



**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: The El Portal Regular Council Meeting for Tuesday, January 25th, 2022 is called to order at 7:00 PM. We're going to do a silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

[silence]

Speakers: 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 Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, may I please have roll call, please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Roll call, Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Present.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Martin?

Councilperson Darian Martin: Here.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Also present for the record Yenise Jacobi, Village Clerk, and Christia E. Alou, Village Manager.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, madam Clerk. I appreciate it. Next is the approval of the agenda, you guys. I personally have a change that I do want to make to

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the agenda. The short-term rental ordinance, I want to move that to February, only because Attorney Geller couldn't be here with us tonight, which is one thing. Second thing is that there's still conversation going back and forth about changes on that and so, he definitely needs to be here and we really need to see that with the most updated changes. It's just really too soon especially for a second reading. I would like to table that one and move that to February, and it might even have to go back to first reading, maybe. We don't know. We have to see.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Mayor, question. Do we move it back to first reading?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We're going to move the ordinance to February depending on what goes in or doesn't go when it comes out, depends on if we have to have a first reading. Between now and February how it gets adjusted, we'll see if it has to go back to first reading.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Excellent.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I also have a question. I wasn't able to give my input last meeting, because I was absent. I do have substantial input that I want to put forth. Should I do that in-between the next meeting or--

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You can do that in-between the next meeting or if you want to do it out in public, because there might be other questions that you have that other people might be like, "Oh, that's a great question," things like that. We want to do that public forum. We can take it back to first reading in February, and we can do that again the same way we did last last month, and then we can have the second reading with your changes and things like that updated. We can do that in March.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Okay.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We can do it like that. All right, you guys, I'm seeing nothing else. I think that's the only change I have. Does anybody else have any changes about the agenda before I ask for a motion to approve? Hearing none, do I have a motion to prove the agenda?

Councilperson Luis Pirela: I approve.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Motion moved by Councilperson Pirela. Do I have a second?

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Councilperson Darian Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Martin. All in favor say, "Aye".
Aye.

Speakers: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say, "Nay". Hearing none, moving on. Now, acknowledgment of visitors and-or special presentations. [silence] How's everybody doing? Quick switch, quick switch. All right. Right now, you guys, as I told you, guys, before and we discussed many times, Chief Mendez hit the ground running. [laughs] We're proud of him being sworn in, things that myself, the Village Manager, we've been working on for so long, finally start to come to fruition. I think I told, you guys, it was the last month of the month before, I said not only were we sworn in two officers, I said, not only do we have these two officers being sworn in, but we have more coming. I said we have more that are coming. That's what we're going to be doing tonight, and we're moving forward so quickly madam Manager, and just things that we've always wanted. We now have the extra officers at night time that our residents have been waiting for for so long. Chief Mendez is working hard. Officer Harrison is back there, he does a lot also with the hiring process and things like that. Chief Mendez, the floor is yours.

[silence]

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Good evening, everyone. I'm happy to say we have another two officers we're going to swear in now. I'm very happy to be part of this with you. Up, Officer Luigi [unintelligible 00:04:25]. [claps]

[pause 00:04:33]

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: I-

Officer Luigi: I, Luigi [unintelligible 00:04:54].

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -do solemnly swear-

Officer Luigi: -do solemnly swear-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -that I will support, protect, and defend-

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Officer Luigi: -that I will support, protect, and defend-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -the Constitution of the United States of America-

Officer Luigi: -the Constitution of the United States of America-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and of the State of Florida-

Officer Luigi: -and of the State of Florida-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and I will-

Officer Luigi: -and I will-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -in all respect-

Officer Luigi: -in all respect-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -observe the provision-

Officer Luigi: -observe the provision-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -of the Constitution-

Officer Luigi: -of the Constitution-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -of the State of Florida-

Officer Luigi: -of the State of Florida-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and charter of the Village-

Officer Luigi: -and charter of the Village-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -of El Portal.

Officer Luigi: -of El Portal.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: I will-

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Officer Luigi: I will-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -faithfully discharge-

Officer Luigi: -faithfully discharge-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -the duties on-

Officer Luigi: -the duties on-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -which I'm about to enter.

Officer Luigi: -which I'm about to enter.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Before I swear-

Officer Luigi: Before I swear-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -that as a police officer-

Officer Luigi: -that as a police officer-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -I will faithfully serve-

Officer Luigi: -I will faithfully serve-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and protect-

Officer Luigi: -and protect-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -to the best of my ability-

Officer Luigi: -to the best of my ability-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -all citizens-

Officer Luigi: -all citizens-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -regardless of race-

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Officer Luigi: -regardless of race-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -color or creed.

Officer Luigi: -color or creed.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: I accept-

Officer Luigi: I accept-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -by the Law Enforcement-

Officer Luigi: -by the Law Enforcement-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -Code of Ethics-

Officer Luigi: -Code of Ethics-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -as my standard-

Officer Luigi: -as my standard-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -of conduct-

Officer Luigi: -of conduct-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -both on and off duty-

Officer Luigi: -both on and off duty-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and swear to faithfully-

Officer Luigi: -and swear to faithfully-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -abide by-

Officer Luigi: -abide--

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: abide by-

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Officer Luigi: -abide by-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and defend the State.

Officer Luigi: -and defend the State.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Congratulations. [claps]

[pause 00:06:30]

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Steven [unintelligible 00:06:57].

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: I-

Steven: I, Steven [unintelligible 00:07:12]-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -do solemnly swear-

Steven: -do solemnly swear-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -that I will support-

Steven: -that I will support-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -protect, and defend-

Steven: -protect, and defend-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -the Constitution of the United States of America-

Steven: -the Constitution of the United States of America-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and of the State of Florida-

Steven: -and of the State of Florida-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and I will-

Steven: -and I will-

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Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -in all respect-

Steven: -in all respect-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -observe the provision-

Steven: -observe the provision-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -of the Constitution of the State of Florida-

Steven: -of the Constitution of the State of Florida-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and the charter of the Village of El Portal.

Steven: -and the charter of the Village of El Portal.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: I will-

Steven: I will-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -faithfully discharge-

Steven: -faithfully discharge-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -the duties on which I'm about to enter.

Steven: -the duties on which I'm about to enter.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Before I swear-

Steven: Before I swear-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -that as a police officer-

Steven: -that as a police officer-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -I will faithfully serve and protect-

Steven: -I will faithfully serve and protect-

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Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -to the best of my ability-

Steven: -to the best of my ability-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -all citizens-

Steven: -all citizens-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -regardless of race-

Steven: -regardless of race-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -color or creed.

Steven: -color or creed.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: I accept by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics-

Steven: I accept by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -as my standard of conduct-

Steven: -as my standard of conduct-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -both on and off duty-

Steven: -both on and off duty-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -and swear to faithfully-

Steven: -and swear to faithfully-

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: -abide by and defend the State.

Steven: -abide by and defend the State.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Congratulations. Let's take a pic over here, please.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Now, what we'll do is we'll do the Council and we'll do the officers and everybody.

[pause 00:08:47]

[background conversations]

Councilperson Darian Martin: I can't even see myself.

[laughter]

[background noises]

[background conversations]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Don't go too far chief. All right, thanks everybody for that. Next up is Good and Welfare. Right now, if anybody has any comments, anybody from the audience has any comments about anything that's on the agenda, you can come up. You have three minutes, you can say whatever you want to say, just state your name and address for the record. There will be another Good and Welfare at the end, and when we do each agenda item you guys will have a chance to talk at that particular time, all right. Seeing that for Good and Welfare, let's keep moving on. We've got a consent agenda with the minutes. Do I have a motion to approve the minutes for December 14, 2021?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes, so moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: So moved. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I'll second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Vice Mayor Urbom, second by Councilperson Martin. All in favor say, "Aye."

Speakers: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say, "Nay." Hearing none, the consent agenda is approved. Next is agenda item H1. This is where we need the Chief, Chief Mendez. I know that this is for police department, laptops and printers, things for the police department. I

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know we're trying to get the three quotes in time, but we couldn't. Therefore-- He did want to discuss it. Do you still want to discuss it, Chief?

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: So long as our members know, the guys know that we're on it and [unintelligible 00:11:51].

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We're on it. We haven't forgotten about it. We have all the information, not only for the printers and for the laptops, but also for the gun situation. We have all that, and all will be in the February meeting. I'm going to have the resolutions done up. All right. We'll be able to vote on it as a Council in the February meeting. February meeting, be ready to give all the details, and we'll give you a vote. Thank you very much, Chief Mendez. As always, you're doing a wonderful job.

Police Chief Alejandro Mendez: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right, moving on to-- Is there anybody have any words about that? All right, moving to February. H2 is potholes, street repair, phase two discussion. First, I just want to say thanks to Manager Alou, who works with me hard on everything that has to do with everything throughout the Village. Also, wanted to give a special thanks to Councilperson Pirela, who always is on top of things when it comes to public works, potholes, street repair, and things like that. The reason why I had this on the agenda is just because we've already done phase one. You guys, we did phase one, I believe it was March 2020.

I mean, 2021. It's almost been a year since we did phase one. The money is there. We can only use it on street repair and things like that, it can't go anywhere else. Like I said, it's almost been a year for phase one. Not everybody gets it, but myself and the Village Manager, we get all the phone calls about the street repair. There's no reason not too deep in the phase two. The reason why I have this here is so that you all, between now and February, you go back, if there are any potholes or street situations that you know about. It might be on your block or the block over, and things like that, you email that address to the Manager.

When we come back in February, we'll look or we'll see how much money we have. We'll look over the locations that everybody came up with, and we'll decide as a Council which locations are more critical. Therefore, those will be the ones that we'll do for phase two. That's the only reason why I have it on here, so you guys come back and do that. I know

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there's information about street repair that's going on right now, because we've been doing the construction over in El Jardin.

Right now, before I move on to the next item, if there's anybody-- I see Ms. Ruby is here, I see Ms. Coalinga here. If there's anybody who wants to come up and talk about anything dealing with street repair or what's been going on and why it's so important that we move forward on this in February, now you can come to the podium say your name and address for the record and the floor is yours. No? Seeing none.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mayor?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: May I address it?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Since we've been doing pothole repairs and whatnot, we've got some villagers that think that the right of way is part of that. I'd like to go on record that we do not do easements. We, the Village, is not responsible for-- The boundary line would be how ever your trees are planted, that the Village planted the trees. Anything closest to your house is your responsibility. Not potholes, and-- What are they calling that thing? What?

Village Manager Christia E. Alou: The parking square.

Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes, the parking square, none of that. Those are not what we do, and unfortunately, I was not available for a villager that made a complaint, a very stringent complaint to the Village Manager. Which is the proper thing to do, is to annotate that so that she can bring it to our attention, but that we found out that that's not part of what's going on. Folks are seeing the potholes being done and they're thinking that it's supposed to be on the right of way. No, ma'am. No, sir. They will not repair what's on my side of the trees. That's my boundary.

Whatever the trees this Village planted, whether you all wanted them or not, if it's anywhere where the trees we planted on the roadside, we'll repair it. What we will not repair, potholes and whatnot in your driveway, along the sidewalks. Those of you all that have sidewalks. We

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will not do that. That is not part of the right of way. Anyone have any questions about that, please feel free to always call the Village Manager. She's very well knowledgeable of that program and why we are doing it and have continued to do it. Am I right? For several years. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Anybody else from the Council or anybody from the audience? Very good. Hearing none. Moving right along, we don't have the I1 anymore. We're moving on to I2, the ordinance for signs, standards and regulations within the Business Corridor.

This is pretty self-explanatory, Camila from Plusurbia, you can come up very briefly if you want to. We went over this first, and thank you for Councilperson Martin's planning and zoning a couple of months ago. We went over this, and there's paperwork, the documentation that shows exactly what the signs, standards and regulations the Business Corridor is all about. Camila, if you just want to give just a brief overview.

Camila : Sure.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Attorney Geller has joined us from Tallahassee via phone. Yes, read that for us Attorney Geller, ordinance I2.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, sir. I2, an Ordinance to the Village of El Portal, Florida. We're waiting to sign some advertising revising chapter 24 signs, standards, and chapter 19 signs and advertising. Adopting a new article 10 of chapter 24 Appendix B as provided here, providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for conflict and reviewer, providing for clarification, providing for severability, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate that, Attorney Geller. Thank you very, very, very much. Camila, before you go on, there is something that I did want to say, which is I think it was under the chapter 19 signs and advertising sheet, where it starts with the footnotes. Where you see the section 19-1, where it says real estate, temporary signs, permit, fees, display.

Under A, it says, "It shall be unlawful to erect any billboard, sign or advertisement of any nature whatsoever within the Village. Provided that the Village Clerk shall issue upon request." I think that needs to be changed. The Village Clerk doesn't issue for those items. It

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will be the Building Clerk. Not Village Clerk, but Building Clerk, is what it should say. We have a Building Clerk that does that. I was going through stuff, and 'Village Clerk.'

Camila: Noted. Thank you, Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Besides that, I think we're good. Just give us the brief overview, Camila.

Camila: Absolutely. Good evening, Council. This ordinance for amending sign regulations, consolidates the two other sections in the code and brings them into this new section within the Form Based or the Zoning Code, and addresses specific signage requirements for businesses. It also addresses nameplates for residential uses, but mostly it's more specific about what is required of signs in 2nd Avenue which is Zone 4, and the annexed area east of the tracks which is Zone 5.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, our Business Corridors. If you look at the pictures that they have there, you see that what we will be allowing in our Business Corridors are really tasteful signs. As I said last meeting and I think the meeting prior to that also I wanted to do this and have this done, because businesses and companies are coming into our Village. That's something that we know we're really pushing to try to do. I don't want north east 2nd Avenue to turn into a line of bright neon signs up and down northeast 2nd Avenue.

I want to keep our feel of a Village. If you look at the pictures, you see that the signs are very likable and they're very nice to see the way that they will be taking place. Does anybody from the Council have any questions about the signage in the Business Corridor? Anybody from the audience have any questions about the signage in the Business Corridor? Okay. Seeing none, do I have a motion to approve ordinance I2 sign, standards and regulations within the Business Corridor?

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: This is second reading, right?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, it's the second reading.

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: Okay, so move.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Motion moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

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Councilperson Darian Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Martin. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call, please? Yes, I did.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: This might be our quickest meeting ever since, you guys. Look at this. Let's keep trucking y'all. All right. Here we go. The next is resolution. Don't speak too soon. Knock on wood, somebody. All right. Here we go. Let me just say this. This is the funnest Council, you guys. It's never been so good. I'm honored to be up here working with you guys as a Council member.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: [unintelligible 00:22:15] and read I3?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Go ahead and read I3, the Village-wide text notification service. Attorney Geller, I appreciate it.

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Village Attorney Joseph Geller: The resolution of the mayor and the Village Council of the Village of El Portal Florida in Miami-Dade county Florida, selecting a Village-wide texting service for the Village of El Portal Miami-Dade county, providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for an effective date.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. Thank you very much. Okay, so you guys this can go one of two ways, we could either acknowledge that we want a Village-wide text notification service and we put trust in the Manager that the Manager will pick the most costly efficient and best one in quality as far as best one. All we're doing is we're saying we want one, that's what the resolution's for, or if you guys want to we can take the time and go through it ourselves and pick it ourselves, or do we leave it up to the management? It's up to you guys. We could do it either way.

Councilperson Darian Martin: I would probably leave it up to the Manager. I'm sure that she is more than capable of selecting the option that is best suited for us and that's how I would do it.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely. I definitely agree with you, Councilperson Martin. That being said, do I have anybody who doesn't want to do it that way or do I have a motion to approve resolution I3?

Councilperson Darian Martin: I thought you already did that?

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: Motion.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Motion moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'll second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Vice Mayor Urbom. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call please?

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Darian Martin: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

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Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: Motion passes five to none.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much you guys. This is going to be great for our residents. Is anybody else from the audience have anything they want to say about the text notification? We're good? Okay. Moving on to the mayor-Manager committee and attorney reports. [unintelligible 00:24:16] Madam Manager, your report.

Village Manager Christia E. Alou: Oh, okay. Thank you. We're busy and we stay busy, but since we're having a quick meeting tonight, the building department is now staffed. We have two full-time Building Clerks, Gretel and Anazia are being led by Pedro Martinez who is our building official. They are working. They're getting a lot done and organizing the whole department. It's clean, it's being digitized. That project is moving forward. The document management system is now installed and in place and now they're scanning all documents.

The building department will be digitized within the matter of a couple of months now. We're happy about that. That's going to add a lot of value to the work we do, the service is going to be improved faster, everything's online. The capabilities are just going to be endless. We're really happy about that and they're moving right along with that. Speaking of staffing, our public works department is now staffed.

We have a part-time public works director, Mohan Thampi who is a senior engineer with CAP government and now we have our technician identified. The public works technician who will be here full time, his name is Carlos Aguera. He will be starting work next week, but coming in tomorrow to meet with me and to start a little bit of an orientation, so he can

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

hit the ground running. Now that we have those people all in place, we're ready to start kicking off some of our projects.

We've been working on the critical facilities hardening grant. I had a very long meeting about that today with our engineering team as well as our consultant Robert Romano. We're managing those grants and working to get some of these reports done and things completed. We're going to be doing a parks renovation kickoff meeting in February with Councilperson Pirela and the Miami-Dade county parks and recreation department as well as the historic preservation department and the archaeologists for Miami-Dade county.

We're also going to be pulling in the tribe that has oversight over Tequesta burial mound. All the players have been identified and have been RSVPing. We're excited to have that kick off so we can get that project started. We have Mr. Orlando Rubio here with us. He's our senior engineer with Craig A. Smith. The Craig A. Smith Associates and the El Jardin project is finished on time. Items have been put back in place per contract and now we're looking to do some resurfacing with any extra grant dollars that came from that project.

That's exciting too. The Village is on the move and things are changing quickly. You see we've got a fully functioning electric shuttle bus that's going to and from downtown. FDOT is pleased that we have the project already started finally, but we just need the ridership. We really need to push forward with that and I know the vice mayor would like to do a special project and make a video so that we can really promote it. We want to do that in the coming weeks as well.

Lots of things happening and my report will be online as soon as I get my computer fixed. I apologize for the delay in that, but there was a little issue today. It'll be fine. We're able to pivot. If there are any questions, I'm here for any questions or comments, but that concludes my report for now.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much madam Clerk. I appreciate that. Thank you Mr. Rubio for being here. I know that you came just in case anybody wanted to hear anything about El Jardin, but I think we're good. Does anybody want to hear anything about El Jardin at this particular time? We're good? Okay. All right. I just want to say a couple of things you guys. First of all, I was able to have a meeting and go to the swearing in for Miami Mayor Suarez. Got a lot of stuff done there.

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

We also had a community housing and a public housing community development block grant, a CDBG meeting about the sewer. That's moving forward. We had that meeting also included with the county was also there. We had a Cavista meeting. The owners of Cavista they met with us back there a couple weeks ago. They're talking about so many different things to where they're moving forward. They're pulling more permits which means that we're getting more money.

When we had we had the meeting, madam Manager, they said that they're going to take care of all the funding, because they want to do a groundbreaking. I told them I said, "We all need gold shovels and the hard hat so we can do the picture." Expect that to be coming. They said they'll take care of all that and we'll do that, so when that comes I'll reach out to you guys or we'll reach out to you guys we'll let you guys know about that so we can all be there for that. That'll be a fun day. What else happened?

The South Florida water management district put out a 82-page report. The Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force went through all 82 pages. It took us a while. Went through all 82 pages. Highlighted the parts that were about El Portal, wrote a response letter and telling them that they should focus on these aspects. A day later we got a response, Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force got a response and said that they're going to be putting that in their next report. The El Portal highlights were going on there next. Official county report. All right, so they're updating it, because of our Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force. They're updating their entire report, because of that. We appreciate that. Myself and the Village Manager had a meeting, Camilla, about some new investors coming in. It didn't really work out, because it was like a conflict, but we're going to get back to that meeting. We get interest all the time about this little farm. The former trailer park, you guys. A lot of interest, all right. A lot of interest. The last one that was really viable was when we had individuals, and whenever we get on there we told them that we don't want super high density-- I spoke to you guys before about the rapid transit zone that's also out there, but the last individual that we spoke to they said, "Okay, this is how they would want to do it." They said they would do it so that our residents won't be looking out to huge skyscrapers 50 feet in the air. They said that on the Biscayne part, right along Biscayne is where they'll build their highest and most densified buildings. As they come back towards El Portal, they'll get lower, lower and lower to where-- The other side of the train track would be single family homes, for a couple of layers. Then we'll be town homes. Then as it goes out to Biscayne, that's when you'll find more of the density, so that our residents will be protected from looking up to huge skyscrapers in their face. They said that they will do it that way even though the

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

rapid transit zone situation is how it is, they will still respect what our residents- would do best for our residents. That's the last viable one when it came to that, which we appreciated that.

Councilperson Luis Pirela: Now mayor, let me ask, I have a question. Also is that piece of land the same situation that the rest of businesses over there where the piece of land that's closer to Biscayne as Miami and then [unintelligible 00:32:08] is El Portal?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, which is why along the Biscayne corridors is where they'll build their highest. Even though with the rapid transit zone, they might be able to go super density or close to us, they said they wouldn't, because they want that gradual elevation as you get out of El Portal, so that this part of El Portal town still maintains its small community feel.

Speaker: [inaudible 00:32:33]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No, this was the first discussion, because-- There's so much interest being shown in that place that there's like a competitive bid out right now and they're part of that bid.

Speaker: [inaudible 00:32:49]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Excuse me?

Speaker: [inaudible 00:32:58]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, no, the trailer park, yes, we don't own the trailer park.

Speaker: [inaudible 00:33:03]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, yes, that's exactly what that is. Yes, thank you. You guys all know what's going on with the skateboard park. Oh, I want to say thank you to Councilperson Martin, she partnered us with a great event the Stroller derby this past Saturday. I was able to go. I told everybody that I was there as your representative, that you sent me there as your representative. I just want to say it was a great event. Got a lot of connections from that and a lot is going to be coming out of that. Myself and the Village Manager also had a meeting last Friday, I believe it was, with multiple number of mayors and city Managers and things like that. A lot came out of that. Let me just say this, I'm going

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Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47

to put this out there, there's a little- it's in the works. El Portal residents have been waiting a long time, madam Manager, for us to get a discount when we use Miami Shores facilities, I fell fall hard for that, and it's coming down the pipe. All right, so to be able to use the Miami Shores facilities, their rec center, their water parks and things like that, we're going to get a discount for that. It's halfway done. Hopefully it goes the entire way, and this is part of-- I have this vision that I've been doing, and they know this, that I've been going to commission and Council meetings for every different municipality, just to connect, because I have this whole thing from east to west. I want to connect from east to west. All municipalities can start to work together and start to really like do things together, whatever. This was part of that. Like I said, we have multiple mayor's out there and city Managers. Our Village Clerk, you guys, on behalf of El Portal, went out one night she went out to a meeting in Hialeah for that exact purpose. I kind of look at this stuff as best practices myself and the Village Manager went to a Miami Shores meeting, I went to the Biscayne Park meeting, I'm going to a city Miami meeting soon, I'm going to a Doral meeting coming up the week after next, I believe. We're doing all this, I go to all these meetings. I introduced myself and I say, "You guys, I just want to connect." I have to connect all these municipalities so we're not all separated. This is part of that, okay, this part of that. All right, so I appreciate that. That's pretty much all for my report for this month. Thank you very much, you guys. Thank you. I appreciate it. Moving on, the Village Attorney reports. Attorney Geller.

Village Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, sir. I'll be very brief. Nobody has sued us lately and we have not found it necessary to sue anybody lately. The only thing I would add to that is in view of the Omicron, which is spreading like wildfire, mayor, and people are concerned about it. I would ask the Council to consider doing a zoom hybrid for February, and then let's see where we stand there, but a lot of people have cancelled meetings and tried to get away from things. This is a terrible one. I'd ask ask the Council to consider seriously having going back at least just for the February meeting and then we can see where we stand by the time we get to that meeting.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: What I would say is since we're at the end of this meeting, it wasn't on the agenda to be voted on. What I would say is that we address that in February for the possible March meeting going forward. All right, okay. Any questions about that? Moving on to Good and Welfare, anybody have anything that they want to say right now you guys can come up say three minutes, you guys give your first and last name you can talk about anything that you want to talk about at all, it could be about whatever. I was like if you

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

guys have something you are going to say madam Manager go ahead and do your thing. All right, hearing none, yes, Ms. Caolinga.

[background conversation]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You felt it.

[laughter]

[singing]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Well, that's apropos, because I don't celebrate my birthday at all. This works out perfectly.

Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi: I use it for therapeutic [inaudible 00:37:23] anything.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Don't even stress it. We're good. Don't worry. We're good. You guys are too much. Thank you very much. Well, I appreciate that. Let me just say thank you. Thank you very much to the Clerk for doing that and doing this, I appreciate that. Thank you very much Madam Manager, she did give me two gifts she got me a card that was very nice and it was very heartfelt your card. Thank you very, very much. I appreciate that. Let me just say very quickly, I haven't celebrated my birthday in over two decades. I'm a weird person and stuff like that. Let me just say, like this means a lot to you guys, because-- Quick little story. My birthday is January 16. Shout out to all Capricorns out there, so my birthday January 16th, I remember when I was 13 going into Christmas when I was 13 years old, I asked my mom for Christmas present. I asked her for a weed whacker, a lawn mower, and an edger, when I was 13. When I turned 14 In January, January 16th, I went around to all the people in the neighborhood asked for \$10 to cut the front yard and \$10 to cut the backyard. That's the last for anybody for any like, the lawn equipment I asked from my mom so that's the last time I asked anybody for anything, but I'm bringing that up, because it leads into when I was also 14. Like I said, you guys know I have a weird mind. When I was also 14, I started to just feel like, which is why this means so much to me what you guys are doing tonight, because I started to feel like well, maybe, like for me personally, my birthday shouldn't be celebrated until it's a reason why it should be celebrated. I used to always think like, "Well, me being born and me being on this earth, if I don't affect society in some positive way, then why should my birth be celebrated?" I was thinking about- and this part of my history vice mayor Urbom- I think about like my history education, I think about

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

individuals like-- For lack of a better individual like Hitler and things like that, if they weren't born the world would be a better place, so their birth should not be celebrated. I was like, I want to be able to go through life and I want to be able to affect society in such a positive way that one day individuals would deem it necessary and that it's okay to celebrate my birth and the day that I was born. I appreciate that you guys and that's the reason why I'm pretty much having celebrating over 20 years, but hopefully I'm moving forward and doing things in society that are positive. That being said, thanks for everything, Ms. Coalinga, the floor is yours. Name and address for the record and the floor is yours.

Juliana Coalinga: Hi, my name is Juliana Coalinga, 8650, Northeast Miami court. I have a couple of things. One, first of all, I want to thank everyone here, the Council and also the Manager for assisting us with our street repairs, I really appreciate just the communication and that alone speaks a lot and I really appreciate that. I know there's a lot still yet to be done. Things that we need to finalize so I just wanted to let you know that. Secondly, I wanted to ask regarding the bridge. If you guys had an update about the bridge that is something that has been looming around for a while and I haven't seen anybody there, work seen anything progress with that. I just wanted to find out about that and happy birthday.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very very much, Ms. Coalinga. I'll let Madam Manager that I know that there was a situation going on with counsel-- Well, Commissioner Hardiman is the one that's one of his projects, but construction was stopped and there was something going on with the construction company or the permits or something like that Madam Manager, you might know a little bit more detail.

Village Manager Christia E. Alou: I don't mind telling Miss Coalinga and the rest of the community, the bridge at North Miami Avenue they're at a standstill there's no change from the updates I've been received. I usually try to beg for a response from them once a month, but I haven't gotten an update for the last month, but in December, there was no change at the North Miami bridge, Miami Avenue C7 bridge. According to the Miami Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works, the bridge reconstruction project remains halted, because soil conditions do not allow for the implementation of the canal bank slopes originally permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. Therefore, the county's Design-Build team developed an alternative solution for the canal embankment protection and is in the process of obtaining the permit modifications required for the new design.

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

Once these modifications are approved by and permitted, the bridge construction will resume, but it's been months. It hasn't maybe they haven't been allowed or permitted, but yes, it's an eyesore, it's a hazard, we all have to drive through that so I continue to call and just they can tell us something, I put this out on the Village website every time I get an update. I'll continue to do that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Like we say, it's a permit situation, you guys. That's just--

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: I appreciate much the Village Manager's report. Is it possible that we could ask them to come to talk with us that we have it on record, because it is-- the fact that the inquiry had to be made from us, as opposed to them providing for it, for benefit of the Village concerns me. I know we're little, but we're still a Village. We're still a municipality so if they could get someone out here to explain to us so that the general public can also know that this is not a stop-work hitch situation, this is more of a technical based on safety, that's what I'm hearing if I had to put it in layman's term. That's what it sounds like to me, but if this had been on Virginia Key, Miami Beach, and other small areas, it would have been screened better. It would have been placed decently, because all we're seeing is what looks like an abandoned state project. Is it state?

Vie Mayor Anders Urbom: County.

Village Manger Christia E. Alou: What is it?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: County.

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: This is a county project. This is a county project the road repayment is-- Okay. We have county people or we have a contractor doing it.

Village Manager Christia E. Alou: I don't know who's doing it for the county, but it is a completely a county project [crosstalk]

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's still Commissioner Hardiman's office.

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Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47

Village Manager Christia E. Alou: Right. Okay. Also, it's not in El Portal proper, but it affects us. That is what why keep pushing it, but it's not even in [unintelligible 00:44:54].

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: Because the bridge is our link, not our property or in our municipality. Notwithstanding, when the 95 Expressway was going up, there were barriers that were placed. That will suggest that the work is continuing, as opposed to it doesn't have proper signage. The signage in itself bothers me a lot. They don't need to tell the story that we can't drill down into the soil, because it's not stable, blah, blah, blah. They don't need to do all of that, but they do need to notice that it is a hazard area, because the children are going to school, they're curious You know what I'm saying to the extent that they can provide the county with a written report provide it to us as well, because it is an eyesore right now. Not only that it's accessible. It's extreme is easily accessible, someone may think that they can have a party right there. It's on the waterfront, any silliness, but is not cornered off from a safety test standpoint.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I have one more comment. Additionally, the bridge has been replaced for a reason so do we have any assurances on how much longer they consider the one side to be viable?

Councilperson Dr. Ann E. Lightfoot-Ward: The other side not?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: As well as with the in light of the two-way traffic, which is a greater strain on that side that's always had one way. It adds up the different forces.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, the Manager Alou, ask them and-- All we can do is ask and see what--

Village Manager Christia E. Alou: All that we can do is ask, but that makes a good point, because that's that side is even test more, because all of the traffic is on that side now and we did have motorists go into the canal on that side just a few months ago with the officer Lopez rescuing a woman. I brought all of that to the county, but I'll definitely put that out there to them in this request for this month.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely, thank you very much, Madam Manager. For Eskimos to adjourn, anything else from the Council? Anything else from anybody out there? No. Seeing none. All right. Thank you, guys. I appreciate it. I do have a motion to adjourn. Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

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**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 1/25/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:48 PM
Meeting Length: 00:47:47**

Councilperson Darian Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Martin. All in favor say, "Aye."

Speakers: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say, "Nay." Hearing no nays, the real Council meeting for Tuesday, January 25 2022 is adjourned at 7:48 PM.

[00:47:47] [END OF AUDIO]

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