

VILLAGE HALL  
500 NE 87<sup>TH</sup> ST  
EL PORTAL, FL 33138  
David A Rosemond  
VILLAGE MANAGER



MAYOR CLAUDIA V. CUBILLOS  
VICE MAYOR OMARR C. NICKERSON  
COUNCILPERSON HAROLD E. MATHIS, JR.  
COUNCILPERSON WERNER E. DREHER  
COUNCILPERSON VIMARI ROMAN

Regular Village Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016  
Minutes  
7:00 PM

Statement of Decorum

Any person making a racial or slanderous remark or who becomes boisterous while addressing the Village Council, Staff, etc. shall be barred from the audience by the presiding officer. No profanity, shouting, heckling, verbal outbursts or disruptive behavior in support of or opposition to a speaker or his/her remarks is permitted. No signs or placards shall be allowed in the Village Hall. Person exiting the Village Hall shall do so quietly.

“Pursuant to Florida Statutes, Chapter 286.0105: If a person decided to appeal any decision made by the Board, Agency or Committee with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.”

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Cubillos, presiding, called the meeting for December 20, 2016 to order at 7:00pm.

**B. SILENT MEDITATION & PLEDGE:** Mayor Cubillos asked all those present to stand for a pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

**C. ROLL CALL:** Mayor Cubillos asked the Village Clerk, Yenise Jacobi, for a **Roll Call**.

**Present:** Mayor Cubillos, Vice Mayor Nickerson, Councilperson Harold Mathis, Councilperson Roman, Councilperson Dreher, David A. Rosemond (Not voting), Village Manager, Chief Eugene Morales (Not voting), and Yenise Jacobi, Village Clerk (Not voting) Irwin Williams, CFO, Steve Geller, in representation of Village Attorney (Not Voting)

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mayor Cubillos asked for a motion to approve the agenda with correction **Motion:** A motion to approve the agenda **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Councilperson Roman, **Seconded by** Councilperson Dreher. The motion passed by voice vote.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING(S):**

**E1.** Minutes for November 15<sup>th</sup>, Regular Council Meeting— were moved to the January Regular Council meeting to be approved.

**F. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS AND/OR SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**F1.** Mayor Cubillos acknowledged Senator Daphne Campbell- Senator Campbell stated that since 2010 until now she wanted to make it clear that no matter what decision was made regarding the Lobbyist that must have a good relationship in Tallahassee if not your doomed that this representative must also work hard and go the extra mile for your village.

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**G. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

**G1a.** Adam Old- - 140 NE 86<sup>th</sup> Street- Mr. Old stated that he was wondering how much money has been spent on the Tally Lobbyist as oppose the amount we could have saved and used it on other projects being it that we have not had any success in receiving money.

**G1b.** Brian Andrews- It is definitely a tough decision to make all four firms are prestigious. When looking at it I see it as who came dressed for the part in a tie and suit.

**H. AGENDA ITEM:**

**H1.** Presentation by four Firms on Lobbyist Service for the Village of El Portal

**H1a. Sun City Strategies**, Represented by Eduardo Gonzalez stated that Sun City is a business and government consulting company established in 2013, located in Hialeah, FL. We pride ourselves in servicing local government and businesses alike and strive to have positive outcomes. Their services include but are not limited to being proactive in monitoring, taking positions and lobbying on state budgeting and legislation, particularly in the areas of public safety, law enforcement, business attraction and retention, infrastructure improvements. He stated that he is committed to represent the Village Of EL Portal in the most sincere and virtuous manner. I was elected a State Representative in 2006, to the Florida House of Representative and reelected subsequently until 2014. I was also Chairman of Local & Federal Affairs. We hope to exceed El Portal's expectations.

**H1b. Southern Strategy Group of Miami, LLC**, and Represented by Edgar Castro stated that Southern Strategy Group, that is a full service lobbying firm that was established in Tallahassee, in 1999. Due to our long history of service to government entities Southern Strategy has the experience and expertise to assist the Village in navigation the complexities of securing specific budget priorities, crafting strategies to achieve success in the passage or defeat of legislation, and to engage with the executive and regulatory agencies who are vital in the implementation of the appropriations or regulatory rule making. Southern Strategy Group will be eager to act as your advocate, providing you with reliable representation ad strategic direction to navigate the political landscape in every arena of Florida government.

**H1c. Akerman LLP**, represented by Eli Nortelus & Richard Pinsky will be leading your representation in Tally combined by over 50 years of experience working on behalf of clients and entities as advocates ensuring the message is carried effectively and efficiently. We can assure the Village of El Portal of our particular areas of expertise in representing local governments such as El Portal. We understand the growth and infrastructure of issues facing the Village from water & sewer, to economic development, as well as El Portal's historic Indian Mound. We are proud to represent the Village Of El Portal and look forward to again including El Portal as one of our most valued public policy clients. We look forward to the opportunity to work on your behalf.

**H1d. Gomez Barker Associates, Inc.**, represented by Fausto Gomez, stated that the firm was founded in 1987 and incorporated on March 1990. The firm has an outstanding record of success, having secured over a billion dollars in support of local initiatives as well as approval of important policy goal. It offers a range of skills and partisan contacts without peer and can help guide a proposal through all levels of state and local government, effectuate a change in substantive law, secure a budget line item, or identify and ably process a grant application. Gomez. The entire staff of Gomez Barker Associates has worked both in and with government

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and that experience allows them to possess an appreciation and understanding of legislative and agency procedures including the particular needs and culture of local governments. The firm strongly believe in pro-active representation.

Note: Attorney Steven Geller advised Mayor Cubillos that two motions needed to be passed on a motion to hire to firms and second a ranking motion.

**Motion:** A motion to have 2 Firms for Lobbyist **Action:** Passed **Moved by** Councilperson Roman **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Nickerson

**Vote: (Summary:** Yes=3, No = 2).

Councilperson Dreher	No
Councilperson Roman	Yes
Councilperson Mathis, Jr.	No
Councilperson Nickerson	Yes
Mayor Cubillos	Yes

**Motion:** A motion to add 5k to make it 20k to be spent on Lobbyist **Action:** Passed **Moved by** Vice Mayor Nickerson **Seconded by** Councilperson Roman

**Vote: (Summary:** Yes=4, No = 1).

Councilperson Dreher	Yes
Councilperson Roman	Yes
Councilperson Mathis, Jr.	No
Councilperson Nickerson	Yes
Mayor Cubillos	Yes

**Motion:** A motion to rank Lobbyist 1,2,3 **Action:** Passed **Moved by** Councilperson Roman **Seconded by** Councilperson Mathis

**Vote: (Summary:** Yes=4, No = 1).

Councilperson Dreher	Yes
Councilperson Roman	Yes
Councilperson Mathis, Jr.	Yes
Councilperson Nickerson	No
Mayor Cubillos	Yes

**Motion:** A motion to make 1.Gomez Baker 2. Sun City 3. Southern **Action:** Failed **Moved by** Councilperson Roman **Seconded by** Councilperson Mathis

**Vote: (Summary:** Yes=2, No = 3).

Councilperson Dreher	No
Councilperson Roman	Yes
Councilperson Mathis, Jr.	Yes
Councilperson Nickerson	No

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Mayor Cubillos No

**Motion:** A motion to amend previous order to 1.Southern 2.Akerman **Action:** Failed **Moved by** Mayor Cubillos **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Nickerson

**Vote: (Summary: Yes=2, No = 3).**

Councilperson Dreher No

Councilperson Roman No

Councilperson Mathis, Jr. No

Councilperson Nickerson Yes

Mayor Cubillos Yes

**Motion:** A motion to amend previous order to 1. Akerman 2. Suncity 3. Southern **Action:** Failed **Moved by** Councilperson Mathis **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Nickerson

**Vote: (Summary: Yes=2, No = 3).**

Councilperson Dreher No

Councilperson Roman No

Councilperson Mathis, Jr. Yes

Councilperson Nickerson Yes

Mayor Cubillos No

**Motion:** A motion to amend previous order to 1. Akerman 2. Suncity 3. Southern **Action:** Failed **Moved by** Councilperson Mathis **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Nickerson

**Vote: (Summary: Yes=2, No = 3).**

Councilperson Dreher No

Councilperson Roman No

Councilperson Mathis, Jr. Yes

Councilperson Nickerson Yes

Mayor Cubillos No

**Motion:** A motion to amend previous order to 1. Akerman 2. Southern 3. Sun City **Action:** Passed **Moved by** Vice Mayor Nickerson **Seconded by** Councilperson Dreher

**Vote: (Summary: Yes=3, No = 2).**

Councilperson Dreher Yes

Councilperson Roman No

Councilperson Mathis, Jr. No

Councilperson Nickerson Yes

Mayor Cubillos Yes

**I. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES: None.**

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

**J1. Village Mayor Reports** - Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos- As we gear up to celebrate El Portal's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be kicking of the New Year with a county wide campaign to redesign El Portal's logo (seal). In addition **Mayor Cubillos** stated that there is a 10 day event at the Antiques & Design Mall where the El Portal will be participating the Village Market it is going to be a Farmer's Market which will be Organic Farmer's Market.

**J2. Village Manager Reports** – Manager David Rosemond  
I would like to disclose on the record that I have previously worked with Baker & Gomez Firm.

- Lights Out to report to the Administration and it will be fixed
- Tree City USA Grant
- Open Hall Night
- Village Hall Appearance

**J3. Village Attorney Reports** - Attorney Steven Geller

**K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS:**

**K1. CONVERSION THERAPY ORDINANCE**

K1a. Councilperson Mathis, stated that on January 7<sup>th</sup>, SAVE will be here to discuss and answer questions in regards to the Ordinance and by then it will be able to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the January 24<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

**K2. NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

K2a. Mayor Cubillos explained to all the Council Members that dealing for Newsletter was January 9, 2017.

**K3. LOGO DESIGN**

K3a. Mayor Cubillos expressed that she was uber excited to see the entries for the Logo Design that the instructions of how to make an entry would be on our website.

**K4. 2017 Calendar of Events**

K4a. Mayor Cubillos stated that she would like for the council to have copies of our 2017 Calendar of event s for everyone to be in the same page and to participate.

**L. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilperson Mathis, Jr.** was difficult to find someone to coming to give an in depth regarding the Ordinance 2016-08 for the therapy conversion. Councilperson Mathis Jr, stated that he spoke to Tony from SAVE and will have a town hall meeting to educate council members and residents regarding this ordinance.

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**M. GOOD AND WELFARE:** None noted.

**N. ADJOURNMENT:** Councilperson Roman, motioned that the Regular Village Council meeting for December 20, 2016 be adjourned. Councilperson Dreher seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42pm.

**In accordance with the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons with disabilities and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting due to that disability should contact the Village Clerk's Office at (305) 795-7880 no later than two (2) business days prior to such proceeding.**