



**Village of El Portal
Special Meeting
Date: 9/11/18
Meeting Start: 6:47 PM
Meeting End: 7:53 PM
Meeting Length: 01:06:14**

Mayor Cubillos: Everybody, we'd like to go ahead and get started on the first budget hearing. Today, is Tuesday, September 4th and I would like to call the hearing to order at 6:47 PM. If we can please have a moment of silent meditation, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

[silence]

All: 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.

Mayor: Thank you, Madam, clerk. May I have a roll call.

Yenise Jacobi: Roll call, Mayor Cubillos.

Mayor: Here.

Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Nickerson isn't here yet. Councilperson Mathis. Councilperson Dreher?

Dreher: Here.

Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Roman?

Roman: Here.

Yenise Jacobi: Also present for the record, Yenesi Jacobi, village clerk, Christia Alou, village manager. On behalf of Norman Powell-

Neil Kodsi: Neil Kodsi.

Yenise Jacobi: Neil Kodsi. Interim chief, Hufnagel, and Owen CFO.

Mayor: Great. At this time, I would like to just add to the agenda, our senator-elect, Jason Pizzo of Colton asked if he could just speak for two minutes, introduce himself and say hello before he gets sworn in. I said I would add him to the agenda before we go in for our budget hearing. If I can get a motion to approve the addition of the agenda for a G1 and then move the reso to G2.

Dreher: Motion.

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Mayor: A motion's been made by Councilperson Dreher, there's a second?

Roman: I'll second.

Mayor: All in favor [unintelligible 00:01:36] say "I"

All: I.

Mayor: The nays? Hearing on the motion for the agenda has passed with the addition. I would like to go ahead and acknowledge, we have representative Gordon Bell. Representative Gordon Bell representing, commissioner Edmunds's office. Thank you so much for being here. At this time, anybody including welfare, would like to come up and say anything?

Speaker 4: I know that you have to work on welfare. Should I come up?

Mayor: Are you going to talk about the budget?

Francis: [unintelligible 00:02:09]

Mayor: Are you going to ask this question about the budget?

Francis: Yes.

Mayor: You can do it at the second one because it's our first hearing, I'm going to close it anyway and I'm going to ask a couple of questions. When we go through the resolution and we explain it. I'm going to close the budget hearing, open up for public comments, is that okay Miss?

Francis: Sure.

Mayor: The hearing on good and welfare at this time, Senator-elect, Jason Pizzo, you can come up.

Jason Pizzo: Thank you very much.

Speaker 4: I hope he doesn't get [unintelligible 00:02:41]

Mayor: No, you still have to talk into it. You can wrap it if you like.

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Pizzo: I'll talk into it. Good evening, I'll be very brief. I just wanted to reintroduce myself. I was here a short time ago during the campaign, we are really awaiting the exporting on the 20th of November. I'll make myself available. Just remind me to give you a card right now. Just send me a text or written communication and any business that was left over from the prior representation, I'll make sure that it doesn't go unnoticed and makes sure that any pending or that you had conversations about will continue seamlessly as we take over from the State Senate. Thank you once again and I look forward to working with all of you.

Mayor: Thank you. Thank you for coming.

Pizzo: [unintelligible 00:03:23] Thank you, everybody.

Mayor: Thank you for coming. At this time, as you all know, this is our first hearing. There will be a second hearing. The budget that you all are being presented this evening is a budget that the CFO has sent to the council about a week or two ago with the opportunity for us to ask any questions. It's also a budget that we have attended, two workshops and have interjected our opinions based on town halls and so on and so forth. With that said, I'd like the attorney to please read the resolution into the record and then I'm going to go ahead and call our CFO to walk us through the budget.

Neil Kodsi: Resolution number 2018-23, Final adoption of ad valorem tax rate 2018, 19. A resolution of the mayor and village council of the village El Portal, Florida of Miami-Dade County Florida adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes of 8.3 mills which is more than the rolled-back rate of 7.57 mills by 9.64% for the village of El Portal of Miami-Dade County for fiscal year 2017, 2018 providing for an incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date.

Mayor: Great. Thank you so much. Owen, would you like to come up and walk us through a little bit with regards to ad valorem and the roll-back rating. A little explanation.

Owen: All should have a copy of the budget in front of you.

Mayor: Yes, go ahead.

Dreher: Is that the same version you sent [unintelligible 00:05:08]

Mayor: Nothing has changed, yes.

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Owen: Nothing has changed. [unintelligible 00:05:13] again, today.

Dreher: Today?

Owen: No change at all.

Clerk: Also present for the record, Vice Mayor, Nickerson.

Owen: Based on the profit [unintelligible 00:05:29] value of \$159 million, it resulted in ad valorem for this year, 1,000,255 we're only allowed to take 95% towards the ad valorem [unintelligible 00:05:38] and that gives me 1,000,255 for the current year. If you look at the budget, there is a summary on the first page, a consolidated summary. That really breaks down our budget into three parts.

The general fund, our special revenue funds which are made up of the special revenue fund, the forfeiture funds, stormwater fund and the park fund, and the debt servicing fund, which is a new fund we set up for this year to accord the repayment of the debt for the line of credits that we'd forgotten during the current fiscal year. With that, we have the vested final budget you see here.

As you know, last year the budget was three million between the general fund and the special revenue funds. This year it's six million because it's not that our budget really increased, it's because we have to report with FEMA reimbursement and the repayment for the line of credit which is like three million and change. Really we have the same three million we had last year combined with the general fund and the special revenue funds.

Based on the budget, that we have for next year, if you look at the first page, you can see that we are projecting that work. We have to borrow. The current fiscal year, the \$600,000 to cover the cost of hurricane Irma cleanup. We are putting back 771,000 next year once we get reimbursed. For what we've eroded out of the general fund reserve, we are putting that back in once we get the reimbursement. That's why the budget is a little different than it was in the prior year.

On the second page, we have the general fund budget which is in the form that you're used to seeing it, which shows the budget from last year, the budget for this year and what we're projecting for the following year. Are there any questions on it? Rather than going page by page, I guess what I'd like to do is ask, were there any questions on any of the departments that any of the council people would like to ask about?

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Now, the changes that we asked for during that second budget workshop that we had, whatever changed that we asked for were incorporated into this document. What you're looking at is the line items after the changes have been cleared.

Mayor: Does the council have the opportunity to review the budget.

Dreher: Yes ma'am.

Mayor: Which means that they have a half a budget and the only question that we asked the CFO manager. Do you have a question?

Nickerson: I always have a question. Even after our workshops, it was my understanding, I got informed that as far as the clerk salary, the clerk salary hasn't been increased in the last seven years. In the last three years.

Mayor: It's going to be three this November.

Nickerson: Three years, correct, I would just like to [unintelligible 00:08:48] this came about after our workshops, at least to my attention. I would like to bring it up to the rest of the council members back for discussion and considering perhaps an increase due to the fact that we have inflation, three years which is overall that's my personal opinion, she's been doing a pretty good job. She's been staying, even coming weekends, like this last weekend she had to come to and actually get out pretty much everything that we were doing today.

I would like us to bring for discussion for the rest of our council here tonight a consideration for an increase in her salary. Mayor, do you mind? To see if we could ask for your opinion and the rest of the council?

Mayor: Vice Mayor Nickerson and Councilperson Roman, comments before I interject.

Neil: I'm not in disagreement with the- -Councilperson Dreher, I would like to, and I think three years is a long time, I think that she deserves a raise with that aspect. I think that we're in a kind of difficult and different space right now, it's because the manager didn't get a raise but our code enforcement officer, he got a raise. Although our manager, much more recently than three years ago because she came on and she got a different kind of job description, it changed so then she got more at that point. It's a weird different dynamic than we are in right now, so I don't know if, I think she deserves it, I don't know if you guys would want to have that same discussion when we have the discussion about whether we keeping her part-time or

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full, because we haven't had that discussion yet. I don't know if you guys are going to wrap all that up the same time and let's say for example if we decide to keep her part-time, we say okay we still deserve to give her a raise at that particular time because she deserves it but she will stay part-time over that. We can wrap it all up at that if that time we'll just tackle everything for the clerk, but if the majority of the council was for giving her a raise right now, I wouldn't be against the fact that she deserves it, so that's where I am.

Mayor: Councilperson Roman.

Roman: I don't disagree that after a certain amount of time, because of cost of living, that there should be increases. I do believe that we are, we've had three different workshops where we discussed that we are not offering any raises and we cut back. I'm not certain that this is the right time at this moment. I'm not opposed to perhaps pushing yet another six months when we said we would review the budget again. I think that, if I'm not mistaken, her third year or fourth year or whatever it is, there's an anniversary coming up where she will have the opportunity to receive her reviews and then perhaps at that moment it can be determined for when we review the budget, midyear what we can do. I think looking at it, there are two different positions, a part-time position is one position and then the full-time position is another position. We've all agreed and we did a comparison with salaries throughout the county, and I believe that what we have budgeted, which is for a full-time position, it's appropriate. Again, her position has been part-time, she's just been putting in extra hours. That's kind of where I'm at, I just think that we've agreed to move forward in a certain direction in terms of salaries. We've had the opportunity to discuss that three times and I think that, in my opinion, we should move forward how we have discussed. That's it.

Mayor: I think we all agreed that there is time for raise, however, at the first budgetary is not the time to have we need to have this conversation. I think that when you're talking about an employed raise there's a lot of things that come with it. You're going to sit down with them, you're going to go over the evaluations, you're going to just sort to discuss that, and then bring it to the committee what their proposed raise would be, and then the committee would agree, and then it would go to council. It's not something that, this budget is going to pass tonight because we must balance a budget based on the taxes that we're going to be proposed to receive, but next four or six months there's always going to be an amendment to the budget. With the clerks anniversary coming up in November, yes it was brought to me as well that she had not received a raise but at the first hearing it's a disservice to her and it is a disservice to the position to just, "Okay we're going to do a 5% increase", because what if the council wants to do more? I think we need to sit down and have a conversation and bring it up to the admin and finance

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committee, which probably I think we meet again in November. Then at that point it will be discussed and then we'll tackle it together at that point we'll offer, "Do you want to stay part-time or do you want to go full-time", and yet through all that conversation we used that we had. There's nowhere that it says that it can't be retroactive. I think that right now with the first budgetary is a disservice to the budget hearing and a disservice to her. I'd like to propose that we take it to admin and finance committee, when it meets again, which I think is November if you want--

Owen: We meet next week.

Mayor: We'll be meeting next week? There's actually a meeting next week, so we can propose to bring it then to the admin and finance for full discussion, but have that full discussion at the first budgetary and it would be the place to finally have that.

Neil: [unintelligible 00:15:47]? Why would we want to bring this to the finance and admin, per that the budget here, each parliament we have a finance and admin? The clerk's salary is not within the finance and that's separate actually, village clerk department, it's a separate item here in the budget. My question is, why do we need to bring this to the finance and admin? I would like to--

Mayor: Because the village manor and the village clerk is at administration. There's no particular-- We could put village council under admin and finance if we want to see it there but the village clerk and the village manor manager, that's our administration. That's why it's always discussed there. There are even issues about the police department, even though it's public safety, that may be about salary. We're happy that would discuss it at administration and finance. Administration is the administration of the village and everything that falls under the administration that would be like the attorney, the clerk, and the manager. Those are the primary salaries in HR or whatever, but that's why there is no committee for village council. There's a committee for all of them because village clerk falls under administration.

Neil: I get that and I'm not part of the finance and admin committee. As far as the clerk, we force directly to council, I would like to be part of that [unintelligible 00:17:14] for the potential increase in salary as we have as well [unintelligible 00:17:19]. That's where I'm trying to get.

Mayor: Every single member of the council will be a part of the conversation because everything goes to full council.

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Neil: Because the council based on creating two votes and that makes the motion to come up to council, and that's taken care in the finance and admin.

Mayor: A council person jury, but when it goes to full council just that you can add, you can delete, you can recommend, what's recommended to the council. There's many things that recommended that is not necessarily passed and it's exact wording. You have the opportunity to interject and recommend anything on that. There's nowhere that it says that you can't do that because we can't have all five members sit in all the committees.

Neil: In my humble respect, my recommendation is to bring this through the council since I'm not part of the finance and admin [**unintelligible 00:18:14**]

Mayor: With all due respect, we followed charter. Therefore, with that said, this is going to go to committee and then what the committee recommends, will go to full council.

Neil: I will ask the lawyer to please provide where in the charter has that.

Norman: I'd have to go through the charter and look for it.

[crosstalk] [background noise]

Speaker 6: [**unintelligible 00:18:36**] the budget, we can see?

Mayor: Give me one-second, sir. With that said Neil, we're going to move on with the budget hearing. That's something that we can ask Norman to do it. We will proceed.

Norman: I think we're full charter now.

Mayor: With that said Erwin, can we give every member in the audience, a budget. Do you have copies of the budget? Can you give them copies of the budget? Are there any questions to the CFO as it relates to the budget? The proposed budget.

Francis: Is this on the website also?

Christia: Yes.

Mayor: Wait, I'm going to close it and everybody can come up after I close it. We're close it without voting on anything. Does the council have any other questions for the CFO?

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[crosstalk] Okay, hearing none I'm going to go ahead and close the public hearing on this particular item. Now you can come up and have any questions, you all have the budget on you now?

Paynes: We don't have time to look through all that at this point.

Mayor: You want to come up and ask us any questions, you're free to come up and ask us any questions.

Paynes: You'll have to [unintelligible 00:19:49]?

Mayor: Can you come up to and can you state your name and read, because it's out of order. You need to come up to the podium, please. State your name and address for the record.

Paynes: Harry Paynes 180- - Northwest 87 Street. No I just looked at a couple of pages right now. That takes a minute. That's not two pages.

Mayor: No, I agree with you. Was there something that was concerning you that you came here this evening for? Was it something that--

Paynes: I think it's on the docket, so, we'll get there.

Mayor: Okay, there's two items on the agenda which is the ad valorem which we're talking about right now which is the non-ad valorem that we all pay taxes on and then the next is non-ad valorem . Did you want to talk on the non-ad valorem or the ad valorem?

Paynes: Okay. I'm not astute on ad valorem or non-ad valorem. If you can get me a [crosstalk]

Mayor: Ad valorem is the tax that we receive annually raised on the tax accessible from the property homes. I think you might have walked in after the CFO read it. We have voted to keep the millage rate at 8.3 as opposed to rolling it back. The rolling it back would be 7.57 which would be a percentage of 9.64, so, we've kept the tax exactly where it was for the last four or five years.

Payne: Leaving it like it is not raising my taxes?

Mayor: No, it's not raising your taxes. The only thing that residents have called me on is that you may be paying slightly more and residents want to know why their taxes are being raised

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and it's not. It's based on your home value assessment. As home values go up, you're going to be paying a little more but as far as millage rate, our millage rate has been 8.3 for five years.

Payne: Well, everybody's property value has gone up, so, that means everybody is going to pay.

Mayor: For the most part, yes.

Payne: Okay, is that something you got to vote on or that's just something that's prescribed and we just have to say, "Yes." You're telling what's on?

Mayor: Which part we have to say yes? The military 8.3?

Payne: The part about the taxes going up and the increases, increased monies?

Mayor: Well, no, your home values have increased. There's nothing we can do about that. The only thing we do is determine the millage rate and the millage rate is 8.3, that will determine what each of us pay for our homes but that is what, yes you all can come in and say, "No, it should be lower, no it should be higher," and that we always discuss at the July council meeting.

Payne: Okay. If someone just throwing it out there, I can work it that fast. If someone had a house worth value \$450,000 if they bought it at \$80,000. What's going to be, not percentage, but the number dollar value that say me or whoever is going to pay more. I know you-- Just like I couldn't decipher that that fast, maybe you can do that that fast.

Mayor: No, it's not what you bought it but what is your home value is assessed on. That's when you receive the trim notice and it will tell you. [crosstalk] Yes.

Payne: Of course it's going up and that's my question. Can you say how much? Can you put a dollar value?

Mayor: I can't put a dollar value because if somebody bought their home for 80,000 I don't know what it's worth today. It all depends on--

Payne: That's what I said, you bought it for 80 and now it's, say you've been here 30, 40 years. You bought it for 80,000 now it's 350, 400.

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Mayor: Okay, you're saying that now it's worth three, I don't know what the math is [crosstalk] 8.3 and 400. [crosstalk]

Payne: Do you understand what I'm saying?

Nickerson: Yes, you're definitely right. There's actually been said, I don't know if you guys received it but there's a proposal of your credit taxes right? We're not teaching anything on the mileage rate right?

Mayor: Millage rate.

Nickerson: The millage rate. Just the property value, my increase, there's three columns in that specific proposal for a tax increase, you might want to look at it. At least from our side, we're just keeping the same, their proposal is to keep the same rate.

Payne: Basically whatever is going to go up, is basically a slam dunk. It's not something you can vote on, it's just-- It is what it is and you're going to have to pay more, correct?

Mayor: As long as our home values keep going up, we're all going to pay more.

Payne: That's one reason we moved here because it was a nice neighborhood, nice whatever. That's all part of it.

Mayor: I know what you're saying because my husband and I got our tax bill we're like, "Oh, we're paying more." Then he's like, "What do you mean did you raise taxes?" I said, "No, we didn't raise taxes, this is the property value have gone up but the millage rate has been the same."

Payne: Okay, what is non-ad valorem

Mayor: Waste management, garbage collection which has also been the same for probably at least seven years. It has not changed from the 320 that we were paying or 380. Sorry, 339. That hasn't changed.

Payne: Okay. The ad valorem, when will that take effect? Will you be advised when that change occurs?

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Mayor: We all were advised based on the term notice that we get but we have our budget hearing in September because we're government the fiscal year starts October 1st. It's for the next fiscal year not now. We all paid our taxes this year. We have to pay our taxes next year. Give me one second [unintelligible 00:25:23] [crosstalk]

Payne: We just got the real estate [crosstalk]

Mayor: Assessed. Yes, we all got. [unintelligible 00:25:34]

Nickerson: Any of your concern about the property value, the value that you're being assessed, you can actually, right now is the time, you can go to the Miami data office downtown and then you can actually get a true comparison how your home is being compared to other homes around the area.

I've done it myself, right now is actual time you want to take that notice that you got from the property tax at [unintelligible 00:25:59] take it down there and say ad valorem is pretty much it's staying the same but they also rate you on that home property value assets values. I encourage you to go over there, I've done it myself and they're going to tell you the logic or your home compares and rates to [unintelligible 00:26:17] [crosstalk]

Payne: Actually that's like a catch 22, oxymoron because you want your property value to go up but then you go down there you hope they assess you a lower value. You don't have a choice. [crosstalk]

Nickerson: For example, if your property value went up \$10,000 this year, your taxes are going up \$83. It's not a huge increase.

Payne: See, that's what I've been looking for. Real life numbers.

Speaker 4: It's 8.3 for every thousand. On a \$10,000 it's only going to go up \$83.

Payne: Well, that's a good start.

Mayor: Well, you have a nice home on 87th Street.

Payne: I may have more questions.

Mayor: No, no, please.

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Payne: I'm learning. This is not something you just talk about over the dinner table, ad valerom taxes. [laughing] and all that. And when it hits and if somebody puts a bug in your ear and I have a question. Why did some residents get a letter and some residents didn't? I didn't get one but two or three of my neighbors-- Or maybe I was amiss and I just didn't see it but normally when I see official documents from El Portal or Dade County or whatever I open them.

Mayor: You didn't get a letter from El Portal?

Payne: I did not. That may be me but I looked when someone brought it to my attention.

Mayor: I started getting the calls, I want to say the letter went out like two weeks ago--

Payne: Did everybody get one?

Mayor: Everybody is supposed to get one and it comes from manager.

Payne: Okay.

Christia: I did send it to a clearing council to send it out to all the addresses for the village. [inaudible 00:28:05] Right, it's--

Nickerson: Based on portfolio's that Dade County has.

Christia: Right, so it's--

Payne: I would check [unintelligible 00:28:09] records. Because where I live two or three neighbors didn't get it, that's why it set off a little--

Mayor: What I will recommend you-- Now I have a question since you've been here for a while, Mr. Payne, is the first year you don't get it or did you get it last year? Because this is another year.

Payne: I can't say for sure.

Mayor: Then just shoot an email to the manager and she can look it up or send it to the maybe the CFO so the county will take a look at why you're not getting a letter.

Payne: It's probably a paper trail somewhere where you can track, that's why [unintelligible 00:28:41] [crosstalk]

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Mayor: Got you, I get you. Yes but we all get the letter and it went out about two weeks ago. We're supposed to send the letter out.

Payne: Just like I left my alarm permit lapse because I wasn't aware it expires in September. You come up a couple of months later and you have an alarm and you get hit with that. But it's on me to know. You all put that in the website?

Mayor: Yes. The budget has been on the website.

Payne: Okay, well--

Mayor: No, no, no, don't worry about [unintelligible 00:29:15]

Nickerson: Just for clarity, the letter that I received is for my [unintelligible 00:29:19] date to the county appraiser not from the village manager so there might be a second letter out there I think--

Roman: I've never received a letter from the village managers.

Roman: Not in 13 years. [crosstalk]

Christia: I will follow up with the county and see what happens because I had to pay for those letters to be sent all of our residents. For me I think that's the village [unintelligible 00:29:43]

Mayor: That's a good check to see who we're outsourcing this to and whether they're doing the job. [crosstalk]

Christia: Thank you.

Mayor: No, no, no, we're not done yet. We have a little ways to go. [crosstalk] Okay, any other questions from anybody in the audience with regards to [unintelligible 00:29:57] your question--

Frances: Hi. My name is Frances Peeples. I live at 214 North West 94 Street. Not so much of a question as a request. I wanted to add to the budget another line item regarding trapping and transportation, of getting cats picked in El Portal. We have some clinics, some animal clinics that are doing free spaying and neutering for cats. We have about several hundreds of cats in El Portal. A community of feral cats, people complaining, they're overpopulated. We have

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been taking these cats to these clinics to be fixed but it involves trap cages, transportation, including gas. Sometimes there are tools involved if you go to the animal service center in [unintelligible 00:31:28]. I would like for us to add a line item in the budget for the transportation and trapping of cats to help resolve the problem we have in El Portal regarding the community animals.

Mayor: I think Council President Drew wants to say something but before he does, we had our former Vice Mayor Linda Marcus, it's a big thing that she did and she used to do three or four times a year. I think he's nudging on me because I think he's going to agree to potentially sponsor it. With that said, we can't put a line item right now on that but it's something that we can either use our discretionary or maybe there's anything in public affairs and I think he wants to add something.

Nickerson: Actually Frances did reach out to me about two weeks about the whole concern about the transportation and trapping of cats. I did provide as well for, requested Christian to provide from my discretionary fund and exercised-- It was seven, eight cats. I thought we'd have enough money but it would be great that at least for the upcoming year we may consider at least some sort of sponsorship, whether the rest of the council members or we can consider this into the line item, into the budget. I just want to get a feel for who's interested in definitely considering maybe how much Frances would you need for a year, and how often?

Frances: Well it depends on the number of cats but put the budget at let's say a budget of a hundred cats, which I think it doesn't have to be on the main expense budget to bring the feral or community cats to one of the clinics that are doing free neutering and spaying including rabies shots. Now the clinic in [unintelligible 00:33:35] includes distemper shots. This will help reduce the number of unwanted cats in El Portal. We have this opportunity. Miami Vet Foundation is sponsoring several nearby clinics one on the beach, on the Miami shores for this type of service, to reduce the population of these cats.

Mayor: May I make a recommendation? Could you get back to us and let us know if this is something we wanted to do quarterly or maybe bi-annually, twice a year, what that cost would be?

Frances: Well, I would say approximately, I'm going to stop at the \$20.

Mayor: Per cat needs?

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Frances: Per cat. Most companies would charge starting from \$50 up to \$130. All I want is some basic cost cover with traps, cages, gas, tolls, food and sometimes the cats need a little extra help with the vet and you have to pay for those types of services like de-worming or anything else. Basically, you're not making money but you could in a year.

Moderator: Yes, exactly.

Frances: For me and other people of my kind, I don't have the means to say, "Okay, I could take this cat that's been hanging around and let me get it fixed." One day they call me, get it caged, trapped. I'm not charging anybody, they do it themselves. I just want to help the situation in El Portal.

Mayor: May I make a recommendation? Because we are really not adding anything until maybe the mid-year, how about we the first time we think whenever council president Drew agree and we can get it done and it will come out of our discretionary. We can get an estimate of costs of what that's going to look like. Then in mid-year, we could look at what that would be and if added then what would work.

Frances: Well, what I would say [unintelligible 00:35:43] can do a hundred cats per year, \$2000.

Frances: I'm just giving a rough estimate.

Mayor: Okay.

Nickerson: Just to be clear here, I spoke with - we communicated, sent an email to Frances and Christia, that I was able to sponsor eight, nine cats that she already has incurred some costs, but their request is for the ongoing effort that she would like to have. That's why I'm reaching out to the rest of the council members to as well consider coming out from the discretionary fund or-- Obviously, the budget is, till the next six months as the Mayor says. But I know Frances, she does have some new efforts coming under the way and perhaps some other council members might consider as well sponsoring this effort that she has coming up with Newcastle. That's my question, what do you guys think as well?

Mayor: Does the council want to agree for the first time around issued to them in the next quarter to use your discretionary funds or be, leave it to be up to the council? It's their discretionary funds.

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Neil: I will have no problem using my discretionary funds but I think that there are other things because the house of the most signs. We talked about using our discretionary funds the Councilperson Dreher. Right? For that. And there was something else I know that came up which might use from our discretionary funds. We only have a certain limited amount of discretionary to use. I think my discretionary would be out between the house and the mud signs that we had indicated - we already promised them that. There's something else I forgot that came up a while ago, that we also set up to help out of our discretionary funds. That's the only thing.

Mayor: Yes. You're bringing this up to us tonight I know that, and we know that you've been in contact with council president Gray and the manager. Well we'll take a look at it and we'll see the point. Right now, I know he's done a few cats and that we'll probably be able to do one. For us to actually add it in, probably not until like the mid-year budget review. Right now we're not adding anything in the budget.

Francis: You said mid-year?

Mayor: Potentially, yes. There's something that the council now-- You have brought it to our attention. I agree there's a lot, there are so many dogs out there too that could - breaks my heart. I think that that's just the definite humane factor. We'll take that into consideration and we'll talk about it whether it's public works or public affairs with regards to that. Thank you. I know you do a lot for the cats, thank you so much. I know you do, I know.

Frances: I'll be containing them.

Mayor: I know you do, I know. I see it. Any other questions with-- Any other public comments? No? That's fine. I'm going to close public comments and I'll put a vote to the council. Again, for those that walked in, we have just read the resolution for the final adoption of the ad valorem tax rate which is staying at 8.3 as opposed to the rollback rate of 7.57 and it's a difference of 9.63. Any other questions for the council on this particular item?

Mayor: Okay. Hearing none I dub the motion to adopt resolution 2018-23.

Nickerson: Motion to adopt.

Mayor: Motion been made by Vice Mayor Nicholson, is there a second?

Roman: I'll second.

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Mayor: Seconded by council person Roman. Any further discretion? Hearing none, Madam Clerk, roll call, please?

Yenesi: Roll call. Council person Dreher

Dreher: Yes.

Yenesi: Councilperson Roman.

Roman: Yes.

Yenesi: Vice Mayor Nickerson

Nickerson: Yes.

Yenesi: Mayor Cubilos.

Mayor: Yes.

Yenesi: Motion passes further on. Present, for the record, council person Matthas.

Mayor: Okay. Next on the agenda is G-3, and at its resolution which is the final adoption of the budget. Now, we'll discuss the budget again. This final adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2018-19. Another opportunity to take a look and ask a question. If I could have the attorney please read it on the record.

Neil: Resolution number 2018-24. Final adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2018-19. A resolution of the mayor and village council of the Village El Portal, Florida of Miami-Dade County, Florida adopting and approving the annual operating budget of \$6,640,578 for fiscal year 2018-2019 providing, for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Mayor: Great. Thank you, Neil. We want to come back and just sort of walk us through that again so they can hear it again, and if the council has any question, again, that is the adoption of the actual proposed budget.

Owen: On the first page of the assembly page, the total budget is \$6.6 million. That's broken down between three funds. The general fund, \$4,198,000, the special revenue fund is \$1,087,000 and the debt service incline of \$1,354,000. Total budget of \$6,640,000. Of the \$6,000,000, what increases normally in our budget could be general funds is 3 million in

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change. This year it's 6 million. We've had to add in the FEMA reimbursement as well as the repayment to the line of credit which pushed it up to the 6.6 million. Those are just in and out because the money is coming in to service the debt, repay the debt and it goes back up again. Questions on the summary before I move on from there?

Mayor: Any questions about the summary for the council?

Owen: If we turn to the second page, we can see the general fund budget. There, you'll see the extent which is broken out by individual department. Behind that are the detail pages for each department as we went through in the first and second budget workshops. You'll see that the grand total is the same \$4.1 million we just saw on the summary page. It's just broken up by the individual departments. Up at the top you can see it's \$1,255,000. That was based on a property tax value of \$159,000,000 at our village rate of 8.3. We're only allowed, by law, to take 95% of that which comes to the \$1,255,000 that you see on the page here.

Any questions on the general fund, on the summary for the general fund? The next page we see all the revenues broken down. You'll see on the second page of the revenues if you flip over one more page, you'll see a miscellaneous revenue. There you can see the proceeds we've received with a line of credit for this year- the \$1,250,000. Then you'll see the repayment the following year. You'll see the hurricane reimbursement of the \$2.2 million at an average of about 85%. We're projecting \$1.9 for \$6,000,000 coming back from FEMA. Hopefully we'll be reimbursed for this fiscal year.

Any questions on the general fund revenues? From there, we go to the [unintelligible 00:43:45]. I'm not going to go through line by line. I'm going to read the park name and, if there's any concerns or questions, please bring them up. Village council department 511. Any questions on the village council budget?

Mayor: I have a quick question. I don't think I asked you this before. If you look at the front page, expenditures by department, like village council for 17-18 it says 36 195 then it says 496. Is that what you anticipate it's going to be in September 31st? Or that's where it is right now? Or that was the budget that we proposed last year? Just to make sure.

Owen: Hold on.

Mayor: The front page. Where it says, the last column is the proposed budget that we're proposing for the incoming fiscal year but the middle column, where it has the village council

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at 36 195 then the adamant at 496. Is that the budget we proposed last year? Or is that where you anticipate we're going to end this year?

Owen: I'm not sure where you're looking.

Mayor: Under expenditures. This page. The front page.

Owen: Which says general government?

Mayor: No, I'm looking at village council adamant finance.

Owen: That's the second page.

Mayor: I'm sorry. Second page. See where the middle column says general fund projected?

[crosstalk]

Owen: That's where we're expecting we're going to end the year.

Mayor: Okay. This is a projection of where we're going to end the year at?

Owen: Correct.

Mayor: I wanted to make sure it's not where we were at right now.

Owen: No. That's projected until September 30th.

Mayor: Got it. Thank you.

Owen: Are there any questions on village council before I move on to the next department? Hearing none, administration and finance, Department 513.

Mayor: I think it's important to note to the residents that are here that the difference in the village council is that last year we had made a recommendation to increase our annual stipend from \$3,000 to \$4,500 but, after Irma hit and we realized all the expenses that it was accorded, and we took a hard look. What we did was we cut back for everything for the incoming year. Now the village council goes back to \$3,000 a year as opposed to the \$4,500.

Owen: We also cut the mayor's travel budget.

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Mayor: The mayor travel budget. That's the difference of the budget that we're going to see.

Owen: Finance administration for 513. Any questions on any of the line items there? Department 550, planning and zoning. Small department. Basically, it's the same as the budget for the last year. 518 village clerk. Any questions on village clerk?

Speaker 5: I do have a question. Actually, I did send out to all of you regarding that the trim had, per advertisement, went up to \$7,000 and I think \$200 or something like that. For advertisement for next year, you guys put \$8,500. That's not even going to cover it because you have to also advertise ordinances and such and such that we have to do from time to time. I don't think the \$8,500 is going to be- as a matter of fact, the trim was going to be like \$9,500 and they gave us a discount.

Owen: We have two choices. We can either change it now and change the whole budget or we'll just change it mid-year. Based on what we originally budgeted, I'm assuming we have to raise it between \$5,000 and \$7,500 to get it going.

Speaker 5: Now?

Owen: Over what it is now. Up to \$13,500 and \$50,000 somewhere in that range.

Speaker 6: At least 15.

Mayor: I think it's easier to do it mid-year. I think that it's something that we might want to take a look at for next year to just leave it flat at 10. I think that's something we can do mid-year.

Speaker 5: Yes, I just wanted to bring it to attention again that that--

Owen: Public affairs. Department 519. Here, we've cut back pretty well. We cut back \$53,000 last year to \$19,600 this year. We've cut back quite a few of the events. Any questions on 519 public affairs? Police budget. Department 521. Questions? Next department. Department 529. Building code enforcement. Last department in general fund. Public books.

[background noise]

As you move on from the second budget workshop to make the changes here. We cut back on the tree trimming. We've eliminated the village hall repairs.

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Mayor: No, we eliminated the village hall updates.

Owen: Updates. Yes. Right.

Mayor: The village hall repair is--

Owen: More improvements.

Mayor: We've fixed the roof and the jail cell.

Owen: Questions on public works? From there, we move on to the new fund that we didn't have in the prior years which is the debt services department. You can see here the debt service is comprised of repaying the principal line of credit, the interest on the line of credit and what the projected debt service would be on the solar project next year. Next we look at the special revenue fund which is a local option gas taxes. Pretty straight forward. Next we look at our CITT funds, funds 105 and 106. 105 is transit. 106 is transportation. Any questions? Next we have our [unintelligible 00:50:38] fund. It's only \$175. We're going to skip over that. Let's take a look at Department 115. Here, we see the projections for the septic phase two and for some of our facility plans for the design which you can see is budgeted for next year.

Mayor: A comment. Where it says here, "septic to sewer", I see phase one, phase two, phase three. We might want to reconsider renaming that because a resident might see that and they might think, "Oh, wait, we're doing another area," because phase one is the area that was selected with [unintelligible 00:51:23]. It shouldn't say phase one, part two. Phase one, part three. Because phase two would be like the next area that we do.

Owen: Phase one was the time and the design. Phase two was the construction.

Mayor: It would be phase one, part two? If someone says, "phase two," They might be like, "Oh, you're doing a new area?" It's the same project. You get me?

Speaker 6: I would just take to the same nomenclature he's using. If we're saying design and construction, I would recommend we include that into the budget.

Owen: Maybe what I'll do is change the "phase one" just to say design and planning.

Speaker 6: Phase one plus design. Phase two-

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Owen: Phase two is going to be construction. We can just add that into the--

Speaker 6: She has a good point here. If we're still sticking with, phase one, where it's the design. Then phase one construction.

Owen: That's fine. I'll change the description. That's fine. The last one is the Forex fund, and that's just for the maintenance of the [unintelligible 00:52:23] and for the fountains. A small budget of \$1,720 coming in from the general fund to cover the expenditures. That's our entire budget. Any other questions?

Mayor: Does the council have any questions for the CFO before we open it up to the public?

All: No.

Mayor: It's a little more involved. Thank you for being as detailed as it is. I think it's one of the times I've seen it most detailed. It's a little harder to grasp at first but easier to understand the more you look at it. Before I open up to public comments, any questions for either the manager or the CFO on any department? Hearing none. I'm going to close the public hearing and open it up for the public. If you have any questions on the budget, you have an opportunity to ask us again on anything. Take your time. State your name and address for the record.

Harry: Harry Paine. 181 West 87th Street. To start- the village council. It's in the budget. Is that to have this forum here and you have it 12 times a year? Correct?

Mayor: We meet 11 times a year officially. August is 'a recess month.'

Harry: 11 times a year. The budget is \$41,000 almost \$42,000? What is that, for the lights, salary? What is that for?

Mayor: Look at page- it's department 511. The total compensation is \$15,000. The councilors get to receive \$3,000 each. There is also the board of retirement and the FICO which totals about \$4,000, \$3,300. There is travel in there because we do go to Tallahassee. The mayor's salaries travel is usually a little higher because he or she goes generally more to Tallahassee than the council.

There's coverage for our cell phones. We are each given a government cell phone. What we also were talking about earlier was the discretionary. We each get \$2,000 and we can spend it for packs or the backpacks or anything that a resident may have an initiative that they want us

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to help them support. That's what we use our discretionary for. The League of Cities is a membership that we all belong to. That's \$3,500. That's \$41,000.

Harry: When it says, village council, it's not for this meeting that happens 11 or 12 times a year. Correct? That's not what it means.

Mayor: No, not necessarily.

Harry: Okay. What is it? We went through a list of a bunch but you lost me there.

Mayor: The village council is us. When you look at Department 511, it goes through- does he have Department 511 in front of him?

Harry: This one. Yes.

Mayor: Village council is us. It's the five of us. Each of us receive \$3,000 a year.

Harry: That's salary.

Mayor: That's salary. Then the salary has the FICA and the FRS. Then there's a line for travel for \$6,000. The mayor generally gets a little more than the council but she or he goes to Tallahassee more. There is a phones total of \$5,000. The phones. We do have a discretionary which each of us are allocated \$2,000 and we can only use it for anything that's village related. For example, earlier today, Francis came up and talked about the federal tax. Councilperson Dreher agreed to pay \$200-300 out of his discretionary to that. That's really what we use discretionary for. It's nothing that we get reimbursed for ourselves. It's something we sponsor for a resident or for the village. Then the League of Cities is \$3,500. That totals \$41,927.

Harry: Okay. I just [inaudible 00:56:39]

Speaker 5: It's more than 11.

[crosstalk]

Mayor: This isn't a council meeting. This is actually a budget hearing. We meet as a council 11 times a year, not including August. As a committee, we meet six times a month every other month. Then we also have the mid-year budget workshop which is in July. In September, we have our two budget hearings. In September.

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Harry: That's part of your duties, right?

Mayor: Yes. Absolutely. That's not including special council meetings or anything like that.

Harry: Don't cry. All right.

Mayor: Thank you. Any other questions?

Dreher: I have a question here.

Mayor: Public comments. Any other public comments? Hearing none. I'm going to close it up back to the budget hearing. Councilperson Dreher.

Dreher: Last time we talked about the cell phones. We saw on the budget that there was different values being used. \$70, \$100. Just looking at the budget right now, could we consolidate that same standard number for the cell phones?

Mayor: I'm going to let the manager and/or the clerk answer that. I know that the last time we met, we wanted an answer by August 15th. I want to say, I think I got an email from Councilperson Roman that says it. Can we get an update as where we're at with the phones? It was all over the place with the phones, whether it was the police, it was us, it was the clerks, all of us.

Manager: Yes. I did send that to you on August 15th, a report that was prepared by our HR coordinator and myself. Marjorie Taporie worked with [unintelligible 00:58:20] because we had cell phone plans and a lot of different lines. We had to finally consolidate and understand where those lines were, who owned those lines where those phone numbers were allocated.

We have separated the police phone lines to the police department. The administration phones come to me. All of the council and clerk lines are with the clerk. Now they're separated out and we have the steady plan. We may be able to get a better rate. I'll have to check into it but it's no more than \$100 a month for each person's line. Sometimes it's a little less. We also have hot spots for our police officers. That may be another thing that's a little less than a regular phone line. They all have hot spots as well. We got it all ironed out. Every phone is allocated to a person who works for the village or is associated with us in some way.

Dreher: I read that. The question is related to the actual unit that we're using for the budget. I see here \$70 per month. I know, last time, we talked about specifically when we were

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reviewing the budget some of the numbers stated \$70. Some other areas stated \$100. I just want to make sure, before we approve, that we are using consistency when referring to the cell phones. Just want to make sure of that.

Manager: Maybe the village clerk. That's council phones you're talking about? Maybe there's a plan.

Clerk: What happens is that how it's divided it may show that the mayor's phone is the most expensive for \$100 and something. They just pick a line out of any random to put the main thing on it. It's a plan. The plan is a \$100 a month and each additional line will be \$50. They just pick a random line and then it doesn't necessarily mean that the mayor used \$150 towards that, it just gets broken into that way. The allocation for each council member was \$100 per council member. You either choose to have it or you get it. Most of you have it, except one of you doesn't. They get their part. That's the way it's the breakdown. I understand what you're saying, but there's no way of actually getting 70 here, 70 there because it depends on the phone at the time you buy it because now they change things around. Before it wasn't like if you pick a certain phone then it gets breakdown into your line, things have really changed how technology has changed and so on and so forth. You're welcome.

Mayor: Any other questions? Before I ask for a motion, anything else currently to add on this resolution? Okay, hearing none, is there a motion from the council to accept resolution 2018/24 to the final portion of the budget fiscal year 18/19 [unintelligible 01:01:18]?

Paine: I'm sorry. There was something that I wanted to address, but I [unintelligible 01:01:26].

Mayor: Give me one second. We're at the public hearing, do you have a question?

Paine: I wanted to address something, but I'll do it later.

Mayor: Okay. There's a resident that has-- As we close the public hearing standby. I will close the public hearing on the public comments, because Mr. Paine has a question.

Paine: Just a question about the nature trail. I believe we received monies I don't see it in the budget and it hasn't been done, where are you on the nature trail?

Mayor: That's two questions. You want us to let you know where the 20,000 is? I don't know if I'll be able to answer that.

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Owen: [unintelligible 01:02:05] it's not in the budget because we're not budgeting to spend it this year.

Paine: There's a hold up in completing it?

Mayor: Yes, there is. It took a while to get it through the school board and to get the agreement on it. As we wrapped up the agreement and all we had is to agree on where exactly the funds was going to go, Irma hit, and a brand new principal came into the school. Since the brand new principal came to the school, it's almost like we have started a relationship all over again. When we were dealing with Principal Haycock, everything was good to go, everything was above board, everybody was very happy, it was about to happen, and then Principal Lawrence come in and has put a hold on the project and has made some demands on the village with regards to what he would like to see happen before he would sign off on anything. That's where we are at right now.

Paine: It's up to the current principal as opposed to the county school board what happens to that property? That's not his house.

Mayor: That is exactly what actually each and every single one of us up here asked and I've sent an email to the school board member. I've had to wait after the elections because we have the same question. We would like to believe that it would go to the school board, but the email that was received that the manager sent us the principal has asked for ABCDEFG. We are working on that because now it's not just the nature trail, it's also subject to our project, because its all tied in together. Does that make sense?

Paine: Thanks.

Mayor: No problem. Good question. Any other questions, public comments? This is the time to ask. Hearing none I'm going to close public comments and open it up back to the council. Council, any questions? Hearing none, Neil, no not Neil, you already read the resolution into the record. Is there a motion to adopt, there's also a first reading and second reading that provides solution for the final adoption of budget fiscal year 18/19?

Roman: I'll motion to adopt it.

Mayor: A motion has been made by Councilwoman Roman, second by Councilperson Mathis. There's a motion, any discussion? Madam Clerk, could I have roll call?

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**Village of El Portal
Special Meeting
Date: 9/11/18
Meeting Start: 6:47 PM
Meeting End: 7:53 PM
Meeting Length: 01:06:14**

Clerk: Roll call Councilperson Dreher?

Dreher: No.

Clerk: Councilperson Roman?

Roman: Yes.

Clerk: Councilperson Mathis?

Mathis: Yes.

Clerk: Vice Mayor Nickerson?

Nickerson: Yes.

Clerk: Mayor Cubillios?

Mayor: Yes.

Clerk: Motion passes four to one.

Mayor: Okay. G4, this was the first hearing, there is a second hearing. The second and final hearing is set for September 25th at 6:45 PM. And every year its the same, its always been two hearings, and the hearings are the dates we don't select. The dates are selected based on where the county does its weekly board. It is set for-- what day is it? The 25th?

Speaker 5: It's a council meeting.

Mayor: It's a regular council meeting. Right before the council meeting at 6:45 is our second and final budget hearing. The budget is on the website. If any questions you still have an opportunity to come to ask at that meeting. Okay? Good and welfare? Anybody from good and welfare? Any comments from the council? Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Roman: Motion's adjourned.

Mayor: Motion are made by Councilperson Roman, is there a second?

Mathis:Second.

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Mayor: Second by Mathis. All of the same opinions say, "aye."

Speakers: Aye.

Mayor: Any nays? Hearing none, our first budget hearing ends at 7:53 PM. Thank you.

[background conversation]

[01:06:14] [END OF AUDIO]

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