



**Village of El Portal  
Council Meeting  
Date: 12.19.17  
Meeting Start: 7:00 pm  
Meeting End: 9:21 pm  
Meeting Length: 02:21:37**

**Claudia Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos:** Good evening everyone. Thank you for being here. Today is Tuesday, December 19th. It is seven o'clock PM. I'd like to call our council meeting to order. At this time, if I can have a moment of silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Everyone:** I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Madam clerk, may I please have a roll call?

**Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call. Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Here.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Here.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Jared Harris sent me an email that he will not be in town. Councilperson Roman is not here yet. Also present for the record, Yenise Jacobi, village clerk; Christia Alou, village manager; Joseph Geller, village attorney; Irwin Williams, CFO; Ronnie Huffnagle as acting chief.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** At this time, we don't have quorum. We have two members missing, but I have said at previous meetings, and I will say it every meeting, I will start the meeting. It starts at seven o'clock, I will start at seven o'clock. Councilperson Roman has walked in. Approval of the agenda. I'd like to add two items to the agenda. H1, Pennoni contract, and H2, CITT legal written opinion. I'd like both of these items to be discussed after I5 resolution, and before the last two resolutions on the agenda. With that said, may I get a motion to approve the agenda with the two additions?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Motion to approve.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Motion is made by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Is there a second?

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**Vimari Roman:** I'll second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Councilperson Roman. All in favor, signal by saying, "Aye."

**Everyone:** Aye.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Any nays? [silence] All right. Hearing none, we are going to the approval of the minutes from November 28th. Minutes are much better. Thank you. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

**Vimari Roman:** I have a quick edit. My name is not Roseman, it's Roman. So at the beginning and then throughout it's incorrect, but just at the very beginning it would be just--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** R-O-M?

**Vimari Roman:** R-O-M-A-N.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** R-O-M-A-N as opposed to Rosemond?

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. So, there's a correction to the minutes. It's Councilperson Vimari Roman, R-O-M-A-N, not Rosemond. Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Motion to approve the minutes with the correction.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Action to motion has been made by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Is there a second?

**Vimari Roman:** I'll second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Councilperson Roman. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

**Everyone:** Aye.

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Any nays? [silence] All right, great. We are starting off our meeting. We're really excited. We have a new full-time officer. He's not new with us. Officer [unintelligible 00:03:49] has been with us a little over a year now, and probably seems like he's full-time because he's here every single day, probably volunteering and giving back to the community at the community events. While I'm sure selections are really hard to make, it can't be that hard when you were in the lineup because you've been really great and we all love you, so welcome. We're really excited. At this time, if you can come up so you can be sworn in as one of our full-time police officers and then we'll take pictures right afterwards.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Also present for the record, Councilperson Mathis.

**Speaker 1:** Raise your right hand, and repeat after me. "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and protect and defend the Constitution and the Government of the United States, and of the State of Florida. That I am duly qualified to hold office under the Constitution of the State, and that I will well and faithfully perform the duties of full-time officer on which I am now about to incur. So help me God."

[applause]

[background conversation 00:05:26 - 00:07:23]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** All right. Again, congratulations on behalf of us. We look forward to seeing you even more. Be safe out there. At this time, good and welfare. Bye-bye. Anybody like to come up and give welfare at the moment?

[background conversation]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Come up, you have two minutes. State your name and address for the record. It's not a time to debate, but it's time to say anything that's going on or that you'd like us to be aware of.

**Felix Guzman:** I am here in good faith--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Name and address for the record. Name and address for the record, please.

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**Felix Guzman:** Felix Guzman, 440 Northeast 90th Street, El Portal, Florida. I'm here in good faith because I have two beloved to me neighbors who have been in some power trip for years. I want this to stop. It has to stop. I want this to end by the end of the evening with an apology from both of them, because it's all we need. It's too much time wasted. We could be doing other things like watching Keeping Up with the Kardashians and stuff like that. That's it, really. I'm not leaving this room until that happens.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you, Felix.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Thank you very much.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Anybody else in good and welfare? [silence] Hearing none, we have several resolutions. I believe we have one ordinance on the record, and add two additions to the agenda, so we can go to the first resolution, 2015-60. It's a second reading. Brownfields designation. Attorney Geller, if you can please read it to the record.

**Joseph Geller:** Resolution of the Mayor and village council of El Portal, Florida, Miami-Dade County, Florida. Making certain findings and designating the real property located at 471 to 495 Northeast 83rd Street, El Portal, Miami-Dade County, Florida, 33138. Identified by Miami-Dade County folio numbers 18-3207-020-0130, and 18-3207-020-0140 as further identified by the map in the attached exhibit A as the El Portal Northeast 83rd Street Green Reuse Area pursuant to section 376.804 of the Statutes of Florida's Brownfields redevelopment, rehabilitation, job creation, and promoting economic redevelopment. Authorizing the village clerk to notify the Florida Department of Environmental Protection of said designation, providing for an effective date for all other purposes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** All right, thank you. I believe you just walked in in time. If you want to, I'll go ahead and allow you to come up and brief the council and the members in the audience on this.

**Kerri Barsh:** Certainly. My name is Kerri Barsh, attorney with offices at 333 Southeast 2nd Avenue. I'm joined by Jim Miller. He's also the environmental consultant for the property.

**Jim Miller:** With Hydrologic Associates, 10406 Southwest on 186th Terrace in Miami.

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**Kerri Barsh:** We request that you designate this as the second reading, that you designate the site for Green Reuse. The reason for doing so is that allows us to get certain incentives through the program, including more expeditious review by the environmental agency, DERM. There's also lender liability protections. We're going to be doing redevelopment, so that's important as well, and different economic incentives as well. So, we respectfully request-- I think we had a committee meeting, and we had our first reading, this is our second reading.

Anyway Jim here, he's the consultant. We're here to answer any questions that you all may have regarding this process or the like. There's no financial or other obligation on behalf of the village. It's only on us that if we go through and agree to this, we get these incentives which means we have to sit to a schedule and remediate the property. DERM reviews and approves it, so that's what we're requesting.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I have a question. I was not here for the first reading. I was out ill, but I did read the minutes, and I think I saw an email that came through. He's not here tonight, Councilperson Dreher, but there was something he was asking for. Was that ever given to us or to him?

**Kerri Barsh:** Yes. We provided it. In fact, I think that your village attorney read it into the record at that time when he requested. We had provided it to them, and we read in the record. He acknowledged that he was fine with that at the time, as I recall, from the record.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** What was it exactly?

**Kerri Barsh:** It was Jim--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** So it was read that same night in the record?

**Kerri fBarsh:** Yes.

**Jim:** It was laboratory data for the sampling that we had collected. We wanted to make sure he saw it.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay.

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**Barsh:** He requested it in the committee meeting, and then when we came to first meeting, we read it, and we found it, and read into the record. He seemed to be fine at that time.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, perfect. All right, thank you. Any other questions? [silence] I can close the council meeting and open up to the public. Anybody has any questions on this particular resolution? It's the second reading, and the final reading. [silence] All right. Hearing none, I'm going to close the public hearing, open up back to the council. Is there a motion to approve resolution 2015-60, second reading?

**Vimari Roman:** I'll motion.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Motion is made by Councilperson Roman. Is there a second?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by councilperson Mathis. Any discussion before I request roll call? [silence] Hearing none, madam clerk, may I get a roll call please?

**Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call. Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes four to none.

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**Kerri Barsh:** Thank you so much and happy holidays to everyone.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We look forward to seeing something from you all soon.

**Kerri Barsh:** Yes. Thank you so much.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you. Okay, great. I2 is an ordinance. It is the second reading. Ordinance number 2017-03. Attorney Geller, compensation for councilpersons. Please, read it to the record.

**Joseph Geller:** Ordinance number 2017-03, an ordinance to the village of El Portal, Florida, providing for compensation for councilpersons, providing for incorporation of recitals, writing for severability, providing for repealer, providing for codification, providing for an effective date. This is second reading.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay great. At this time, is there any discussion from the council? All right. Hearing none, I'm going to close the council meeting. Open it up for public hearing with regards to compensation for councilpersons. It was recommended at the budget by one of the members to increase from \$3,000 to \$4,500 a year per council member. That's what this second reading is on.

**Marilyn Brookes:** Marilyn Brookes, 400 Northeast 90th Street. I was about to ask about this increase in-- Well, it's a stipend. Who ratifies it, and who decides when you should get a raise or not? Who approves it?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It was a recommendation from one of the council members for consideration during our budget review. Per our charter, it's done by ordinance. This is the second reading.

**Marilyn Brookes:** Okay, so we, the villagers, have no say as to whether we think that you should get a raise or not?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Absolutely. That's why I closed up every agenda item for comment. This particular item has been at a council meeting four times. Twice, first budget hearing,

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second budget hearing, and final. The first reading which was last month, and this is the second reading.

**Marilyn Brookes:** Okay. I did hear something about it last meeting, but I wasn't too sure. Since then, I have asked Irwin for a copy of the finances. I wanted to look at it, not that I have that much say. I think when you all are going to get a raise, we the villagers, should have the say, not a councilperson, because a councilperson that could recommend it might not even deserve it. Thank you.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** This is an ordinance, just so you know, it has been publicly noted on the newspaper so that we get input from the residents.

**Marilyn Brookes:** Okay. When do we give our inputs and such?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** At the meetings. This is why this is the fourth time it's going up for discussion. We've discussed it at the initial budget hearing, the final budget hearing, last council meeting, and now this council meeting.

**Marilyn Brookes:** Yes, I did hear it last meeting but I wasn't too familiar with what was going on. Since then, I have asked him for a copy, so that I wanted to check it, but-- Thank you.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** All right, thank you. Any other comments? [silence] Hearing none, I'm going to close public comments, open it up back to the council. Is there a motion to accept ordinance number 2017-03?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** I'll move.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It's been moved by Councilperson Mathis. Is there a second?

**Vimari Roman:** I'll second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Roman. Is there a discussion?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Not [unintelligible 00:17:27].

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Any other discussion from the council?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Nick made a comment. I just want to say for the record that the mayor is absolutely correct that this has been up four different times. In that, I want to say for the record that the villagers do have a say. I wanted to point out that when this first came out, when this was first proposed, it was actually first proposed, originally, we had that long discussion. It was double at the very, very beginning. It was \$6,000, and then through discussions, through a resident who is actually also here who formerly was also on the council, that back and forth, actually it was reduced at the end. So, the resident did have a say, because the resident came up and made points that a lot of us agreed with, it actually was reduced. At the end of the day, I want to go on record to say our residents do have the say and the input for things like this.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Any comments from the council?

**Vimari Roman:** No.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Hearing none, madam clerk, roll call.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call. Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

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**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes four to none.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** The next resolution, as Vice Mayor Nickerson was addressing, this is where I was going to reiterate it then. When this initially was proposed, one of the members has suggested \$6,000 per councilperson. Then, it was says "No, \$6,000 for the mayor, and \$4,500 for the council." And then I said no. I said, "We're all going to get the same increase." Before it reads on the record, I want to add, I don't consider this a salary increase. I think it's just enough to cover our expenses when we're out there doing things that we don't get reimbursed from the city. I just wanted to add that.

As Vice Mayor Nickerson said, Anna Ward when she came up and she thought \$6,000 was a little bit-- I can't remember the words she used. Then, we discussed amongst ourselves, and we said, "Okay, we'll go down to \$4,500," so there's always opportunity for the residents to come in and opine, and give us their thoughts, so that we're always on the same page, and hopefully carrying out the will of the residents. With that said, if I can please have the attorney read the following resolution to the record.

**Joseph Geller:** Resolution 2017-38. A resolution of the mayor, the village council, the village of El Portal, Florida, to approve amending the budget, modifying certain budgeted line items to decrease compensation for council persons, providing for an incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, great. Thank you. At this time, I will close the meeting, open up for any public comments as it relates to this resolution.

**Felix Guzman:** [unintelligible 00:20:36].

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** On the podium, please. Name and address for the record. Thank you.

**Felix Guzman:** Felix Guzman, 440 Northeast 90th Street. I just don't think it's fair that you get paid the same as all the council members. I know that they agreed to it, but you are the face. You have much more responsibility. When something goes wrong, they come after you so I don't understand-- Which is fine, that's your heart, and you say it's even. If you agree to it, it's fine. But the more we give, the more we get back. It's all good, I just don't agree with

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it. If you're fine with it, it's fine, but if you all want to toss it out and bring it up again where she should be paid more, then it should be brought up.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It's okay. Thank you, Felix. Yes?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** It was designed that the mayor got more than the council members and she brought it down.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you. Any other comments from the public? [silence] Hearing none, I'm going to close public comments and open up to the council. Is there a motion to accept Resolution 2017-38?

**Vimari Roman:** I'll motion to accept.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Motion is made by Councilperson Roman. Is there a second?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Councilperson Mathis. Any discussion from the council before I move forward? Madam clerk, can we get a roll call?

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice-mayor Omarr Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

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**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes four to none.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Great, thank you. Next on line we have resolution in 2017-39, long overdue and extension to the waste management contract. Attorney Geller, would you please read it to the record?

**Joseph Geller:** Resolution 2017-39. A resolution of village council, the village of El Portal, Florida, to approve the amendment to extend the agreement with Waste Management Inc. for collection and disposal of residential solid waste, yard trash, and bulk waste, providing for incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, great. Thank you. At this time, I will close the council meeting, open up for any public comments. This is an extension that'll take us through the end of June with waste management. Thereafter, we'll go out for a bid. [silence] Hearing none, I'm going to close public comments. Open it up back to the council. Is there a motion to accept Resolution 2017-39?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** I'll move forward.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It's been made by Councilperson Mathis. Is there a second?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Any questions on this extension from the council?

**Vimari Roman:** I guess since we're on the topic, when will the [unintelligible 00:23:12] be sent out?

**Christia Alou:** February 28th.

**Vimari Roman:** Thank you.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Madam clerk, can I get a roll call?

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**Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call. Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice-mayor Omarr Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** All right, next we have Resolution 2017-40, 2018 Federal Transit FTA. Attorney Geller, if we can read that into the record?

**Joseph Geller:** Resolution 2017-40. Resolution of the village council of the village of El Portal, Florida, approving the 2018 title six Federal Transit Administration program and policies for running for incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you. Christia, I think that this was yours. If you want to go ahead and brief us a little bit on why this is on here for us and for the members in the audience.

**Christia Alou:** Yes. This is a reapproval of an interlocal agreement between village of El Portal and the Federal Transit, FTA, as it relates to title six, which is anti-discrimination laws in employment, so it means that we will be posting signs in our village hall, as well as doing trainings that incorporate non-sexual-- Eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace and allowing those who experienced it to file appropriately with human resources, and with the village manager.

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Great, thank you. At this time I'm going to close the council, open it up for public comments. Anybody in the audience would have a question, comments on this particular resolution before it's addressed? [silence] Okay. Hearing none, I'm going to close the public comments, open it up back to the council. Is there a motion to accept resolution 2017-40?

**Vimari Roman:** Motion.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** A motion made by Councilorperson Roman. Is there a second?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Any discussion before we go to--  
Hearing none, madam clerk?

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice-mayor Omarr Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes four to none.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, great. Thank you. We're in the last two resolutions I believe, yes? I added two items to the agenda and asked the council that I wanted to address it before.

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These two items are addressed. The first item that I added was the Pennoni contract. This process is complex, and there's a lot of moving pieces to it. I'm just going to reiterate briefly that from the get-go, I have been pro the project the whole way. I was just always concerned about the process and how fast it was going, because I want to be sure that we as a village are doing everything we need to do to financially cover ourselves and do it right by Pennoni, do it right by the village, and by the residents.

With that said, I still have some concerns. We have been working with Pennoni, and we don't have a contract in place, so I want to address the contract, and then as well as-- We've been talking to Joe Geller, I'm going to ask him to go ahead and fill us in with where we're at, because everything ties in together. When we last met, I think it was October, there was language that needed to be updated on the contract. Is that correct?

**Joseph Geller:** Yes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. Of which I've not received, and I don't think you all have received. The point we're at right now is we're receiving bills from you that need to get paid, but at the same time, we need to be sure that we are going to get this loan, that we're going to get all this great stuff, but there's no contract in place. So, I don't feel comfortable even discussing these resolutions if we don't have a contract in place. That's number one. I want to see where we're at, and I'm putting this on the agenda because I'm not having the success I'd like with Joe Geller on the phone or on email, because we should not be taking this long.

The benefit to the council, to be aware of it, as well as Pennoni, I need to know where we're at with the Pennoni contract as, I'm the one that's got to sign checks along with the manager, and I saw two bills today. Clearly, you want to get paid for your work as you so well deserve. With that said, where are we at with the language that's needed to be added to the contract?

**Joseph Geller:** Let me say first of all that the two resolutions are not related to that directly. There's no reason not to proceed with the resolutions.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We're going to talk about the next H2 for the resolution, so let's address one thing at a time, please.

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**Joseph Geller:** Okay.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We're talking about the Pennoni contract.

**Joseph Geller:** But the resolutions, as you said, they relate to each other. The resolutions are to authorize an application to the State. Just an application.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Joe Geller, let's address H1. I want to know where--

**Joseph Geller Geller:** Mayor, I am telling you now, excuse me.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Because H2 is going to talk about the residents. So let's talk where we at with the Pennoni--

**Joseph Geller:** Do you want to hear the answer? I'll be happy to answer. [unintelligible 00:28:38].

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** With all due respect, where are we at with the Pennoni contract?

**Joseph Geller:** We sent, as you know, a request to CITT to see if they would approve the funding coming from CITT. Apparently, that had not been done previously. We were all under the impression that that had been previously approved. It was not. We got a response finally in writing from Mr. Toledo that was favorable. You indicated in an email to me, and properly I think, that you weren't comfortable with the fact that we just had this very short email from Mr. Toledo. I then wrote back to them, even though, I may add, that I was careful to be sure that the county attorney's office has copied on my request to them, which you'd asked for, which I did send you. He's copied on, the assistant county attorney who handles this, on their response.

Nonetheless, I agree with you that we could have something more formal and it would be a good idea. I've requested that confirmation from them. To date, it has not been forthcoming. The original amendment to the contract we were going to make was to make it contingent on receiving the funding from the state of Florida. There was some language issue with that because it's not just contingent on them saying, "Yes, we could go ahead and spend money." We don't have money to spend on this unless we get the money from the State of Florida. As

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it develops, we need the same assurance frankly from CITT. Until we have something a little more definitive, as you requested, and I don't disagree with you, from CITT, we will need further change in the proposed language of the contract, because if CITT does not fund us, we're also going to have a problem. As soon as we receive something from CITT that says, "Yes, we will fund you," and it is definitive as you requested, we can insert that language in the contract and finalize the contract. Until then, I'm concerned that we're still exposing the village to some risk if we don't receive that funding.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. I completely agree with that, which takes us to the second point, which is, I put CITT legal written opinion. Because, both these resolutions, if you read them, it says CITT on them. The applications I had to sign, and it's my signature, my name, clearly states that CIIT is allowed to be used, which is why I was resistant in signing them, because I don't have a legal opinion. But I was basically forced or asked that I have to do this, but this is the final step in the reso, and I'm not prepared to pass the reso. The councils at their will can, but I'm not going to if I don't have a written opinion. It's tied all together as I said earlier. It's tied all together.

**Joseph Geller:** You have a written opinion from me. I put it in writing that you were authorized in my opinion to go ahead and execute the applications. Having said that, let me be clear on what these applications say themselves, and what the resolution says. It is carefully worded. Both resolutions say that we are authorized to submit an application. I don't disagree with you that we should get something more definitive, we've requested it. Now, as far as a legal opinion, let me just clarify, because I thought there was some confusion, I hope that I cleared that up. The county attorney does not work for us, the county attorney works for its part. In the same way that if the gentleman who was filming us tonight asked me for a legal opinion about something with the village. I don't give that opinion to him, I give legal opinions to my client, that is the city council and the manager.

The county attorney gives legal opinions to county agencies. He's not necessarily, or any of them are not necessarily going to write a legal opinion to us, but we can expect something, I agree, a little more definitive than an email from our project rep. It would be nice to have something on their letterhead, preferably from the executive director, that they've gotten their legal opinion to them from the county attorney's office. By the way, if there is any condition

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or stipulation that they place on the funds, I surely want to know that as well, because if there is, that also needs to be included in our contract.

When we submit this-- Just let me be clear again, based on what we've gotten so far, I am comfortable, and I have expressed this in writing, and I will say it on the record. I am comfortable with our submitting an application to the State of Florida. It is apparently a time-sensitive issue. When the application is approved as we are told it will be, we will receive final documents that require our signature. 'Till that point, the village of El Portal still has the privilege of saying, "Thank you for approving our application, but we have elected not to proceed with this loan, because we can't fund the remaining 20% and we've had some issue with that."

That being said, to simply submit an application and that's what both of these resolutions say on the basis of what we have, and based on the fact that it's time sensitive, it is my opinion that we are authorized to submit an application, let the state process it, let the state act on it. When they're ready to issue funds and give us documents, final loan documents that we need to sign, I certainly hope by that point that we will have in place sufficient assurances from the county, from Miami-Dade County, that will enable us to move forward and sign the loan documents.

I see no reason why we can't simply submit the application in the meantime, because the indication we have is that it is satisfactory to CITT. Although, as I've said, they haven't told us whether or not there are going to be any conditions or stipulations they may seek to impose. That's where we are. I think we can approve these resolutions, but I agree that we want something-- Certainly, before we sign loan documents, and accept the money, we need to know that we're going to have to have the CITT funds with something a little more definitive than what we've received so far. I do think we should get the application.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. The applications, both of them that I have to sign, clearly states in there that we're going to use CITT money, but we don't even know if we are going to be allowed. I'm not done yet. So, we're going to allow you to go through this whole process. Maybe we don't get a letter from CITT like we would like. When it comes to the actual loan documents, we're not going to have a real funding source to pay this back. How's Pennoni

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going to get paid? In my opinion, I understand this is only an application, but we're falsely saying that we are comfortable that CITT is truly going to be allowing us to use the money.

It doesn't make sense. Just as you want that letter, so that contract is sufficient that has to be done with Pennoni, I think that even for the application, we should have it. We're going to go ahead and sign the application. Again, I know you said our signature, it's not our signature, it's my signature. We're going to send it to the state. We don't even know if what we're sending is even-- We're just going to hope and pray that we get this letter. If we don't, we're going to have to-- I think Irwin showed us something, another outlet that we could potentially use. I just think it's misleading to put in an application a source that we don't even know. It's a gamble right now.

**Joseph Geller:** Mayor, let me just say, at the point when we had only verbal commitments from CITT, I said we could not proceed with the application.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Well, with all due respect, I mean, we wouldn't be here today if things were done differently and better, because the former manager has been talking about CITT, and I have been asking this over and over, and you've been at these meetings, attorney Geller, like we all have been, and I feel bad because now we're here because there are certain things that weren't done right. It's not fair to anybody involved, because all of this should have been done in April and May earlier this year, so we're not at this point when we're meeting a deadline, and we're all press, press, press, because the deadline is upon us, and things have to get signed.

This is exactly what I said I did not want to be in, and it's exactly the position that we are in, and that I am in. You can sit there and laugh and think it's funny, but I don't, but I don't at all. It's offensive that we're at this point and everybody's like, "Yes, yes, go do it." Well, you sign the application.

**Joseph Geller:** Mayor, I don't know what you're talking about as far as laughing or thinking this is funny. I don't think it's funny at all.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** At this time-- I don't at all.

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**Joseph Geller:** However, let me say that the fact is that having received an e-mail that said these funds are available-- Again it doesn't comment on whether there might be some stipulations or conditions that we might find acceptable, but I do disagree that it would be false for us to submit an application to the State based on the information and written response that we've received. Since we might lose the funding source, I think that it is appropriate at this time to submit the application, and I'm hopeful that we're able to force the issue and get a more definitive response from the CITT.

If not, as you indicate, I've been led to believe there could be other funding sources available as well that we could pursue. But since they've said yes and not no, although, in a bit of an informal manner, I don't see the problem. By the way, it's not only your signature, I'm going to be called on to submit-- The state does require an opinion from local government council, in this case from me, which I'm also based on these--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** But, Joe Geller, you have clearly said to the manager and to me that you are not doing it until you get a written letter from CITT.

**Joseph Geller:** No, ma'am.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Did he not say that?

**Christia Alou:** [unintelligible 00:40:16].

**Joseph Geller:** No.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Of course. Once again, the mayor and the council has to do all of that first, and then, of course, you will do it afterwards. It's just--

**Joseph Geller:** When the resolution is passed, I will then issue my written opinion to the state that it is properly done.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I'm going to open it up to the council if they have any questions.

**Speaker 2:** May I say something?

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** In a minute, please. I haven't opened it up. I want the council if they have any questions.

**Vimari Roman:** I have a question, Joe. When did you request-- You said earlier, in your comments, that you requested a confirmation, but you've not received it. When did you request that confirmation?

**Joseph Geller:** They sent us like a two-line approval in an email. I don't know, I think it was right before Thanksgiving and right after, I think that's when I said we need something more definitive. I guess that would be three weeks ago or something.

**Vimari Roman:** Okay. How soon do you expect them to reply to you?

**Joseph Geller:** Frankly, I hoped to have it tonight. In addition, I know that Pennoni has government affairs, representatives of their own. My contact is their government affairs' representative. He was undertaking to do it, but apparently, he ended up in the hospital, and he wasn't able to fight to get that to completion. I don't understand why it's taken quite this long already. Do I hope that we'll have it by the 1st of the year? I certainly do, but again, they don't work for us. They move at their own pace, but I think that was very clear copy, the manager and the mayor, as far as our request. I don't think that they're up to anything. I mean, the guy wrote back very clearly this is approved, but it should be on letterhead, it should be in the form of a more definitive letter. If there are any conditions or stipulations that might affect our ability to accept it, we should know that.

**Vimari Roman:** Who was the person that accepted the email, and what is his title?

**Joseph Geller:** Nestor Toledo. I'm not sure he is our "rep" from CITT, but I'm not sure if I know his exact title, I could try to look it up, but he's not the executive director of the agency. He is the person who represents the county dealings with the village of El Portal. It is arguable that what we have is enough. If there were a problem, I wouldn't hesitate to try to enforce it based on what we have, but rather than rely on that, I'd rather simply get it right from them in a more formal fashion now, while we can do so, before we find ourselves in a position of having to enforce [inaudible 00:43:20]. It's not unclear, It's just a little informal.

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The mayor indicated she wasn't comfortable, I don't disagree with that, and I don't want to be in the position where we, at some point down the road, have somebody else say, "Well, he's really not the person who's supposed to do that." Let's have it be something that is in legal terms "a stopple", that says you cannot deny that what you've done. I think that we've already gotten a stopple argument against them that we move forward, but that's an argument you raise in litigation. I don't want to have litigation.

**Vimari Roman:** I guess for Pennoni, my question to you is, in your past, I know you mention there's only been a few smaller cities, none in Miami-Dade. Is CITT strictly a Miami-Dade thing? Oh, it is? So, my question would not apply.

**Joseph Geller:** It's Dade County.

**Vimari Roman:** Dade County. Okay, never mind. That question will not apply.

**Joseph Geller:** I don't know how other cities may have financed the balance of it, but again if you're a bigger city, it's not as much of an issue as it is for us. Even the 20% for us is potentially a problem, and there are other legal issues with pledging general revenues. I don't want to get us too far in the weeds, but if you pledge general revenues for something like this, as opposed to a dedicated funding source, it may require voter approval. So, to just avoid that-- If there's another, for instance, a "storm water fund" is one that we've been told might be available, great. But right now, that would be something we'd be pursuing if we gotten annulled.

[laughs] **[unintelligible 00:45:15]** yes, but we need to have it nailed down, and whatever it reflects has got to be included in our final contract with Pennoni, because, if for some reason the county-- We could enforce it against the county if it was sufficiently clear, rather not have to do that on the basis of what we have. But if the county didn't pay us, we would have a problem, just as if we would have a problem if for some reason the state paid us, and our contract has to be contingent on the fact that we're going to receive those funds.

**Vimari Roman:** Okay. My last question, if I may, is, if I'm not mistaken, this has been discussed for about three months now, so I'm concerned with the timeframe that it's taken, and the lack, if I may say, of urgency, or what appears to be the lack of urgency. If the

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request was only submitted about three weeks ago, because response was received right before Thanksgiving, and we go back to three months ago, what has been the delay?

**Joseph Geller:** We had previous conversations with them. They were first verbal conversations. We asked for something in writing. Ultimately, we got something in writing from them. That took some time as well. At first, there was a question as to whether or not this was even an acceptable funding source. We had all been told earlier that it's going to be done in this fashion from the previous manager.

**Vimari Roman:** Okay, so more-- So, for my review, what I would like to see is dates of when communication has been sent out, or has been followed up on.

**Joseph Geller:** I may not be able to give you the dates of the phone calls. If I have to go back and see, certainly they would have written..

**Vimari Roman:** I would like to see that.

**Joseph Geller:** Sure.

**Vimari Roman:** Thank you.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Any other questions from any members of the council?

**Omarr Nickerson:** First of all, I wanted to say thank you to Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos, to attorney, and our manager, I know you guys have been working hard on this. Councilperson Roman, you have great questions. Some of them are down here, so I appreciate that. I would just like to-- What I have here, who wrote the email and all that I have here is one of them also. When they're saying, "I guess we have verbal confirmation that the funds are available," are we talking about the funds for El Portal individually, or it's just the funds in total for all of the county?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Wait, El Portal receives-- CITT is Citizens Independent Transportation, Transit, something like that. Pardon if I have the acronym incorrect. Generally, the funding is used for road projects. We've used it for our bus benches, we've used it for other multiple things, and all projects when using that money is anything from the

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road and above. I spoke to Nestor Toledo myself. I don't remember the date that you gave me the initial application. When I got this, we had to sign it right away, and all of this started happening, it was months ago.

I called Nestor myself, and based on my conversation is when I called Attorney Geller, because the name escapes me, but the former executive director of the CITT had also said, "Absolutely not based on your description of the project, Mayor." This is when it's all been going on, and the questions started festering as to why now, and so on, and so forth. With that said, CITT is given to all 34 municipalities of Miami-Dade County. They get a portion based on different components, whether it's size, and so on, and so forth. We get, I believe, quarterly, I can't remember off the top of my head, and generally it's used for projects that is above the streets.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes, which one--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** You can fix the streets--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Buy best benches, you can buy a trolley or anything that deals with transit.

**Omarr Nickerson:** That was the gist of my final question, which was, through that verbal communication, was that verbal communication clear that El Portal receiving the money that we need and for this particular project above-

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** What's the question? I didn't understand your question.

**Joseph Geller:** Was it clear that we were receiving to receive funds from them?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We get the funds regardless, we have to use it. I think the missing component here is we don't know who David Roseman spoke to and who gave him the idea that this could be huge.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Definitely, that was what I was saying.

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We don't know that. I don't think there's anything in writing. I don't know if it's something he just assumed, he thought. I don't know, that's really a question for Warner. I don't know if they had that conversation with them.

**Omarr Nickerson:** That's why I was asking if we receive because I'm hearing verbal communication, verbal communication. Did we have verbal communication that we were receiving the money for this type of product?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We received the money regardless. We must comply with the way it's used.

**Omarr Nickerson:** I guess that's what I'm asking.

**Vimari Roman:** We have to comply with the way that it's used. Many cities have gotten in trouble and I'm not going to name any that they've misused these type of funds and then you have the state that comes in and we don't want that. That's why this is a really serious conversation because when the county or the state gives you money you must use it properly.

**Omarr Nickerson:** That's what I have written down here.

**Vimari Roman:** Read those guidelines on how you can use, what you can use it for and so on and so forth.

**Omarr Nickerson:** That's what I have written down here.

**Joseph Geller:** With some time I think around August when we were on the break, the mayor's record correctly reflects had conversation with the same person, Mr. Toledo, and we were told that he was "not comfortable," whatever that means with our using the funds for this purpose. Based on that, and to try to clarify as we started to look at other possible alternative sources with the new manager. Because there was no not only no paper trail, nothing that we could confirm that Mr. Roseman had even had a conversation with him. As of this time, we don't know that.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Did we call him?

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**Joseph Geller:** Yes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay.

**Joseph Geller:** Based on the fact that we couldn't confirm anything other than looked promising that the mayor gets told, "I'm not comfortable with that." That's when I couldn't tell it was the September or October, we sent a formal letter saying this is the project. Penoni, furnished us with a good description that we attached. There was no question as to what it was that we were seeking funding for. The project descriptions were there so they couldn't say, "Oh, we didn't know, we didn't understand." We sent them that and we asked for a written position.

At that point, I think my recollection is that I've had a conversation with Mr. Toledo before we put it in writing and he indicated what they were looking for. I then sent that to them and then we got a response a few weeks later they said, "Yes, we could use it for this purpose." I said I had told the mayor, of course, Mr. Toledo not being an attorney, him just saying so didn't make me comfortable.

I had talked to him about involving the county attorney and my requests to them I copied the assistant county attorney, so he received it. When Mr. Toledo responded, he copied the assistant county attorney. Does that absolutely indicate that there was no objection if we were going to be in quote. The fact that he'd received it both from me and from them, I think that would tend to support our position that there was no objection. Again, that's if we were in quote, we don't want to be in quote.

After we got that we then wrote back and said the mayor again I don't disagree at all. The mayor said we can do more than this, we've asked for a formal written opinion. I hope it's going to be fourth.

**Omarr Nickerson:** I just don't want to be told later that we can't use--

**Joseph Geller:** Exactly.

**Omarr Nickerson:** That's my concern.

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**Vimari Roman:** Does anyone have access right now to that email and can we include it into record verbatim as to what it said. I think it's important for us as a Council to understand what that email read verbatim. To me, I can interpret things my way, communication is lost in the interpretation. I'm listening to side and I can't really make a decision unless I know everything. At this point and time, I don't have all the facts. It seems like our accountant has something to say.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Give me a second. I'll get to--

**Vimari Roman:** Yes, I'm interested in hearing that.

[silence]

**Vimari Roman:** While we wait for that, what is the deadline of this application?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** You can come up Steve.

**Steve:** The application was submitted this week. Monday or Tuesday of this week.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** So, it was submitted?

**Steve:** It was submitted.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Incomplete application?

**Steve:** Missing the resolution and the legal opinion. That's okay. I'm going to say four out five the projects that we do are missing that at the time and what they'll do is they'll use that final-- I hate to use the word application, but that's what it is-- the final documentation for their underwriting process so they can prepare agreements that come back to you. Typically, what they do if the resolution and the legal opinion is not attached, they'll prepare it and they'll bring them.

When they give their approval they'll require that to come back with a final sign Council approved agreement. Ideally, it should be submitted at the same time but like I said about

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four out of five that's not done that way just because there is usually a rush and if you're trying to beat a deadline.

**Vimari Roman:** If the applications are already submitted we were waiting for that, in reality, we don't need to have this resolution take.

**Steve:** Well, we do need the resolution because the funding sources lynch payment on and off.

**Vimari Roman:** I understand we need for a resolution. What I'm saying is it's not pressing that we have the resolution today and perhaps we can move this to January. If we still have questions and this is not answered and the application has been submitted but I don't see why the urgency of passing this resolution today and why we would not be able to move it January. Although all of us want to move on.

**Steve:** Well, the big issue for us is that we have to be done with \$600,000 worth of work by March. If all these papers that prevents contracts from getting executed and agreements being put in place, we need pay for that work. Every month that goes by it puts us on a more precarious position.

**Vimari Roman:** So it's payment to Penoni?

**Steve:** If you can pay those bills then okay.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** What is the amount?

**Steve:** This is going allow, as soon as you get this done you give their bank account no wire money to your checking account to pay the bills. This is why it's important.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** What is the amount?

**Steve:** I think Mr. Roman has some really good input that I think will be pertinent to this if you're even contemplating postponing the resolution.

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**Vimari Roman:** I'd like to hear Irwin if we are ready. While we're still looking for that email. [background talking]

**Irwin Williams:** Just two things, even after four days ago I talked to Nestor and he said--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Give me one second.

**Irwin Williams:** Mr. Toledo at CITT and he said, that both are going to be acceptable for both our projects. That aside, let's assume that they're not, I read there's some research and printed out the regulations, the local option gas tax money can be used and states right in the statute. Not only they cannot be used but you can use this as collateral against grants and loans, and we have a fund balance of \$200,000. Even if the CITT is not applicable and assume that even if you've applied for the application and those documents come back, we can change you the funding sources. We're going to use this collateral against the loan, so it won't be even an issue.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** The question I asked that I believed to our inner managers then, "Why don't we just use that from the get-go? Why are we doing what we're doing, and I mean it--

**Irwin Williams:** You got to remember that you had a manager that didn't involve anybody in anything, and no one knew what was going on, there was no document trail. I was out of the loop on it altogether.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** No, I understand that and so was I for that matter, but that's not the point. The point is that the application just came before us in August and he was already gone, you showed me that, and I felt much more comfortable in that because that was the statue under the law.

**Irwin Williams:** The reason I look is because I assumed they were going to use a CITT because that's what David originally had said, he was going to pledge. But when it became a concern I did further research to see if there were any other funding sources we could use to pledged as collateral against the loan. I was able to find the--

**Joseph Geller:** One note of caution on that. Let me just say, I think its great, there's the gas tax, and there's also the stormwater funds possibly. Those are terrific and I really want to

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commend the CFO for taking initiative and looking into them. If we were to switch to using those, every source of funds has a governing body, everyone has somebody that audits the use of those funds to make sure that funds are used properly. If we were to switch, we would be asking someone else for what we're asking CITT for.

I would still want in writing from whoever it is that administers those things. Yes, this is a proper use of gas tax or stormwater, and they would have to go through their internal processes to give us that answer in writing in a way that we could rely on it because we're still not going to take it on an assumption or verbally. This one looks like it's close, I hope I think to being done if we start over again but we can probably get it. Maybe they'll move faster but we still need to get something in black and white, even though I don't have any reason to disagree with Irwin's assessment, I believe he's correct.

**Irwin Williams:** I printed it out, so if you want.

**Christia Alou:** I actually had it right here in my hand, and this came out of-- Meaning that three of us, we had you on phone conference with Penoni and we've discussed funding sources. Irwin and I were tasked with finding the other two gas tax and stormwater, we found it, these documents right here. This is already been done, I provided to you all with that information, Irwin and I had identified these, we have it in black and white, they are set but we were still waiting for CITT. I said, these are ready, we can move forward.

**Joseph Geller:** Let me just say though, that notwithstanding that we have the regulations, people interpret regulations. I'd still want to get at least a writing from whoever it is, they're different bodies that do this that says, "Yes, we agree, this is the kind of project that those regulations cover," and still want something to inform them.

**Vimari Roman:** Correct. Now, if I may, I'd like to understand and hear from our interim village manager, as to, how do you feel about moving forward with these two options?

**Christia Alou:** Well, just hearing what the village attorney said about he'd like more in documentation. I think we do have it in black and white, Irwin Williams made the phone calls, spoke to people directly, we've got those confirmations but we didn't proceed with getting the actual writing because we were asked to wait and just have those ready in case the

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CITT didn't work out. Then when we got the email from our village attorney that stated, "Well, this is sufficient enough for me," then we didn't pursue it, but we certainly can.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes, but also keep in mind that even though the attorney sent that, I immediately responded that this was not sufficient in my opinion, because just because someone does not reply to an email, we cannot assume that they agree with what they saw, because they could have not I read it.

**Joseph Geller:** All I tried to say was that we could move forward at this point with the applications, but I agree with you, we need something and that's why I asked for it after you said what you said. We need something that is not questionable, we want something of completely definitive from somebody who's clearly authorized to issue that opinion and that upon which we can rely. We've asked for that, you're not wrong to ask for that, all I said was that since we have something in writing saying it, I don't have an issue with submitting an application since the final documents will still come back to you for approval before we accept the funds, it's just an application.

**Vimari Roman:** Okay, my question was not still answered by Christia, our interim manager. I would like to know if you are comfortable moving forward with the email, and moving forward this resolution tonight based on the emails that everybody received from CITT, from Nestor, and/or moving forward with the resolution knowing that we have a possible back up.

**Christia Alou:** The answer is yes, I'm perfectly comfortable with that knowing that we have your backup, and if necessary if everyone else is more comfortable, we can replace the CITT language with stormwater or gas tax if that's more comfortable to you. But we those have two in writing.

**Joseph Geller:** It would be acceptable.

**Irwin Williams:** Just to put frame the risk here, we're at step one of the project and this is just an underwriting exercise and regardless of what fund you all end up taking money out of to actually pay the bill for-- Even if you just stop after this part one, it's going to be two years down the road before you have to pay this back because DEP will pay the bills. You don't

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have to pay anything back until six months after you construct something, so the money doesn't have to be paid for like two years from now. Number one--

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** We don't want to be at that point from two years from now where it was like trying to figure out what's going on. My question is, are we pushing this forward so Penoni gets paid and then we're out here, or we pushing this forward because it needs to be done?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Let me tell you, I appreciate you all asking how the manager, the attorney feels but you know what? I've been doing this nine years, and in the last couple of years for some reason, every time I say something and everybody does not go that way, I ended up being right. I'm in this situation right now when nine months ago I wish I would've been much more involved in the process because we would not be here today, I can guarantee you that.

There's so many moving pieces and I appreciate the hours meeting that we had, there's a lot of moving pieces because there's no guarantees. We have a statue that looks great, we have Nestor who's a buddy and has said okay, but when the dust settles, then all to put that in writing, then the application went out, then it comes back and then during the whole time, you've got to get paid. We have bills right there, the village has to pay them. We don't have that budget and we have that budget that's it's going to come back to us.

Again, I'm at the will of the council, you only need three votes to make this pass, but I'm not comfortable because I'm the one signing it. I don't want to be right here again, and I'm being right because we're all looking, "We don't have to pay it in two years, or you're thinking, we can use gas tax." That's all great in theory, everything's great but I'm sorry, I'll say it again, I've been doing this way too long, I want it in writing. Just like you want your contract? Just like the state of Florida wants their application?

Everybody wants it in writing, the attorney wants to, so do I. I don't think I'm asking for a lot. I'll say it again, it is my signature that I had to sign on those two applications. It's going to be our signatures on this resolution right now, and then when the dust settles, they're not going to call any council person up here, they're going to look to the mayor.

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**Irwin Williams:** If I could--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Why didn't you dot every I and cross every T, one trying to.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** Okay.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Please go ahead.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** I was actually going to say something of the same because we have a situation where we receive funding for a particular project and I always said, we should give the money back because it was done wrong. But for me, I'm with the Mayor. I want every I double dotted and every T crossed twice because I don't want us in a situation where we're out there without handout to try that-- Robin Paul they beat it. I don't want that situation. It's-

**Irwin Williams:** So to go along with that I completely agree. Every city--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** You got to listen. I think you got to get paid too. I get that and it's--

**Irwin Williams:** I'm just being practical with all the moving parts. This isn't the first time that this has been done. What I'm hearing is that CITT has some questionable because there are some questions whether maybe have an opinion and maybe not be strong enough. But what we talking about is two years from now and the amount of money we're talking about is \$4,700 a year for the sewer project and we're talking \$8,700 a year for the stormwater project. That's the kind of dollars that has to start to be paid back two years from now. It would seem that because this is a typical situation where utility. This is only small towns doing this. You don't have historical utility fund that generates money to pay this back.

There's always something, a new fund that's being used this securely but picking the easiest, the less whatever your most comfortable with. Whether stormwater, whether it's the gas tax whatever it is. For the underwriting process. Whatever you're most comfortable with, that's what you might want to consider for the resolution. If there's any doubt with the CITT that way this can move forward. The agreement can be put in place and step one right now with the design. This is the inexpensive part.

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Where it's really important, probably getting the CITT to answer is when you get the construction. Which is going to be like in May. April, May. That's definitely because now you're talking about \$80,000 a year to actually pay back the construction. That's probably the bigger of the two concerns, but any of the money, I'm sure certainly you want to pay it back with something that's legal but I'm hearing you have three potential sources or more and you could use a general fund if you want. It's just you have to submit more documentation. You could come with that.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes. But listen. I know it's--

**Irwin Williams:** But I'm not to do that--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I know, I know. It's great to say we'll have to pay back in two years. We don't know if we're going to go through a crisis, we don't know if the homes-- we don't know what's going to happen. Home value is going to go down, we could have a huge recession.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Hurricane.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Hurricane that can knock down our entire community. That's all in theory great, that we don't have to pay this in two years. Sort of like getting a credit card and you pay in three years. We can't. No.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Ma'am may I?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes. Go ahead.

**Omarr Nickerson:** I just want to say very quickly. Thanks for coming out tonight. How are you doing?

**Irwin Williams:** Great.

**Omarr Nickerson:** When the new Council was set, and the best Council we've ever had. When this new Council was set, I remember the Mayor and myself and Councilperson Mathis. We reflected. I don't know if you guys can remember this but we were talking about

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because we have been here for so many years. We were talking about how in the past we were promised things. Most of the times we would say, "This is what's happening and everything is going to work out." And it was consistent. This is what is going on and everything is going to work out. We looked up and years later, this didn't work out and this didn't work out and this didn't work out. Then we said when we set new Council that we're not going to do it that way anymore.

We can't afford to do it that way anymore, which is verbal promises. All we want is we just needed officially in writing. So that we know it's 100% for sure. We did that for so many years. I'm not comfortable going back to that way of doing things Madam Mayor. I'm not comfortable going back to that. We did some years we got burned and didn't even know we're getting burnt until we looked back on everything-

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Years later.

**Omarr Nickerson:** -and it's like, "Oh my Lord." We got burnt on so many different things just by, "Don't worry about that you guys. It'll work out. It'll be okay." I can't go back to that way of doing things.

**Irwin Williams:** So the timeline on this. We submitted the application. We're going to do every we can to push the EPD to get the agreement done within 30 days to come back. Will it be reasonable to get in writing within 30 days? Because you can always switch whatever your pledge.

**Vimari Roman:** So we just found that email--

**Joseph Geller:** Let me read that into the room. The email is dated-- I think you just going to say it [laughs].

**Vimari Roman:** December fourth.

**Joseph Geller:** Okay, I find that again. Monday, December fourth for Mr. Toledo to me. Copy to Bruce Libhaber of the County Attorney's office and it says, "The two projects mentioned below are both eligible uses of the Surtax funds. They're both qualify under the

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transportation piece." That's the extent of the letter and we wrote back and asked for more formal written--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** The projects can they read more over the projects. What was sent to them?

**Joseph Geller:** I sent you a copy of that but what it was is I forwarded, I got two projects descriptions of the two projects from Mr. Elias and attached that to my email requesting a determination.

**Irwin Williams:** We stressed the road components because when you put a sewer pipe down the road, you have to repave the entire road. You have to rebuild the road so we stressed that there's certainly a road component and a drainage part to the projects.

**Vimari Roman:** Basically if I may, this was two weeks ago. December fourth that we got that approval. I'm still concerned that I know this is not but this is something that we need to discuss during our admin finance because I'm very concerned with how long this has taken. We've been discussing this for a very long time and the fact that we just received that email on December fourth and don't have anything in writing. That to me is a huge concern because that's internal concern that we have enough. If we don't fix this, we will continue to have issues as we're moving forward. Especially with this huge project. That I want to put into the record that that's a huge concern to me.

[pause]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. Those are my two agenda items. I don't know what the will of the Council was with regards to the resos. I'm only one person. I've already stated where I'm coming from and with that said, we are-- any other discussion with regards to the-- what my two agenda items.

**Vimari Roman:** I could share my comments in regards to how I feel. My comments are that based on the response that the Mayor has received from CITT first, that this project was not going to be possible with CITT funds. That's a concern to me. It's also a concern that they then came back. When I read that email, I feel that we can't take that to court, I'm not an

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Attorney but it's pretty clear to me in that email that they're still stating that yes. Especially if we sent the documentation but I have not been here long enough to know how everything works. If that's not sufficient, I don't want to sit in a courtroom.

I asked how the village interim Attorney feels because she's handling and managing the village. The fact that she feels comfortable makes me feel a bit more comfortable. The fact that our CFO feels that we have alternatives. That makes me feel more comfortable. I'm still kind of-- I understand Penoni needs to get paid. Again, my huge concern is how long this has taken because we've dragged our feet and the follow up and we would not this meeting today. We would not be sitting here on this topic for this long if this was taken care of months ago. For me at this time, I like to hear how the rest of the Council feel besides in moving forward but that's how I'm still on the fence because of what we have received from CITT in the past. No, we do not now have something in writing which I think it's stronger but it's not a letterhead that's the attorney had said. Those are just my comments and how I feel about this situation.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Anything else from the council?

**Omar Omarr Nickerson:** The thing that sticks out to me the most is from the same individual what the mayor went through in the beginning and what we go into recently because like who says it that's the end? At first, it's like, "No, that's not doable, and then it's like, "Yes, that is doable." Who says--

**Vimari Roman:** What changed?

**Omar Omarr Nickerson:** Yes, what changed all of a sudden, who said they won't come back and like, "By the way, that's actually not doable." That's my concern, so to get that on letterhead would alleviate a lot of that concern, to make it more efficient.

**Irwin Williams:** Did that individual change his opinion after he got the detailed description of the project?

**Joseph Geller:** I had a lengthy conversation with him and pressed him, and then we also sent him the project descriptions that you had drafted that we forwarded it to him.

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**Irwin Williams:** So far he didn't have the benefit of seeing the description?

**Joseph Geller:** That's my understanding.

**Irwin Williams:** On the initial comment?

**Joseph Geller:** He definitely didn't have it from us.

**Irwin Williams:** Okay.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** I said my piece.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** All right, at this time I'll have the attorney read the resolution into the record and we see if there is a will of the council to move this forward.

**Joseph Geller:** Resolution number 2017-41, a resolution of village El Portal, Florida relating to the state revolving fund loan program making findings or authorizing the loan application or authorizing the loan agreement. Establishing pledged revenues, designating authorized representatives, providing assurances for project financing of project number SW1320L, providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for conflicts, and severability providing for an effective date.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** All right, great, thank you. At this time I'm going to close the meeting for public comments, anybody at this time would like to come in and ask any questions with regards to this resolution which is what we've been discussing for the last 20 minutes or so.

**Felix Guzman:** Felix Guzman, 440 North East 90th street. I'm no rocket scientist, but I see a lot of red flags with this. I heard a lot of informal, I hope, I'd rather be more clear than unclear, and honestly in any contract doesn't matter what kind everything is to be stupid proof. Thank you.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Thank you.

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you. Anybody else at this time? Any other resident? Okay, hearing none, I'm going to close public comments. Is there a motion to approve resolution 2017-41?

**Vimari Roman:** I'll motion.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Motion's been made by Councilperson Roman, is there a second?

**Omarr Nickerson:** I second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** A second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Any discussion? Hearing none, madam clerk, roll call.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call, Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion fails.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Resolution 2017-42.

**Joseph Geller:** Resolution of the village of El Portal, Florida relating to the state revolving fund loan program, making findings, authorizing the loan application agreement, establishing pledged revenues, designating authorized representatives, providing assurances for project

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financing a project number WW132OC, providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for conflicts in severability, providing for an effective date.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** This is the second portion to the application that we have been discussing, so at this time I'll close the council meeting and it'll open up for any public comments. [silence] Okay, hearing none I'm going to close public comments opening up back to the council meeting. Is there a motion to approve resolution 2017-42?

**Vimari Roman:** I'll motion.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** A motion made by Councilperson Roman, is there a second?

**Omarr Nickerson:** Second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Any discussion from the dais before I move to roll call? [silence] Hearing none, madam clerk get a roll call, please.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call, Councilperson Roman?

**Vimari Roman:** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr. :** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Nickerson?

**Omarr Nickerson:** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Cubillos?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** No.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion fails.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Madam Mayor?

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Is there any way that contingent upon any further information we get that we can maybe look to put these on our January meeting?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes, I'm going to close this by saying that. It's not like this is over. We have to do our due diligence. I ask the council to please assist me and the manager as it relates to-- It's really an opinion that's going to come-- The attorney would call and reach out to both agencies. I think we should do both. We got to face reality. We are in holidays right now is one of the toughest-- Hopefully people are working but it doesn't mean that we cannot-- I think conversations on the phone are great but I think we need to email. That's documentation as to when it's getting done. I would like to believe that we're going to get one or the other.

We get something a little more tight as it relates to a real approval. I want this to move forward. We've come this far, so this is not over We just can't drop the ball and leave. I'm really hoping that the administration is going to be accountable to do their part. This is not where the council comes in. This is not their responsibility. It's a responsibility of the administration to see this through.

**Vimari Roman:** I have a comment that I'd like to make. I'd like for us to consider looking at seeking outside counsel for this project.

[silence]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I don't know what it's going to take, I just would like to get a yes or no. Because residents are excited about this, people need to get paid, project needs to move forward. This is something as a service we're doing for our community but I am sure that if we had residents in this audience, they would want us to ensure that we are holding everybody accountable and dotting every I and crossing every T. Do you want to say something?

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**Christia Alou:** Thank you, Mayor. I just want to let you know that Irwin Williams and I, we have stayed on task in terms of our portion of the whole situation here and we will continue to do that, so we will seek those necessary written authorizations.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I think as soon as we get them, if we need to meet before the next January meeting, as long as we're meeting and we have definitive answers, I'm okay with that, whoever's going to get it for us has just got to get it for us.

**Vimari Roman:** Again, I think we may want to seek outside counsel to help our attorneys with this project. This has been a very painful process.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It's taken a little long to get answers, and I understand everyone-- As I go into my mayor's report, I'm going to touch into a lot of what we've done and what I like things to be in 2018. With that said, we can discuss that at the admin and finance meeting. Legal opinions are necessary, having an attorney is necessary, getting it reduced to writing is necessary and we know that.

If the council has any comments on Councilperson Roman's recommendation, this is the time to say so. If not we're moving forward. Vice Mayor Nickerson, Councilperson Mathis?

**Omarr Nickerson:** I'm comfortable either way. It's whatever the council as a whole decides.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Councilperson Mathis?

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** I don't know, I think that Attorney Geller has started the process. He has enough of his foot in the process, then maybe he should complete the process. But I'm at the mercy of the majority of the council. That's just how it is.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Councilperson Mathis.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** I'd like to see the communication changes related to this.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** The communication changes that relate to-

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** Getting answers that clearly we're needing.

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Well, I would-- the benefit of everybody. We've been at this since the October council meeting and I hope it doesn't take this long. Actually October council meeting was when we had agreed to make changes to your contract. We are in two months later but this has actually been pending since August. I understand Irma got in the way and that took up about eight weeks of our life but we still went to work and we still had to get things done. With that said, I think this is a greater conversation that needs to happen anyway in admin and finance. Hearing that, we're done with the resos. We're going right into J, the village mayor's report. All right. I try to end every December with a report of recapping what we've achieved and some good milestones and set the tone and the way for 2018.

I'm going to start on a really positive note and then we'll go into some of the business at hand. I took some notes here so with that said I'm going to probably read off of it. 2017, needless to say has been a monumental year for us. The newsletter that recently came out and it can be found also on the village website really highlights 2017 as what we achieved as the Council for the residents and I'm going to recap it real briefly. I don't touch on every point. The village of El Portal celebrated our 80th anniversary. We kicked off this year with a county wide talent search and a new village official seal was elected. We also became Tree City USA. We introduced a farmers market into the village of El portal. We received half a million from the state of Florida for the next phase of our storm water project. Third year in a row our assessed property values have increased without any development.

We updated and passed our village comprehensive plan and land use map. El Portal was mentioned in the Miami Herald on how and where to buy a home. We unanimously passed the ban on conversion therapy. El Portal was selected to potentially receive a four million loan grant to commence the septic to sewer. Our state of the village again was held on the fourth Tuesday in August. You can now find all of our council meeting audio's on our website. The Peacock Express, which is a form of communication to our residents and providing with them what we are doing is in its third year. 95% of Hurricane Irma was wrapped up within 45 days. Village hosted again its annual art fair, 5K, egg hunt, 4th of July barbecue, national night out with our back to school giveaway, Halloween and we wrapped up this amazing year with the 80th celebration on December 9th, followed by our tree lighting with the El Portal children caroling at our December's food truck night.

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One of the great things that I could say about all of this, is that the financial support that we have received through many sponsorships really says something about our village partnerships and community partnerships with our vendors and with our community businesses. It speaks volumes of the relationship that we have built and the sense of community that I know that we have created in this village. That's a little recap in what we've achieved. Another area in 2017 is we have experienced a tremendous year of growth. With growth there comes a lot of things to celebrate but it also comes a lot of growing pains. There is no secret that there is a lot of things that we can do better and a lot of things we need to do better. One of the things that I will reiterate and I think we've heard the tone throughout the night is that we can no longer do business the way that we used to.

What used to work and how we got here today was great but it's not where it's going to take us in the 21st century. The number one thing that we-- and by we I mean all five of us up here-- we must be more accountable to our administration. That includes the attorney. That includes, the clerk and that includes the manager-- and the manager's responsibility as it relates to the police department and the front desk. We're pretty small. If we are all not on the same page we are not going to achieve the things that we need to achieve. If we don't start doing things in a more organized fashion, it's going to become a little more chaotic because, once again, the way we used to do business is not the way we can and it's not the way we're going to do business in 2018 and beyond-- as least as long as I'm up here.

We cannot be in the predicament of any more lawsuits or anything of that nature because we are not having a paper trail, we don't have things reduced to writing or we are just like, "Okay, let's sign off on that because that's the easy thing." It's not the way that I think that we need to conduct business. If we don't do things in a more organized fashion and with all of the development and all these big projects that we're having, we are opening up ourselves for tremendous liability-- tremendous, tremendous, tremendous liability-- with our residents too-- who hold us five accountable every single day. Just as we are held accountable, we must do the same thing. This is not about feelings, this is not about friendship, this is about the job. It needs to get done.

One of the things that I want to reiterate on doing business, is several months ago earlier this year we made a commitment. As governing body we all voted on this. We said that the clerk is going to receive all agenda items on the Wednesday before the meeting. Well, that's not

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happening. I think it might have happened for two months. I think it might have happened for maybe four months. But it is unfair to think that the clerk or the manager can be here on a Friday at 8:30 at night to do agendas because that's when they are getting the things. Cannot happen anymore. I understand we are all busy. I understand we all have other responsibilities. I understand this is our second and third job. But we all took an oath. We all are getting compensated to some extent. We will go back to what we said we were going to do. If it means putting it in a resolution, we will put it in a resolution.

But we clearly-- and I think that was the March council meeting-- I kept going back and I didn't get to that particular meeting. We agreed that all agenda items will be to the clerk on the Wednesday before the council meeting. The reason we said this is because what's happening is that the clerk sends out the agenda on Friday because we have residents that want to see the agenda, but then she gets an email because there is no supporting documents. You can't get the supporting documents if you haven't received them. I say that's it, so who looks bad? The clerk gets all the ugly emails. The clerk calls me-- because I generally set the agenda. It always going to come back to the council.

We're not going to do that anymore. We're not going to do that anymore. People will be called out because if it's your responsibility to get something on the agenda and it's not that the chair of that committee will know that it is not on the agenda and I'm not going to make any exceptions. You don't get it to the clerk, we don't get it to the clerk, the Wednesday like we agreed. It is not going to go on the agenda. I'm saying that to say-- because I get the phone calls, the clerk gets the phone calls that they are not happy because we're not being transparent. We are not communicating. We don't put it on the website in a timely fashion. Well, and who is the one to look bad? It's the council. It's not going to happen. I'm letting you all know-- and I need the support of the Council on this because it's not just me, it's all of us. We have to hold every single person accountable, if it's a resolution, if it's an ordinance.

It's no surprise, Everything happens at committees. If you're the chair of that committee, you need to understand that if something passed in your committee you need to stay on the clerk and say, "Hey, we got to call the attorney, we need the resolution, we need the ordinance." It cannot be done the week before when the committee meeting was several weeks ago. It's no surprise when there's a reso needed. There's no surprise when there's an ordinance needed.

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Because all of this was discussed at the committee and we all agreed that this is the way we are going to do business.

This is the way that we will do business in 2018, if I have the complete support of the council because it's what the residents are asking for, that's number one. The next thing is the meetings start at seven. They don't start at 7:04. They don't start at 7:10. They start at seven o'clock. If residents are here and I am here, I will start the meetings. The meetings start at seven o'clock. I'm going to reiterate again. We all have lives. We don't want to be here 10, 11 o'clock at night and we can expedite this but we must start on time. I kindly ask each and every single one of you to put an alarm on your phone and please be here on time because I will start on time. We are on camera and they are going to see that we are waiting until we start because I can't do certain things if I don't have quorum. The other thing that we agreed with earlier I looked at this was the October meeting, we are going to change the committee meetings in 2018 in the hopes that we can be a little more transparent and we can have more of a systematic approach to the committee meetings.

As a reminder to the council-- The clerk and I are reviewing it today, we're going to form Tuesday night as government night in El Portal. This is in an effort to encourage better attendance and to improve and provide a more organized and transparent message to our residents. We all agreed that we would have the committee meetings on Tuesdays. Therefore, the first Tuesday of every month would be planning and zoning, code enforcement, and public safety.

The second Tuesday is public affairs, public works, and admin and finance. Keep in mind that due to some holidays, the Tuesdays may differ a little bit-- like January-- but the clerk will always send out an email blast and it's everything is on our website. The other thing that we agreed at this council meeting was that our annual budget workshop is going to automatically be on the second Tuesday in July. There is no guess as to when it's going to be.

The second Tuesday in July is when we're going to have our first budget workshop and we all come together so we're not do things so late. Once again, to reiterate the state of the village is always on the fourth Tuesday in August, which is another thing that we had agreed that we were going to continue to do that. The last point that I wanted to cover about 2018, is that we have a lot going on. The sanctuary is going to start bringing us plans.

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Today-- right before this meeting-- there was a Brownfield town hall. The residents can come in and ask what exactly that means and the council is about to pass a resolution. The annexed area potentially is going to come before us. Why am I saying this? I'm saying to say that we have a lot going on. Our committee meetings are going to be very full. Our council meetings are going to be very full. It's really important that you show up on time because we have a lot going on.

It is really important as committee chairs that you all stay with the clerk when the meetings are over. We cannot just drop the ball and then two days before the meeting we're calling the clerk or expecting the attorney and the clerk to get everything done in two days, cannot happen. At the committee meetings, we made a decision that things happened there and when they happen, it's the chair of that committee's responsibility to ensure that it goes. If it doesn't go through, the item is not going to be put on the agenda and I will be sure to be a stickler on that. I ask each and every single one of you-- This is a reminder that it's really important that you guys have to stay on top of that.

Some committees more than others are inclined to have resols and ordinances. It could be your committee-- I don't know, but you must stay on top to ensure that it's seen, its process through completely-- especially if things are very time sensitive. The last thing I want to is in 2018 because we have a lot going on, I'm going to be incorporating some town halls. The first town hall that I'm going to host is going to be Saturday, January 13th. It's actually going to be the proprietors of the sanctuary will be here. They are going to start to show a little bit of what they intend to do at that facility with regards to some of the tenants and what that's going to look like. The sanctuary-- for those of you that don't know-- is the old Raider church, which is a Northeast Second Avenue in between 87 and 88 street.

I'm going to be doing a series of those and they're going to always have different topics and of course, they will be properly advertised. There's a couple more things that I'm going to incorporate in 2018, again, as an effort to provide better communication to the residents because we have a lot going on in the village of El Portal and we don't have a lot of staff. As a result, it's really important and this is where as a council we do lot more probably than in other municipalities because we don't really have a lot of staff. As a result, it's the compensation probably came in place.

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Anyway, the last thing that I wanted to talk about is our interim manager. Our interim manager's resolution expires December 21st and I will say that I have had the experience and the opportunity to work pretty close with her in the last four months. I definitely I don't want to say goodbye right now to her. I don't think clearly that that would be the right thing to do for the village at all or for this administration.

I'd ask the council to please consider extending her interim manager position. I mean there might be some caveats but we do need to discuss it. This is another thing that this is expiring and this potentially should have really been addressed in November. I don't want her to think that because the resolution expires on the 21st that she's going to leave us on the 22nd. I don't want her to get that impression. Again, if you read the newsletter I talk a little bit about my experience working with her and with the acting chief that I think that nothing shows more the demonstration of what we have done than what Irma made us do together.

I think we did a fantastic job. I wouldn't have asked for a better team than I had at that time. For right now I definitely don't want to see her go anywhere. I think that while she has a lot to learn, she is very receptive, very caring, very strong-- and that's very necessary-- but very open, open to listening, opening to understanding, opening to hear what others think and feel and then still interject what she feels is going to be the right thing for the village. But keeping it in mind how the mayor and council are thinking at the same time. It's not the easiest thing to do when you have to juggle five of us.

I on a personal note have the experience to work pretty closely. I've been impressed and I'm happy right now. [chuckles] I would like the Council to really think about that and maybe at the admin and finance committee meeting, we can further address it with regards to what's going to happen next with our interim manager., because we have a lot going on and we can't be in another predicament where either we're starting over again. It really needs to be the right thing that we do and it's not going to happen during my mayor's report. It's really more of at the admin and finance level.

I just wanted to say that her level of professionalism matters and I think it's made a difference. I think that that's a quality that is essential in that position and perhaps maybe have lacked a little bit in the past. With that said-- Just not on the last note, I mentioned to the-- we're always so busy here-- but I mentioned the interim manager and to the clerk and I

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believe to the acting chief that I actually want to have a meeting with them-- Just briefly. I think it's important to come together and just you know talk about what we're doing and how we're going to move forward in 2018.

Really 2018, I'm hoping for it to be a year that we are-- We've been pretty unified in the last couple of months but a little more and bring everybody on board as it relates to the manager staff. It's one thing where the mayor and council have this vision and we're out there selling this vision. Then they come here and they don't experience that vision or that mission. It's important again that we come together and ensure that the will of the mayor and the council is carried through the administration and through the residents so that every resident that walks in the door feels like they are a part of what we are trying to do.

I believe that the sense of community that we have created in our town is perhaps second to none. On the last note, I'm going to be bringing it up at the next Peacock Express-- and I don't know if the manager is going to bring it up, she probably will so I won't touch on it or touch on it very little. We had a meeting with FDLE, for residents you might see some changes when you come to the front. Please don't take any of that personally. We've had to all comply with some new policies and procedures required by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. If you haven't yet I ask every member of this council and the administration to please do so.

As, once again, when people don't comply, they call the mayor. I had a meet on a Monday morning with them. It's important that we do what's right and set the example as the elected leaders that we are and we've been elected to do. With that said, I'm going to type all this up, finish it up a little bit. I have little typos in there and I'll make sure that the clerk gets it so that the council gets it and it'll be posted as well on the village website.

On that note, I want to wish everybody a very happy holidays, a happy new year. I hope you have a wonderful 2018. More than anything, full of a lot of blessings and a lot of joy. That's the words I use now. Joy. [chuckles] I want to thank every member on this council. We've all had our own experiences, but I think every experience that we have may drive us crazy but to some extent brings us a little closer and makes as a little more humane. I reiterate it again the last four months has been a little bit a breath of fresh air for me, as the Mayor and having to

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be as involved as I have been and I am with the administration and with the community and so on and so forth and I want the residents to know that.

Madam Clerk, I make a commitment to you that you'll not be working Fridays at nine o'clock at night because those are not hours to work. It's not appropriate to be expected to answer calls or work at that hour. On that note, I think it concludes my report and I do thank. Thank you for what you do. Attorney Geller, Happy Hanukkah. To all the residents, I wish you all happy holidays and thank you for having us. That concludes my report. Miss Manager.

**Christia Alou:** Thank you, Mayor, and thank you for your kind words. It has been a challenging and fast four months. I can't believe it's already over but I'm looking forward to seeing what happens next with us all together because it has been a good a challenge and working with you has been excellent. It is great to have small victories and large ones.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you.

**Christia Alou:** I'm going to be quick with my report because it is pretty long as always but I'm going to make it short. It's been a busy December and we did have a wonderful 80th Anniversary celebration on December ninth. We were able to have 60 plus-- I think it's a lot more than that, a lot more than that-- residents here as well as family and friends of the village and the village hall that was transformed into a fabulous jazz lounge commemorating our 1937 incorporation day. It was a beautiful event and all of our Council members were present and dressed and ready. It was a lovely event, so I thank everyone for helping and assisting us and especially to the mayor and the clerk and Acting Chief **[unintelligible 01:52:53]** Nagle for also making it a beautiful event. Hurricane Irma recovery. Just to give you a touch about what's happening with that. We're now at the point as you know the debris removal all that is done and we're paying the bills for that, but we're now at the point where we're fixing infrastructure, signage and all that work started today. Fences were fixed two weeks ago. We had the top lot when reopened December second when that fence was finally repaired and now we're working on the nature trail fencing as we speak and that is moving along quickly.

For our police department, we're still addressing the FDLE audit shortfalls with the acting chief, but we did meet yesterday with Isis Crespo, who's the Criminal Justice Manager for

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the Department of Law Enforcement. We met with her yesterday morning with the Mayor and Acting Chief and I going over the audit in-depth and discussing how all of the employees of the village must have the security clearance in order to work here. We're at the point now where we got everyone, maybe one or two members of the Council having been able to do their security clearance and staff but we need those as quickly as possible because we have to be in compliance. On top of that, we'll now have a close door policy.

**Vimari Roman:** Who has not completed through?

**Werner Dreher:** Me.

**Vimari Roman:** Okay. Who else?

**Christia Alou:** Our Clerk, our Attorney, Council Member Dreher.

**Vimari Roman:** I think that January, we don't meet until January or it can be in a couple of weeks and this is the holidays but definitely, that's something we need to address at the admin and finance or public safety. I don't know where it should fit because, in my opinion, that's unacceptable.

**Christia Alou:** Well. Thank you for that.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** [unintelligible 01:55:13]

**Werner Dreher:** I'm sorry.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Do you have a date already?

**Werner Dreher:** As I expressed to the manager with my job that's 30 days that I can do it and when I get an opportunity to do that. I'll do it. I asked for alternate days. They don't have those days. When I can get to it, I'll get to it.

**Christia Alou:** We'll try to work with everyone to address those but it's not up to El Portal but the agency that's handling the fingerprinting is the Miami Shores Police Department so that there's an autonomy that's out of our police department we've to have someone else

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conduct those and it's that they give us the dates that they're available to do that. There's a time that they have to set up for the security clearance so that is one--

**Yenise Jacobi:** But we can get it done wherever.

**Christia Alou:** Well, I don't know that we would have the-

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I think that's a question you have to ask our Acting Chief and then from my experience, I think you can but I own a school and if I give them my employees the ORI number. You plug it in wherever you go. The difference is that wherever you go you may pay as opposed to Miami Shores is doing it for free. But again, I can't compare my school to the police department. It was something that you talk to-

**Christia Alou:** The Acting Chief.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** -and then if that it. They can do it and want to pay, that's completely-- as long as it gets done. Whether it's Miami Shores or want to go somewhere else to pay. It got to be live scan and it has to be the ORI number. The live scan is the only way. They don't do the cards anymore. It's a little machine that they do now.

**Vimari Roman:** But again this is something we've been discussing for two months now. Once again we're dragging our feet.

**Werner Dreher:** No one's dragging their feet. As far as I'm not dragging my feet.

**Vimari Roman:** I'm speaking in general. I'm not pointing fingers at any one person but I would hope that we are cooperating so that we are in compliance with something that it's required and that this does not have to be a painful process or a begging process from anyone. For the fact that some of our Council and some of our Village Clerk and our Attorney and our CFO. These are all very important positions [crosstalk]

**Yenise Jacobi:** I'm sorry. I've worked other places where things are addressed to me directly not like I've also spoken. Before you could talk you should actually take a second to talk to me.

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**Vimari Roman:** Again. I am not--

**Yenise Jacobi:** No, you were. You said, Clerk.

**Vimari Roman:** In general-

**Yenise Jacobi:** The clerk is me. Okay.

**Vimari Roman:** In general, I'm saying that it's inappropriate that we have so many bodies that have not been in compliance with this and this has been going on for a couple of months now.

**Werner Dreher:** Not everybody owns their own business and they can do things when they can do it. People report to other people.

**Vimari Roman:** Again, priorities are priorities. This is not just for-- This is we need to be in compliance and this is also for our residents. It's not about excuses and I'm not actually looking for excuses. I'm just saying that I'm hoping and I'm trusting that we're all going to be in compliance by the beginning of the year.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** If I can just interject. If again and I'll just reiterate. I know I spoke to the Clerk a couple of days ago and she said next week when her kids were out of school but again just get a date solidified. I ask you all just get it done.

**Werner Dreher:** I cannot do it on a Monday or Tuesday. This is when they have to do it.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** That's fine. Speak to Ronnie. Again, I think that with the OCA or the ORI not matter what the results when you put that number in. The results go to-- That's attached to an agency or to a business. In this case an agency and they would get the report and it comes where it needs to go. That's what I understand, but and then if you're willing to go to any other department just go when then you have just pay the fee. But we kindly ask you to get it done. I don't want to have another meeting with Isis. Her name is Isis Crespo [laughs] I don't want to have another meeting. She said she'll come to our Council meeting. I just don't want it to get to that point. Please met with Ronnir and get that number.

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**Christia Alou:** Our Village Chamber is open to the public but the administrative offices will no longer be open to the public. Those people who are visitors or who are not security cleared will have to have hip to hip police escort. As you know we have a very small police force of only six so that means you'll have to make appointments to visit us within the administrative offices. Otherwise, we have to meet you here in the Village Hall. That's for our residents as well. Unfortunately, I know our residents are accustomed to being able to walk in and come in and talk to people but that, unfortunately, is not the case anymore. We can't do that. We have to put up some security for ourselves and for our Police Department. There'll be no more of that. Even for our residents. I'll move on.

Speaking of police, we'll be conducting part-time interviews starting tomorrow to fill some open positions for part-time Police Officers. We're very happy to have Officer Paul Battaglia join our rank as a full-time officer and with that, we will then add additional part-time officers in the coming weeks. I'll skip a little bit and talk to you about, Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos and I attended the 2018 Delegation Public Hearing Presentation at the Stephen P Clark building, Downtown with our lobbyist Richard Pinski and Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos gave a two minute talk about the legislative priorities of the village, about the town, mostly septic to sewer and stormwater, but also talked about the virtue of the village. She did a wonderful job in representing the village and really promoting our name and ensuring that people know about our strong abilities. We're amongst the ranks of larger municipalities.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** There are 75 agenda items [laughs].

**Christia Alou:** Yes. 75 presenters and we were-

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Number 14.

**Christia Alou:** -Yes. Number 14. That's good because when you're early people will hopefully remember you but if you feel the inclination, please track our House Bill numbers. They're number 29, 25 and 32, 31. Those are easy numbers. Track them. They're in Florida House of Representatives, Agricultural, and Natural Resources, Appropriation Subcommittee now. We will be reached, the Mayor and I and Council Members I know, Council Member Roman and Council Member Mathis discuss going to Tallahassee to help us out and to get the word out about what we're doing here in El Portal. But we'll be speaking to members of

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that Subcommittee and others. Sessions start January fourth to our Village Attorney and his other role there as well. We look forward to that. I'll wrap up with this.

I did advertise for Human Resources Coordinator position on the Village website as well as indeed.com. We've gotten a number of good candidates. Interviews will be conducted over the next couple of weeks and I know we have to get through Christmas, but I'm sure when people are looking for something special and a good position. They'll come in. I hope that we can make a selection in early January but I'll be keeping you all posted on how that goes. At least moving forward with getting the Human Resources position filled. That concludes my manager's report.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I have a quick question. I know you said this is a job description and my apologies for not remembering. Is on the job description or policy, is that there is going to be fingerprints on from the get-go?

**Christia Alou:** Yes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. Let's get that out of the way. Great. Thank you. At this time our Village Attorney.

**Joseph Geller:** The only thing I was going to comment on is actually in the manager's written report but since she didn't discuss it. We've had several meetings with FIBA. We're working on another meeting to follow up where we're on it. I'll reiterate for the record that it's probable. At some point, we going to request some executive session to discuss what our position is for final negotiations. It's still a little early for that now. I think we're quite at the point but there've been cordial meetings and we're very hopeful we'll be at the beginning of the agreement in place and we're working on a date. We had to reschedule the last one but it can be probably sooner than later with us. And other than that I'm happy to answer any question for that concludes my report.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I have a question. What's going on now? I believe the Clerk got a call weeks ago with regards to the former Police Officer Olivia.

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**Joseph Geller:** The League of Cities is handling that. Frankly, they've not been very forthcoming. We have insurance that handles that and so outside Council, does handle that. They pay for the expenses of it because we pay insurance. But they haven't been really very forthcoming. My understanding is it has to do with, I believe your officer was on worker's compensation and I think that's where the issue was that she ended up being terminated and she alleges it had something to do with her status on workers compensation. I believe that's accurate.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Who's the Attorney in the Florida League of Cities doing now? Was it John?

**Joseph Geller:** They use the former Florida Dale. I know Jeff Hawkman is usually the one who is the Attorney who handles that on our behalf. It's Johnson and Salma, Maddock [crosstalk].

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** And there's a female. Because I remember when the Clerk mentioned that to me briefly. We all had-- if you were there back then you're going to be a subpoena but obviously, we would have sufficient time or notice if that's the case and we would have probably- [crosstalk].

**Joseph Geller:** For certainly that's the case. They don't completely communicate what's going on with this. I know that the Interim Chief told me that she's going to have to testify but we don't think that there's merit to it.

**Vimari Roman:** I actually informed you today, maybe about five minutes before this meeting started because you were not aware of it and I'm being told that I was subpoena to go and give the briefing on this case that happened. It's been since 2000 and started in 2010. This is an ongoing lawsuit. I was made aware that Geller, you were never informed about it. I just-

**Joseph Geller:** All we heard was that the court got no quorum. The only thing that they reached out. It's a little unusual frankly but [unintelligible 02:06:39].

**Vimari Roman:** I've been called to be communicating with me and-

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Who prepares for the depo, the Attorney?

**Vimari Roman:** The Attorney. They prepare me.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Can you reach out to them to find out what going on. Obviously, it can impact our insurance, that it can impact the payout or anything of that nature. We need to know. We need to be in the know on that. I don't even remember her. It was so long. Do you remember her? So long ago. But once again, this is why we have to do things because if we don't do things the right way or terminate the right way, these things happen. Does that conclude your report?

**Joseph Geller:** Yes.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. Great. There's no unfinished business in general order. A new business is that every year we have a Toy Giveaway. Last year, we started doing it at Phyllis Ruth Miller. Which is right down the street from us. Although, they're not in El Portal. We still have children that go there. One of the reasons we didn't do it in El Portal was because in 15th was the last time we actually had a Toy Distribution year, but with the closing of the trailer park we didn't get a lot of kids. We thought it would be neat to help a nearby school and we went last year with Councilperson Roman and Councilperson Dreher and some of the police officers.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** We went and it was really well received and how they select their children is they pick a hundred kids from the free and reduced blanch and then they come. It's the kids in the community anyway, it makes it a win-win We're doing it tomorrow. If you would like to join us. Just reach out to Ronnie and she'll let you know the details or talk to us right afterwards but we're meeting here at 8:30 in the morning. We're going to do two stops and we're going to have Santa Claus issue with us, which was a Santa Claus. Well. The Santa Claus. I think we finish up the Clerk can help me gift wrap up all the toys today and that's going to be tomorrow. Phyllis Ruth Miller, eleven o'clock. So like through 10:30 with the meeting.

**Joseph Geller:** Have you done with that item?

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Joseph Geller:** Just as an item of new business in view of the comments you made earlier and the fact that the appointment of the Interim Manager is expiring. You should at least extend that to-- for as a formality to at least to your next meeting, the February meeting something like that so that there's no question as to who's in place.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. That's great. I'm interested in extending in a little longer, but I think there's components in there that I think she'll would like to perhaps maybe take a look at and the Council to consider to be something maybe a little different. If it's the will of the Council, as we have an Admin and Finance meeting in January and then we have a counter meeting that we could address what that extension will look like, but in the Interim if we can extend this reso until January, into February 15. Let's pick up with that and then in that time frame we can identify if we're going to make her the Inter Manager for another year or whatever, there's got to be components in there that perhaps been a manager for four months there might be more things that need to be in there. I understand that. If we can--

**Joseph Geller:** It's just whatever--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, February 15th. With that said, do I need a motion on that. I have a motion to extend the agreement with the interim manager until February 15th with the caveat that we're going to have this more extensive conversation at the admin event February 15th.

**Joseph Geller:** Is that the date, the February council meeting?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** No, I checked that date.

**Yenise Jacobi:** February 27th is the council meeting.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, so we'd meet on February 27th.

**Vimari Roman:** I'll motion.

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay, motion has been made by Councilperson Roman. Is there a second?

**Omarr Nickerson:** I second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Vice Mayor Nickerson. Any discussion before I request roll call? All right, hearing none. Madam clerk, roll call please.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Roman.

**Vimari Roman:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Mathis.

**Harold E Mathis Jr. .:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Nickerson.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Cubillos.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes four to none.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** You're welcome. Thank you. Anybody in good and welfare?

**Felix Guzman:** I'm Felix Guzman, 440 Northeast 90th Street. I'm sorry. I was the under the impression. Where is she? In the bathroom? Under the impression, I have two beloved neighbors of mine who are equally as witty and smart and have this power trip going on for quite some time now. I really need this to be resolved, because this is very uncomfortable. We have a Christmas party going on. I want them both to be there. They both need to back down. I just noticed by even being here that she should be in the council's meeting. They're sitting there. She's so witty. She should use that energy for something just more positive and

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productive. Are you hearing me [unintelligible 02:12:01]? Yes, you're very smart, very witty. You should be back there. Look how smart you are. I'm here, because you gave me a call and I'm here. We should have you as PR. All the residents would be here. When it goes to my neighbor, this is one of the sweetest persons I know. Just like this one, they have a trigger. They both know how to trigger each other. This one really knows because she's older. She's older, so she really knows that and she's always using her elderly card. I know you're using it.

Back to you Councilperson, my beloved neighbor for 15 years who I love. Whose been for me-- you know what I'm talking about. You also need to back down. This lady could be your mom. What I want from both of you-- I'm talking to you Missy. Is an apology. Not even for what. Just an apology. I want a Christmas miracle here. You know what? It's not-- you're both right. But then, again, you make a wrong with your approach. I saw you when you went to ask him--

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Good job.

**Felix Guzman:** When you went to ask him, you start with the positive then the negative. You went and you asked him why he didn't answer the phone. Was he available, yada, yada, yada? Then you wanted to say that the reason you were calling was because you wanted to compliment him for being there for you. You started the other way around. I tried calling you and you didn't answer the phone. I want to let you know that I wanted to appreciate you. That's how you start.

I'm sure that's the same way you'd approach this one, which you know is another spitfire and can come right back at you. This can't go on. You need to be example as well. You can't let her get to you. You can't. You just can't. You decided to be back there. I can do this, because I'm on this side. It's like being behind the counter at Starbucks. Somebody can read us. We can't say anything. Now, that person on the other side, they're always right. This one knows that. I'm begging you both. Can we please call a truce?

Whatever needs to be repaired on your side so his water, whatever it is that's coming to yours-- I will pay for it. I will pay for it if it's necessary, because life is too short. If money

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can take care of something, it ain't a problem, because the money is out there. We just have to find it. Not when it comes to CITT.

[laughter]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** No. We in good and welfare Ms. Brooks.

**Felix Guzman:** No, we're not done yet. Because after he apologizes, you're going to also apologize. Because you're going to apologize for taking things always with the wrong way. You don't need to get here, you'd go to him with a casserole dish and you'd say, "You know what? Your water situation is really bugging me." You know what? It's the approach.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I agree.

**Felix Guzman:** That's the approach. I said I will pay for whatever it is that his thing is doing to your property. If it is going to make everybody happy-- Hey, I'll do it. I won't go down with the [unintelligible 02:15:31]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** [laughs]

**Felix Guzman:** What's it going to be? Is it over? Thank you. Is it over? Can we drop it? What? That doesn't stand. We are dropping it all, starting with this. Just--

**Caroline Brooks:** Drop it all, okay, but make sure he does the same.

**Felix Guzman:** All right, but make sure that you start with the positives. Come over here. This is going to be like an exercise.

**Caroline Brooks:** Caroline Brooks, 400 Northeast 90th Street. My question is, the problem is the water from 420--

**Felix Guzman:** Where's the positive?

**Caroline Brooks:** If I get it taken care of.

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**Felix Guzman:** No. Where's the positive? Why don't you tell me what a wonderful neighbor he's been so far? I'm sure he has something good. Have you ever seen him?

**Caroline Brooks:** I don't see him. I can't tell you that.

**Felix Guzman:** I think that's great.

**Caroline Brooks:** I can't tell you that, because I hardly see him.

**Felix Guzman:** That's a good thing.

**Caroline Brooks:** Okay. Therefore, I don't-- when I see him-- I'm not always outside. He's going or he's coming once in a while. When I found this to be a problem, I approached his mate first.

**Felix Guzman:** He's a sweetheart. They all think that he's not. He's oh so sweet.

**Caroline Brooks:** Okay, and a good man. He said he would take care of it. He never did. It continued to happen. The manager start took it on.

**Felix Guzman:** You didn't have to go there.

**Caroline Brooks:** She did. I didn't tell her to. She heard about it.

**Felix Guzman:** How did she know about it?

**Caroline Brooks:** He did. He talked to her I guess.

**Felix Guzman:** Okay. Stop right there.

**Caroline Brooks:** I didn't.

**Felix Guzman:** Okay. Here we go. There's the loop. He thinks that you told her. You think that he told her.

**Caroline Brooks:** How did you know manager?

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**Felix Guzman:** Well, this is going back 15 years.

**Caroline Brooks:** No.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** I can answer that. You invited me for coffee and I went to your house and you expressed concern. It's my job to go back and I asked the manager to please address it. That's how that happened. It was not Harold. It was me. Yes, because I cannot call him and tell him to do this. I went to her and she took care of it.

[crosstalk]

**Felix Guzman:** I'm going to talk to a public-- Are you going to say something?

**Caroline Brooks:** She spoke with the manager. The manager called a meeting between Harold and myself. We met.

**Felix Guzman:** What were your true intentions when you made this comment to her? Honestly, what were your true intentions when you made that comment to her when she went to visit you for coffee?

**Caroline Brooks:** She's the Mayor.

**Felix Guzman:** Why?

**Caroline Brooks:** Because I wanted her input. The two people involved were advised already. I had to get advised. Nothing was happening.

**Felix Guzman:** Was it her advice?

**Caroline Brooks:** So then I had to go to the Mayor.

**Felix Guzman:** You're an attorney in your other life.

**Caroline Brooks:** Okay. I went to the Mayor and I told her about it.

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**Felix Guzman:** Let me ask you something. I've never been to these meetings which actually is not that boring at all. Is she always seen at every meeting?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Yes.

**Caroline Brooks:** Just about.

**Felix Guzman:** You have nothing to do.

**Caroline Brooks:** I do. I live here and I pay my taxes here.

**Felix Guzman:** No, you don't pay more taxes than I do.

**Caroline Brooks:** I am--

**Felix Guzman:** You don't see me here nitpicking

[crosstalk]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** : Okay, may I? Because I think that we need to keep it to the good and welfare.

[crosstalk]

**Felix Guzman:** You know what?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** He's got something to say.

**Harold E Mathis Jr.:** Because this clearly is not a village matter. This is a neighbor to neighbor matter. This is an issue that's been going on for 20 years. If it's going to be resolved, it's going to be resolved between Miss Brooks and I and no one else.

**Felix Guzman:** All right, I think that's fair.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. Perfect. I thank you, Councilperson Mathis-- he said he's going to talk to you.

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**Felix Guzman:** Can I be there [laughs]?

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Start with the positive.

**Felix Guzman:** I'll be able to.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Okay. Anybody?

[background conversation]

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It will keep you smiling. Anybody else going to welfare? Officer Owens, you okay? We're good? Okay, hearing none. Do I have a motion?

**Harold E Mathis Jr.:** Harold Mathis, 420 Northeast 90th. When you guys came to the diocese today, there were portraits in your chairs. Those were gifts from me to you for our 80th. The artist that I commissioned to do it made individual peacocks for each one of you.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Thank you very much.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** They're almost done he has some more shading and stuff to do. I wanted them for the 80th but there was an issue with Art Basel and him and the contract and all of that but I got them right here, but this is my gift to you guys.

**Vimari Roman:** He's very sweet

**Omarr Nickerson:** Thank you very much Councilperson Mathis I really appreciate that my brother, I really appreciate it.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Thank you Councilperson Mathis.

**Harold E. Mathis Jr.:** You're welcome.

**Omarr Nickerson:** Very nice.

**Vimari Roman:** Thank you

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**Claudia V. Cubillos:** It was nice to have you at the meeting, you haven't been here in a very long time thank you for coming Miss Brooks, very nice to see you. we missed you at the 80th, I want you to know we have the plaque for the ramp to dedicate to Mayor Black so we'll talk about what we're going to do there okay so that you're there for that. Anybody else in good and welfare here. Okay, hearing none, do I have a motion for adjournment?

**Omarr Nickerson:** I motion.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Motions made by Councilperson Mathis, do I have a second.

**Vimari Roman:** I'll second.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Second by Councilperson Roman, all in favor signal by saying aye.

**Councilpersons:** Aye.

**Claudia V. Cubillos:** Any nays? Hearing none, our council meeting ends at 9:21 PM. You all have a merry Christmas.

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