



**Village of El Portal
Code Enforcement Meeting**

Date: 5/7/19

Meeting Start: 7:42 PM

Meeting End: 8:17 PM

Meeting Length: 00:35:29

Chairman Urbom: Good evening. This will be the El Portal Village Council Code Enforcement Committee Meeting and as Chair, I call the meeting to order. We begin each meeting with a-- Sorry, the time the meeting is beginning is 7:42 PM and this is, in fact, Tuesday, May 7th, 2019. Every committee meeting with a moment of silence and just a bit of-

Chairman Urbom: All right, very good. All [unintelligible 00:00:33]. Then, Miss Manager, could I please get a roll call?

Village Manager Alou: Yes, Sir. Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Here.

Village Manager Alou: Vice Chairperson Harold Mathis.

Councilman Mathis: Present.

Village Manager Alou: Chairperson Anders Urbom.

Chairman Urbom: Present.

Village Manager Alou: Also present is Interim Village Attorney Norman Powell and Village Manager Christina Alou. We have a quorum, Urbom.

Chairman Urbom: Very good. The agenda is short and sweet today. It will quote substantially in the coming committee meetings for Code Enforcement. For this evening, is there a motion to approve the agenda?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I'm going to approve them.

Councilman Mathis: I second that. I approve the agenda.

Urbom: Okay, the agenda is approved as written. The agenda is approved as written. The minutes from the March 5th, 2019 meeting, I would refer to Councilperson Mathis.

Councilman Mathis: I haven't had a chance to read those. Mr. Chair, I motion that we'd defer it to the next committee meeting.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I'll second that motion that we defer it to the next committee meeting.

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Chairman Urbom: Okay, the minutes we'll probably move to the next meeting, which would be in July. Is that correct?

[crosstalk]

Vice Mayor Nickerson: The motion is seconded and [inaudible 00:02:02].

Chairman Urbom: The motion is properly moved and seconded to be revisited in the July [crosstalk]. All in favor?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Aye.

Councilman Mathis: Aye.

Chairman Urbom: All the votes--

Cubillos: May I say one thing? I here Councilperson Roman and here Councilperson Mathis, for purpose of the recording, can we just let the [unintelligible 00:02:21] correct them, please? You're doing great. Don't worry, you're doing fantastic. Just first, so we don't hear no mumbling. We don't hear a mumbling on that [crosstalk].

Vice Mayor Nickerson: There's been a motion by councilperson Mathis to defer the approval of the March 5th, 2019 Code Enforcement committee meetings to the next meeting as been duly seconded by Vice Mayor Nickerson. All in favor?

Council: Aye.

Chairman Urbom: Take a vote, okay. With that, the minutes will be revisited in the July meeting. All right, that brings us speedily along to Good and Welfare. Is there anyone who would like to bring up any business? Good willing, yes, please do.

Citizen 1: Good evening. [unintelligible 00:03:10], 225 North East 86 Street. This is an issue that's been ongoing and I have addressed with previous chair to Code Enforcement. Last time that I was here was on the evening of your swear in as the new councilperson. I addressed this on the sidebar. Now I'm addressing it publicly. I have brought up concerns about abandoned junk cars in a private property on swells and/or cover. I have brought up concerns about exterior maintenance of the properties.

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Basically, on abandoned junk cars, I was told there's nothing that can be done because the car was registered or had a valid tag. I was told to go speak with the Chief. Chief was new, I've never seen him before. I know him now. This was denied and it's been on the radar four years. For the past five, six months, I've been trying to address this. Since I was told there's nothing can be done because the cars are tagged and no one can go into those properties--

You can go into my property and see whether I have a permit in doing my job because that's something that happened before. When we had Code Enforcement, we're on our representatives. Now, we have nobody and we have nobody and we have a Board that doesn't do anything. Since I was told nothing could be done, I actually literally went into the village website. I pulled up all Code Enforcement and Charter information regarding abandoned cars in our exterior.

I see what the village should be charging in fines if you were to sanction somebody. One, financially, we should be doing this because it's a benefit to our budget. Two, none of this Code Enforcement says I should talk to the Chief of Police. Some of these policies do specifically say that the vehicle must be behind a fence. It cannot be seen as an abandoned car in the front of the property.

I intended to go get you some pictures but CDS had the printer messed up. I will bring you those pictures. I only bring in one set of printouts. I'm going to give this to the Manager since we don't have the clerk here. I respectfully ask the manager to make sure that this is distributed to everybody and as a resident, I don't want to hear when there's nothing to be done. You wrote this Charter, you've supported this Code Enforcement back to invitation that's on the village website. Do something about it.

Second to that, under Florida's Sunshine Open State Law, I respectfully ask that Councilmember Mathis does not show up at my property. Since the Mayor had an admiration for you or that's swearing-in for you, I have seen him step into my property three times- you just actually told me five- knocking on my door to tell me that there's other information that he knows about this.

He's the one that told me that nothing can be done. Therefore, I do not want to hear it from you. You're no longer the chairperson. I need somebody to do something on here. Abandoned cars, junk cars, properties that are totally an eyesore for this community, it's, one, a way for you to collect money on sanction revenue. Two, it's a way for you to improve our living and our property value when those vehicles are not in the front of our property. That's my statement.

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[background noise]

Citizen 1: I'll bring in the pictures tomorrow.

Chairman Urbom: All right, thank you very much. Any other business for review [inaudible 00:07:58] for the next meeting?

Citizen 2: I'm Therese and I live at 500 North West 87 Street. Just a general FYI, on the corner today and the water department was cleaning the valves through the fire hydrants and everything else, so there's a lot of flooding in the area. Just in case there's questions as to why there's so much flooding or what's going on, I just wanted to inform the Council. They were flushing all the lines so they evidently opened up the fire hydrants and flooded that whole corner of where I am. That foyer was flooded for a while. It's already been done. They closed it all down now. I just wanted to FYI you guys.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, very good. Next item is- agenda items, the first and only would be the tracking report review. Councilperson Nickerson or Mathis, I would again, with my first meeting, ask if there's anything that you would like to move forwards towards the tracking report?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, I would just like to ask just a few questions of the committee so I could be-- This is with my first opportunity to get up to speed with the committee. For me, personally, I have a goal on the- I'm hoping to [unintelligible 00:09:39] but my goal would be to have a list of prioritizations. For me, my first priority is specifically derelict properties, which would probably be separated somewhat from abandoned properties and then a step down would be general cosmetic issues or maintenance of the properties.

Then beyond that would be a kind of large gap in my opinion, a distant second priority would be in my mind, some of the more what you-- It sure it's not petty to everybody, but what you call kind of more petty issues in terms of "They have a fence, why can't I? That's their roof, why can't I--? You didn't fine them, why are you fining me? Those issues, I don't intend to put on a back burner and ignore, but I would like to get up to speed with the committee in terms of where those priorities lie, beginning explicitly with derelict properties and then moving down from there, which I think would potentially help address the issue that was just brought up. Does that sound like they sound plan from a new council person? I would ask my committee to give me guidance in that direction.

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Councilman Mathis: I think we already have those set in place. I would suggest that you sit down with Carlos and he can give you a rundown of what properties have been sited, what process and there had been- siting process is going on with those properties and he can also give you a background of other situations that--

Chairman Urbom: Okay. And then I did have a couple of questions in regards to the Sunshine laws. Attorney Powell, you might be able to help me understand where my boundaries lie, but as the chair of the Code Enforcement Committee, do I have open access to Carlos?

Atty. Powell: Absolutely.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, I can come and visit him any time?

Atty. Powell: Absolutely.

Chairman Urbom: Talk about official-- [crosstalk]

Village Manager Alou: May I?

Chairman Urbom: Yes, please, Ms. Manager.

Village Manager Alou: Carlos is a member of the administration, so for me, yes, absolutely. You are more than welcome to meet him. I have a meeting on Friday, so I would like to bring Carlos in on that day-

Chairman Urbom: Very good.

Village Manager Alou: - so that we can go over these things with you.

Chairman Urbom: All right, thank you. For me personally, I see code enforcement, it's not just navigating towards resource and revenue for the village, but I find that it also is where a lot of neighborly strife resides and so, I know that Plusurbia is assisting us with updating code, which I believe will go a very long way towards being able to apply the code fairly and uniformly.

It sounds like there are some issues with some of the outdatedness of the code that way that make it difficult to apply uniformly and fairly barely. In that regard then it, I would ask, does

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this committee in the past, has exclusively met with Plusurbia or is it strictly [unintelligible 00:13:09] when it comes to updating ordinances or [crosstalk]?

Councilman Mathis: Any market update and ordinance or a code, it's up to us to do it, but I know where you're getting at, but again, I think to answer a lot of your questions, just because someone sees a property and it's like, "Why haven't they been sited?" It doesn't mean that they haven't been sited. You just don't know what's going on in the process. Again, I think you should sit down with Carlos and he's amazing and he's very detailed oriented.

I can see that you have [unintelligible 00:13:51] and he can tell you exactly what's going on, who he's spoken to. He meets with the manager often and then they just discuss it, so she knows what's going on as well. I think once you meet with him and her, you'll have a better understanding of what's going on and how the process and procedure works.

Chairman Urbom: All right and then, recently, it was brought to my attention that when we do several things like links, for example, placed against properties and other fines that as we get into the next committee meeting in July, I would be reaching out to my committee members ahead of that to come up with a plan or money is collected that are not necessarily part of the budget explicitly so that when we do have- when we do receive money from specific things like leads or citations in general that we would have an avenue already outlined to streamline and be able to use those [inaudible 00:15:04].

Councilman Mathis: Again, when you speak with the manager on Friday, you'll have an understanding of how that [crosstalk]

Chairman Urbom: Yes, we spoke earlier this week about it.

Village Manager Alou: If I may--

Chairman Urbom: Yes?

Village Manager Alou: There is something I would like to bring up to this body regarding the settlement. As you all know, he had been suffering with his roof and it's leaking and being turned down for insurance claims to have it repaired [unintelligible 00:15:30] where we have four different sites and terrible mold problem so I need to fix this roof. That's that. I settled [unintelligible 00:15:38] for a significant amount. That amount will cover the roof and I ask as well since we're all here, if you will support me.

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The spending that is more than my spending authority, but I do have an emergency request to fix the roof. I ask the chief to consider that and just say yes **[unintelligible 00:16:00]** but I would like to use that lead settlement funding to fix the roof and I do have copies of the quotes if you would like to see them for the competitive bids that were submitted to me. \$56,000.

Chairman Urbom: **[unintelligible 00:16:16]**.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: It would be a two-step process. The first would be that she would ask this committee to act on the recommendation and bring it to the full council at the meeting two weeks--

Councilman Mathis: This committee that has the authority explicitly or is that something that needs to go to full council to--?

[crosstalk]

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Either that **[inaudible 00:16:39]** for this committee because she's actually, cause I understand the request going to be used funds that are part of the code enforcement process, et cetera, I believe. The first step would be for her, as she's done, to request to be able to get a recommendation from this committee to permit her to use lead funds to fix the roof and bring that to the council at the next meeting. The secondary aspect of what she's asking is to wave competitive bidding **[inaudible 00:17:17]** seem to be practical. That's permissive **[unintelligible 00:17:21]** Section 3.09 of the charter. This commission would also recommend that also is part of the recommendation.

Chairman Urbom: It's not very clear that while there was not a competitive bid put out, there was multiple quotes. It was not very clear on that.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes, the manager would expect at the meeting she would then present that as part of the agenda **[inaudible 00:17:51]**.

Urbom: Then Ms. Manager, let me ask then. Which committee were you looking to approach to get official approval to do just that?

Village Manager Alou: I'm here before this committee to ask for it and then I hope to take it to the council. The reason being is because we leaving tonight. The roof is leaking every day. I can't wait too much longer because [crosstalk].

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Chairman Urbom: How much?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: If I may with your permission invite Mr. [unintelligible 00:18:22] under the charter, the managers limit to purchase items is \$5,000. To the extent that this item's going to exceed that, I don't think it exceeds it that much.

Village Manager Alou: No, it's just more of it is for the deposit to get the materials.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I think under the charter, she's allowed to come back to the council to request the waiver for that bid and the basis for that would be you will all determine that it's practical and most of the time, it's usually because they made it something that's [unintelligible 00:18:58] like health, safety.

[crosstalk]

Chairman Urbom: Absolutely, all right, then, the only remaining would be for vice chair Mathis. If there is anything in place that would cause us to need this type of process or that would--? The money that she's requesting is called windfall, right? With windfall set of receipt. Is there any other item in place decided before that this money would otherwise be required to be used for it?

Councilman Mathis: No, not that I'm aware of. Usually, one of [unintelligible 00:19:53] happen because it's in the history that we don't even know unless we require--

Chairman Urbom: Between Councilperson Nickerson or yourself, is there any objection to using that money to--

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No.

Councilman Mathis: No objection from me. [crosstalk] For me, I think you should make the most of it.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I motion approval to grant the manager that needed money for this first process of preparing it is

Councilman Mathis: I second that motion.

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Chairman Urbom: The motion is passed and the motion is properly moved and second. Then, Ms. Manager, could I have a roll call?

Village Manager Alou: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Mathis?

Councilman Mathis: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Chairperson Urbom.

Chairman Urbom: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Thank you. Passes unanimous.

Chairman Urbom: That's to move it to full council.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Right, for the next step.

Chairman Urbom: There's another-- You say to Mr. Attorney, there was a second part today.

Attorney Powell: As part to of the recommendation from this committee to the full council will be that there's a determination made that it would be impractical at this point to address the issue [inaudible 00:21:21].

Chairman Urbom: We need a motion on that.

Councilman Mathis: I'll motion to bypass the competitive bid process and move to full council.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I second that motion.

Urbom The motion is properly moved and seconded. Ms. Manager, can we do a roll call?

Village Manager Alou: Yes, Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

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Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Mathis?

Councilman Mathis: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Chairperson Urbom?

Chairman Urbom: Yes

Village Manager Alou: Thank you. Passes unanimously.

Chairman Urbom: It does pass unanimously.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Mr. Chair, if I may just take look into these. First of all, welcome to your first committee meeting. Good to see you here. [unintelligible 00:22:00] leaving ASA. When you were bringing up the derelict properties and you were bringing up the Plusurbia with the codes and things like that. The mayor has been saying for us to take control of our tracking report.

You would probably put both of those things on your tracking report because those are going to be- [unintelligible 00:22:32] ongoing things to where every time you have a meeting, you're going to want to-- For all the meetings that you have with Carlos, you're going to want to update the committee and you might have information that- you have another tracking report. Every meeting, we'll go over those things and bring up derelict houses, has anybody seen new derelict houses? These are updates from the derelict houses and etc. You want to put both those things on your track record.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, very good. All right, is there any other pressing issues that anyone in my committee would like to bring up?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No, I think that maybe the three of us if not tonight because the time [unintelligible 00:23:26], I'm not sure how you want to handle it, but with your current tracking report, you may want to look at it and see if there's anything that you may want to take Carlos. He's really smart. I think that everything that's here, she'll probably [unintelligible 00:23:41]. If I'm not mistaken, Councilperson Roman, the homeowner of the month, we still keep on the code enforcement, right? Is that correct?

Councilwoman Roman: You can.

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Vice Mayor Nickerson: Or do you want that in [inaudible 00:23:51]?

Councilwoman Roman: Public Affairs? It doesn't matter.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: It's up to you. Since you're now in this committee, that's your thing. You might want to put it on Public Affairs so you have more control over it.

Councilwoman Roman: Okay.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Types of things like that, she's the one who started the home of the month program. Since she's now in the Code Enforcement Committee, she's chair of the affairs committee and it's probably better for us to take it off of the code enforcement tracking report and put it on the public affairs tracking report since it's her program. Things like that you might just want to go through it right now and just see what you would do with your tracking report.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, very good. Then, can we talk about potential additions? The additions I guess would be what I just brought up [unintelligible 00:24:34] the privatization of partners. All right, I have no objection to having all of the travel with Councilperson Roman too. I think it makes more sense to be in the Public Affairs Committee just that it may seem like a public affairs'-

Councilwoman Roman: It is.

Chairman Urbom: - activity. Do we need a motion to--?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: No.

Chairman Urbom: We can just declare? I have that much authority?

Vice Mayor Nickerson: [unintelligible 00:25:00].

Chairman Urbom: Okay, all right, very good. Then I would like to scratch home of the month from the Code Enforcement track report and have that travel again with Councilperson Roman to the public affairs committee. All right. Councilperson Mathis, is there anything you want to talk about in terms of five?

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Councilman Mathis: No. I don't know, I'll give you a synopsis of what five is all about. It's something I came up just to-- Carlos is working on that. [unintelligible 00:25:37] this process of code enforcement [crosstalk].

Chairman Urbom: Okay, very good. All right. Anything to add to Code Enforcement workshop? [unintelligible 00:25:54]?

Councilman Mathis: I'm with the National Code Enforcement Association and I was trying to [inaudible 00:26:13]. There's a national committee meeting in October and I wanted to attend that and then half of the code enforcement workshop. What I'll do is I'll get you the information, you could attend it, and then [unintelligible 00:26:35].

Village Manager Alou: You need to talk on the microphone.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: Sorry. There's a National Code Enforcement committee that I'm on in. They're having their meeting in October and I wanted to have the workshop after that meeting. I'll get you the information and you can attend the workshop and then set up the [crosstalk].

Urbom: There you will have some more updates to the code by then as well. That would be to help those. Ms. Manager, did you want to say anything in regards to signs, last ordinances [unintelligible 00:27:06]?

Village Manager Alou: Yes, I'm sorry. Yes and no. One of the things I talked about and I don't know if you were at the public when I spoke about it is this tracking report that I'm looking at for code enforcement was incredibly old. I believe Councilperson Roman was involved. Who's the most recent chair?

Councilman Mathis: I [crosstalk].

Village Manager Alou: Okay. I'm asking every chair to please update the track report so that they can go on the website. The track report is not about the chair, it's about the projects. I think it's really important that chairs can come and go, the council can come and go, but the project belongs to the city and to the village. I think that we should really have all that we have on there and then we track the projects until they don't end or whatever the case may be.

We need to really get a better Code Enforcement tracking report because I'm looking at this one and this probably goes back to probably 2008 or something. Bus ordinances, I think is

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something that's not even- you can touch off because there's so much more things that we have to go on. The one thing I would like to see on the Code Enforcement tracking report is we've focused on enforcing to the public.

What I've mentioned to the manager, and I'm going to talk about it on public works is what about the enforcement to ourselves in terms of the city. We cannot ask them for our citizens and residents to do the roof, the painting, the swales, their house, their garden, their grass but then our [unintelligible 00:28:43] looked efficient. I think that needs to be on our tracking report as, "How are we keeping up with the dog we do stages? How are we keeping with--?"

All those things need to be on there. We cannot be asking people to do something that we as a government body are not even managing our own property. That's the only thing I think more than bus ordinances even though that's important. I think that's something that I would tell you all to consider doing that. Please get the most recent tracking report updated. This is very ancient.

Councilwoman Roman: Chair, if I may, I did share this committee last year and I do have a much larger tracking report that has been sent to the clerk and the clerk should have. If you want to follow up with her, be very specific to ask her to send you mine and then you can get with Mathis who has been chairing the committee this year while we had a vacancy. Maybe he can give you through this [unintelligible 00:29:56] what he's been working with.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, very good. All right, as we move towards the July code enforcement meeting, I can expect to find an updated tracking report, additional items listed, and then some good data. We'll be looking at potential budgets, averages, things like this, and then we'll develop a plan to have kind of publics and places as money comes in. That way, we'd be able to put it to use a little more quickly and ideally [unintelligible 00:30:48].

All right, I expected this meeting to be fairly short and sweet tonight and I believe that there's not much more that I have to add. I've got my notes here and we'll be looking forward very much to getting to work and seeing you guys here in July this next committee meeting. All right, with that, hang on a second.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: [unintelligible 00:31:20] and we're going to go to welfare. In the spirit of communication, I just wanted to alert the community [unintelligible 00:31:28] commission. Last week, I received a call from an attorney I believe who is going to be calling on behalf of Mr. March. Mr. March has been coming in several times concerning the tree limbs from his neighbor into his yard. I did have a good conversation with him trying to explain to

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him that-- I've done research, in fact. I thought it was a good idea to actually do an article on liability for your neighbor's tree to be appearing in the next newsletter, just so that everyone knows that that may escalate [inaudible 00:32:09].

[crosstalk]

Chairman Urbom: Please do.

Village Manager Alou: Just as a light note, something to attend on possibly. I got an email from Councilperson Roman this morning that Keller Williams is doing a community beautification project and was asking for two addresses in our zip code in our neighborhood of homes that needed just some sprucing up, just some outdoor- some gardening, some attention. They are doing that free of charge just [unintelligible 00:32:45]. We've submitted five addresses, hopefully, one of our addresses will make that cut, but--

Chairman Urbom: Yes, I saw the email. I did have one question about that and that would be, the five addresses that were submitted, are the homeowners aware that they're on that list of submissions?

Village Manager Alou: No.

Chairman Urbom: No? Okay, so I would just put my two cents then to be cautious because while it sounds great-- I'm surprised my address didn't make the list but-- [laughs] I would still be a little cautious of that because certainly, someone could take it very much the wrong--

Village Manager Alou: No, we would--

Chairman Urbom: Okay, all right.

Village Manager Alou: I've just submitted the addresses [crosstalk].

Chairman Urbom: Fair enough.

Village Manager Alou: But I just [crosstalk]

Chairman Urbom: All right, yes, that'd be great. Absolutely.

Councilwoman Roman: Are we still in Good and Welfare?

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**Village of El Portal
Code Enforcement Meeting
Date: 5/7/19
Meeting Start: 7:42 PM
Meeting End: 8:17 PM
Meeting Length: 00:35:29**

Chairman Urbom: We are still in Good and Welfare, yes.

Councilwoman Roman: I just wanted to say, Keller Williams does it every year so if we don't make it, let her know next year. She did a lot of work at [unintelligible 00:33:52] last year. The other thing is, we were talking about the money. Any and all moneys that come in, it goes to the reserves, right? Basically, it gets used as we need it and it goes to mid-budget review which we're about to go into in May, and then we can do a resolution if we're out of budget.

Then what would be great is when we go into budget and we take a look at-- Every department has a revenue and expense, so when we take a look at what possible revenues your department may make based on things, it will be great on the expense side to take a look at, "Okay, well, maybe next year, based on what we've generated this year, we can spend X amount of dollars on pressure-cleaning the rotunda or we can do this."

That would be a way to sort of 401 because we are talking about how to better spend the pockets of money, but as money doesn't come in, she generally doesn't tell us because it goes in the general reserve. We'll know that the middle of-- Not that she won't tell us, but we'll know at the budget review, mid-year, okay?

Chairman Urbom: Sure, sounds great. All right.

Councilwoman Roman: Good job.

Chairman Urbom: Anyone else with good and welfare? All right, with that, I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: [unintelligible 00:35:05]

Chairman Urbom: Will someone make a motion?

Councilman Mathis: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Vice Mayor Nickerson: I'll second the motion to adjourn.

Chairman Urbom: Okay, the motion has been properly moved and seconded. All in favor?

Council: Aye.

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Chairman Urbom: All right, the I's have it. The committee is adjourned at 8:17 PM. Good job.

[00:35:29] [END OF AUDIO]

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