Regular Village Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 23, 2013  
MINUTES  
7:00PM

A. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Daisy Black, presiding, called the meeting for April 23, 2013 to order at 7:02 PM.

B. **SILENT MEDITATION & PLEDGE:** The Mayor asked all to stand for a moment of silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A special request for and additional moment was made by the Mayor for longtime resident, Susan Tchakarian.

C. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Black asked the Interim Village Clerk, Carolina Montealegre, for a Roll Call.  
**Present:** Mayor Daisy M Black, Vice Mayor Linda Marcus, Councilperson Claudia V. Cubillos, Councilperson Adam Old, Councilperson Omarr Nickerson, Village Manager Jason Walker (Not voting), Sitting Village Attorney Hope Calhoun (Arrived after Roll Call at 7:05, Not voting), Interim Village Clerk (Not voting), Irwin Williams, CFO (Not voting).  
**Absent:** None.

D. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mayor Black requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. The Manager asked to postpone G2. at the request of the Chair of A&F committee until it goes to committee first and it will be brought back to Regular. The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended.  
**Motion:** A motion to approve the agenda as amended, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Councilperson Omarr Nickerson, **Seconded by** Councilperson Adam Old.

Motion passed unanimously.

E. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING:**

E1. Minutes for March 26, 2012, Regular Council Meeting – The Mayor requested a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilperson Old motioned for approval and Councilperson Nickerson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous “aye” vote.
F. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS AND/OR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:
None.

G. RESOLUTIONS / ORDINANCES:
G1. Mayor Black asks the Manager to comment before reading the title into the record.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-007  STORMWATER PHASE V CONTRACT

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HORIZON CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR THE PHASE V STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR AN INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

He explained that this next phase is for drainage in the area between NW 2nd and 3rd Avenue along nature trail and NW 90th St. He went out for bid and received two responses. This contractor was the lowest bidder and they have performed the same work previously. The Mayor asked if there were any questions of the Manager. Vice Mayor Marcus asked about the budgeting of this contract. The Manager said he doesn’t anticipate running over and believes that we will have some money left over to use for the remaining work needed. Councilperson Old asked if we could use the surplus for maintenance. The Manager said he already asked that question and is waiting on the answer. The Mayor asked if there was a motion to approve the Resolution and the Clerk reminded her that it needed to be read into the record. The Clerk read the short title into the record.

G1a. Public Hearing (Public Comment 2 minutes/person) The Mayor closed the regular meeting and opened it up for public hearing. Hearing none she resumed the regular meeting.

Motion: to approve Resolution No. 2013-007, Action: Approve, Moved by Vice Mayor Linda Marcus, Seconded by Councilperson Omarr Nickerson.
Motion passed unanimously.

G2. The Manager postponed this item until the Committee meetings and it will be brought back at the Regular May Council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-008  MID-YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENT
(Manager’s Discussion)

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING TRANSFERS FROM CERTAIN BUDGETED LINE ITEMS; PROVIDING FOR AN INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.
G2a. Public Hearing (Public Comment 2 minutes/person)

H. REPORTS OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER, MAYOR & COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

H1. Village Manager Reports - Jason Walker

a. N Miami Avenue Medians – The drilling for the wells to be put in for irrigation started on Monday. That should be completed by the end of this week. After that the electrical work will be completed.

b. NW/NE 87th ST FDOT – He stated that at the last meeting he told the Council that we received the final FDOT approval. The memo was received by him last week.

c. Annexation – He was in contact with the County last week and they were waiting for the departments to return any questions they have regarding our application. The deadline is April 19th and after the questions were returned, if any, they will submit them back to the Village for our response. After we respond, then they forward the application to committee hearings.

d. Stormwater Phase V – Should be completed within 30 days after commencement.

e. E-Civis Grants – The Mayor and the grant writer has requested that he look into the bulletproof vest partnership grant. It seems likely that they will receive it.

f. Charrette – The date for the actual Charrette kick off was set for May 4th. He asked all present to bring everyone they can. The County went out into the Village today to take pictures for their assessment.

g. FY 2011-12 Audit – There are some final items that need to be dealt with before the final report. One of those items is the audit confirmations letters from the council. The auditors had internal issues with their office mail, so he is asking that the council fill their confirmations out again, seal the envelope and sign/initial on the seal so we can hand deliver them to the auditors. The audit report should be ready by the A&F committee meeting and then again at the Regular council meeting. We are on pint in terms with what was predicted. Money actually went back into the reserve.

h. Computer donations – He asked the Council’s permission to donate surplused/upgraded computers donated to Jannie Richardson’s The Heart of a Woman Outreach Ministry (and surplused/upgraded laptops will be donated to part time officers.

i. Fire hydrants – Councilperson Mathis tried to start a program to do something with the fire hydrants. The manager gave a brief history on the project. He asked for a color approval from the Council. The firm/contractor has not been selected. Once the color is approved, he will go out for bid. He is estimating the cost to be no more than $2,500.00. Motion: to approve fire hydrant red as the paint color for the fire hydrants, Action: Approve, Moved by Councilperson
Adam Old, Seconded by Councilperson Claudia V. Cubillos. Motion passed unanimously.

j. Credit cards are being accepted now

k. Website domain – Councilperson Old notified Jason of the domain names being up for sale: www.villageofelportal.org and www.villageofelportal.com. The Mayor thanked Councilperson Old for catching the domain name expiration in time for us to purchase it.

l. Emergency drain cleaning – 3 catch basins were cleaned out this week and we’re going out for bid to perform the Village’s annual stormwater drain cleaning. Councilperson Old wanted to know how the cleaning was paid for. The Manager replied that it was out of the stormwater utility tax. We receive a quarterly allocation from that tax and it’s about $7-8,000/year.

m. Legal – We are still in settlement negotiations with an accident involving a police officer. This is about making sure the settlement agreement is low so that it won’t affect our premium.

H2. Village Attorney Reports – Sitting Village Attorney Hope Calhoun had nothing to report.

H3. Village Mayor Reports – Mayor Black said the Manager covered most items. She spoke about her Tallahassee visit and the seawall funding requests. She also mentioned Senator Margolis’ requests for water projects. She asked Councilperson Cubillos to speak about the upcoming 5K run. Councilperson Cubillos gave the date and time for the event. The Mayor repeated the event dates for the Charrette and the Mother’s Day lunch.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS:
I1. Councilperson Cubillos spoke about the 5K event and the need for police officers. She also said that the Little Library is ready to go and it should be out there soon.

J. NEW BUSINESS: None.

K. GOOD AND WELFARE:
(Nota: This section of the agenda is reserved in the spirit of a representative democracy “of, by, and for people” and is specifically provided as a mechanism for the input and solutions on matters of concern of Villagers. We request that comments be limited to 3 MINUTES PER PERSON, and that speakers and the audience maintain proper decorum at-large. The speaker may speak on any item of concern.)

K1. Barbara Fueschl - 220 NE 85th ST – She spoke about telling others about the program for Protection of the Elderly. She wanted an update from the Mayor. The Mayor said she’s working on the Tallahassee end of it, but currently the officers are checking up on the senior’s periodically. She also showed the Council pictures of an abandoned house she was concerned about. The neighboring property is for sale and she’s worried that no one will buy the house with a neighbor’s yard in those conditions. Everyone on the
Council was concerned with her safety. Councilperson Old said the Village of El Portal is not responsible for decisions made by a private citizen. The Attorney agreed and said time and time again that the Village isn’t liable for what happens to a resident on their own time. If someone sits on a board and is acting as an employee of the Village, they aren’t covered by liability insurance. This isn’t the issue. She reiterated that this particular case is about a private citizen who obtained permission from whomever to enter a private property.

K2. Dr. Anna Ward – 450 NW 88th TERR – She brought up the legislative history on getting the $2.00 stormwater drainage fee passed. She also spoke about code enforcement and the County’s blue roofs program and the need for one here. NFIP rates are affected by just one blue roof in your area. The manager spoke about the flood map and FEMA’s firmette function. Lastly, she gave an overview of the Charter Review Commission progress. The Manager added that he has information about forgivable loans.

K3. Barbara Fueschl - 220 NE 85th ST – She had a comment about her flood insurance.

L. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor & Council

Motion: motion to adjourn, Action: Adjourn, Moved by Councilperson Nickerson, Seconded by Vice Mayor Marcus. Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 PM.

# of members in audience: 4

To listen to the full recording of the April Regular Council Meeting, you can click on the link below and download it for your convenience. The link may expire at any time. If you are experiencing difficulty accessing the file, please email your request to the Clerk’s office at cmontealegre@villageofelportal.org. https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/103397344/2013-04-23%20Regular%20Council%20Meeting.MP3