, we can have public comment.

City Clerk Anthony: Fane Lozman.

Mr. F. Lozman: Fane Lozman, 5101 North Ocean Drive.

I brought this up before. I'm gonna bring it up today and I'll make more comments on my public comment.

If we're adopting the Florida Building Code amendments, then we're expected to follow them. Okay? And this City doesn't follow the amendments, then what are we doing here? We're setting ourself up for a legal action when you..., when you have the Florida Building Code and the amendments you adopt, and you don't follow them. We have a City Attorney just makes stuff up and doesn't even look to the Code for what has to be done. I talked about this before. When Ladi March Goldwire was fi'..., fired, because we adopted the Florida Building Code, she was required to have a hearing before the Florida Building Commission if we didn't have a local board. And I said the same thing. Michael Grimm's gonna get fired one day. I know that's comin'. You know, with the way Botel behaves.

Okay. So the point, why are we adopting something? We should just not adopt anything. We just make up our own Building Code. There needs to be some accountability and right now you're saying we're adopting the Florida Building Code. The people in this audience, the people watching on TV should realize, the Florida Building Code gives certain rights to Building Officials. They're supposed to be autonomous. You know? They can't be improperly influenced, they can't be threatened with their job. We had a black Building Official who was threatened with her job and fired 'cause she gave me a fence permit. And then she didn't have the opportunity to go before the Florida Building Commission or the local board, even though that's what the Code says. So, it's just a big sham. We go ahead and adopt stuff and then we just blow it off. And I have a problem with that. And that's all gonna be coming out, Botel. You know

So the, the bottom line is, people on the Board, I don't know where the other guys are, who are listening in, but you've been around this game a long time, Ms. Miller-Anderson. You should say, 'Hey, Mr. Sirmons, tell me what happens when a Building Official gets fired. What is gonna happen if we adopt this Code tonight?' I'd like to know the answer. You have the guts to ask that questions, 'What happens if Michael Grimm gets fired tomorrow? What process are we adopting tonight that he Florida Building Code mandates that he go through?'

So, people come up here and make some comments. I have a question. I want to have an answer to what happens when we adopt Addendum 1, I think it is, what happens to our current Building Official? Is he gonna go sue us in federal court again like, like Ladi March Goldwire did, whose case is going to trial this fall, she survived summary judgment. The City could be on the hook for \$3 million. Does anybody care about that? I wanna know what happens if this amendment passes, what happens to the next Building Official that gets fired. What rights do they have, and what's the liability to the City? And I want a, I want an answer to that question.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Chair, Members of the Board, that concludes public comment on Item No. 4.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Do we have any questions or comments on this Item? [Pause]. Madam Clerk, it has been moved and seconded that the Council approve the Ordinance adopting amendments to the Florida Building Code. As your name is called, please answer yes or no.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Lanier?

Councilperson Lanier: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Chair Botel?

Chairperson Botel: Yes. That passes by unanimous vote of 3-0.

ORDINACES ON FIRST READING

ITEMS TABLED

REGULAR

DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION

DISCUSSION BY CITY MANAGER

5. **Chairperson Botel:** Item No. 5.

City Clerk Anthony: **DISCUSSION ON PROCUREMENT CODE REVISIONS.**

ALTHEA PEMSEL, DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT, 561-845-4180

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Chair, Members of the Board, we do not have public comment on this Item. The acceptance of public comment on this Item is now closed.

Chairperson Botel: Ms. Pemsel.

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, Members of the Board, the Item before you this evening is to discuss potential modifications to the Procurement Code. Staff has been looking at our Procurement Code and is proposing some modifications for the Board's consideration. These will come back in multiple iterations, with a Code revision, as well as Staff is working on a Procurement manual to be able to synthesize the Procurement activity for Departments, as well as your legislative aides that would be assisting in the procurement process.

So, this is a look and overhaul with respect to our Procurement. And then, looking at other municipalities to see where there some efficiencies and commonalities that he City of Riviera Beach can mimic in the modifications to the Procurement Code.

With that being said, I would like for Director of Procurement, Ms. Althea Pemsel, to make this presentation.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Procurement Director Pemsel: Good evening, Chair, Council, City Administration, Mayor.

The Item before you is for the purposes of reviewing our Procurement Code. As you know that technology, business practices and models, that they change over time and our goal is to make sure that our Code matches, not only what's going on in the market, but also what's going on in terms of the capital projects and improvement that the City's doing, in addition to following the best practices for Procurement overall. So this discussion is to obtain input and to assist Procurement in reimaging its Department in order that it can help the City departments meet and exceed their goals.

So, over the past few months, the process has been consisted of examining our current project, our.., I'm sorry, our current Procurement Code, looking at the Procurement Codes of our neighbors, local municipalities around us, receiving input from consultants. Also, we drafted a commercial.., a nondiscrimination policy, and a rewrite of the Cone of Silence. And that will be addressed in a separate memorandums.

The first goal of the update is to streamline the Code by succinctly stating what governs and moving explanatory and extraneous information into a Procurement manual. So, the process includes identifying and eliminating outdated provisions, updating and adding and deleting some definitions to make them more current, and also to combine application and the best practice of the Code. After reviewing other Codes in the area, we know that there will be adjustments in some areas, after we do our disparity study and, and to review, like, our thresholds to match the operational needs, and also, consider alternative sources .., alternative methods of sourcing.

With that being said, I wanted to give you a few examples of what we would be looking at and changing. And, as Mr. Evans said, there will be several reiterations of this. For example, one of the areas that we would be looking to move to the manual and to change, would be the public access to Procurement information. We spell it out in our Code but it is not in line with the current Florida statute so we will adjust that kind of provision to match the Florida statute. We will just cite that as our governing tool, as opposed to having it ourself. Also, we will use our manual to further explain that to our departments and our users so they would understand the City's and their individual responsibilities in that regard.

One of the things that we also want to update is the authority and the duties. As you know, our duties continue to expand over time, so we're gonna be updating language like that. Another thing that we are looking at is to see about increasing the threshold of the City Manager's authority. And, currently, our Code does not even give the Procurement Director authority, so that's something that we're asking you guys to consider as well.

Additionally, unauthorized purchases. This is when commitments are made on behalf of City Staff that's not authorized. The Code is [audio skipped] engage into contract or to bind the City, so we've had many trainings since I've gotten here to help Staff understand that they're role is [audio skipped]. We need to be sure that we don't commit the City to expend funds that we've not been authorized to do so.

Additionally, the competitive ceiling process. There's a fourteen-day requirement that we feel would be a hinderance to the operation since our goal, these days, is to go big and to go fast. It does not assist or help the operation in any sort of way. But, we will put additional information in the procurement language about the competitive process, ensuring that our departments understand. And we want to raise the small threshold. Currently, it's \$2,500. We'd like to see about raising that a little bit more, so that the departments then can do a lot of routine purchases.

Another provision that we have has to do with single and sole source. [Audio skipped]. Source means that there's only..., that there..., we're choosing a company to do it. And we have used sole source because we did not have a provision for original equipment manufacturing. So, a lotta times, it's really not a sole source, it's simply that we need to buy the same piece of equipment to match what's already installed. So that would be a provision. And we will see the number of sole sources go down as a result of that, because it's really replacing original equipment.

Cost data and pricing. The language here has not been applied in the Department, and there's some reasons for that, because it would be [stammer] you're getting pricing before you do the solicitation and that's a little bit out of kilter because we could just use the solicitation process to get the prices. Because you don't want to have firms to provide prices for you and provide a scope, and then try to bid on it later. We're putting our firms at a disadvantage, so we need to, to alter that language to make it clearer.

Those are just a few of the updates and deletions and changes I have. If.., are there any questions?

Chairperson Botel: Thank you so much. Any questions?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Yes. Madam Chair.

Chairperson Botel: You're recognized.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: For the increase from the \$2,500, what was the amount you all were looking at moving that up to?

Procurement Director Pemsel: It, it is currently \$2,500 without any quotes, but it will be under \$5,000 one quote. Anything over \$5,000 are three quotes.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Okay. Alright. Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Councilperson Lanier: That was the question that I had.

Procurement Director Pemsel: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Alright. We have no other questions.

6. **Chairperson Botel:** [Audio skipped] 6.

City Clerk Anthony: **DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CONE OF SILENCE ORDINANCE.**

ELIZABETH MCBRIDE, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER, 561-812-6590

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, and, and Members of the Board, this Item is to discuss some modifications to the Cone of Silence. Deputy City Manager, Ms. Elizabeth McBride, will be making the presentation. She has also done some extensive research with regards to the County's Ordinance, as well as other municipalities, and to see to put some additional language that better ensures the compliance related to the Cone of Silence consistent with what we're...

[Audio skipped]

Deputy City Manager McBride: [Audio skipped], City Council, Mayor.

[Inaudible dais comments]

Chairperson Botel: We're gonna take a brief recess until we have a quorum. Thank you.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Oh, okay.

[The City Seal is displayed for two minutes]

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. We'll resume the meeting now. Okay.

Deputy City Manager McBride: The City's Cone of Silence policy Ordinance is found in Chapter 2 of the City Code, and it's found in the area dealing with lobbyist registration. However, when you review the Cone of Silence, clearly the do'..., the language within the Ordinance refers to and relates to our Procurement activity. But this is not unusual that you might find it under lobbyist registration and things of that nature. And one of the primary reasons that you would find it there is because..., the main reason for creating such legislation is to prohibit vendors, their agents and representatives from lobbying and communicating with our City governmental employees, or elected officials during the procurement process.

And, if you look at our, our particular Code, presently, it provide or prohibit the vendor or bidder, and their agents, from commu'..., communicating with Members of the City Council or any employees authorized to act on behalf of the City Council, as well as the City Council legislative Staff. Since being here, we have looked, and we've been reviewing the Procurement Code and looking at the activities that will be coming down the line, after examining many other City provisions. Whenever I found that there has been a situation, generally, of an elected Mayor, not ceremonial mayors, because ceremonial mayor are included because they are generally part of the elect Commission or Council body, they too are included. So, with the proposal, it does add the Mayor, or his or her legislative staff as we have the City Council and their legislative Staff presently.

One other provision that was missing that we thought was very important, and if you look and notice procurement activities of the City, you must say that by the time the matter comes to the Council, the decision has been made, the bidder has been selected, you were provided with the name and a proposed contract for approval. So, in light of that, we thought there should be some prohibition that would govern City Staff. And the proposed vision in the Section A3 deals with the professional staff, included but not limited to the City Manager and Staff, City Department Directors and their Staff, or any consultants involved with our solicitation. And, I think, because we could not think of any reason why only the City Council, if Staff was making a tremendous amount of decisions related to the procurement process.

Councilperson Lanier: What was an example of that? Give me an example of how that would work.

Deputy City Manager McBride: How what works? The Staff bringing you a name?

Councilperson Lanier: Yeah.

Deputy City Manager McBride: If you go back to the last meeting, you had several matters that were approved, construction related, right? From Public Works? Some of those would've been procured. I cannot tell you. I would..., if Ms. Pemsel can, I would ask her to answer that.

Procurement Director Pemsel: [Inaudible].

Deputy City Manager McBride: Councilwoman Lanier wanted me to give them an example. And I said at the last Council meeting there were several Items ca'.., coming through Public Works related to matters that had been procured. Okay. Am I right?

[Inaudible comment]

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay. But, by the time they got here, the vendor was decided, and the name and the document came to the Council.

Procurement Director Pemsel: Althea Pemsel, Procurement Director.

It is not unusual that the vendors lobby our Staff to award contracts to them. It's not based on whether they're not worthy or whether they provide quality work. But, this will assist us in having parameters in place so that they are not lobbied inappropriately. And it also helps the City Staff to understand what the parameters are, and the bidding community because this will also be shared with the bidding community in our solicitations.

Councilperson Lanier: I see...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Did you get an...

Councilperson Lanier: ...[inaudible].

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...an'...

Councilperson Lanier: That's very good. And I wanted to also add that, in doing this, is.., does that mean that if a potential bidder comes in, lobbies your Staff, that means that they are.., they can't get the bid? They can't go forward? I mean, what are the, what are the repercussions if that happens?

Procurement Director Pemsel: I'm sorry, would you repeat the first of that? You said that if a company comes in and they provided pricing, they can't get the bid?

Councilperson Lanier: Right. She's saying.., she's saying that we're putting parameters around how you interact with Staff, around bids.

Procurement Director Pemsel: Okay.

Councilperson Lanier: I'm saying, if they go outside of those parameters, based on what you're presenting to us, what are the repercussions?

Deputy City Manager McBride: Basically, the Ordinance provides that any contract entered into in violation of the Cone of Silence provisions, is rendered voidable...

Councilperson Lanier: Okay.

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...by the City.

Unk.: Okay.

Councilperson Lanier: [Inaudible].

Deputy City Manager McBride: Alright.

I would say that is the major change.

The second major change from... about this Ordinance is when will the Cone of Silence be implemented? Presently, we provide that it's implemented at the time the solicitation bids are received. Okay?

The new language propose' that it will become effective as of the date and time the solicitation is released to the public.

Unk.: [Inaudible]..

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: That's better.

Deputy City Manager McBride: And, one reason we thought that was okay is because, after it's released to the public, we tend to have pre-bid conferences, allow the bidders to come in, they can ask questions. But, anytime, and correct me, Ms. Pemsel, if I'm wrong, anytime leading up to the final selection, bidders can submit written questions. And if those questions are submitted, answers are given, and they are provided to all bidders as part of that process.

[Inaudible comment]

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay. Otherwise, I think, for the most part, the Ordinance provisions remain the same. We have certain small things that might have been added, that weren't really there. The termination of the Cone of Silence is still basically the same, or is provided or expounded upon. And it does provide that the Cone will terminate at the time the City Council, or the City Manager, acts on behalf of the City, awards or approve a contract, rejects all bids, et. cetera.

The only new provision is, should the matter come to you and you don't make a decision, and you send it back either to the committee'..., the Procurement Director, the Manager, that the Cone will be evoked again, until you make a final decision.

Chairperson Botel: Okay.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: I have a question. Madam Chair?

For..., when these bids..., the RFP or RFQ's go out, we will be notified? Everyone will be notified? Because...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Right.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: ...most of the time, I mean, I'm not always following bids that...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Right.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: ...are being released. So, a lotta times you don't know that it's out.

Deputy City Manager McBride: That it's out. Okay. And we did correct that this time too...

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Okay.

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...under the proposed provision, under Paragraph C. It does say at the time of imposition of the Cone of Silence, the [stammer] Procurement Director shall issue a written notice to the affected departments, the City Clerk, City Manager, Mayor and City Council Members.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: And as well as the Staff., and the legislative Staff? All of those...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Oh yes.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: ...were included?

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay. We'll...

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Okay.

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...make sure...

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Yeah.

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...I'll make sure that language is there too.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Thank you.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: Anything else? Thank you for providing us a redlined version of this. It makes it much easier to understand what the changes are, and I appreciate that.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: And I very much appreciate the changes, because it's, it's so much easier for us to say, look, I'm sorry. I can't speak with you [chuckle] about this.

There's a Cone of Silence in place. It really relives us of the hassle, if you will, of chatting with people about something that really should not be chatted about.

So, I appreciate that.

Deputy City Manager McBride: We hoped it would be helpful.

Chairperson Botel: It's helpful. Thank you. Anything else? Thank you, Ms...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Yeah.

Chairperson Botel: ...McBride.

Deputy City Manager McBride: I've been working with Ms. Pemsel, as you see. With her...

Chairperson Botel: Excellent.

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...extensive projects she has available, dealing with the disparity study too.

7. Deputy City Manager McBride: And... Can we move to the next...

Chairperson Botel: Let's move to...

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...Item, please?

Chairperson Botel: ...Item 7. Yes.

[Inaudible dais comment]

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Chair and Members of the Board, we do not have any public comment on Item No. 7.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: The acceptance of public comment on Item No. 7...

City Clerk Anthony: **DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED COMMERCIAL NONDISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE...**

ELIZABETH MCBRIDE, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER, 561-812-6590

City Clerk Anthony: ...is now closed.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, if I can have Deputy City Manager, Elizabeth McBride make this presentation.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Thank you, Mr. Evans.

The best way I can say why we are here with this particular proposed Ordinance, at the December 16, 2020 meeting, that you had where the disparity study consultants presented, the question was asked, 'What could be put in place while we are waiting for the outcome of our disparity study, and, for recodification of our MWBE program?' And the response by one of the consultants, Attorney Franklin Lee, was that we should consider adopting a commercial nondiscrimination policy.

[Inaudible audience comment]

[Pause]

[Inaudible comments and chuckle]

Chairperson Botel: Go ahead. I'm sorry.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay. We have been working with Attorney Lee with the drafting of this particular policy. As you see, some of the intent of the policy is to address three objectives. One, to establish a clear policy on behalf of the City, of commercial.., dealing with commercial nondiscrimination. We hope that this has been adequately addressed in Section A, B, and C because they will provide the statement or policy for the City, indicating that the City is not seeking to do business with commercial firms or businesses which engage in discrimination in the provision of their goods and services. It also identifies who this particular policy would apply to. And, if you look at it, basically, it would apply to all persons doing business with the City. And bus'.., business entities or per'.., or persons. It also would apply to our third party contracts between the City, even other governmental entities, other businesses, developers, and all... Anyone receiving funds from the City of Riviera Beach.

And, let's see. It does require the Director of Purchasing to implement the policy. Hopefully, the teeth that was viewed to be within the policy, relate to the three contract provisions that are being provided in the policy. One, is a mandatory nondiscrimination contract clause, that is being recommended for inclusion in all City contracts, as well as subcontracts that flow from our City contracts, especially when you get into many of the.., especially, construction industry, there's a lot of subcontracts that might [inaudible].

And basically what it does...

[Mic check]

Chairperson Botel: The mic works. Sorry. Go ahead.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay. It does provide to have the person warrant that they will abide by our commercial nondiscrimination policy. It does have the contract to the.., contracting company provide that they shall pr'.., try to provide equal opportunity for

subcontractors, vendors and suppliers to participate in our contracts and subcontracting activities, as well as other private ones they engage in.

A violation of this particular provision as included in the contract, is viewed as a material breach of the agreement, and it will provide that it may result, possibly, in termination of the agreement, for that particular provision.

There's another provision requiring language in all our competitive solicitation documents. And that is in Paragraph B(2).

Councilperson Lanier: Let me...

Deputy City Manager McBride: And within that...

Chairperson Botel: Excuse me, Ms. McBride. Go ahead, you're recognized.

Councilperson Lanier: I don't mean to interrupt, but I wanted to ask the question in regards to complaints and.., is that handled through our Legal Department, or is it handled...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay.

Councilperson Lanier: ...through Procurement? How does that...

Deputy City Manager McBride: How would we...

Councilperson Lanier: ...[inaudible]?

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...do that. It will provide a complaint process. And, right now, we are working up and it will be the..., the Ordinance provides that this process, and a hearing process, will be established with, with Legal and Procurement input for approval by the City Manager, as an administrative hearing process. Mhmm.

Councilperson Lanier: So they'll go through the process of Procurement, Legal, then City Manager?

Deputy City Manager McBride: No. [Stammer]... Wait. The complaint? No.

Councilperson Lanier: Yes.

Deputy City Manager McBride: What I'm saying is, the complaint process and the hearing process will be addressed as an administrative procedure. It is not yet outlined. We have documents that will, will be reviewed, and are being reviewed and basically, will provide for the complaint and hearing process.

If you look... Let me see. Hold on. [Pause]. I thank you. Basically, the idea was that the Legal.., Legal and Procurement would come together, review the complaint process. There are some..., some municipalities have a complaint process that provides for an administrative hearing. Some have a process that provide for arbitration. The

School District does theirs at Department of Administrative Services door. So, basically, we thought that the City needs to take time to look at which process it would use to make sure that they understand the cost involved. And we do not have that. And that's how come we want it to be done as an administrative procedure, that Legal and Procurement would, would then present to the Manager for approval.

Chairperson Botel: Okay.

Councilperson Lanier: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: Okay. Go ahead. Thank you.

Deputy City Manager McBride: And look at..., and when we look at the record keeping that's required, or that the City can, because it does require the contractor to maintain records of their activities to meet the policy, and the discrimination policy, if you look at things that must be certified by the contractor..., and those are found in subparagraph D(2), contract solicitation requirements, it does also have some consequences, that if it's determined that a bidder has provided false certification of information to us, it can lead to a rejection of that bid, or termination of any contact awarded also. It also requires the bidder to agree to [stammer] promptly provide to the City all information and documentation that may be requested from time to time, regarding the solicitation and their selection of suppliers and subcontractors in the process. So, any failure to do so can also lead to rejection of the bid, and consequences to the bidder.

As part of the bid process, the contractor would have to indicate whether within the last four years, they have received any complaints relative to un'..., nondiscrimination by bidders or suppliers and all.

And then the final contract disclosure requirement is in Paragraph D(3), and it will provide that all contracts the City enter into will entail a clause that relates to the prompt reporting and documentation that the City may request from time to time regarding solicitation selection, treatment, and payment of subcontractors. And it does give a time period of sixty days, for information.

And that's where we are with this.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. So the purpose of your presenting this tonight is so that you can input from us, and that at some future date, you'll present us with the...

Deputy City Manager McBride: From both...

Chairperson Botel: ...fine points?

Deputy City Manager McBride: ...of... If you have some input that you'd like to give to us, we did wanna get that in advance, so that we could bring these policies as we start..., these Ordinances as we bring the Procurement Ordinance.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Councilperson Lanier: And, and I'd also like to add... Madam Chair? I'd also like to add, when we're..., when we're looking at...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Mhmm.

Councilperson Lanier: ...reviewing complaints, and we're looking at doing these investigations, that we have skilled investigators.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Okay.

Councilperson Lanier: People who are aware, who have background, who know about how to investigate. They're just not laypeople, but who were trained in investigations, so that they can do their due diligence, if there...

Deputy City Manager McBride: Mhmm.

Councilperson Lanier: ...is a complaint.

Chairperson Botel: Anything else? Thank you so much. I really appreciate that this is a good first step towards our, our eventual policy.

Thank you.

Deputy City Manager McBride: Thank you.

8. Chairperson Botel: And now we have Item... Let's see. Item No. 8.

City Clerk Anthony: **DISCUSSION ON PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AWARD OF FUNDS.**

JONATHAN EVANS, CITY MANAGER, 561-812-6590

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Cahir, Members of the Board, we do not have any public comments on this Item. The acceptance of public comment on this Item is now closed.

Chairperson Botel: Mr. Evans.

City Manager Evans: Madam Chair, Members of the Board, pursuant to a conversation that we had with the Board back in September of 2020, the City of Riviera Beach receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds, Community Development Block Grants that's provided by the federal government. The City roughly receives about a \$194,000 annually. And then, this year, we received some additional monies associated with the special area of hope allocation that provided an additional \$364,000, for a total of \$558,000.

Originally, it was contemplated, and the City in the past, has utilized this money, CDBG monies for roadway projects. This money was set aside for the reconstruction of

35th Street, Avenue H to Avenue F, but when we had conversations with the Board, we thought we can do more, and we thought we can really utilize the federal funding that comes once in a blue moon. And, as we know, there's thirty-nine municipalities in Palm Beach County, so it's going to circle in. So, we were fortunate enough this year to be able to receive the funds.

Working in collaboration with Office of the Mayor, as well as the Council, there are certain areas of interest and programs that the Board wanted to see come to life. So you will hear presentations from multiple departments as to how we would like to utilize the allocation. First and foremost, is the Code Compliance Community Engagement Program which, in, in essence, is an ambassador type program for the rest of our community. We see the ambassador program that is very successful in the CRA and wanted to expand that. The proposed allocation for that program is \$340,000.

The other program is Urban Farm collaborative. This is building on the Sow and Grow program that Councilperson Lanier has spearheaded, and looking to utilize some facilities that the City has, or some property to move forward with an Urban Farm collaborative project. And we have a great presentation for you this evening associated with that.

And then, one of the things that we have spoken about, when the CARES money was allocated, the City of Riviera Beach, working in collaboration with Palm Beach County, was looking to address some of the digital divide concerns, and so, we are asking to put an additional \$100,000 into the project to allow for all public parks within the City of Riviera Beach, to be able to be WiFi hotspots where persons can utilize internet access.

Ms. Deirdre Jacobs, the Assistant City Manager, has spearheaded this program, so she will provide a program update, and then allow for the respective Department Directors leading those initiatives to come forward and share their presentation.

Assistant City Manager Jacobs: Thank you, Mr. Evans. Good evening, Chair Botel, Mayor Felder, other Councilpersons in your respective places, Mrs. Wynn, and Mr. Evans. For the record, my name is Deirdre Jacobs and I'm the Assistant City Manager here with the City of Riviera Beach.

Mr. Evans pretty much summed up my presentation. It.., it is a, a project wherein, back in the month of September of 2020, the Council voted on a Resolution to approve street improvements over off of 35th Street, Avenue H to Avenue F. Those were Community Development Block Grant funds, which the City receives on an annual basis from Palm Beach County. Usually the amount is a little over a \$150,000, maybe up to one seventy. And for the past several years, based on my understanding, they've always been used for street improvements.

Because we received additional monies this year, they're called special area of hope allocation dollars, which the City only receives, like, every several years because they're rotated by the county, we thought that we might come up with more creative ways

to use the money, as opposed to using it for street improvements. We made contact with the county and they are allowing us to use those funds for other projects.

So, what our Staff did, is we got together, brainstormed and tried to think of creative ways wherein we would be able to come up with projects that actually benefitted [stammer] a greater number of people in a more enthusiastic manner. The projects that we are asking you to consider, as Mr. Evans mentioned, would be Code Compliance, the Urban Farm collaborative project, and the City [stammer] park digital divide WiFi installation program.

So, Mr. Sirmons, the Community compli'..., I'm sorry, the Code Compliance Community Enga'..., Engagement Program would be administered under the Development Services Department. In particular, the Code Enforcement..., or, Code Compliance division. And Mr. Sirmons can give you a brief overview of how we designed that particular project.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Development Services Director Sirmons: Yes. Thank you, Ms. Jacobs.

The Code Compliance Community Ambassador Program would essentially augment the services already provided to the City through the Code Compliance division. These persons working in this program would be a little different because they wouldn't focus as much on the administrative portion of it, in, in terms of presenting cases to the magistrate judge as a Code Compliance officer does, but it would be more of a community-based interaction with the, the residents of those neighborhoods.

And, and the..., the part that really stands out about this is a lot of the services that are provided by the CRA ambassador program are limited to the, the boundaries of the CRA. So, this would expand some of those services, combine them with what our Code officers do, but also be more of a source of information and support for the residents there, as ambassadors do. So, this type of, of community-based compliance, we think, will allow us to expand the results that we see in the CRA beyond those boundaries to other neighborhoods.

And it would be administered in a similar fashion of our existing Code Enforcement officers. The persons in this program would be assigned a zoner, which would allow them to more familiarize themselves with that..., those neighborhoods, those residents and the businesses in those residences, so they can establish those relationships in, in these kind of a partner in those communities to get the, the types of results and effect that we are looking [inaudible] in these neighborhoods..

And that, that's a summary of it. And we worked with my division of Code Compliance, we've spoken with [inaudible] CRA, and we looked at the kind of Code Enforcement parameters that the county is looking for with these types of funds, and we built the program based [inaudible]..

And I'm happy to answer any questions [inaudible].

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Would the five Staff person being hired be Riviera Beach residents?

Development Services Director Sirmons: We haven't discussed [inaudible], but we certainly wanna start with our own residents, to make sure that those persons that know the community [inaudible]...

Chairperson Botel: It certainly seems sensible to me...

Development Services Director Sirmons: Absolutely.

Chairperson Botel: ...that we'd be hiring people that we want to get into the community, and know the community, we'd wanna be hiring community [inaudible].

Development Services Director Sirmons: Absolutely.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Any questions? [Pause]. Thank you so much. Sounds great.

City Manager Evans: And, and, Madam Chair, if I may? Applicable to this program, we set aside funding to be able to do this program for two years, and then that gives us adequate time to build it into our budget if the program is successful, which we know it will be, we have it as a reoccurring initiative moving forward.

Chairperson Botel: Great. Thank you. Urban Farm? Mr. Evans.

City Manager Evans: This particular presentation will be made by Director Blankenship in partnership with a nonprofit organization that is very enthusiastic, a lot of energy and I can tell you that, you know, a City Manager is not supposed to like a particular project more than another, but this is probably one of my favorite projects because of the enthusiasm [inaudible] have, and I think the, the vegetables that will come to bear as a result of this particular initiative.

So, Director Blankenship.

Parks & Recreation Director Blankenship: Good evening everyone. Council, Mayor, City Manager. Richard Blankenship, Parks & Recreation Director.

You know, the beauty of being in Parks & Recreation is, more often than not, there's opportunities to do something really cool. And really effective. And, when Ms. Franks brought me this project a few months ago, I was very excited. We just had to, to move forward with it.

Before I turn the mic over to Ms. Brown, we'll let her do a presentation just to let you know the City's role is fiscal agent, providing ingress and egress, and, and parking at, at Barracuda Bay, eliminating any recurring cost, and assisting with volunteers and folks to help with the Urban Farm.

So, with said, I'll turn it over to Ms. Brown.

Ms. V. Brown: Thank you so much, Mr. Evans and the Council Members. I'm excited to be here. A little cold but really excited.

[Chuckles]

Ms. V. Brown: So, my name is Veleke Brown. I'm the CEO of E-road Map Corporation, and this is our team, and we're just gonna kinda flow through the presentation. I don't know how I can move forward.

[Discussion, working on slides]

Ms. V. Brown: Okay. Perfect.

So, just a little bit about E-Road Map Corporation. We are a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization, located right here in West Palm Beach. This initiative, Operation No Food Gap, is in partnership with the American Heart Association, and they are here to speak a little bit more about the initiative. But just real quickly, Operation No Food Gap is a transformative approach to address hunger in multiple underserved communities throughout Palm Beach County.

And this initiative entails creating and building to capacity, farms and community gardens to produce robust yields, enough to feed upwards of two hundred and fifty plus families on a weekly basis. Within our initiative, we have slated to work in areas of Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Delray, Jupiter, and Belle Glades. Within building the gardens, and off of the farms, we're gonna host nutritional workshops in quarterly events. So, for Q2, is Q4 2021, we have allocated fifty-two events just for Riviera Beach.

So, I'd like to have my business partner, and just the partner representing American Heart, to come up and just speak a little bit about what we're doing within Operation No Food Gap.

Ms. S. Wolliston: Hi. Good evening everyone. My name is Sheree Wolliston. I am the Community Impact Director for the American Heart Association. I am not going to go into depth about the organization, but I will say that our, our mission statement is to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. And in doing that, I have the honor of work in Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties to look at popular.., population level impacts around health and wellness.

So, when I met Ms. Brown and the work that.., and learned about the work that she was doing, I definitely thought that this was a place where the American Heart Association would love to commit our time, talent, and resources to work in Riviera Beach in a more really concerted effort to ensure health outcomes are improved. One of our pillars that we're working on, is in nutrition security. And, a huge part of that is looking at equitable outcomes.

So, this is definitely a program, an initiative, that is going to yield equitable outcomes in health. We know that having healthy, fresh foods, accessible in a community, for the community to learn, not only about the availability of these foods but also how to use them and how to prepare them, and they impact their health, really does improve health outcomes. So, we also know that the lack of healthy, affordable foods leads to poorer health outcomes, disproportionate levels of high blood pressure, high cholesterol and also diabetes. So, we are really looking to impact those conditions, both inside and outside of the health center.

So, we are already working in Riviera Beach with some health centers. We've done gardening with schools and we are looking to really work with E-Road Map Corporation to bring this amazing project to fruition.

So, thank you.

Ms. V. Brown: So, we have two more of our team members here. We have Kyle Shelton, who's the CEO of NuGen International, and Amy Simion, the CEO of GROW. And they're gonna talk a little bit later in the presentation.

But just to talk about our core values. Within E-Road Map, especially with Operation No Food Gap, we know step one is always to feed the people. And this is an image that was taken on the 20th of December of last year where we partnered with Parks & Rec, and at Wells Recreation Center, with the help of American Heart, as well as the Palm Beach food bank, we were able to provide food to over three hundred and forty-five families. Now, at that same event, we were able to give out surveys and we received over eighty plus paper surveys from residents in Riviera Beach about some of the events that we have planned and their input.

Another core value is step two, evaluating what we are feeding the people. And step three, teach the people how to fish. Because, my mindset is, with COVID, of course, we can feed the people, but what are we feeding the people? And I'm pretty passionate about that because, if we're feeding people things that in the long run are gonna do more damage, even though they fill your bellies right now, are we really putting a Band-Aid on the situation or are we really repairing the situation? So that's why we're very passionate about teaching and educating people about nutrition and changing the habits, and the things that we focus on. And things we teach our families.

So now, I'm gonna bring up my partner. So, as Mr. Blankenship mentioned, there are two areas that are allocated unused land, right on Bluer Heron beside Barracuda Bay. And, what we're proposing to do is take one lot for mass production of farming. Take the second lot, that is accessible from the parking lot of Barracuda Bay and have that as a community garden. But not just as a community garden, but also the workshop location and a farmer's market, because our vision is to take the non-GMO organic foods that are grown in Riviera Beach to serve the residents of Riviera Beach, to have those accessible at the farmer's market.

But, what is so amazing about it is, within our organization, we have a mobile food pantry that also serves as a mobile POS system. We are SNAP, EBT and Fresh Access Bucks approved. So, if you're not familiar with the Fresh Access.., Fresh Access Bucks program, for example, if some initiates a purchase using SNAP, and maybe they go to buy one orange, but they have Fresh Access Bucks, that may give them two more free oranges, so now they have three.

But, we took it a step further and brought in American Heart. American Heart said, hey, we'll provide coupons. So, when you do your farmer's market, let's say, for example, they spend ten dollars at produce, we're give them five dollars in produce free. Then, Mr. Evans got excited and say, well hey, maybe with the City, we can give some coupons out too. So, our goal is to increase the buying power for the residents to purchase non-GMO organic foods produced in Riviera Beach because when you talk about the idea that we have a food desert, and we have a food swamp, if you don't address the core root, what are we dealing with? If people get government assistance but all they can do is buy chips, that's what they're gonna feed their kids, are chips. But, if we can allow them to use those resources and expand those resources and teach them about sautéing carrots or kale, or whatever it is they wanna eat, now we're changing their habits and we're changing their taste [stammer] buds and we're improving their health. That's what we're passionate about doing.

So, Amy can come up and tell you about her business, 'cause that's her drawing for the garden. And then, we'll ask Kyle to come up right behind her and talk about the mass production of the farmland.

Ms. A. Simion: Great. Good evening. Thank you so much. My name is Amy Simion, and I do own a business called GROW Garden Box. So, my business.., I have the pleasure of helping people introduce more nature into their lives. I am also a Florida master gardener. So, as you know, there are a lot of volunteer hours involved with that, and I've worked closely with the City of West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority, and I have to say that this is the most exciting project that I will have worked on to date. Hopefully. With Veleke's vision and the partners that we have, we've really been able to design this space to reflect a sense of community and education. I know the drawing is small but if you have ever been to Barracuda Bay, and you've driven in, seen the complex on your right, just look straight ahead and imagine a welcoming entrance where it's a gathering place. And then on your right, you're gonna see all the garden beds. That's at the top of the drawing. And then, on the perimeter, little boxes, we've got a lot of workshop spaces, we've got education spaces for Florida native plants, for Florida friendly plants, the pollinators, we've got composting areas at the bottom of the drawing. That would be the marketplace.

So, again, the focus is on community, the focus is on education, and I think it's a very exciting opportunity.

Thank you so much.

Mr. K. Shelton: Hello everyone. My name is Kyle Shelton. I'm the owner of NuGen International. It's a vegetable, seed and breeding company, based right here in..., actually, out of Loxahatchee. I guess I'm here to talk about the production that we can do out there. And..., I mean, my background is, I, I worked on urban farms in West Philadelphia for years setting these up. I have a five-acre piece in Loxahatchee that I produce commercial organic vegetable crops on right now. And I'm here to basically just tell us that, that this is something that I think we can definitely do. We're in a very good place to grow commercial veggies. In fact, this used to be the salad bowl of the United States not that long ago. And I think it's, like all these ladies here are saying, it's, it's something that's important for us to be doing, is to produce food where it's needed most. And I think that helps people interact with it, see it, understand what it is. And, one of the nice things about where we are here, is that, you know, we can grow all sorts of things that people can't grow anywhere else in this country.

And, educating folks on what those are, what actual food is, and more importantly, teaching folks that, you know, maybe we shouldn't be spraying chemicals on our food, and maybe we shouldn't be using all these other artificial fertilizers, pesticides, things like that, that we don't necessarily need. And I think, I think having a nice public space where we can do a lot of that education is good, but more importantly, we need to actually be able to produce food 'cause I've worked on a lotta these projects where, you know, we get started and everything's gung ho and by the time season two runs around, it's a bunch of weeds. And that's, you know..., it's a waste of everyone's time and money working on it, and I, you know, I'm here to make sure that that doesn't happen when we do this.

So, we'll, we'll be growing commercial quantities of corps. I don't see any reason why we couldn't pump out eight to ten thousand pounds a year, of you name it, organic tomatoes, lettuce, herbs, whatever we really want. I think it should heart friendly stuff, but we can talk about that.

So, that's, that's me. And I, I think that's what I'm here to say.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Ms. V. Brown: So, this is a flow chart. And, I think the budget has increased because there may be some additional anticipated funding, which is always great. But, the flow chart shows you that E-Road Map would be the project lead, 'cause we certainly don't wanna put additional stress on [stammer] a member already. We know that Parks & Rec, they have their responsibilities, everyone has their responsibilities, so we'll be the project lead.

Now, under that project lead is the ONFG program manager. So, E-Road Map Corporation will personally hire someone to help regulate everything that's happening within the farm and the garden. Obviously, you see NuGen and also GROW, Parks & Rec, their responsibilities will be the irrigation, as well as the security of the space. The City of Riviera Beach, they will retain ownership of the land, we're just asking that they also keep up with the insurances. And then, American Heart is there.

Now, the volunteer farm team, as Mr. Blankenship spoke to, we'll all work together to engage residents to help. But, we know that if you're looking to mass produce food on this level, it can't be maintained strictly from volunteers. So, our organization is owning the responsibility to take on the salaries that are needed to hire professional farmers and permaculturists to make sure this happens. And, it feeds into the farm, it feeds into the garden, and then also the farmer's market. So, just showing you how it works.

So, in respect to what's highlighted here on the budget, E-Road Map Corporation will give into this project \$88,950. We, we believe in it, we wanna support the community, and we are all in. The City of Riviera Beach, initially, we are asking for \$50,707 to help build the infrastructure. The great thing about that is, once the infrastructure is built, it isn't something that you have to continuously build every year, so it's not an ongoing cost. American Heart is there, \$35,00 to help with a lot of things that we need to do. And Parks & Rec has helped us with some in kind donations of sinks and things of that sort.

Now, the lightbulb represents that we can always put a survey on the City's website for the farm and community garden name suggestions. We are open to that. We are also open to putting out suggestions about culturally relevant items that people would like to grow, because, you have so many cultures here. And we participate in a lot of folk's groups. We're building a farm, a community garden now for RISE. And one thing that the residents spoke about what's being from different areas, Jamaica and Haiti and Trinidad, and, and how they grew up cooking, they can't find those things here. So, we want to keep that top of mind, and get the input from the residents and work with our farmers to make sure that's available to grow.

And, you all probably have a copy of the budget, but I just wanted to highlight the breakdown so you can see exactly, when we're talking about infrastructure, what we're purchasing, what is needed, how it's all allocated.

And, to wrap up together, this isn't updated but, together we can work to change the narrative for Riviera Beach. I know I've been here in Palm Beach County, a transplant. I came from Maryland six years ago. I love it. It's great. And sometimes we do hear negative things, as we do with any city, so we can just decrease, in my opinion, the crime by bringing forth more activities. We can decrease the stress and anxiety that people naturally feel, and that I's now compounded because of COVID, by introducing farming and yoga and meditation. We can improve our health issues by introducing the health and nutrition education. And, just a side note, urban gardening is a buzz word now. So that definitely will help with tourist attractions. People wanna see what's happening, what food is being grown. They want to purchase food that is locally grown to reduce the miles in which the food travels.

And this is a fun picture of us. You know? So, it's ONFG, American Heart, Parks & Rec, a lot of volunteers, the Riviera Beach Police Department, when we did an event at Wells. So, we're very excited. Yes, we're very passionate and we've very committed.

And thank you so much for the time to present.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you so much.

[Applause]

Chairperson Botel: Great project. I, I have a quick question. What's the..., if..., what, if any, is the interaction with our CRA community gardens?

Ms. V. Brown: So, we know that the CRA has a community garden, and it looks fantastic. And, we are certainly open to, if we can, increase the budget and extend some of the [inaudible] to that garden. No doubt about it. But, what we're looking to do here, is just full on engagement with the community. I mean, every single week, activities. Not just gardening, but health screenings, health nutritional cooking classes every single week. Because that's what we do. And within our nonprofit, we get funding from CSC, from Community Foundation, from Quantum, from... We just have a lot of funders who, if they're watching, we love you and thank you so much, and they believe in our work, so we're able to pool some of our resources into this project. So, it is, it's, it's noncompete, 'cause I know you all have many projects, smaller projects in Riviera Beach and we're willing to extend some of our services there, if needed.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Ms. V. Brown: Yep.

Chairperson Botel: Any other comments?

Councilperson Lanier: Madam Chair?

Chairperson Botel: You're recognized.

Councilperson Lanier: This is a program that I'm very excited about. I have been talking about when I got involved with the Sow and Grow program with the CRA expanding this program. I had talked to Mr. Evans because he told me that he had something for me.

[Chuckles]

Councilperson Lanier: And that I would have to wait to see the presentation, and this is beyond my wildest imagination. I wanted to be able to expand the s, the Sow and Grow program here in the City.

I also..., I've said this at several meetings, that when I go and I see these people, you know, waiting in these long lines to get food from different organizations, and I'm saying there has to be a better way, that we can bring something here to the City so that people can learn how to grow their food. Everybody can't do it, but a lot of people are involved in it. It was very surprising to me with the Sow and Grow program, a part of that was giving away soil and the seed and the beds, they gave out.

Ms. V. Brown: Mhmm.

Councilperson Lanier: So, people do participate in this. And to be able to have a full-fledged farm in the City to feed ourselves, by ourselves, for ourselves, is something that I certainly am very excited about.

So, there are two things I wanted to ask. The first thing is the irrigation system. How is that going to work for.., is the City going to be responsible for that or how, how does that work? Because, of course, that's a, you know, that's an issue.

Ms. V. Brown: I'm gonna leave that to Mr. Blankenship.

Parks & Recreation Director Blankenship: Yes, ma'am. We already have irrigation there. So, we'll main'.., we'll continue to maintain that.

Councilperson Lanier: Oh, very good. Very good.

And also too, the second thing is, I wanna be able to make sure that because we're not too far from Solitron, to make sure that we do some soil testing for that area before we get started with our farming project. Just to make sure.

Ms. V. Brown: Yes. I think Mr. Blankenship did some initial soil testing, and we're gonna do our soil test and send it to you. If you wanna speak to your...

Parks & Recreation Director Blankenship: Yeah. We.., not because of Solitron, but because of a structure that was previously there had a geotechnical engineer take a look and everything is good there.

Councilperson Lanier: Alright. Very good. Excellent. But, I'm very excited about this. This is something that I certainly was not expecting. I thought it was gonna be on a smaller scale, but this certainly something that we need for the City so that we don't have to go to anybody to get anything. We can grow it for ourselves and feed ourselves, right here in the City of Riviera Beach.

So, I'm, I'm very excited about it. Thank you.

Ms. V. Brown: Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: You're recognized.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I'd just like to thank Mr. Evans and his Staff, and, and for your organization coming to Riviera Beach to provide this service. It goes along with our Citywide goals of, of getting community engaged, and then also Great Neighborhood. I tried doing a garden in my yard and it didn't quite work out for me.

[Chuckles]

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: So, I, I definitely appreciate it. I know that, you know, eating better will help increase everyone's health. And, unless we start kinda take that back, you know, and getting away from the fast foods and all of that stuff, we're gonna continue to have the health issues that we're having. And so, I think this is a perfect opportunity for our community to be able to get off that blood pressure medicine.

[Inaudible background]

Chairperson Botel: Could...

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: And, as well as be able to just, you know, live a better, healthier lifestyle. So, I appreciate you all for coming and, and working our City.

Thank you.

Ms. V. Brown: Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thanks so much. It's...

Councilperson Lanier: Yes. Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: ...a great project.

Councilperson Lanier: And, Madam Chair, I just wanted to add, Ms. Jacobs, thank you so much for putting...

Chairperson Botel: Right.

Councilperson Lanier: ...this together. Thank you so much, because you know I've been talking about this for a very long time. So, thank you so much for your help.

[Applause]

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Good job.

Assistant City Manager Jacobs: We still have one more project.

City Manager Evans: And, if we can hold our applause for Chris. [Chuckle]. He's got an exciting program as well, that is, is going to address a lot of the concerns and things that we've discussed, to ensure that we close the gap related to the digital divide.

Councilperson Lanier: We'll give him an applause.

Chairperson Botel: We'll, we'll applauds for Chris too.

Chief Information Technology Officer Persuad: Good evening, Madam Chair, Council Members, and Mr. Mayor.

The only thing I have is that we are looking to put WiFi in the municipal parks. Currently, we have worked with Comcast and we have surveyed all the parks in the City, and they've given us five locations that are feasible at this point in time. There's further construction. It depends where the cables run along the roads and, you know, there's a lot of, a lot of back end requirements needed.

So, currently there are five parks that Ms. Jacobs worked with us and, and identified some funding for this. And, we worked with Mr. Blankenship to identify which parks have the most need. But there was only..., the five that we have are Cunningham Park, Tate..., Dan Calloway Tate, Barrington Park, Sadie McCray Park, Goodman Park and there's a possibility that we're look into Wells after this in the outdoor areas as well. But right now, those are the five parks that we're targeting.

Comcast is gonna require about ninety days to actually put this thing in place. It will go on light poles in the parks or, if there's another area that's more feasible... And, of course, we'll put a sign, and then, the closer you are, the better the WiFi. Further you are, delay. That's just kinda how the WiFi works. But it will have the option for Comcast and then the residents can, you know, log on, do whatever they need to do. And, it's just a good opportunity for the City to have it in the parks.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Any questions?

City Manager Evans: And, Madam Chari, this, this also builds on the, the network that the School District... Ad, Mr. Persaud, if you could talk about that, how it intertwines that, in essence, we would have a, a large section of our community that would have access to the internet.

[Inaudible dais comments]

Chief Information Technology Officer Persaud: So, the School District is doing municipal WiFi based on school students right now. So, you have to have a School District student ID to get onto their WiFi that Riviera Beach is slated for that. We've been in communications with the School District several times, and the county. They are putting poles up that have a solar panel on there, and that solar panel will basically create a mesh wireless network. So, basically, if you're anywhere in that mesh, you'll have access to that.

This, this addresses more where you have less... 'Cause, the School District's network is gonna be very restrictive. It's just 'cause they're kids. You know, we don't wanna do anything bad, that's just the way things are. This is gonna be more open, where you can do, like, bills, you could, you know, do other additional things beyond just, you know, schoolwork and everything else, so. And, you will not need a School District ID to log onto the network. So, this will be a little more open for residents, beyond just students.

[Inaudible comment]

[Applause and exclamation]

Chief Information Technology Officer Persaud: And I thought that was a tough act to follow. They were so good.

[Chuckles]

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Thanks so much. Thank you, Ms. Jacobs.

Assistant City Manager Jacobs: Oh..

Chairperson Botel: Great program.

Assistant City Manager Jacobs: ...no problem. Thank you for listening to us. So, as you can see, this is truly a team effort, amongst our community, as well as our employees here with the City of Riviera Beach. We just ask that, moving forward, if you would give Mr. Evans the authority to execute an agreement with the county. Of course, it would be an amended agreement because the initial one was signed off on in September of 2020, that allowed for the street improvement. This one would allow for the Code Enforcement project, the digital divide project, and the Urban Farm to move forward.

Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Okay.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – 7:30 P.M. – NON-AGENDA ITEM SPEAKERS
(Three Minute Limitation)**

Chairperson Botel: It is past 7:30. So.

Chairperson Botel: PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED RULES OF DECORUM GOVERNING PUBLIC COMMENT DURING OFFICIAL MEETINGS, WHICH HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE ENTRANCE. IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE ORDER, IF ANY OF THE RULES ARE NOT ADHERED TO, THE COUNCIL CHAIR MAY HAVE ANY DISRUPTIVE SPEAKER OR ATTENDEE REMOVED FROM THE PODIUM, FROM THE MEETING AND/OR THE BUILDING, IF NECESSARY. PLEASE GOVERN YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY.

PUBLIC COMMENT SHALL BEGIN AT 7:30 UNLESS THERE IS NO FURTHER BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL WHICH, IN THAT EVENT, IT SHALL BEGIN SOONER. IN ADDITION, IF AN ITEM IS BEING CONSIDERED AT 7:30 P.M., THEN COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC SHALL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ITEM HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. ANY PERSON WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC COMMENTS, PLEASE FILL OUT A PUBLIC COMMENT CARD LOCATED AT THE FRONT DESK AND GIVE IT TO STAFF BEFORE THE PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION IS ANNOUNCED.

City Manager Evans: Madam Cahir?

Chairperson Botel: Oh, I'm sorry, Deirdre. I didn't realize you wanted a..., us to vote on that.

Assistant City Manager Jacobs: Yes, ma'am.

City Manager Evans: Yes, ma'am.

[Inaudible comment]

Chairperson Botel: Okay. Well then, let's hold off on, on public comment for just a minute. I'm sorry. So, let's see. Would someone care to make a motion that we approve the projects presented this evening by Deputy [stammer] City Manager Jacobs?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: So moved.

Councilperson Lanier: Second.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. And I think we've had enough discussion, yes? Madam Clerk.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Lanier?

Councilperson Lanier: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Councilperson Miller-Anderson?

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Yes.

City Clerk Anthony: Chair Botel?

Chairperson Botel: Yes. That is approved, with great thanks, and [inaudible].

[Applause and exclamation]

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Chair, Members of the public..., Members of the Board, the acceptance of public comment is now closed.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Glen Spiritis, Peter Ruda.

Mr. G. Spiritis: Glen Spiritis, 5540 North Ocean Drive, Riviera Beach.

I would like to just remind all the residents of Singer Island, Riviera Beach, please come out and vote for District 4 Council, on Tuesday, March 9th. If you have an absentee ballot, or you're voting by mail, please make sure you do this. This is your opportunity to be heard. Please vote on March 9th, Tuesday. This, this Tuesday.

Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Peter Ruda.

Mr. P. Ruda: My apologies. I didn't know I can sit there. Peter Ruda, 2305 Lake Shore. I wanted to say, first of all, thank you, Council, all the Officers, Mayor.

Recently, we had a meeting on the East 24th Street seawall of the neighborhoods. There was an issue, and I haven't heard any follow up or backup on that. I don't know if there's been any further discussion on it. It was in reference to erecting a wall there or not. There was also issues that.., quite a few issues that were brought up by the neighborhood people. We were.., it was quite.., the meeting was quite well attended. And, a lot of issues came up. One was with the actual storm drainage, vagrants. Big about the vagrants and people from the boats dumping, illegal dumping.

The, the City members of the Building Officials, have been really helpful and when they attended the meeting, answered all our questions. But again, they said something was earmarked but not for a couple years, to my knowledge. I think there needs to be something a little sooner than that. I'm not sure if it could be looked into, or how to address that, or move forward with it. But, I, you know, I just wanna bring it back up.

Should I go... I have other cards that I put in. Should I keep going with the other issues that I have or...

Chairperson Botel: Sure. You have three minutes.

Mr. P. Ruda: Keep going?

Chairperson Botel: Yeah.

Mr. P. Ruda: Alright. The other issue I have is 23rd.., 2300 Lake Shore, there is a problem property. We've had quite a few Code issues there. Again, the Building Department has come out, they've been very good in addressing those. They've posted violations. They're not being complied with. We've addressed the officers, in reference to trying to get a little help. We were met with some resistance with the police.., Police Department. I think it needs to be noted that the gentleman that owns the property is not very pleasant. So, I'm trying.., or, we're trying to direct everything through the Building Department and the police to get help. So, it's become more of a problem. And I just wanna see if we can get that addressed in some way, in some manner.

And the other issue, Ms. Botel, is about the beach access over in.., by the Amrit and the Tiara. Don't' know when that's gonna be open, but truly, is there any dates proposed, that you know of to be opened, on that beach access?

Chairperson Botel: We'll answer all the questions that come up in public comment, at the end of public comment. And I'll see you, if you stay for the...

[Timer]

Mr. P. Ruda: I will.

Chairperson Botel: ...end of the meeting, we'll speak afterwards. Thanks very much.

Mr. P. Ruda: Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Madeline Irving, Lloyd Brown, Doretta Paulk.

Ms. M. Irving: Good evening everyone.

I am here to try to understand, we passed a Ordinance last election regarding hands off Board Members regarding City employees. What bothered me is I saw though our.., on our City website for Facebook, there was a interview done by Councilman Lawson with Richard [stammer].., Richard Ryles. What's so disheartening about this is, Richard Ryles has made it his personal agenda to attack our City Manager, to attack our Council lady, Dr. Botel, he's made it his personal business to post negative innuendos about Mrs. Botel's legislative aide, calling him the help. What's disparaging.., disparagingly about that is, here, he was listed as black history. That's not the history that I want to see on my City's webpage, as someone being honored.

I was really offended by it, and Mr. Lawson chose to tell me that I should've not looked [stammer], or I should have looked at the other six people, but Mr. Ryles is, or was, in an active lawsuit against our City. He has sued the City on a personal, for his own good, and how was this person, given the opportunity to be featured on our City's website?

Mr. Lawson has a Facebook Page. He could've used it for his own benefit, not for our City. To me, he overstepped his bounds. And I just wanna put that on record. Because, to me, as a resident, I don't think that someone should be featured on our City's social media who sued the City, who represented someone who couldn't run a race, who wanted our incumbent to bow out. That is not in good taste or good spirit of government.

Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Lloyd Brown, Doretta Paulk, Cindy March.

Mr. L. Brown: How ya doin'? My name is Lloyd Brown. Hi everybody.

You know, I'm not really a Facebook guy, so I don't really care what you put on Facebook 'cause I erase everybody I see that comes up, 'cause, I mean, I want you to hear my opinion, but I don't wanna hear yours. And I'm being honest.

[Audience exclamation]

Mr. L. Brown: But anyway, I left over here, when I came over here I saw the lights on over at the baseball field, and there's nobody there. I went by the park down the street where I live, there's only one light and there's a group of people down there trying to play basketball.

Okay. I know this recreational thing. When I was coming up, we had things going on. When I go up to North Palm Beach, or anywhere near Howell Watkins on a Saturday morning, you see all them young girls out there playing softball, and they're playing... And they have something going on all the time. So, whoever' over the Park & Recreation, apparently you're not doing a good job. And if you deal with the kids first, then you don't have to worry about 'em when they grow up. But I don't see anything in our neighborhood that deals with the kids, except things that maybe somebody who work' over here might know about it. But the kids I know, whose parents got kids sitting under their porch smoking marijuana, and whatever, they still have kids, they don't know nothing about none of this. And none of the information get out to 'em.

And you know what? I put grass in half of my yard because ya'll doing a half ass job. So, I put half grass. And the Code Enforcement, let me tell you something, a neighbor down the street, you're complaining about her garbage can not being put back up there, but those boats still got trash over there. I see you moved the stuff. I'm not even..., you know what? The reason I put grass is because I might wanna run for Mayor, but I don't want no pay. The money that you could pay me, you take it and put it in them parks each weekend in, in individual parks.

And, I mean, see, I see a lotta things when I ride around. I see a church that has maybe three thousand members, right? And they probably got about twelve or thirteen people in here. And this black neighborhood church, that does lawn maintenance, but you know who's doing the lawn maintenance? Some Spanish guy. So, the money's not going back into the community, it's going out of the community. But then these people stand up and talk about Black Lives Matter. How in the heck...

And then this thing about fellowship. How is it fellowship when you won't hire an individual that goes to your church, put in your, your whatever they call those things, you know, you put the money in...

[Inaudible audience comment]

Mr. L. Brown: Okay? You got a person that put in, but then here it is, he can't even get a job, like a contractor who does maintenance, or whatever, he can't... You know, the air conditioning guys that go to some of these churches, I mean, you wanna get to heaven, go in your closet and pray, but you want something right now. You want the City... And I don't really care if the City grows and the..., and, I mean, because, if the City grows, and the citizens don't have a good life here, that don't make sense. It doesn't make sense. I mean, you talk about building here and building there, and you got all these people over here suffering right now.

Especially, these landlords, you need to have somebody.., the Code Enforcement needs to go there to these landlords, 'cause I done seen them houses. I done'...

[Timer]

Mr. L. Brown: ...walked in and seen some houses.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

City Clerk Anthony: Doretta Paulk, Cindy March, Thomas Masters.

Ms. D. Paulk: Well, good evening. My name is Doretta Paulk and I'm a resident of Riviera Beach.

I just wanna say, Mr. Spiritis, I really don't really anything about you. I know that you [stammer] you are running, but even when we had COVID, you never came out and serviced the people about...

Chairperson Botel: Talk, talk...

Ms. D. Paulk: ...community.

Chairperson Botel: ...into the mic, Ms. Paulk.

Ms. D. Paulk: You never came out to service the people of our community, as passing out food, masks, for anything.

Chairperson Botel: Ms. Paulk.

Unk. Audience: [Inaudible]...

Chairperson Botel: Mr...

Ms. D. Paulk: No, I don't.

Chairperson Botel: Ms. Paulk.

Ms. D. Paulk: I don't.

Chairperson Botel: Ms. Paulk. Could you...

Ms. D. Paulk: So...

Chairperson Botel: Would you address...

Ms. D. Paulk: What...

Unk. Audience: [Inaudible]...

Chairperson Botel: ...address... Address the...

Ms. D. Paulk: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: ...Council.

Ms. D. Paulk: No, I will not shut up. And you stop that.

Unk. Audience: [Inaudible].

Ms. D. Paulk: [Stammer]... No.

Chairperson Botel: Ms., Ms... Please, can have...
[Gavel]

Chairperson Botel: Ms. Paulk, address the Council.

Ms. D. Paulk: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: Please.

Ms. D. Paulk: Can I have a couple of seconds back on my time? Please?

Chairperson Botel: You, you can adjust her time a little. Thanks.

Ms. D. Paulk: Yes, please.

Chairperson Botel: Ms. Paulk, just look this way.

Ms. D. Paulk: Okay. No problem.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Ms. D. Paulk: Definitely, no problem.

What we know about Julie Botel, that she has delivered in 2018, she voted to rehire the City Manager, Mr. Jonathan Evans, voted to get rid of \$1,000 [inaudible] bonus for the Council, offered to pay tuitions for the students completing their GED, through the Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Program, voted ten tho'.., \$10 million for badly needed improvement s of the water treatment plan, voted to buy the land and new water treatment plant, brought Palm Beach State College to Riviera Beach for the first time. She started the Work Force Development Task Force, to bring private companies together with educators, to train high school students and young adults for their careers.

She's done many other things. Now, I su'.., I really implore all the citizens to get out and vote this March 9th. And also, vote for the amendments. We wanna vote yes on each of these two amendments. We do not have money.., at least Mrs. Paulk don't have any money to pay over fifty whatever it is, percent or whatever it is, for.., in case there's

something happens in front of my house. I don't have that kinda money, and I'm sure there's other residents that do not have this kinda money.

Now, I don't know if there's some type of plot is going on here, or what, concerning trying to get Mrs. Botel out. Mrs. Botel has done a marvelous job, and get Mr. Spiritis in here, because they'll probably be three to two. And they probably have their own agenda to get rid of Mr. Evans. We will not have that. We worked too hard to get this young man back into our City. He's done a marvelous job.

And also, you all need to go to newsday.com and, and look at the statements they said concerning...

[Timer]

Ms. D. Paulk: ...Mr. Spiritis.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Ms. D. Paulk: Thank you so much.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you, Ms...

Ms. D. Paulk: [Newsday.com](http://newsday.com).

[Applause]

Ms. D. Paulk: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Cindy March, Thomas Masters, William Wiley.

Ms. C. March: Good evening everyone. And good evening, Council. I'm Cindy March.

You know, we can agree and disagree.

Chairperson Botel: Could you...

Ms. C. March: I...

Chairperson Botel: ...please address the...

Ms. C. March: I've been...

Chairperson Botel: ...Council...

Ms. C. March: ...helping...

Chairperson Botel: ...Ms. March?

Ms. C. March: Excuse me?

Chairperson Botel: Could you please address the Council, not the audience?

Ms. C. March: This is the way I'm just looking. I'm not addressing.., I'm just looking. It's my focus, okay? I'm not out to get anyone, okay? So, stoop interrupting me when I'm speaking, please. Let me go ahead on with my conversation, as I was rudely interrupted.

I am campaigning for Dr. Spiritis. And, anybody can campaign for who they want to. This is an election. We can agree and disagree. It is utterly ridiculous with the flyer that was put out, saying that we're ignorant people, he's with awful people. Let me tell you something, I have fought all my life to get an early education, graduated three years outta high school, went off to college for electronics. Wasn't focused. Made some bad choices in life. So, I've been through the valley. I had to fight to get my diploma [inaudible] in 1980, and not 1981 because of the color of my skin, because somebody tried to tell me, 'You're not ready for society.' But my GPA was over the top. So, if you call that ignorant...

I keep me two and three jobs. I don't have a silver spoon stuck in my mouth. Okay? So, I'm not ignorant. None of us are ignorant, we just made bad choices and we agree and disagree. So, if you're voting for Botel or you're voting for Dr. Spiritis, that's your choice, but don't label me. Don't label me 'cause I know I am somebody. We all are somebody. Okay? Let's run a clean campaign. Stop talking about what Botel did. Let me tell you what Botel said she did. Okay? I did just what I was gonna do, bring Evans back. But you also ran on that platform, bring Evans back and fire..., and fire..., and fire Ladi Goldwire, the Building Inspector, because she had no license. Which was very untrue. Which probably gonna cost the City a whole lotta money, because of your ignorancy. Your ignorancy. Enough is enough. Okay?

We.., this City is so divided. And you know why it's divided? Because.., I'm gonna use your pronoun, they, them and those.., they use us to go against one another. We better wake up because, if not, history will repeat itself. And if nobody ain't taught ya'll, that Trump, he shoulda taught you. When Democrats come out, Democrats comin' out. And I'm gonna continue to knock on a door for whoever I feel like the right candidate... Not because of personal vendetta. No. We didn't know you either, but you ran, and you won. Just because we don't know this man, doesn't mean that he has a great agenda to make this City better. Let's stop putting all the foolishness, knocking down each other's signs. Let's do what's right for one another. I have stepped to this podium plenty of times, and had to come back and apologize, even to Reverend Masters I had to apologize.

Let's stop the foolishness.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

[Timer]

City Clerk Anthony: Thomas Masters, William Wiley, Amon Yisrael.

Bishop T. Masters: Thank you. Bishop Thomas Masters, Pastor of the New Macedonia Baptist Church, 748 West 9th Street in Riviera Beach.

I would like to thank the City and the CRA for a successful job fair. We had over two hundred and fifty job seekers, probably about twenty employers or plus. And it was wonderful. I wanna thank Councilman Lawson for being a presenter. I want to thank Chairperson Dr. Botel and Councilperson Tradrick McCoy for coming by, sharing with the job seekers, as well as the employers.

I do have a special announcement to make. Badcock is looking for a bilingual person to work inside sales. The young lady that's there now told me yesterday that she's gonna bring home \$7,000 plus in one month. They need a bilingual person now. Hilton needs some people in the housekeeping department now. These are people who have called me recently, in the last twenty-four hours. Chaney Brothers called yesterday, they need people now to drive that pallet., the pallet jack thing, that puts the pallets on the truck. They are hiring ex-offenders, as, as well. They need to, to hire people now. Solid Waste, need people now. And they also hire ex-offenders.

Now, Monday, I guess that's 8th at, I guess about 6:00 p.m., I would like to meet with any of the job seekers, whether it's Badcock, Hilton, Chaney Brothers, Solid Waste, please come by, see me first so I can do the referral and we can make sure that you're properly dressed, that you have a resume, that you know what to expect when you go. So, Monday, if you would meet me at the New Macedonia Baptist Church, at March the 8th at 5:00 p.m., then we'll have a little preorientation. Then I will personally send you, whether it's Badcock, Hilton, Chaney Brothers or Solid Waste.

I would also like to announce that we are planning a job fair for ex-offenders, that we now call returning citizens. It's important to have their own job fair. It's not too fair to have a job fair and ex-offenders are thrown in with people that do not have any background records at all because you know who's gonna get the job. So, we're gonna have one. I wanna thank Dr. Botel for meeting with the Workforce Alliance, for the reentry program as well, because she's involved with that. However, we're going to have one on March the 31st, a couple days before Easter, which you call Resurrection for ex-offenders only. You must have ae record to get into the room. If you don't have a record, you can't come in.

[Timer]

Bishop T. Masters: So, March the 31st at New Macedonia. And I'll be working with, I think...

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Bishop T. Masters: ...Councilperson Lanier for this one.

Thank you very much.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: William Wiley, Amon Yisrael, Bessie Brown.

Mr. W. Wiley: Good evening, Board.

Chairperson Botel: State your name, please.

Mr. W. Wiley: Sorry. My name is William Wiley, born and raised here in Riviera Beach, schoolteacher at Roosevelt Middle School, and also with Palm Beach Lakes. Ex-military, and I also work for the Palm Beach County Courthouse.

I wanna start off by saying, let's put Riviera Beach first. That's the first thing. We..., let's put Riviera Beach first. Our City is important, it's important to us and our kids. And we wanna make sure we stay the path of what we're doing, and keep everything in a professional manner. Let's keep the progress. I remember a couple years ago, we had some issues going on with the City and things were not being seen in a positive light. Mrs. Botel, Ms. KaShamba Miller-Anderson, Ms. Lanier, right? They vowed to come in and go ahead and get the City back on track so we can get back to progress. Don't forget Mrs. Botel was part of that. And she brought in the progress that we needed. And she has done a great job.

Remember, no one said anything about the previous administration...

[Applause]

Mr. W. Wiley: No one said anything about the previous administration that never came across the track to be able to help anybody. At all. And then the one lady who comes to help out the City, and do things for the City, not only Singer Island, also the mainland, right now, all of a sudden we have an agenda to wanna get rid of her for some reason. To me, that doesn't make any sense. Alright?

So, we got..., I'm here teaching. I'm here with our kids, I'm here with our students, I'm here with our people. I'm out here in these streets helping people out. All the time. Same thing my mother did. I'm trying to walk in her footsteps. But, I, I just can't explain why would we do this to Mrs. Botel for all the great things she has done?

Alright? So now, let's talk about leadership in this City first thing. Leadership is pulling people together, it's not division. Leadership is coming up with solutions, it's not pointing fingers to people when some'..., when things go wrong. Leadership is working as a team to better our City. The first thing we don't do everybody, is that when situations go bad, and we don't like them, to jump on Facebook and then be able to accuse somebody of something without doing your due diligence. The first thing you should've done about the bridge situation, was call up and get the situation taken care of, find out what really happened, and then come back and report that. I think it was very, very unprofessional by Council Members and Members of our Council to get on Facebook and inflame the City, because that's not leadership. That's not leadership. And that's no supposed to be done in our City. If me, as a teacher, myself as a teacher, if I did that with the kids, class, there would be a problem and you'd want me out of my job. Alright? But, my job is to take these kids, put 'em together and make them wanna learn, and make

them achieve.., and achieve their goals. Right? This is not what's being done. Now, we have people undermining our City. Alright? So now, let's keep this clear. I will always be for the best interest of the City.

Mrs. Botel, Mrs. Lanier, and Mrs. KaShamba Miller-Anderson, have done some really good things for our City. We have no reason to get them outta here, we have no reason to bring anybody else in because no one else is gonna come in and help us the way they have and got us through the [inaudible] City.

So, thanks a lot.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

[Applause and exclamation]

City Clerk Anthony: Amon Yisrael, Bessie Brown, Delores Williams.

Mr. A. Yisrael: Good evening. Amon Yisrael, Riviera Beach, Florida.

Well, I can't say anything better than Richard Riley just said about Mr. Julia Botel. But there are a few questions. And I do wanna thank those that are sitting on the Council this evening, for the things that they are doing.

I do have a few questions though. When I calculate the numbers from hearing you all talk in previous meetings, I come up with three hundred to \$400,000 savings, by keeping Jonathan as the City Manager. And, is it true that he's not receiving a dime, since August, for the services that he has rendered so far? So, I really would love to have the numbers of the savings, and is it true that he has not received a dime for his services that he has rendered so far?

Also, the food.., the food co-op farm. I'm totally in support of anybody that comes to the City and she has done a wonderful job in binging different organizations to help provide food for our community. Organic food. With the high blood pressure, the diabetes, the cholesterol that is rampant in Riviera Beach, we need to be in a position to provide food for our community. That's a wonderful thing.

The next thing I wanna ask is, if you're going to talk about Ms. Botel, just tell the truth.

[Inaudible audience comment]

Mr. A. Yisrael: Now, one of the things I notice about her, she is accessible. If you wanna ask her some questions, ask her some questions. She can give you answers to decisions that she made. KaShamba is accessible, and Ms. Lanier is accessible. So, we need to move this City forward. We need to keep that in mind.

Now, I got some information in.., in my mail today, and I got several calls about people.., about someone that's being supported against Ms. Botel. I don't know if that's

true, but we need to know who we're supporting. We really do. We do know what Ms. Botel brings to the table.

Thank you so much.

I look forward to seeing you on the Chair, Ms. Botel in a...

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Mr. A. Yisrael: ...couple more days.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

[Applause and exclamation]

City Clerk Anthony: Bessie Brown, Delores Williams, Fane Lozman.

Ms. B. Brown: Good evening, Council and Mayor.

I am here tonight about the amendments, and I would really appreciate it if everybody in this City, that's hearing my voice, would vote no because it states the Charter currently provides that fifty percent of the cost of [inaudible] street and drainage improvement shall be paid by the be'., benefitted property owner. But, that's the reason they want to get rid of it, is because they have a \$4 million bid in to, to fix the infrastructure and bridge [stammer] bridges over there on Singer Island. And, and they don't want them to be paying anything. And then it said that the Council may determine the assessments for curbs, gutters, valley gutters and sidewalks. The Council doesn't have the., the Council already does that, and they don't need to be., it doesn't need to be going into, to the Charter. And, and, and then they're not assessing anything. They are paying for that already. Now they're gonna take one, one thing off of..., a, payment and, and put the rest of the stuff to be paid again. This is not proper. And, and correct.

Also, a Council shall have the authority to abolish any City departments or office, other than the Police and Fire Departments. What., why would give the, the Council the authority [stammer] to abolish any department in this City that's been here forever? Other than the Police and Fire? That, that is not necessary to be put in the Charter. So, therefore, I would appreciate it if everyone, in this, in this City, to vote no.

Also, [chuckle], they wanna ask where's, where's Mr. Spiritis been for twenty years? Where's Ms., Ms. Botel been for twenty years? Because [stammer] Dawn Pardo was over there, and she was over there., over, over on Singer Island too. So basically, you know, that goes hand in hand. And also, [chuckle], Mr., Mr., Mr. Spiritis is a good, nice man, and he's a smart man. And Ms. Botel has used him for some of her..., some of her stuff, that she wanted done in the City. So basically, how can he be so good and the people that are supporting him so bad? Because I was a Botel supporter three years ago, and I was., and there was no'., and I'm not... I wanna know how did I become so sordid and terrible right now? And I've been retired for fifteen, fif'., sixteen years, and I was not forced to retire.

City Clerk Anthony: Delores Williams, Fane Lozman, J.B. Dixon.

Ms. D. Williams: Good evening, City Chairman, the Mayor and all the people here.

I would just like to say I think that everybody should vote no on the amendments. And I was very offended by what Mrs., Ms. Botel, your manager said the last time we had a meeting. And I looked up the word that she described me, that helped Mr. Glen. I don't really know Mr. Glen that well. I've learned you though, for the three years you've been here. But the word [inaudible] she described me, and the ones that said we are in all the and notable, action and motive, arising more distaste and contempt and dirty or [inaudible]. Look up that word she put in here. That's what she said., the one... And your campaign manager say it last, the last [inaudible] that this man was a good man. She don't know nothing bad about him. All he know., but the only thing he wanna know why he got those people helping him. I would help you if you had asked me. I never got up here trying to make nobody ashamed or hurt their feelings, or try to make them look bad. It said., this the word. Everybody that wanna look it up, S-O-R-D-I-D. Look it up and see how it describes the people that we., 'cause we're gonna help this man. So, all the ones that are helping Ms. Botel, respect you. I don't think they're S-O-R-D-I-D. They need to look up that and stop saying the story paints a sordid picture of bribery and scams, similar to dirty, shameful, mucky, grimy, foul. I'm not like that.

And I want them., everybody get to say, he don't know him. Ms. Botel, we didn't know you 'til three years ago. You had to learn for your three years being up there. Everybody got a chance, you learned. Every one of you learned your position. You, Mr. Evans. You promised me you're gonna do two things, you said you're gonna do on the westside. You haven't told me yet.

Ms. Lanier's supposed to meet with me. Soon it'll be three years, haven't met with her yet. I just wanna let ya'll know, please do not let people just distort other people because you want the other person to win. Whatever God say and it should be, that's what it' gonna be. If you wanna look at say, people supporting him. Now, I hope some people don't get mad, if you say people that's sordid, how many people that you have mainly, mainly come up here and speak for you, have started fights and wanna fight in this here Council meeting? Not the first one for him to start a fight, you couldn't even control it with your gavel. You had to shut the meeting down. We're not sordid.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

City Clerk Anthony: Fane Lozman, J.B. Dixon.

Mr. F. Lozman: Fane Lozman.

Taylor Realty Group and myself filed a legal action against Botel, Jeremy Summers and Botel's administrative assistant. 10:00 o'clock on this coming Friday, Judge Donald Hafele is gonna hear our motion. What's been happening is, Botel has been coming out on the weekends and putting signs in front of my property. I have two thousand feet along North Ocean Drive. She used to put them out during the week, but DOT would pick them up and now she admits to, get around state law, she puts them up on the weekend when

DOT doesn't work. It's against the law to put signs up anywhere on state roads, twenty-four hours a day, but she and her hat lady, campaign manager, put them out. And then, they get Police Chief, they get Jeremy Summers to come threaten to arrest Dan Taylor, who cleans up the highway as part of the Taylor Realty Group, Adopt A Highway. He has..., Jeremy Summers comes out and says he's gonna take us to jail so we can get COVID and spend time in the weekend. It's gross. Botel has coordinated that. We'll see what the Judge says. Jeremy Summers is also named as a defendant in that action.

Mr. Sirmons today, says my power, no more electric. I had temporary power where my floating home is, he denied my power, take a hike. [Chuckle]. You are so stupid, Mr. Sirmons. I've talked to the top land use lawyers in the State of Florida, you can't take away somebody's electric to their property. I wanna sit on my beach and use my computer. I wanna have lights. I wanna have cameras. Twice in the last five days, some of the Botel bullies have come to my floating home and cut all the ropes of my homes and drifted around in the bay with all my docks.

A few years ago, they actually sunk my floating home, the Botel bullies, out on Pine Point Road. So, they don't want me to have electric... What you have done, you don't have a clue what you've done. You've taken away all use of this property. The taxpayers can be lit up for tens of millions of dollars in a federal action. You've taken away everything. Including the utilities. I own fifty acres out there. Millions of dollars have been spent on the property, and Botel is so out of control, trying to take everything away, that she's gonna saddle the westside for decades to come with a judgment that can be a hundred million dollars.

Bo'..., you know, Mr. Spiritis may have the personality of a rock, but he's an honest guy. And he knows what he's talking about. Botel is just a power hungry, egomaniac, who's already been censured by Governor DeSantis. Any Republican should never vote for a Democrat like Botel, because she thinks the world revolves around her, and it doesn't. She used her office to get free office space for an illegal PAC. She used her office for sham charity. She stole a \$120,000..., coordinated \$190,000 of taxpayer's money is being given to Mr. Evans, who wouldn't come back. She stole the money from the beach polo lady. She's done all kinds of stuff. She's an embarrassment to this City, but you're gonna do what you're gonna do and one day she'll be doing the perp walk...

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

Mr. F. Lozman: ...into federal prison.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you so much, Mr. Lozman.

Mr. F. Lozman: Wait and see.

Chairperson Botel: Your time is up. [Inaudible].

City Clerk Anthony: J.B. Dixon.

Ms. J.B. Dixon: J.B. Dixon, 3000 North Ocean Drive, Singer Island, in Riviera Beach.

It's always a pleasure to follow Mr. Lozman and address his rants. [Chuckle]. Mr. Lozman actually filed a lawsuit to keep someone from posting campaign signs. Can you believe it? And, you know..., and he asked for an emergency because he was in dire m'..., dire, dire threat of getting COVID-19. [Chuckle]. Clearly, this was filed yesterday. The Judge did not see that it needed to be heard today, or perhaps tomorrow, if it's not going to be until Friday because no one was ever served with papers. It was supposed to be such an emergency, that the Judge should just rule on it without even telling the parties what they had supposedly done.

Mr. Lozman's floating home, as he calls it, or a storage shed, or whatever it is, was not cut, unless it was cut by him because for days before it got loose, his badly constructed dock segments were floating out, including concrete, in the Lagoon, where if you're a boater, you could kill yourself, if you ran into one of those.

I never ran any Political Action Committee. The committee he is referring to was a political committee. There is a difference. You should look that up, Fane. And, it was registered, not illegal. It was registered here with the City Clerk, which is where political committees should be registered. I also never ran it out of Dr. Botel's office. I live in a building with business services. I have secretaries, computers, faxes [chuckle], high quality copy machines, postage meters. Why in god's name would I get into a car and drive over here to a Councilwoman's office? I've probably been in that office maybe three or four times. One time. I only remember one time. There are sign in sheets to show [chuckle], I never wander over there.

This quote sham charity is called Friends for..., of Riviera Beach Schools, and you should ask some of the principals of the schools how sham we are, taking their kids to..., and paying for their kids to go to science museums, to have special seminars on electricity and physics. There's nothing sham about that. There's nothing sham about Julie Botel. There's a whole lotta sham going on elsewhere.

Thank you. And vote for Julie Botel on Tuesday.

[Applause and exclamation]

City Clerk Anthony: Madam Chair, Members of the Board, that concludes public comment.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

[Inaudible comments]

Chairperson Botel: Mr. Evans, do you have answers to some of the questions that were raised?

City Manager Evans: Yes, Madam Chair.

With regards to the meeting that occurred related to the project that's occurring on 24th Street, Staff has convened a meeting, or will be convening a meeting on Monday,

and then following up with the residents. They do have all the contact information. They're looking at an amicable solution to the issues that were expressed by persons that did attend the meeting, which was a well-attended meeting from all accounts. There was roughly about thirty-five to forty people. So, Staff will be following up, attempting to address those issues and those concerns.

With regards to the property that is referenced at 330 East 25th Street. Staff did visit the site and there was not visual violations, but Staff is going to take it a step further to see if they can access the interior of the structure because they believe that there could be some violations with regards to BTR and the activities that are actually occurring in there, that it is supposed to be for a single-family residence, and it may be having multiple occupants. So, that is an item that Staff is certainly going to look into and then report back accordingly.

With respect to the, the program that Councilman Lawson provided. It was a request of Councilperson Lawson to interview persons for Black History Month. I can assure you that there was no intention to off'..., offend or to make any person feel ill with regards to who the participants were. It was to look at folks that have been instrumental with regards to black history and provide perspectives as we look to expand the conversation associated with that. But, we are going to have a more robust discussion with the Board to look at the use of PEG channel and our public access channel, as well as our marketing team and how do we better utilize them and ensure that here's consistency and uniformity in the way in which our PEG channel and our marketing team is utilized.

With respect to the question associated with the speaker concerning my activities at the CRA, the assumption was correct. Since the temporary appointment, and then the permanent appointment, , there has not been any compensation with regards to the services that have been provided to the CRA, nor have I looked to bring it forward on the Agenda for discussion. But, that is, that is correct.

The projected monies that we did have in the budget for the CRA Director was anywhere from a hundred and fifty to \$190,000 per year. If.., it was assumed that the position would be filed at, let's say, \$150,000 per year, and you add in the ancillary benefits, it's roughly about \$206,000 for that particular position. So, with regards to me serving in that capacity, roughly since the appointment that occurred in October, the savings is roughly about \$17,000 per month. There also is some other cost saving activities that we would like to bring before the Bord for consideration, as part of your budget conversations that we think we can certainly save, as well as gain some additional efficiencies with some, some tweaks and modifications to the, the services that are providing and comingling some operational activities with the City.

As it relates to the Charter amendments, we have done a very extensive job with regards to communicating persons.., with persons about the Charter amendment. And, it was mentioned about the project on Singer Island. The reason that \$2 million was allocated in the budget, is that's the amount of money that we anticipate to spend this Fiscal Year. There are multiple projects that transcend Fiscal Year. So, if it's a \$4 million

project, and we're only gonna spend \$2 million, we only put \$2 million in the budget. The other \$2 million will be programmed in next year's budget.

But, one of the things that I think is very important to note, that the Charter amendments that are being proposed, the language is in the Charter that requires every roadway project, not just specific areas in our community, so whether it's the roadway project on the Island or it's a roadway project on mainland, it requires, it is very explicit, it says shall, it requires that fifty percent of the cost associated with the project needs to be paid by the persons that are deriving a benefit associated with the capital investment. And that is for the roadway, the drainage, and any ancillary improvements associated with that.

When we had our community meeting, I basically told the residents that if you go out to your front yard and you walk, every foot you walk, it's gonna cost you roughly anywhere between fifty to a hundred dollars if they rebuild that roadway that your community.., in your neighborhood. Also, the other thing about it is that most lots in Riviera Beach are roughly about.., a frontage on a roadway is about sixty-eight to seventy-five feet. Some have as much as a hundred. If the provision is followed, that's in the Charter, fifty feet would cost you fifteen hundred dollars, and a hundred feet would cost you five thousand dollars. You can conceivably be paying more for the roadway construction in front of your home, than your neighbor pays because of the amount of frontage. If you have areas in our community that you're on a cul de sac, and some cul de sacs have limited frontage on a roadway, when I did the math, there are some that are roughly about thirty feet of frontage but then when it makes the turn, you can get up where of over hundred feet of frontage.

So, I wanna make it clear to the residents that this a provision that's in the Charter, this is a provision that City Staff brought to the Board, that was voted on, 4-1, to bring forward for consideration. The premise behind that is we did not want to be in violation of our Charter. And, when this provision was in the Charter, which is.., was enacted in state law in 1923, most municipalities didn't have the financial resources to construct roadways and infrastructure the way they do now. So, Thomas Jefferson says, 'As society changes, so should government.' We have an element in the Charter that says that fifty percent is to be borne by the property owners that are benefitting from the infrastructure. So, the intent behind this, and asking the voters to consider it is, we haven't utilized this since the 1980's, and we don't want to have something in the Charter that we're not following because that is the contract that the City has with the residents of the community. And so, it's important to make sure that we adhere to all provisions that are in the Charter. Not the ones that we like and the one ones we don't like.

And so, the intent behind bringing that forward, is that it is an archaic method, we do not utilize it, we haven't utilized it since the 80's and it would, in essence, be requiring you to pay for the roadway infrastructure twice. You pay property tax, and then you'll end up paying an assessment for roadway improvements in front of your home. So, I think that that's very important that people understand the facts associated with the argument because it's a lot more than what people are making it out to be.

The other issue, as it relates to making Police and Fire Charter departments. We have all heard, multiple times, the false narrative with regards to contract out this service, contract out that service, contract out this... This provision that is being presented will require the voters to make a decision, if the Police and Fire Departments become Charter departments, only the voters would have the authority to make the decision, in order to contract out the services for Police and Fire. Right now, today, this Board, and this Board will not, can make a decision, by the three persons that are here, to contract out, modify, abolish, or tweak any department in the City of Riviera Beach. This is giving the authority back to the voters and protecting your core municipal function as it relates to Police and Fire. It provides protection for those departments. As long as you have those departments, conceivably one can argue, you will always have a City.

In addition to, it stops the fear mongering that occurs during elections, where Police and Fire is utilized as a mechanism to scare persons on philosophical perspectives. I've had to talk to too many officers and assure them that there was no way that we were going to the sheriff department, because of false narratives that people were putting out. So, this Charter provision, if the voters approve, will forever put the Police and Fire Department in the Charter, and only you, the voters, can ever take it away.

So, I, I've tried to make it as clear as day with regards to both Charter provisions, that there's no ulterior motive, there is no sinister plan or plot, it is merely to provide clarity of message of what the intent behind it is. And I can say that, I think I can speak for most persons in this room, you don't want to spend more for government. And so, we have the means to be able to fund our projects, we have done it since the 1980's, utilizing other funding mechanisms, and the provision that talks about assessments is a old provision that is currently not utilized. , but, we don't want to be the Administration that doesn't follow the Charter. So, we wanted to make the change and bring that for consideration from the voters.

And so, that is the nuts and bolts regarding those two Charter provisions. If anyone has any other questions with regards to those Charter provisions, I will make myself available, in your front yard, your backyard, your church, your synagogue, your pool party, your birthday party, your bar mitzvah, wherever is necessary to make sure that accurate information is communicated to the residents of this community. Because we have a moral and ethical obligation to provide the accurate information so you can make an informed decision. You may not agree, but misinformation is dangerous.

[Applause and exclamation]

City Manager Evans: The, the last thing, it was mentioned with regards to what things the City is doing on the westside of the community. In June, you will have a new state of the art Library facility that will online.

[Inaudible audience comment]

City Manager Evans: That will be located at 2129 North Congress.

[Applause]

City Manager Evans: In that particular facility, you will have a YEP Center that is twice the size of the existing facility, that will actually have a STEM lab, and that we're partnering up with FAU to have oceanic elements in there. So, conceivably, we will be able to broadcast live from that facility, science, experiments and activities that our kids are doing, and have a direct relationship...

[Applause and exclamation]

City Manager Evans: ...with FAU.

The other side of it is, and this really exciting about this particular facility, we will have a café in there that will be staffed by young people from YEP. So, you'll be able to stop there for coffee, or get a danish, and those kids will be learning skills to be restaurateurs, bookkeeping, all that in your new public Library.

[Applause]

City Manager Evans: On March 18th, the Intent to Negotiate for Fire Station 88 will be concluded, and then we will start the procurement., well, not the Procurement process but the process of vetting the teams. So, conceivably, we would look to move quickly on the reconstruction of a new Fire Station 88 on the corner of Blue Heron and Congress, and so you'll have the most expensive fire station that the City of Riviera Beach ever built, right there on that corner, roughly about a \$12 million projected cost.

You heard today that we're gonna have an Urban Farm in our community that's gonna produce anywhere between eight to twenty thousand pounds of produce that we'll be able to give to our community. And you also heard that we will, for the first time, under the leadership of this Board, moving forward with our ambassador program, that was in the CRA, is now gonna be expanded to our entire community. So, you're gonna see people picking up trash, sweeping sidewalks, pressure washing buildings, helping their neighbors, installing safety equipment. So there's a lot of things that we're doing on the westside of our community. And I can assure that people should be proud of the activities and the progress and the things that we have going on.

The Board did authorize \$1.5 million at the last Council meeting to move forward with the temporary construction for Fire Station 87. So, we will be building Fire Station..., a temporary Fire Station 87 across the street, and we will be able to move forward with the demolition of the old library, as well as Fire Station 87. Then, we're also, on the CRA side, gonna be able to move forward, probably in the next sixty days, the demolition of the old bank building on the corner of Blue Heron and Broadway, and then looking to enter into opportunities for redevelopment of that particular site.

Also, coming back to the CRA Board is we've acquired the par'..., we are in the final stages of acquiring the parcel referred to as Miami Subs. We're looking at some improvements that we can do to that facility. And that may be an opportunity for another business incubator to create for another restaurateur here in our community.

So, there's a lot of things that are going on. We, as an agency, don't feel the need to, to spike the football or to celebrate the victories, but everyone is working very hard to move this City forward, and to accomplish what we said we were gonna accomplish in Riviera Beach 2030. And I can assure you that, if anybody has any questions, if you ever have any concerns, before you go on social media or, you know, Twitter or what have you, just pick up the phone and call.

[Inaudible audience comments]

City Manager Evans: We..., we're..., we make ourselves as accessible as possible and, and we wanna have conversations to be able to, to provide some clarity.

And then with respect to youth sports, we are gonna be having a conversation with the Board at your next meeting to discuss what sports do we look.., or, activities we look to bring online. And I can tell you, I've been conservation to not bring back some of the sports and activities because we have a vulnerable population, and I don't want Little Johnnie to go out there and get sick, but Little Johnnie's immune system is a heck of a lot stronger than his grandma or his mom, and I don't want to have a virus that is more active than it was when we shut things down, adversely impact anybody in our community, if I can help it. And so, we have been very careful and very cautious with regards to our sporting activities and what we roll out. But we know that kids want to recreate, but we wanna do so in a responsible, respectful manner that doesn't jeopardize the health and welfare and wellbeing of any person in our community.

So, hence why we've taken the approach that we've taken, but we are gonna be having the conversation with the Board on a policy level, to get their perspective and their appetite about some programs rolling out over the next couple of months.

And so, Madam Chair, that concludes my remarks.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you very much. I want to be clear... You did a great explanation of the amendments, but I want to be clear so that people really understand. Is it true that a yes vote, with regard to the roads, means that we will abolish that from the Charter? It means that it will protect people from paying that. Is that what a yes vote means?

City Manager Evans: That is correct, Madam Chair.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. And a yes vote on the Police issue means that we will protect Police and Fire, it means that we will, we will protect our Police and Fire from being outsourced. So that's what a yes vote means?

City Manager Evans: That is correct, Madam Chair.

Chairperson Botel: Okay. Thank you. Do you have any other comments, Mr. City Manager?

City Manager Evans: No, Madam Cahir.

DISCUSSION BY CITY ATTORNEY

Chairperson Botel: Do we have discussion by City Attorney?

City Attorney Wynn: No, thank you, Madam Chair.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Botel: City Council committee reports. Anything? I've had a, I've had a number of committees since our last meeting.., since I last reported out, but I won't go into too much detail.

I attended the Economic Development Committee of the Palm Beach North Chamber. I also attended the issues forum, the Intergovernmental Issues Forum, where we talked about regional transportation issues, housing, sea level rise, and hurricane preparation. I attended the Education Committee of the Palm Beach North Chamber. It was very information. It talked about.., well, we get into [stammer]...

The one that I really wanna dwell on a little bit, I attended the Sustainability Committee. I'm a member of the Palm Beach North Chamber Sustainability Committee and we had a presentation from Lake Park about the work they are doing to improve their wastewater treatment to, to build swales... So sorry... to, to be aware of the fact that [stammer] the sea level is rising, and in all of their new projects, they're taking into consideration the rise of the sea level. And I, I really encourage you, Mr. Evans, to please reach out to little Lake Park. We've, we've taken guidance from them in the past, quite recently, and I think it would behoove us to take guidance from them in this issue because they've done a lot of work on the study of se level rise, particularly when it comes to the new construction that they have coming up. And, I think that there's a gentleman who did that work for them, and he reached out to you and I would, I would encourage you to, to communicate with him.

That's the extent of my committee reports.

STATEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Chairperson Botel: Any statements by the Mayor and City Council, starting with the Mayor.

Mayor Felder: No comment, Madam Chair.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Ms. Miller-Anderson.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: [Inaudible], Madam Cahir.

I just.., well, I, I was gonna mention about the Charter amendments, but I, I think Mr. Evans did a, a very explicit.., just had a very explicit discussion on it. And, again, you

know, we all know that voting is coming up and we typically start to see a lot of things going on, a lot of people saying a lot of things, but please pay attention to what has been taking place. We have been making a lot of strides, and it's important that people not just vote based on what someone is saying. You want to make sure that you think about where we were two, three years ago and how we have made some progress since then. So please, please do your research. Don't just go based off of what someone is telling you. A lot of rumors that are being put out there.., just a whole lot of things that are just total lies. And I said that before. And it, it's continuing.

So, you know, I know our residents are very smart, you're very savvy, please don't fall for some of this foolishness that you're hearing because it, it, it really is crazy. I do believe you're smart enough to know what is true versus what is not true. And, it.., and again, you, you gotta come out and vote. I know there's only a couple.., a few things on the ballot, but it's important that you come out and vote on March 9th.

I just had a question, Mr. Evans, regarding the.., your spending authority, the \$25,000. I know the Mayor mentioned earlier about the, the water tank drawing falling under your authority. Now, with your spending authority, although you have that limit, being that that particular project is something that is very impactful on the community, how, how do we monitor that? Like, can we all just come to you and ask you to do a project that could run thousands and thousands of dollars, instead of us running it through our own budget?

City Manager Evans: Conceivably.., and, and I think the.., it shouldn't be that way. And the Mayor, the first.., when we came in October, that was the intent, to get the appetite of the Board with regards to the particular project. So, as it relates to bringing it back before the Board, certainly, you know, that's something that, you know, we'll make sure that those types of instances don't happen again. But, that, that's not the intent, and that's not how we would want, you know, projects or initiatives to come forward.

Councilperson Miller-Anderson: Okay. Thank you. And I just wanted to, you know, get clarity on that because, if that's the case, we're looking at a slippery slope, where each one of us are gonna have projects that we wanna do where if we don't have the money in our individual Council budgets, that we will now go to the Manager and have him utilize his spending authority to push our own initiatives through. I, I don't think that.., like you said, that, that's not how we typically do it and I, I hope that's not something we're going to continue because that, that then... It's almost like you're circumventing the, the while process of involving the Council in doing projects that are large scale.

Obviously, if you're using your budget, and it.., the money was in your budget and it's an initiative or project that you want to do, then you do that. But, if it's something that is falling under the Manager's authority, and we're going to bypass the Council, maybe we need to look at lowering the, the Manager's authority because we, we can't circumvent the process.

I, I do understand why the Manager has an author'.., a spending authority, but I don't believe it was designed for us to circumvent processes and go directly to the

Manager for items that are much larger than what we can afford to do in our own budget. So, thank you for that clarity.

And, and that's really it. I, I just wanted to just encourage people to come out to vote and, and you all have a great week.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you. Ms. Lanier.

Councilperson Lanier: I just wanted to say, piggybacking off of [stammer] Ms. Miller-Anderson, Councilwoman Miller-Anderson, that it is very imperative that you know the game that is on the table here. We are moving forward with this City. And, you know, it becomes a situation where you say why would people want to impede progress? Why would people want to say things that are not true? Why would they just keep saying things that are not true? Misrepresentations, and as I say, flat out lie?

And what you have to understand is that three years ago, when this City was in turmoil and on TV every day, about what was happening in this City, it appeared that people like that. They like to be turmoil, they like for it to be where it's always, 'The City of Riviera Beach, and those negroes over there can't get it together.' I'm telling you, this is what they were saying.

[Inaudible audience comments]

Councilperson Lanier: So, we have to be..., now, we're in a better position to move this City forward. And give to the residents what they deserve. As I say all the time, my father came here, to Riviera Beach, from Chicago mind you, in 1964, bought a house here. I was born here, and people who live in this City deserve everything that we can do to work to give them.

It is not about Councilwoman Lanier, it is not about the Councilpeople here, it is about the people who live in this City. That's who we work for. That's where the budget comes from. People's taxes. We're spending their money. So, it, it behooves us to make sure that the information that people are receiving, how you treat people, how you deal with people. Lying to people and making mistruths and misrepresentations means you are taking the taxpayers for granted.

So, we are in a position now to move this City forward, to get all of the things that we've seen. I've been here for fifty-five years, and you've seen that we're gonna do this and we're gonna do that, and we're gonna do... And nothing never happens. And people and consultants and developers say, 'We're not coming to the City of Riviera Beach, because once we get started, the Council changes and people change their mind, and they fire people at will. And, they just do whatever they wanna do over there.' So, we have a situation where we are trying to bring development to the City. Good development. Honest development. Where people make money. But not for personal gain. We bring people to this City to make sure that the residents are participants in the growth of this City. It is not for your personal pockets.

So, when I.., I'm very passionate about making sure that the City I was born in and raised in, that the people who live here, are the people who come first. And that people come here and they, you know, they talk about, you know, 'I wanna do this, and I...' it's about.., it's not about you. It's about the people who live here. So whatever they say they want, that's what we do. They elected us to do what they say they want, not what you want.

So, when I talk about this, I get very [pause] up here because I mean, I, I was stammer] I've lived in this City all my life. And I've seen it up, I've seen it down, I've seen it all types of ways and I think that right now, we're on the right path to be able to bring to this City... We're on'.., we are the only majority African American City on the eastern seaboard. We have a gem here. We have people that, from the Singer Island to the westside, that work together. That has never happened.

So we have an opportunity here to move this City forward, and I mean quickly forward. And not have to wait for years and years and years and years. Now, I'm old and I don't care what happens now. No. We want [chuckle] to move this City forward quickly, and as soon as possible. And we can do that. With the help of the residents and people backing us, we can do that.

So I implore you to vote on March the 9th. I implore you to stay involved. When I first got elected, I talked a lot about the involvement of the residents. How they came out, how they did petitions, how they did... They, they orchestrated everything. I'm sitting here because of the citizens of this City orchestrated this whole deal. They said this is what we want. And they made it happen. So, implore all the residents to keep this train moving. That we are doing better and better and better and better. And that is how you build a City, that is how you build neighborhoods, and that is how you build leadership, and you build communities.

So, thank you so much for listening to my spiel.

Mayor Felder: Ma'.., Ma'...

Chairperson Botel: Thank, thank you so much. Brava.

Mayor Felder: Madam Chair, before we...

Chairperson Botel: Brava.

Mayor Felder: Before we close, can I say one thing?

Chairperson Botel: We haven't finished.

Mayor Felder: Okay.

Chairperson Botel: Well, go ahead. Do you have a statement to make?

Mayor Felder: Yeah. I just wanted to address... I did bring the art project to Council first. So it's like I went to Mr. Evans to get the funding for it, I came to Council first. I just wanted to clarify that.

And, and I wanna say something else, because I hear a lot of stuff about the division of this City, people putting out misinformation. Let me say this. [Pause]. This is democracy. We can vote for whoever we want to vote for. I think both sides have been guilty, with rhetoric going out, with bashing going out. And it is a sad day, that we have to witness in Riviera Beach. Like Councilperson..., woman Lanier says, I'm from this City. My family has a lotta stake in this City. And so, you know, it's dear to me.

But to see what's happening now, it's not one side. I think we should respect who, whoever somebody votes for, you should respect. But, what I'm saying, if you vote for one person, they're gonna slander you. If you vote for the other, they're gonna slander you. Listen, it's your right. At the end of the day, I mean, we all make decisions as people decide to vote for Dr. Botel, Council'..., Chairperson Botel, on the Council. There's, there's people on the dais that decided to vote for Spiritis. At the end of the day, we still got work together. But, you guys wanna make a choice for me, I'm gonna make my own choice and if you don't like that, then that's what it is. But I..., whatever choice you make, I still should be able to work with you.

And I think it's gotten so ugly that, you know, people are just saying some reckless stuff, and, and you just need to, to sit back and say, you know, respect a person's views and, and, and why they like a person other than another person. That's what it's all about. And so, we need to look at ourselves as we're talking about... 'Cause both sides are puttin' out some wicked stuff. It's not one side. Alright? And, and, and... So, take a look at that.

Thank you.

Chairperson Botel: Thank you.

[Inaudible audience comment]

Chairperson Botel: Just a quick reminder that we have the Singer Island cleanup on Friday, March 5th. We'll be convening at the Ambassador Center, which is 1229 East Blue Heron, at 9:00, and we'll be going until 5:00 o'clock. So please come out and help us cleanup. If you're interested in, in helping out, you can email stbrown@rivierbeach.org. That's S-T-brown@rivierbeach.org. I hope to you all there.

I had a very productive meeting with, not only FWC, but also the fishermen and women representation and..., and representation from the divers... Excuse me. And we've come to..., I've got some really good suggestions about how to compromise. And I'll be meeting again with representatives from both those groups so that we can really make sure that everyone enjoys that beautiful piece of paradise that we call the Blue Heron Bridge, and the waters underneath it.

I wanted to let you know, Sugar Sands folks, we are listening. We're gonna be taking a second look at where we put manage mooring fields, and I'm happy to say that those of you who wrote to me and leaded with me to, to make a change there, we, we definitely listened and Mr., Mr. Evans is, is with us.

I just want a quick announcement. We, we're very happy to announce that the Pay for Success grant that we applied for is gonna be funded. This is a very, very big 2020 U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career Technical and Adult Education Grant. It's a project with the School District of Palm Beach County, in partnership with Hacklab, and it will bring exciting things to our middle school, with JFK, at Florida ready to work, soft skills and foundational skills project, the high school, which will create a new engineering and design focused high school career academy, at Riviera Beach Prep. And also, the tech school over at, at North Tech. So, really excited about that project because it will bring more opportunities for young people to learn here in Riviera Beach.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Botel: And, if there's nothing else for this evening, this meeting is adjourned.

[Gavel]

[End of video]

City Employees, Public Comment Speakers and Others

- Fane LozmanMr. F. Lozman
- Procurement Director Althea PemselProcurement Director Pemsel
- Deputy City Manager Elizabeth McBride.....Deputy City Manager McBride
- Assistant City Manager Deirdre JacobsAssistant City Manager Jacobs
- Development Services Director Clarence SirmonsDevelopment Services Director Sirmons
- Parks & Recreation Director Richard BlankenshipParks & Recreation Director Blankenship
- E-Road Map Corporation Veleke BrownMs. V. Brown
- American Heart Association Sheree WollistonMs. S. Wolliston
- GROW Garden Box Amy SimionMs. A. Simion
- NuGen International Kyle SheltonMr. K. Shelton
- Chief Information Officer Chris Persaud.....Chief Information Officer Persaud
- Glen Spiritis.....Mr. G. Spiritis
- Peter RudaMr. P. Ruda

Madeline IrvingMs. M. Irving
Lloyd BrownMr. L. Brown
Doretta PaulkMs. D. Paulk
Cindy MarchMs. C. March
Bishop Thomas Masters.....Bishop T. Masters
William Wiley.....Mr. W. Wiley
Amon Yisrael.....Mr. A. Yisrael
Bessie BrownMs. B. Brown
Delores WilliamsMs. D. Williams
J.B. Dixon.....Ms. J.B. Dixon

APPROVED:

RONNIE L. FELDER
MAYOR

SHIRLEY D. LANIER
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

CLAUDENE L. ANTHONY
CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL CLERK
CITY CLERK

KASHAMBA MILLER-ANDERSON
CHAIR PRO TEM

TRADRICK MCCOY
COUNCILPERSON

JULIA A. BOTEL, Ed.D
COUNCILPERSON

DOUGLAS A. LAWSON
COUNCILPERSON

MOTIONED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

T. MCCOY _____

K. MILLER-ANDERSON _____

S. LANIER _____

J. BOTEL _____

D. LAWSON _____

DATE APPROVED: APRIL 7, 2021