



**Village of El Portal
Regular Council Meeting
Date: 05/24/22
Meeting Start: 7:00 PM
Meeting End: 7:39 PM
Meeting Length: 00:39:19**

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. The regular council meeting for Tuesday, May 24th, 2022 is called to order at 7:08 PM. We're going to have a moment of silence and meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

[pause 00:00:24]

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 Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Clerk Jacobi is not here today. She's at a conference in Arkansas, a clerk's conference, educational conference and Attorney Geller is Tallahassee today. Madam Manager, could you call roll call for me, please?

Village Manager Alou: Yes. Councilperson Darian Martin?

Councilperson Martin: Present.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Anna Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Present.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Luis Pirela?

Councilman Luis Pirela: Here.

Village Manager Alou: Vice-Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Present.

Village Manager Alou: Mayor Omar Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Here.

Village Manager Alou: Mayor, you have a quorum.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Village Manager Alou: Oh, I'm sorry. Also present, Christia Alou, Village Manager.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: The Village Manager. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. We have Full moon behind the camera. Shout out to full moon. Next we have approval of the agenda. Is there a motion to approve the agenda? Motion moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Is there a second?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'll second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Vice-Mayor Urbom. All in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say nay. Hearing none, moving on. Regarding welfare, this right here is a time where anyone from the audience can come up and talk about anything that's on the agenda. Also, you guys, be aware that once we get to each agenda item, you'll have a chance to speak also. Seeing none. Attorney Geller just called me, he wants to be on speakerphone. I'm going to call him back in a second. Seeing none, moving on.

Consent agenda. The only thing in consent agenda is the minutes. Do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Vice-Mayor Urbom. Do I have a second?

Councilman Luis Pirela: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Pirela. All in favor, say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say nay. Hearing none, moving on. Down to the resolutions ordinances, I'm going to call Attorney Geller while we get on this. G, the first-- or is it H. It's supposed to be G. H1. The first resolution is garage conversion for 488 NE 90th St. The resolution says this, "A resolution of the Village of Council of El Portal, Florida authorizing the approval of the variance of for a garage conversion at 488 NE 90th St. as requested by owner, Nicholas Galliat, providing for incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date."

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Camilla, if you would please come to one of the mics for us, please? And Mr. Galliat or his representative, is he here? Could you please go to the other mic for us, please? I wanted to call Attorney Geller, but while I do that, Camilla, if you want to give us a background on this and let us know if, I see it here, in the papers, but let us know if you guys recommend approval and why or why not. Thank you.

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Good evening, Councilmembers. This application is to convert an existing one-car garage for use as living space, pursuant to Section 566. It requires approval by process of variance. The conversion complies with the zoning requirements. There's enough space in the site to accommodate parking two vehicles, and the facade will remain consistent with the existing architecture, as the garage door will be replaced with windows that match the existing windows on the opposite side of the facade. Because of those reasons, we are recommending approval of this garage conversion.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: They've recommended approval. Does anybody from the council have any questions for either Camilla or the representative of the home? Hearing none, does anybody from the audience have any questions for either Camilla, the council or the representative? Hearing none. Madame Manager, who is our acting clerk tonight, thank you very, very much.

Village Manager Alou: What am I supposed to do?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: There should be a paper there-

Village Manager Alou: Oh, yes, sorry.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: - that says 488 NE 90th St. Yes, if you would just--

Village Manager Alou: Wait a minute. Hang on, let me find that one. Okay, I have that one. 488 NE 90th St.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Do I have a motion to approve the garage conversion for 488 NE 90th St.?

Councilman Luis Pirela: So moved.

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

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Councilwoman Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Martin. Madame Manager, acting clerk, may I please have a roll call, please?

Village Manager Alou: Absolutely. Councilperson Martin?

Councilperson Martin: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Pirela?

Councilman Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Vice-Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: The motion passes 5-0.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Moving onto the next one. Thank you very much.

Ms. Mary: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Congratulations.

Ms. Mary: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Good to see you.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: You're very welcome, Mary.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moving onto the next resolution. Garage conversion for 411 NE 87th St. "A resolution of the Village Council or El Portal, Florida authorizing the approval of the variance for a garage conversion at 411 NE 87th St. as requested by Michelle Bitten and Lawrence Barbara, providing for incorporation of recitals providing for an effective date." Camilla if you would please give us a little bit of a background and whether the staff recommends approval and why or why not.

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Yes, absolutely. Thank you, Mayor. This application for a garage conversion is slightly different since it's in a corner lot and the garage in question is a detached building. In the Planning and Zoning Committee, the recommendation was-- the initial intent was to remove the garage door fronting NE 4th Avenue just cover it up with a blank wall. The recommendation was to include openings, since it was fronting a public right of way. The applicant agreed to do so. Because of those changes and the application is in compliance with all the zoning requirements, we are now recommending approval of this garage conversation as well.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I see all the changes were done, therefore, you're recommending approval?

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Yes, correct.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Any questions from the council? Hearing none. Any questions from the audience for anyone up here?

Councilman Luis Pirela: They provided what kind of windows they're going to put in there and everything?

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Yes. In the application submittal, on page 12, there is an elevation and the applicant--

Councilman Luis Pirela: Oh, window to sliding window? Okay.

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Yes. Thank you for providing the renderings.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Thank you.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Is there anybody from the audience, you guys have anything for us? Any further questions from the council?

Councilman Luis Pirela: No.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Do I have a motion to approve garage conversion for 411 NE 87th St.?

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Is that Councilperson--

Councilperson Martin: Second. I'll do it, second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Okay. Sorry about that.

Councilperson Martin: No worries.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: All right. You want to do it again?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Do I have a motion to approve the garage conversion for 411 NE 87th St.?

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I don't have eyes in the back of my head. Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

Councilperson Martin: Second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Martin. Madame Manager, acting clerk, would you please do roll call?

Village Manager Alou: Yes. Councilperson Martin?

Councilperson Martin: Yes.

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Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward?

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Pirela?

Councilman Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Vice-Mayor Urbom?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Mayor Nickerson?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: All right, motion passes 5-0.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. Congratulations. Thank you very much. I appreciate. Thank you very much, Camilla.

Ms. Camilla Cubillos: Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I appreciate it. Tell Juan we said hello. Next, you guys, we're moving to the ordinance. This is the second reading for the short-term vacation ordinance.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Mayor.

Attorney Joseph Geller: Mayor, do you want me to read it?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes, if you want to.

Attorney Joseph Geller: Okay. "An ordinance to the Village of El Portal Florida relating to short-term vacation rentals within Zone 3, providing the definition of a vacation rental, requiring a license to operate a vacation rental, providing standards for issuance and revocation of a vacation rental license, requiring insurance for a vacation rental, providing standards of operations, providing for penalties for violations of this section, providing for incorporation of

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recitals, providing for conflict and repeal, providing for codification, providing for severability and providing for an effective date."

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much.

Attorney Joseph Geller: Second reading.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second reading. Thank you very much, Attorney Geller. I appreciate that. Okay, you guys, for this, where we left off, as a council, the first reading we went through so much and we got all that done. Where we did leave off though, there's a couple of things. The first main thing was once we adopt this for the second reading, we have to put when it goes into effect. We were talking about last time, we have to get the paperwork together, which has not being put together yet.

My suggestion would be like 90 days or 120, I don't know. Maybe that 120 is too much, it's either 3 or 4 months. I don't know. 90 sounds pretty good. We have to say when it's going to go into effect, we have to give a date, a time period for that. Think about that, keep that in mind.

The second thing that we have to do is because we're going to be putting the fees together, the fees aren't going to be a part of this particular ordinance. Remember last time that even Attorney Geller was saying, that we can come back once we figure out the fees and we can do that by separate either resolutions or ordinances. Since the fees aren't a part of this ordinance and the actual fees will be taken care of as we get this together over the next, whatever 90 days or one 20 days however we decide, we need to put a sentence somewhere in this ordinance that says something about, I was starting to write something, something about like, "For all fees regarding and applied to this short term rental ordinance, please contact the Village of El Portal, village hall front desk or visit the Village of El Portal website at--"

We need to put something in this ordinance that says that the fees for this ordinance are forthcoming because we never know if the reason why I said to put the language like that is because, and I'm leading it up to what you guys think, is because in the future we never know if the fees will adjust because of things they might go up, they might go down and things like that. If we put the language in this ordinance that for the fees, contact the Village of El Portal, village hall front desk, they'll always have the latest fees. Then we'll also do it by resolution to ordinance.

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Attorney Joseph Geller: Let me just point out two things on the things you're saying. In section 5-71, vacation rentals license required, we have a line that says the fee to apply for a license issued under this subsection shall be determined by a resolution from the council. Then it says the annual fee for renewing an existing license shall be determined by a resolution from the council. I would say to you that we don't have fees until you adopt the resolution to say how much the application is in the renewal, but we don't need to change the ordinance there in there. It just needs a resolution when you decide what you want to do.

Finally, I know you're saying 90 or 120, it's certainly up to the council, but just so that we had something in there, section 7 effective date, I had prepared it to say the ordinance would take effect 60 days following approval and adoption on second reading. If you council wants to do 90 or 120, you just need to amend section 7. You don't need to do anything else on the resolution to approve the fees, you just need to have for the next meeting or the one after, a resolution that has a fee schedule.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much Attorney Geller. The last time we were here, we saw the 60 days. I just didn't think the 60 days would be enough before it goes in, but I'm going to turn it over to you guys.

Councilperson Martin: Can we chime in? I think 90 days is good. Just in an abundance of caution and--

Attorney Joseph Geller: Then it won't be amended, Mayor. It just takes a quick motion to amend the draft ordinance and then whatever time period council wants, is what you put in.

Councilperson Martin: I think I agree with you Mr. Mayor, 90 days is good and I also think we need to have an aggressive informational campaign to let people know that this has been passed and also make them aware of the fees once that does become available, so I would vote for 90 days to amend that.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I agree wholeheartedly Councilperson Marin. Very well said. For the days when this goes into effect just to get that part done, do I have a motion to approve to change from 60 to 90 days on the ordinance?

Councilperson Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Martin, do I have a second?

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Councilperson Pirela: I'll second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Pirela. Madam Manager acting--

Attorney Joseph Geller: To amend it, Mayor, you can just do it by voice vote.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: I'm going to do a pole vote, Joe. Madam, [laughs I always want to make sure things are good when it comes to these ordinances. This was an important one also, so we're going to do it like this. I appreciate it, Attorney Geller. Madam Manager, acting clerk, may I please have a roll call for the change from 60 days to 90 days?

Village Manager Alou: Absolutely. Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Martin: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Pirela.

Councilperson Pirela: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Urbom: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: The motion to amend to 90 days for the ordinance to take effect is passed 5-0.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. All right. That is going to be done by resolution. I think that what you said councilperson Martin is very important because these being done by resolution, which is part of the reason why I wanted to put that other language in here, which is apparently not necessary, but a lot of things that are done by

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resolution, our residents don't look for the resolutions. They won't easily find the fees, but when we put the resolution together, I'll try to put maybe some extra language in the resolution that will also be an addition to help them find the fees because who looks for a resolution and reach through a resolution?

Councilperson Martin: Maybe this needs to be something that's a permanent button on our website as well.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely.

Councilperson Martin: They're always going to go to the website and if they see short-term rental fees, then it's something that we can update that would become evergreen I guess. Maybe that's an option.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Absolutely. It would have to be like you said, Councilperson Martin, aggressive and we have to really get it out there. Thank you very much. You guys, is there any further questions about the short-term rental ordinance for the second reading from the council? Now I'll go to you guys. I'm hearing none. Anybody from the audience, any questions or comments? Come up, say your name, address for the record, floor is yours.

Pascal: Good evening. Pascal Depuhl, 177 Northwest 90th street. Thank you so much again for having us up here. Appreciate it. First of all, I really appreciate the Mayor thinking that fees ever go down. I'd love to see that happen, whatever we decide. I'd also like to get a reason for or once you guys decide fees, show us how they're used. [crosstalk] saying, Hey, it's a \$500 fee that the council- [crosstalk]

Councilperson Martin: I really can't hear you.

Pascal: Is this on? Sorry. I can start back up again.

Councilperson Martin: Just put it up higher. That's all.

Pascal: I was just asking for a reason, when we pass fees, that there's a reason to have a fee. I understand if we have enforcement or extra work at the Village Hall in the office that things get registered or what, it'd be great to see and it'd be hard to say, "Hey, no, there's the application side and then also the enforcement side." While we're on that, are we going through this or this is the second reading?

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It's even a question.

Pascal: No, that's fine. All right.

Councilperson Martin: Can I say something Mr. Mayor? To your point, I do think that in order for us to come up with the fees, it might be helpful to have some sort of a document that speaks to fees that are being charged in other similarly situated municipalities and an idea of also, what the increase in enforcement and all those other things. What costs might be associated. I think having a look at that would be really great in us determining fees that are not arbitrary or users in any way.

Pascal: I'm sorry, Mayor, if there's costs like I have a noise, there's party at the house and the cops get called, it costs X amount of dollars to have the police department come out. Because one of the things I still don't like about this ordinance is that right now, it says that any, I forgot, when it talks about how people can get fined on it, it's new public nuisance or something and the village code defines every single thing in the public code as a nuisance violation, that we say, "Hey, if my neighbor calls me because my trash can is out for two days, that should be a different fee." Then if I have the cops come out and they have to arrest people or whatever, those are two very different-- I don't know how to put it.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: One is just a regular code enforcement violation and the other has to do with activity related to the short-term rental.

Pascal: Right. My arguments has been-

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Not to have the business penalized because of something that's just a basic code enforcement issue.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: You remember the short-term rental, this is going to get its own separate set of fees.

Pascal: You guys have heard me up here for a couple of times now. You know that I believe that almost everything in this could be done with code enforcement without an extra bill. I understand that we're passing this, I get all that. I just want to see if we're doing a fee. Right now, it's first violation, second violation, third violation, if there's a difference between the severity of a violation. I think if we have a party house that has trash all over and really impacts

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the neighborhood, that's a different thing than, "Hey, I couldn't sleep because there was a guy talking on the phone at two o'clock in the morning," and a neighbor calls you guys.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We'll get all that together. Remember we have 90 days to put all this together. Also, when the resolution comes, it's not like the resolution is going to come and we're just going to vote. Trust we're going to have a lot of talk about the resolution on the dais. You can come here when we do that also.

Pascal: What you were saying, I think is great. We don't look for resolutions when we're looking at the agenda or it's like such a small thing that's easy to overload. I'd love to have some kind of advertising to say, "Hey, we're talking about where the rubber meets the road. Now, we have the skeleton in place, but now we're actually putting together what this is going to cost you." Again, because we can't vet our guests the first offense is from guest A, the second offense is from guest B. They have nothing to do with each other, it's hard for us to say, "Oh, the first one is 100. The second was 1,000." It's not me not being an efficient host, like if I have a code enforcement. I get that when it's like, "Hey, you didn't paint your house." You don't paint your house for six months and you come back and go, "Hey, you didn't paint your house, still not." There should be an increase in fees.

I understand we're not doing this tonight. When you're looking at fees, just keep it in your mind that unless it's the same guest and we're constantly, "Hey they're throwing parties in a row," that the second offense may be a completely different thing or more than likely is a completely different thing for us.

Councilman Luis Pirela: Excuse me, if I may. That is hard to determine and I know you're working on it, but remember, we're actually here looking into protect everybody here, not just the one that's actually profiting from the business, but the rest of our residents. It's hard to determine when a violation occurs within the same guests because sometimes you can rent a house for a day or two a week or a month. We cannot put into place where, after three days, the first violations, vanished. It has to fit everything. Unfortunately, it's hard to determine that, in that sense.

Pascal: Just understand this is not a long-term rental, where we have somebody in there for years or it's not an owner that's in the house, that if he violates something and he doesn't cure that for a specific time. Our average rental and I would be happy to give you guys the numbers on the rentals that we have, I would guess is between four and seven days. We do have longer

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rentals. We do have long-term rentals in the village as well. Again, I understand we're not doing this tonight.

I'd love to see some kind of, "Hey, this was six months ago and this is a completely different thing and you're not--" I can rack up three violations really easy, if there is no way for me to allow me to cure the violation when it happens.

Councilperson Martin: I think we have to bifurcate the discussion. Tonight is the discussion on whether or not we're doing it. As you rightfully said, we're doing it. The next time we meet is going to be when we have all of that documentation, backup and reasoning for why we're picking the fees. Also, remember the remedy that we discussed being that you go in front of a special master and can explain all these things.

If you give us just that time to move to the next stage, the second step of this process and come up with the fees, I definitely would love to hear your feedback on that as well, as far as an owner, whether or not you think that this is fair and just. Then we can then play with the numbers at that time. I appreciate the feedback and I encourage you to definitely not miss the actual meeting where we're passing the resolution.

Pascal: I understand we're not doing fees today. I'm saying please when you're thinking about that over the next couple of weeks or months, it's not as easy as what is in here right now

Councilperson Martin: For sure. We appreciate you giving us that color and it's received. At least for me, I know 100% it's received and I'm not just going to be picking numbers out of a hat. I want to see what everybody else is charging. I want to see what monetary impact it has on us as a village and definitely, the intent is not to make it burdensome to participate in the type of business that you do.

I just want to encourage you that this next part is when we will have the numbers and talk about what is the dollars involved here. Hopefully, you'll be with us on the next meeting. It's always good talking to you. You're always here.

Pascal: I've been here every time [crosstalk]

Councilperson Martin: Exactly and you've made it a better ordinance, though. You really have. You know you really have and we hope you'll do the same for the resolution.

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Pascal: Thank you.

Councilperson Martin: All right.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you. Is there anybody else that--

Jacobina: Good evening, my name is Jacobina Paul's wife, I'm his wasn't able to attend previous meetings because of business out of town that I'm here. One thing I want to bring out, I don't know if it has been addressed in the past meetings. You talked about a business where we profit. I want to point out that the Airbnbs, yes, it's a business, but with the house prices as they are selling it would probably make more money. What I want to point out as the Airbnbs they serve a purpose. They are a service.

For example, especially in this climate, so many people that sold their house or bought their house, they need 30 days or 2 weeks to bridge before they can move in or move out of their house. We provide a service. With COVID coming to town, all these travel nurses that come for three months, sometimes six months, they need a place to stay that's furnished. Again, we provide a service as Airbnb owners.

Another thing houses got tented. We had three tenants now that rented one of our Airbnb short-term because they had to leave the house with the dogs because their house got tendered. I wanted to keep an eye on their house and municipality close by to hear that does not allow Airbnbs. Guess what? They have heard from that municipality, El Portal provides a service, they don't. I think in the future, you you will see that as a pro into why you want to buy here and not in other villages around us.

I just want to point this out. Yes, it's a business, but it's not the only way to make money. We provide a service that is overlooked. Now, it's important that we regulate it, so we don't have any party houses or any crazy stuff going on, but if you're going to make fees crazy, out of control, it would be easier for the owners to sell and be done with it and you lose a vital service for the community.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: We definitely did have that discussion, I think, two or three times. From my memory, we, at least, came to a conclusion that exorbitant fees would not serve the purpose because some of the worst offenders would just consider it as an operating

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expense, while some of the more honest and vulnerable providers would be the ones who are truly penalized. We definitely have discussed that I think two or three different times, to the point that outrageous fees will not help us achieve what we're trying to achieve. In terms of using the fees as a deterrent, I don't think that's the goal of the council. We'll find out when we get to the resolution, all right?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Vice Mayor Urbom. Anybody else from the council before I ask for a motion? We're good. Do I have a motion to approve the short-term vacation rental ordinance for the second reading?

Councilperson Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Martin. Do I have a second?

Councilman Luis Pirela: I'll second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Councilperson Pirela. Madam Manager, acting Clerk, may I please have a roll call for the short-term rental

Village Manager Alou: Yes. Councilperson Martin.

Councilperson Martin: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Councilperson Pirela.

Councilman Luis Pirela: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Vice Mayor Urbom.

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: Yes.

Village Manager Alou: Mayor Nickerson.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes,

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Village Manager Alou: The motion passes 5-0.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much. I'm still trying to get you guys out of here quickly. I bypassed my report. Madam Manager, just highlight some things in your- [crosstalk] Thank you to Attorney Geller also for helping us out with the short-term ordinance. We appreciate.

Attorney Joseph Geller: My pleasure, Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Say it again Attorney Geller.

Attorney Joseph Geller: I said, my pleasure, Mayor.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: There we go, my brother. I appreciate it. All right, Madam Manager. Attorney Geller, just wait around, when we get to Attorney reports and then you'll be able to go.

Attorney Joseph Geller: Yes, sir.

Village Manager Alou: I'll make mine brief. I did provide my manager's report to everyone on the council and it is posted on the village website for your review. It is extensive as always because we are very busy in the village of El Portal. I do want everyone to know June 1 is fast approaching and that marks the start of hurricane season. The village administration has been updating our internal emergency protocols and we placed service orders for our annual storm drain maintenance with Shenandoah Construction and our annual dangerous tree limb-trimming with Orchidman Landscaping. Those services will be starting up as soon as we can get on their schedules and we hope that will be soon.

The annual Miami-Dade County hurricane preparedness guide will be available here at the Village Hall next week. We encourage residents to download the Miami-Dade County app, ReadyMDC. It is free and it is chocked with vital information for any kind of emergency conditions, including flooding. We see that the report today that came out that there are some hurricanes coming our way this season.

I do want to make note that FPL and AT&T, those two utilities have been out conducting their line maintenance and tree trimming in the Village El Portal. We're happy to have that, but our only complaint is they've left their debris on our swells. We don't have the service to pick up

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debris. I've been on the phone with FPL and AT&T, we can't even get anyone to get on the phone with us, but we ask that residents please not add to these piles. We've seen this quite a bit. There are about eight different piles out here in the village.

Our solid waste contractors have been kind enough to try to help us, but even they are saying it's a lot when you're seeing furniture and what have you on these piles and it is not bulk pickup time. Please, residents, do not add to the debris piles that the utilities are creating. Continue to follow the Village's bulk pickup schedule, which is June 28th, 29th and 30th.

Our public works chairperson and committee are now reviewing some preliminary plans for our parks renovations project. Our architects submitted some preliminary plan, so they are being reviewed. It's also been reviewed by the Sustainability and Resiliency Task Force and will be coming together very soon. Councilperson Luis Pirela will be hosting a community forum town hall to discuss the park. Stay tuned for that, a date will be announced very soon about that community forum. We'll keep you posted. We're excited to start our project hopefully soon. It takes a while, but we're going to get there.

Speaking of projects that are finally taking shape, we, Mayor and I and a lot of the administration, actually most of the administration and our police force, all went out to the Kavista Project groundbreaking ceremony that was on May 11th. It was very well attended and coordinated. They will need to submit some right-away permits and applications and maintenance of traffic plans for construction activities coming up. We're excited and I think that project is just about 18 months away. We're going to have some lovely new residents to add to our El Portal family when that comes online.

The Village also held our annual Arbor Day celebration, hosted by our Vice Mayor on Anders Urbom and that was on Saturday, April 30th. The El Portal Women's Club held a blood drive here at the Village Hall on May 7th. Starting tonight, it actually we started last night as a test run, but May 24th to May 31st, the Village of El Portal will be illuminated in green lights in the observance of Mental Health Awareness Month. We are joining with Miami-Dade County in a campaign to just bring more awareness and to show our solidarity.

That concludes my manager's report. If anyone has any questions, I'm always accessible. Thank you.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Madam Manager. I appreciate it. I'm going to be really, really quick. I'm just pointing out a couple of things. The reason why we're

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lighting the building green, we're illuminating green for the rest of the month, as she said, that fight for mental health awareness, they reached out to us, actually this past Saturday. For anybody who has his own Instagram, this past Saturday, I went and represented El Portal and attended that walk for Nami. I was representing El Portal with that.

Earlier this month, Mayor Levine Cava, it was four of us, she chose me as part of her coalition. I represented Miami-Dade County, we went to Washington DC and we spoke with the Ambassadors of Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania. As you guys know, my master's is in foreign international relations. My PhD and stuff is in international affairs and stuff like that. We were chosen to go do that. It's very interesting that came out of that, I'll probably talk about that next month because it might be things that are coming out of that, that will affect the Village of El Portal, actually.

I spoke again at University of Miami about El Portal's C-7 Canal, the Little River and our environment as a whole. I spoke about our history and things like that. We actually have a history survey coming up pretty soon for our residents just to know everything about our history. The deep history that we have with the Native Americans here in El Portal and all of the different artifacts and things that we have buried here in El Portal.

Myself and the Manager started that a while ago and it came out one time. Now we're going to do more of an in-depth look in El Portal and El Portal's history. That's coming up. If you have us on Instagram, you saw that recently, I met with about eight National Native American organizations, came down here to meet with me. I did a whole thing on Instagram about it. There's going to be a lot of Native American Activities and a lot of Native American Programs coming up in El Portal over the next year. It was a huge meeting and it was very well attended by Native Americans organizations that I invited in and had them come down here.

I think that's about it for that. Everything else I think we can save for later. I'm trying to get you guys out here. Oh, you guys got my ordinance about the Rapid Transit Zone. I sent you guys an email about the ordinance for the Rapid Transit Zone where it is right now. Make sure you check your emails for that, okay? There's information about the ordinance for the Rapid Transit Zone that's coming into the county. That's it from my report for now, Attorney Geller?

Attorney Joseph Geller: I'm here. I'm happy to say that no one has sued us. Other than that, what's come our way, we've taken care of. That's my report. I'm happy to answer any questions.

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Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Thank you very much, Attorney Geller. I appreciate that. Any question for Attorney Geller, you guys? Good. Moving on, good and welfare. The second good and welfare right here, you guys, is the last one. This good and welfare, anybody from the audience can come up and talk about anything at all. It can be things that are on this agenda or anything at all that's on your mind, the second good and welfare. Just come and say your name and address for the record and the floor is yours. Hearing none, moving on. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: Point of order?

Mayor Nickerson: Yes.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: When you asked the audience, did I miss something in comments? If I did, I apologize. I do have a comment.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: No. Go ahead.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward: The referral day is May 31, will we still be laying the wreath?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes. Absolutely.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna. E: All right. I'll be there in full gear. The wreath is already ordered?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: It should be coming, I think it will get here on time.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna. E: All right.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna. E: What time?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: We can do that at 10 that morning. I think last year we did it around 10 in the morning. It was around 10 in the morning last year.

Councilwoman Dr. Anna. E: 10 in the morning?

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Yes.

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Councilwoman Dr. Anna. E: I'll be here with uniform on.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All right. We're going to lay a wreath on the front of Village Hall for Memorial Day. At 10 in the morning, we'll do that. All right. Any last questions or comments about anything? We're good? Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Councilperson Martin: So moved.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Moved by Councilperson Martin. Do I have a second?

Vice Mayor Anders Urbom: I'll second.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: Second by Vice Mayor Urbom. All in favor say, aye.

All: Aye.

Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson: All opposed say nay. Hearing none. The regular council meeting for Tuesday, May 24th, 2022 is adjourned at 7:47 PM.

[00:39:19] [END OF AUDIO]

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