



**Village of El Portal  
Regular Council Meeting  
Date: 06/27/23  
Meeting Start: 7:06 PM  
Meeting End: 8:16 PM  
Meeting Length: 1:10:29**

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** How's everybody doing? Good. All right. Looking good over there? Good to see you guys. All right. The regular council meeting for Tuesday, June 27, 2023 is called to order at 7.06 PM. We're going to have a moment of silent meditation followed by the pledge. [silence]

**All 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.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call, please?

**Madam Clerk:** Roll call. Mayor Nickerson?

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Here.

**Madam Clerk:** Vice Mayor Pirela will not be in today. Councilperson Urbom.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Present.

**Madam Clerk:** Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** Here.

**Madam Clerk:** Councilperson Martin?

**Councilperson Martin:** Present.

**Madam Clerk:** Also present for the record, Janice Jacobi Village Clerk, Christia Alou Village Manager, and Joseph Gala Village Attorney. You have a quorum.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Madam Clerk, I appreciate that. Next is the approval of the agenda. I just want to add two quick items to the agenda. That would be under the presentations. We'll do our state senators, office senators, state senators, Shevrin Jones will do the office first, followed by our distinguished County Commissioner District 3, Keon Hardemon's office will do those presentations in that order. If there's no more additions or subtractions, do I have a motion to approve the agenda?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** So moved.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-ward. Do I have a second?

**Councilperson Urbom:** Second.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Second by Councilperson Urbom. All in favor say aye?

**All speakers:** Aye.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** All opposed say nay? Hearing none, moving on. Good and welfare. This is the point in time where if anybody has anything that they want to say as far as what's on the agenda itself, you can come up, say your name, address for the record. You have three

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minutes to do so. First good and welfare, there will be another at the end. Hearing, seeing none, moving on. Consent agenda, do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** So moved.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-ward. Do I have a second?

**Councilperson Urbom:** I'll second.

**Madam Clerk:** Mayor, I think we have someone in the back [unintelligible 00:02:37].

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Has somebody for what's that? For good and welfare?

**Mr. Kobrick:** Yes.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Good and welfare, is it about Skate Park again?

**Mr. Kobrick:** Yes.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Okay, that would be the second good and welfare. All right, no problem. Do I have a second for approval of the consent agenda?

**Councilperson Martin:** Second.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Second for Councilperson Martin. All in favor say aye.

**All speakers:** Aye.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** All opposed say nay? Hearing none, we're going to move down right now to the presentations. First, we're going to have State Senator, Shevrin Jones' office. How are you doing? Mr. Oleksak, we spoke earlier today, and I appreciate all your help with adding the state senator to our next informational exposition. If everybody remembers the last informational exposition, we were graced by not only you all, but we were graced by our county mayor, Daniella Levine Cava.

We have our State Senator, Shevrin Jones coming to this one along with the again, last time we had County Commissioner Hardemon's office was there, and we're going to have the county commissioner himself with this upcoming one. Mr. Oleksak, Ms. Braynon-Moore, and Mr. Garel, you guys, we have two podiums here. [laughs] Just step up to the plate, say your name, address for the record, and the floor is yours. We appreciate you being here.

**Mr. Oleksak:** My name is Joe Oleksak. I'm chief of staff to State Senator Shevrin Jones. My address is in Fort Lauderdale 106, South Federal Highway. Thank you so much for having me Mr. Mayor and the Village Commission. Senator Jones sends his regards. He's feeling under the weather, so he sent us. Instead, as the mayor said, I just want to introduce my co-workers Marina Braynon-Moore. Works in our district office, and Kai Garel, who just started three weeks ago and will be joining Senator Jones and myself up in Tallahassee this upcoming session.

I just have a couple of things I just want to run through real quick. Again, thank you so much for taking the time to let us speak today. Our office is located in Miami Gardens. Miami on

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183rd and Northwest 6th. If anybody is ever in the area, please feel free to stop by our office at any time. We'd be more than happy to have you in and talk more about some of our services. We do a whole lot of stuff in our office, we do a lot of event planning and we do a lot of constituent service. We pride ourselves in being available always a phone call away for our constituents, and that includes all of you all now.

Please, do not ever hesitate to reach out to us. Marina was handing out these little cards below here, on here is just some more information about our office as well as a QR code, very handy. It'll take you to sign up for our newsletter, which I encourage you all to stay in touch especially moving forward because committee weeks are coming up much faster than any of us anticipate. Now, Senator Jones normally would give a legislative update. I'm just going to briefly touch on a couple of pieces of legislation that we worked really hard on Senator Jones saw past the finish line this session.

First is the Guidance Services Bill. This is actually a really awesome bill that is going to help take students from a very young age, beginning now in sixth grade, and applying them not just to what is available in terms of universities and colleges, but also trade schools, apprenticeships, internships and just allowing every student to know by the time they enter high school, what their options are, including the military as well. Just to figure out where they're heading to because not necessarily every student is set to go to college.

A lot of the kids can learn a lot of really important skills younger if you make those decisions earlier on. That's something that we're really excited about seeing past the finish line there. Another one that I'm really happy with and it's one we're actually going to circle back with and do a little bit more next session, which is the students with disabilities. Right now, moving forward, what we're going to be able to do is students with disabilities who receive IEP at the beginning of third grade, will be able to stay past that and stay with them until they graduate high school, whether it be at 18, 19 or 20 years old.

We're actually going to take that step further this upcoming session just so that that money stays with students going through college age as well so that it can help transition to the adult services that come a little bit later on, to make sure that that gap is filled. That's something we're going to revisit. Then finally, as Curtis' Law, this is a piece of legislation that was just signing a law as well that's going to make it so that any parent where the child is a victim of homicide, the police department will be required to maintain contact with them just to ensure that the parents as they're grieving, are given all the tools that they need.

All the information that they need so they can move through that process, including just receiving basic information as the investigation plays out. Those are just a couple of the things that we've been working on. Obviously, a lot is happening in Tallahassee at all times. Moving forward, as we head into the next legislative session, committee weeks again start this fall, please maintain contact with our office. We look forward to working with you, Mr. Mayor, and the rest of the commission to talk about your legislative priorities so that we can champion what you guys need here in El Portal as well as all of South Florida.

Finally, I just want to take a moment to plug We The People University, is going to be coming up August 26th at North Miami Library. This is a flyer that we also have passed

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around. This is a great opportunity to come and learn about how our government works, including filing legislation, how the legislative process works out, as well as how the appropriations process works out. If you want more information about that whether you have a nonprofit or you have some ideas for legislation, please stop by, RSVP, sign up for our newsletter, and we'll stay in contact that way.

More than happy to answer any questions if the commission has any questions for our office at this time.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** No problem. Thank you, Mr. Oleksak. Any questions or comments from there? Councilor person Lightfoot-ward?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** That was great. [inaudible 00:08:27] RCP.

**Mr. Oleksak:** I'm sorry?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** What's RCP? That's my first question. You keep saying in your last comments RCP. What is that?

**Mr. Oleksak:** RSVP?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** RSVP.

**Mr. Oleksak:** I'm sorry. I apologize if I wasn't clear on that one.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** That's okay. That's all right. That's the first one.

**Mr. Oleksak:** Please RSVP for We The People University.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** The most, you're here reporting at how the congressperson or the state senator prevailed this time. You were talking so fast, I couldn't understand whether the main legislation was passed.

**Mr. Oleksak:** Particularly in terms passing students with disability, it's something that Senator Jones has been, as an educator, passionate about for years. That was probably one of his biggest championships this year. That's his biggest victory ultimately was.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** What was the victory?

**Mr. Oleksak:** Passing the students with disabilities bill to ensure that students that are receiving disability money are entitled to that money throughout their stay and they're not being held back. Which is currently an issue past third grade.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-ward:** There was something else you said in terms of local government, and I didn't get that either but I know something about local government that you mentioned is going to be part of the statute now, no? If you don't remember, no problem.

**Mr. Oleksak:** I'm trying to recall. I don't recall.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** You spoke about IEPs and how they're going to be extended to the adulthood. He spoke about Curtis' Law which is he wants law enforcement to keep in touch with individuals that are victims of a homicide, the parents of the individuals, so that they keep updated on what's going on.

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**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** There was a third one that you mentioned. I just can't remember what it was. I'm trying to write as fast as you talk.

**Councilperson Urbom:** I think it was the event at the library.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes.

**Mr. Oleksak:** That was probably the main local event that we have going on. It's a big event that we do every year, We The People University. Marina does an amazing job setting up, getting vendors there, getting speakers, getting lobbyists to help actually talk about the practitioner's standpoint of how to file a bill, how to file appropriations.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Give the Senator our regards, and particularly mention that I did think about her and she's doing a good job as far as I'm concerned.

**Mr. Oleksak:** Thank you so much, and we look forward to being a part of the State of the Village at the end of September as well. Senator Jones will be there for that.

Hopefully, we can bring him in here between now and then as well and connect then.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Thank you so much.

**Mr. Oleksak:** Thank you, Commissioners. Thank you, Mayor.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** You keep calling us a commission. We're a council.

**Mr. Oleksak:** Oh, I apologize. I'm so sorry. I apologize for that.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Thank you.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Mr. Oleksak. I really appreciate you all being here.

**Mr. Oleksak:** Thank you.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Let's have County Commissioner Hardemon's office come up, please District 3.

[pause 00:11:22]

**Ms. Augustine:** Good evening, everyone.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Good evening.

**Ms. Augustine:** Good evening, Mayor, Councilpersons. I am Rosenny Augustine Jean-Louis. I am the Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator with County Commissioner Keon Hardemon of District 3, which is your representative at the county level. This is my colleague, Marcus Barfield. He is the district coordinator who also oversees the El Portal area. I thank the mayor and the councilpersons for inviting us this evening. Just a few updates on some things that have been happening in the office and will continue to happen moving forward.

For all the businesses in El Portal that apply for the Keon Hardemon Small Business Grants, those results will be coming out soon within the next six weeks for the applicants as well as

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the results. If you were selected, you would get further information. If you were not selected, you also get that information within the next few weeks. Most recently, North Miami Avenue where the Little River Canal is, that impacts the El Portal area I know this is the highway to El Portal. If you have driven this road, you notice that in the last 10 days that we have officially moved over to the east side of the road, so we're 50% complete on this project. I know this has been a long time coming. I have to tell you that it has been unexpected and foreseen review pack process through the United States Army Corps of Engineers that has been the delay in addition to supplies, equipment to properly facilitate the bridge, not just above, but also underneath because of [unintelligible 00:13:12] because of where it sits on the river. There's a lot of intergovernmental agreements and conversations that need to happen. So far, our department, Department of Transportation and Public Works has given us constant updates.

As of this afternoon at four o'clock, we received another update letting us know that we're moving on the right track. As updates come in, myself or Marcus will send information to the Mayor, as well as Manager Alou, to let them know. Here's some pictures. I know you visually see it, but just to let you know that we're actively working on it. If you have any additional questions, to let us know. I know that the Village has their 4th of July on July the 3rd, here at the Tot Lo.

Our city, hopefully, if you do host it this year, Commissioner Hardemon is also hosting a 4th of July barbecue at Charles Hadley Park which is 1350 Northwest 50th Street at 4:00 PM at Charles Hadley. It's open to all of our community, regardless of where you live in the county as long as you're-- It's open to the public. Feel free to stop by, enjoy it, it is free for the public. Also coming up on July the 11th, the

Department of Transportation and Public Works, DTPW, will be having a MetroMover update, public meeting, in regards to the upgrades that are coming to the system, what we can foresee in the future, and it's a hybrid meeting.

Marcus or myself, will also send that information to the manager, as well as the mayor, so that they can distribute to the residents and those who have any questions. As of this moment, I'm open to take any questions from the councilpersons, as well as the mayor or the public. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to see us. We'll be here in the room. Our office is at 5400 Northwest 22nd Avenue at the Joseph Caleb Center on the 7th floor.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** First of all, I just want to say thank you, Ms. Augustine. Thank you, Mr. Barfield. Good to see you all, as always. Ms. Augustine, she stays on top of this. She'll call me up and be like, "Mayor, it might be Friday night."

[laughter]

**Ms. Augustine:** That is not a false statement.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** It might be Friday night, and she'll be like, "Mayor, I got something for you." I'll be like, "Ah, now, Ms. Augustine." I really want to say I appreciate it, Madam Manager. She reached out to us for the upcoming budget season and we tore her ear up. We want to dance, dance, dance. [unintelligible 00:15:40]

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**Ms. Augustine:** You have advocated, definitely.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** We really appreciate that. Thank you very much. Any questions or comments from the council?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** I do.

**Ms. Augustine:** Yes, Ma'am. Yes, Councilperson.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** You mentioned the canal.

**Ms. Augustine:** Yes, Ma'am.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Is it possible, because we asked before it even began, they could just come in and give us a presentation of what's really going on. The presentation I'm asking is regarding if someone can come in because it is half completed, and tell us because what I'm getting since I'm right there by the canal is was it really that bad. I said yes, it was and I said why didn't someone do something before. Those are the questions I can't answer. Your presentation has been beautiful because you went with the surface information. Yes, they have started but it's still the question of is there possibility of a presentation from United States Army Corps or whoever they contracted with to give us an update of what did they have to do, why was it left so long, and what's its durability for the future? I'm right by the canal.

**Ms. Augustine:** Thank you for the question. Marcus is saying yes in my ear that I'm going to co-sign it. Yes, we can. Marcus is going to set it up through our office. We'll send the communications to the Village and either if you guys need to do a sunshine meeting, if you want all the council members to be there, if you just want it to be a one-on-one, however, let's get some additional details as to how you would like this meeting structured. Marcus and myself will talk to the Department of Transportation and Public Works and the necessary team members if it's the US engineer and whomever so that you can get a full beginning to end.

I can tell you this project started prior to our tenure, but under Commissioner Hardemon's leadership, we are actively staying on top of it. We do not want there to be any hiccups that we can control in this process.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Ms. Augustine, please give the commissioner, our best regards.

**Ms. Augustine:** Thank you, Ma'am.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Tell him we miss him, that we like you all, that you came, but he was real good when he was on the campaign, so we'd like to see him [unintelligible 00:17:54].

**Ms. Augustine:** Yes, Ma'am. We'll communicate that as well.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Thank you.

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**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** He'll most likely be at the informational exposition, so that's a good thing. Councilperson Urbom.

**Councilperson Urbom:** First, thank you for being here to Mr. Jones' staff as well. I'd actually, first of all, greatly appreciate everything that Mr. Hardemon as well as Mr. Jones has been doing. I know that it's a priority. I know that he's working on it, but I'll just still say it out loud low-income housing, low-income housing, low-income housing. Not to be confused with workforce housing. Workforce housing is code for not low-income housing. Low-income housing, desperation. Low-income housing, low-income housing.

**Ms. Augustine:** Yes, Sir.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Councilperson Urbom. Councilperson Martin.

**Councilperson Martin:** Just back to the canal, I think I read something that had the completion date being somewhere in late 2024. Is that correct, or can you give us a completion date at this point?

**Ms. Augustine:** I can. As of this afternoon, the e-mail said, I'm going to say spring of 2024. I don't want to put a date. It does have a date, but we know that we have missed prior dates, so I don't want to be held to a specific date, but we do have. I want to tell you spring of 2024, and if anything changes before then because we are actively paying attention, I will update you on that as well. Not the beginning of spring of 2024, give me until the end of spring of 2024. Let's say, what is that, April, May? Is that the best thing because we don't have all seasons in Miami?

May of 2024, and if I see by January we have another hiccup, I'll update you that we need a little bit more time, but it is 2024, Ma'am.

**Councilperson Martin:** Okay, thank you.

**Ms. Augustine:** You're welcome.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Councilperson Martin. Before any of them leave, does anybody from the audience have any questions for either the State Senator's Office or the County Commissioner's Office? No?

**Ms. Augustine:** My last comment. Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Manager. You have communicated the needs of the Village to the commissioners. We are in the process now of planning our fiscal year 2023/2024 for the budget cycle. You constantly tell us how important the Village is to our district, and we appreciate that, and you're going to keep our feet to the fire. Thank you.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Absolutely. Thank you very much.

**Speaker:** Thank you for the opportunity.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Take care. Moving on, you guys, to Section G, Resolution Ordinances. Attorney Geller. It's ordinance G1. Attorney Geller.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Moving on, you're okay.

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**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Attorney Geller. If you look at the ordinances and resolutions ordinance G1, if we could have that read into the record, please?

**Attorney Geller:** Yes, sir. The second reading Mayor, an ordinance to the Village of El Portal Florida are ready to signs and advertising provides in Chapter 4, Animals and adopting a new section of Chapter 4 as provided here and providing for incorporation of recitals, providing for conflict and repeal, providing for clarification, providing for severability and providing for an effective date.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Attorney Geller. Any questions or comments from the council? Hearing none, any questions or comments from the audience?

**Attorney Geller:** Public hearing.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Public hearing open at 7:27 PM. Any questions or comments from the audience? Public hearing closed at 7:28 PM. Do I have a motion to approve?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** So moved.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

**Councilperson Martin:** Second.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Seconded by Councilperson Martin.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call?

**City Clerk Jacobi:** Roll call, Councilperson Martin.

**Councilperson Martin:** Yes. Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Yes.

**City Clerk Jacobi:** Councilperson Urbom.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Yes.

**City Clerk Jacobi:** Mayor Nickerson.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes.

**City Clerk Jacobi:** Motion passes four to none.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you, guys, appreciate that. Moving on to the reports. For everybody here who does have something to talk about, we do have the good and welfare at the end for you guys to speak about what you want to speak about.

Madam Manager.

**Village Manager Alou:** [inaudible 00:22:11] Vice

**Mayor Nickerson:** Jesus Christ.

**Village Manager Alou:** Sorry, [inaudible 00:22:17] All right, perfect. [inaudible 00:22:21]

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**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** You're-

**Village Manager Alou:** I'm good. I apologize. Thank you all. Thank you, Mayor Nickerson. Just an update we have some very good news. The Village of El Portal has received \$537,477.88 as part of our Hurricane Irma FEMA reimbursement.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** It came through from the state.

**Village Manager Alou:** It came through from the state.

[applause]

**Village Manager Alou:** Thank you. That is very good news.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** How much?

**Village Manager Alou:** \$537,477.88. We owe \$695,551.21. We're very close to having this debt free.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** The rest of that money is being worked on and is part of the way here already.

**Village Manager Alou:** Absolutely. In fact, we've already gotten through one major hurdle, which is the federal government. Now we're just waiting for the state. We continue to produce the documentation that they have requested. I think this is our 12th go-round producing the same things. We're still producing them and helping the newer staff at FDEM so that we can get those funds loosened up. We're getting close.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** There's a million and something still due, yes?

**Village Manager Alou:** No, it's almost a million due but we have only almost \$200,000 remaining on the debt. We're just-

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** \$200,000, that's what I'm trying to say.

**Village Manager Alou:** -less than that remaining on the Sanovas note that we just renegotiated last month.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Listen, people, we all need to applaud. That's really good news. That's not made-up stuff.

[applause]

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** It's hard to get money back. It's hard to get money back. The fact that we write at \$100,000, that's it but we've already been reimbursed. Congratulations. You're still doing a wonderful job, no matter what you do. Thank you so much.

**Village Manager Alou:** Thank you. We're really happy. Again, me and the mayor talk to our contacts, and we're just diligent about getting those funds back. Our efforts are paying off. We just have to stay consistent. I am doing that.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you, Madam Manager, for the recognition. A lot of people don't like to recognize that you and I do everything together, but I appreciate you putting that out there. Thank you very much.

**Village Manager Alou:** I'm not going to give my whole report. It is on the Village website, just in the interest of just giving you the highlights and that was the big news that I really wanted to share. I also wanted to let you all know we did have a state legislative funding

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request. We had two. One was for the Village Hall expansion. The other one was for parks renovation. Sorry, I miswrote it in the report. I'll amend that. Our parks renovation request was dropped in favor of the Village Hall expansion through the course of the session. We got all the way to the governor's desk and he voted against it. We didn't get that funding for Village Hall expansion. We didn't receive those funds again this year. Our legislative team will be attending an upcoming council meeting where they would like to talk about the session and recommends some funding opportunities. I think we always make the same funding request because that's what we need most. Parks, stormwater, water projects, and the Village Hall was something that we thought we could maybe get this time around. We'll keep trying.

I wanted to make you aware of just where we are with the legislative ask. We do have good news about FEMA. I'm happy enough with that. Any other items, please do take a look at the Village website for the Manager's June 2023 report and I'm always available for questions. Oh, and also just another piece to add, we did have our first special magistrate hearing today. It was reinstated, this process through Code Enforcement, Code Enforcement officer Simmons coordinated it, did all of the running around, and got a fantastic special magistrate. We had 24 cases today 10:00 AM to about 2:30 PM it was all day. We got a lot done, a lot accomplished. I think this is going to be very helpful as we move forward to see the changing environment of the Village and provide the residents an opportunity, but also hold them to the code. We're expecting to see a lot of good things come from that. Mr. Geller was very good and had much to say on each case as well, so thank you very much. We'll hear more about that at our upcoming Code Enforcement Committee, meeting. That concludes my report.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out to my office. Thank you.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Manager Alou. Myself and Manager Alou, moving forward, have some new ideas about how to move into the future when it comes to our legislative situation in Tallahassee, so we'll speak on that in the future. Attorney Geller, your report. You guys, if you see my report, if you have any questions, anybody can contact me.

**Attorney Geller:** Very quickly. The only thing [inaudible 00:28:06]. I'd like to thank our senator's office for showing up. He's a good guy. I'll also like to thank our county commissioner's office for showing up. He's also a good guy. The only thing I comment, Mayor, I know the manager talked about already we had four hours of Code Enforcement today. It's a lot because we haven't done in a long time. Our Code Enforcement officer is really on the board. He was extremely organized, he had all the documentation, he had every case, and I know that people watch these meetings.

You better obey the code because he's tough. He will hold you to the letter of it and he did that with a lot of people today. I want to agree also with the manager who obviously gets a lot of credit for having hired that guy. The special master that we had today was outstanding, just outstanding, and did a really good job. She was tough but she also had a compassionate side and people who racked up big fines if they came into compliance, they got some

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mitigation. For the people who did come into compliance, they're still in the system and they're likely to get hit because they're taking too long.

I thought her judgment in particular was really good. Every time I had a number in my head she said it. She's reading my mind and she has excellent judgment maybe both. Code Enforcement is so important and it's been something that I know that the Mayor, the council have been pushing hard. We've had our ups and down with it, but I like the manager. It was a long one today, about four hours, but it is a real step forward for this village. I've been here a long time, and I've never seen that process work as well as I saw it work today, Madam Manager. I don't comment on a lot of things, but that one today was outstanding.

It was tough, right, but it ended up fair, and that's important too. For people watching on TV, if you get a courtesy notice, don't ignore it, get on it. Clean your property up. Do you neighbors and yourself a favor. That will conclude my report.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Attorney Geller. I appreciate that. Moving on to-- Any questions for Attorney Geller?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Mayor?

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Yes.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Four hours in session, 24 cases presented, 24 cases completed? 24 cases meaning more than one individual and resident? Okay. That's my first question. Second, would be is the Code Enforcement person here? Okay. The manager, I commend you for hiring someone who knows the job because we're supposed to be successful. We're supposed to get what we want because this is a violation. If one person gets away with doing something, then everybody is going to try.

Well, since we're a little-bitty village, people think that we don't have the muscle to get that type of litigation completed. What's the name of the judge?

**Attorney Geller:** It's Andre--

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Something.

**Village Manager Alou:** I can't remember, yes. Andre.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Anyway, I asked it because, to me, the courtesy of a correspondence, from this council, even from your office would be-- It's just the thing to do so that people can stop thinking we're a little-bitty Village of El-Portal. No, we have the same responsibility as the bigger ones, but we just want it processed properly. I commend the whole staff and Attorney Geller for you all sticking in there and making sure that our codes are not just overlooked. What I want to say, on the record, to the villagers who are listening, pass the word.

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We may be little, but we're also educated, we're also competent, and we also care. Thank you so much for the report. I'm glad to hear it all passed.

**Attorney Geller:** The best I've seen. The best I've seen, and I've seen a lot of them.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** The best I've heard in years. That's why I'm talking. Thank you. Thank you, Mayor.

**Councilperson Martin:** Just a quick comment, Mayor. Two things. I might be stepping on Code Enforcement Committee,, but I know that we spoke about doing some sort of informational flyer to the villagers just to make sure that they know like what the heavy-hitting items are and how to stay in compliance with the code. Have we done that yet, or are we in the process?

**Village Manager Alou:** Yes, we are.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Sorry. Madam Manager, go ahead if you want to.

**Village Manager Alou:** No, I was just going to say we do have a flyer, with some items on it, that we passed out, but I wouldn't say those are the-- It might not be heavy-hitting.

**Councilperson Martin:** I think the manager said that he's planning on putting them out this weekend, so--

**Village Manager Alou:** We do have a flyer.

**Councilperson Martin:** Everybody that was kind of shook by that warning, you'll know how to stay compliant.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Well, additionally, we were going to have a Code Enforcement Committee meeting earlier, but with this magistration on the schedule, we decided to wait until after this magistration process to have the Code Enforcement Committee meeting so that a full update can kind of be made and then a discussion out of what were the prior issues, the of consistent long-going and things like that. I do think that Officer Simmons also does a very good job of articulating-

**Councilperson Martin:** No, he really does.

**Councilperson Urbom:** -yes, when he does communicate with the residents. Yes.

That's all in process essentially. This magistration process was kind of the last piece before the pebble gets removed and the rocks start rolling.

**Councilperson Martin:** Perfect. Good to hear that's working its way through. Then, this is a question for the Mayor before we wrap up. I know that we were going to talk about staff evaluations. I don't know if it was this meeting or the next one, but I just want to be properly prepared.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes. It's going to be the next one because I'm still working on the attorney one. I want to have all of them done the right way. It's still going to be within time because August is when I wanted to complete the evaluations so that we go into September and the budget meetings and stuff like that. Then, based on the evaluations, it helps us out with budgeting and things like that.

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**Councilperson Martin:** That makes perfect sense. I just wanted to be sure **Vice Mayor**

**Nickerson:** That's the only reason.

**Councilperson Martin:** -that that's was still on our radar **Vice Mayor**

**Nickerson:** Yes. No. 100%.

**Councilperson Martin:** -and we're still geared to go on that. I appreciate that.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Councilperson Martin.

**Village Manager Alou:** May I also-- I just want to make a correction. The special magistrate's name is Andre McKinney Doval.

**Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Madam Manager. I appreciate that. All right. Any other questions for the attorney? Any other comments? Okay. Moving onto Good and Welfare. This is the time right now if anybody has anything they want to say, they can come up to one of the podiums, say your name and address for the record, and you can speak about anything at all, not just things on the agenda. Just make sure you say your name and address for the record, please.

**Mr. Kobrick:** Scott Kobrick. 8525, NE 4th Avenue Road. Basically, I stood up here last time. I'm sure most of you remember regarding that Skatebird and the noise that has been going on since then. Since that time, it has actually gotten quite worse. There's more events, more days of the week. I know that last time, we kind of had discussed that maybe we were going to try to get it on the agenda for this meeting. I'm not sure. I guess that didn't happen. I wanted to try to understand what the path forward could be.

I wanted to sort read the ordinance, as it reads or if that helps. It essentially says that during the hours of Monday through Friday-- I'm sorry, I'm going to just read it. I'm just going to get to the point where it's referring to bands, radios, televisions, et cetera, and this is in the noise section. It says that basically, the operation of any or such, between the hours of 10:00 PM 8:00 AM, Sunday through Thursday, and between 12:00 PM and 8:00 AM Friday and Saturday, in such a manner to be playing the audible at a distance of 100 feet from the building structure or vehicle which is located shall be in violation of the section.

That is happening consistently. From what I understand, I know that this is something that maybe was-- I'm not sure if it was addressed at the Code Enforcement meeting today at all, but basically, I have been in touch with Officer Simmons several times, before the last time, and he had instructed me to continue to call the non-emergency number, which I have been doing so that a case could be built in relation to that. What he had told me is that what's happening is they're continuing to get special events permits, and that those are being given out regularly.

As a result of that, that is not a reason to cause a disturbance to the residents of the neighborhood. Basically, it seems that-- I don't want to offend anybody or anything like that, it seems like these special events permits are being used as a sort of license to break the law

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on a regular basis. We are losing sleep over this. It's starting to happen several days a week. Half of our week is filled with either an MC over the mic that we hear inside of our house that is-- the whole commentary, we're hearing. Then, at other times, there's much worse loud DJs or music that are screaming curse words.

I don't even want to say what is being said on these things. There's asking audience to scream back these very vulgar things, and there's children in the neighborhood. I think that it is a big problem.

I know that the skate park itself was approved as a skate park, and its main core business function is supposed to be a skate park. It is in very close distance to residential houses. Of course, the Village of El Portal has always been a very quiet oasis, and this is definitely affecting myself and I know my neighbors as well. This is something that I've told my neighbors I'm going to come speak on and everything and try to address.

I wanted to understand, as of last time, like I said, Officer Simmons had said that other than calling the nonemergency number, he said that there was a meeting that was supposed to take place. I know last time the owner had said that he was going to do some mitigation curtains, or get his name his own equipment to make sure that that decibel level that's hit is not exceeding. Again, in the ordinance, it says 100 feet. My house is over 1,000 feet away as the Crow flies, and we are hearing it. My house was rattling last time that Officer Dorsey went and I had to call the non-emergency number several times.

He called me back and said, "Look, I'm here with my supervisor, and we're at the police station and we hear this really loudly and rattling." It's something that I'm having to deal with four nights a week. I'm having to call and go through this process. I just am trying to figure out what the path forward will be to get this try to sort it out so we can have peace and quiet in our neighborhood and be able to sleep, and not have our children be hearing curse words and all that all the time.

I do want to highlight again, I understand that the skate park brings a lot to the community. I see the benefits in it and all of that. I think that the difference between the family-friendly events and these other loud concerts and parties are a big difference. That's not so much concern what type of events that they're having, but obviously the peace and quiet and the loud noise four nights a week is what I'm trying to address.

**Councilperson Urbom:** I will be more than happy to. It's not scheduled yet, but the Code of Enforcement Committee meeting will most likely be taking place in the next two to three-- either the second or third week of July. Once it is on a calendar, then it will be noted and publicly noticed. I will be more than happy to put this specific item as an agenda item on that meeting. As well as have Officer Simmons be able to present at that meeting truly really where we are with history of violations and discussions he's had and review the ordinance and see what we can do to accomplish resolving this.

Because as I had said before, I think it's important to have live music and things like this, but I certainly am deeply empathetic with the reality of having someone else's event in your head is not going to be-- It's unhealthy. I'll just cut right to that. It's unhealthy, right? It affects mental health and physical health once sleep is upset and things like this. I don't have a date

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at the moment. The code enforcement magistration that took place today was not a code enforcement meeting. It was essentially a scheduled series of small trials for mitigation purposes of people who are essentially challenging a history of violations.

It's possible the SkateBird will end up in magistration at some point, but I can at least assure you that this item will be on the code enforcement agenda. We will have a full rundown from Officer Simmons. We will have a discussion regarding the ordinance as it stands and what we can possibly do to strengthen the ordinance, specifically from an enforcement perspective, and go from there. Mr. Terry.

**Attorney Geller:** If I can add something, Mr. Chair. Two quick points. Number one, as part of our ongoing conversations that Chair Martin has been leading in terms of our short-term rental issue, which has been pretty intense.

**Village Manager Alou:** Jim, speak in the mic. Point of order. Okay. Jim, speak in the mic.

**Attorney Geller:** As part of those ongoing discussions that we've had that Chair Martin has been leading on short-term rentals, one of the solutions we've come up with to deal with the issues raised by it, is strengthening our noise ordinance. Not targeted specifically to who's making the noise, but to toughen the noise ordinance period as it applies to everyone.

However, in addition to changes in the ordinance, still a little bit down the road, but something that we're beginning to look at. If as this gentleman says, the ordinance we have is not being complied with, then we do have the ability as a municipality to enforce our laws.

As you move forward, Chair Urbom, with that, I will also make sure that I'm talking with our code enforcement officer about that particular section of code. We're happy to work with you and with Mr. Simmons and the manager to devise a better, more effective strategy to enforce the ordinance we've already got on the books.

**Councilperson Urbom:** To address, for example, the issue with the special event permits.

**Attorney Geller:** If something is being heard at a distance that's that great a distance, it would appear that that's a violation.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Agreed.

**Attorney Geller:** Whether it occurs because you're having a birthday party or because you've gotten a special event permit. If it was an annual event, that's one thing, but if it's something that's occurring multiple nights.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Right, like a 70th birthday party is different than an event venue.

**Attorney Geller:** We'll work with you and with the code enforcement officer and the manager on that. If we need to wrap in the PD as well, that's a possibility. I can say without fear of contradiction, we have a code enforcement officer who's enforcing our codes. If our codes are being violated, there will be action.

**Councilperson Urbom:** We'll need to look at zone discrepancies as well in terms of if the rules are different in one zone versus another.

**Attorney Geller:** Yes, sir. Thank you.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Please.

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**Participant 1:** I just have a quick question. First of all, the code enforcement meeting, you said you don't know when it is [crosstalk]

**Councilperson Urbom:** Right. It'll most likely be in either the second or third week of July.

**Participant 1:** That's not being deal with you.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Yes. This is actually a discussion I had as a sidebar with the managers that walked in tonight in terms of, "Hey, we had great success with the magistration process, we're ready for the code enforcement meeting." We actually had a quick discussion of, okay, so by tomorrow morning there will be emails already of picking a date.

**Participant 1:** Is that something that I would be able to do?

**Councilperson Urbom:** Absolutely, yes. These are open to the public. In fact, we encourage the public to come to all meetings, so most definitely. For example, you're here representing other neighbors tonight, it sounds like. Any and all, even people from outside El Portal would be welcome at that meeting. I know we've had meetings in the past over other issues where people have come from outside either to offer expert advice or things like that. Any and all are welcome and there will be time for everyone. As the chair, I can guarantee you that.

**Participant 1:** Okay, great. I actually do have personally-- I know that the meeting won't rely on this, but I do have plans to be away from the first to the 15th of July. If it happens during that time, is there any way to represent my--

**Councilperson Urbom:** No, I'm glad you told me that and I'll work on having it-- I'll be out of town starting, I think, on the 25th. It's probably going to be between the 16th and the 24th that the meeting will take place. There you go.

**Participant 1:** Thank you.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Go ahead.

**Participant 1:** My second question is just the process with the special events permits. Basically, what I just wanted to address is that what seems to be happening is that they are consistently-- like I call the non-emergency number--

**Councilperson Urbom:** I'll put the item on the agenda. For specifically referencing special permitting at SkateBird. I will put the agenda item on as that, so that that rises to the forefront of the discussion immediately. Then it sounds like in that discussion we will accomplish some path to a solution.

**Participant 1:** Okay, great because it just, it does **Councilperson Urbom:**

It does sound like that's the issue.

**Participant 1:** Yes.

**Village Manager Alou:** May I please respond about this, please?

**Participant 1:** Sure.

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**Village Manager Alou:** I'm just trying to get a moment here. Yes, they have been requesting special events permits since they opened the doors. The special events permit is not to violate the noise ordinance. The special events permit is for them to utilize spaces in the parking lot for a food truck. If you do a public records request, you can see what the special events permits are for sure. Now, as of late, we've been denying pub special events permits because SkateBird has been in violation of those special events permits. We cannot find enough staff to man those events. We also have police staff assigned to those events. It is not that they're allowed to violate the noise ordinance, they do it anyway.

**Participant 1:** I see.

**Village Manager Alou:** Mr. Simmons, our code enforcement officer and I have met on several occasions with SkateBird about the noise violations, because I read your emails and we do respond, but in those meetings I have required a sound mitigation plan. I have not been given the sound mitigation plan yet, and so I did state until we received that no more special events permits. What I understand, they had a big event, they did not have a special events permit though. We'll work with you. I empathize and sympathize with you because you're not the only one we hear from in these instances, but the special events permits are issued as our counsel have said, for people who are having a special party or an event, not every weekend, four days a week kind of thing.

We wouldn't do that to ourselves or our residents, but just know that I think Mr. Strauss is in a situation where he is renting out the space as an event space and that may be against what the use that is being provided through his certificate of occupancy. We'll have to look at a lot of things. I think that with the Councilperson Urbom making that one of the agenda items for discussion, we can also look at zoning and the things that are allowed in that space. We hear you and will represent your concerns if you are unable to be there.

**Participant 1:** Thank you very much. I appreciate the clarity on that. The one thing I just want to mention in response, is that I believe that maybe the police department would need to be let know that, because every time that I called a non-emergency number, or most of the times. Maybe not in the past week or so that their response to me is, well, they have a permit to do this until X time. They're at a little bit of I think, a misunderstanding on what is supposed to be done in that circumstance. Officer Dorsey has been extremely helpful, I've spoken to him several times but I think that he might feel like he's up against the wall because he goes and tells them and then they don't do anything about it. I'm not sure if that's being followed up from code enforcement.

**Councilperson Urbom:** Yes, and I greatly appreciate the manager offering that, specifically with code enforcement. Specifically with code enforcement. It's frequently the case where people will say, why hasn't anything been done yet? Code enforcement is one of the situations where still waters run deep. This is what I mean by we will have Officer Simmons be able to give us a breakdown of the history of where he's been through, where we're at, where the issue is with lack of ability to enforce, which seems to be the critical issue here.

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I think we're all in agreement about what needs to be enforced. It seems like we need to address the enforcement aspect of this. Again, in code enforcement, sometimes the enforcement process can be lengthy and drawn out, including to the point where people have the opportunity, as is their right to challenge everything in front of a magistration. That's what I mean by its very likely that that SkateBird will end up in magistration over these issues. I'll leave it there. Just to echo what the manager is saying in terms of there's no desire to ignore this. There's no desire to wish it away.

We will address this and your comments certainly are helpful, truly. Your emails are helpful, your complaints are helpful. Again, as a former restaurant manager, it was always very helpful to have complaints. Someone walks out the door and they don't tell you what's wrong, you can only really, truly be aware of so much. You need your staff to tell you what's wrong. You need the customers to complain, you really do. I will just say that this is very helpful and to realize that we are trying to get to a resolution here.

**Participant 1:** Great. Thank you so much everybody. I really appreciate it.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you Guss. You want to come from Good in Welfare, just say your name and address for the record. Appreciate you.

**Dwight:** My name is Dwight Garman, 415 Lopez 88 Terrace. Myself and my wife went over there speaking of this issue real quickly here, to speak with the owner, where we got in contact with the manager. She assured me that on Thursdays is when they have these big events and stuff, and yes they all renting out spaces. I asked that question, so ma'am, you're right. Village Manager, you're right. They're all renting out space. I asked that question. My concern was because I live on 88 Terrace, so I'm nearly anywhere clear there, but as El Portal residence, I have to be concerned with what's really going on in this community. Upon talking to her about that, she made it clear, like I said, that they do rent out certain spaces for certain events. I think we have one of the clear violations there. I asked her how long does it stay open? She says sometime about 1:00 and 2:00 in the morning. I know that's a violation itself. You looking at a couple of violations here.

The residence, you have a right to be safe in your environment, at your workplace, where your family reside, or they play at. If these things are going on, we're looking at some issues we need to deal with and I'm quite sure the village manager and all the councilperson, I'm quite sure y'all going to deal with that. I think you for these few moments because I got to go. Thank you, have a good day.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Appreciate that. Anybody else? Good in welfare?

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** Mr. Manager?

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Yes.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** For those of you that don't know, that's my husband that he's talking about, we went over there ourselves. I heard this gentleman, I not only just heard him, I felt his anger, frustration. It is not a building, it's an open forum. Council, I invite you to go

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see that place. You can't help but have noise. It's not covered in, its open, and if we live that close, I'd be just like him. It is open space. It is not in a building, it's open space. When the manager says, we're on this, they really are but I had to go see myself, how in the world can you keep an entire village on that end of town, because it's an open space.

I'm not concerned about the permit that that was-- I'm not concerned about us doing what we did in terms of allowing, I'm concerned about them taking it for granted that we can tolerate in a little bitty city on a major thoroughfare that we can take that into consideration. No, no, it's wrong. You should not have to be awake. They should be in a building. I thought they were in a building. Council, I thought they were in a building, they're in an open forum. Until you see it, then you're going to say, "No, no, no, this can't be, this is terrible." It gives a very bad light.

I'm on 88 Terrace and folks are complaining to me. I'm on 88 Terrace, I'm not even nowhere near it. So I went to see, I want to know, and now I know. There is nothing we can do, nothing this council can do, but shut it down. That's basically it. Mr. Attorney if there's an authority to do so, because they came with the wrong impression. They did not tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We did not see it. We don't want run around and look at places until there's problems. If we had a known and others had said, "They're wanting to open a business over here," and the whole council room was full of neighbors that said, "We don't want them here." Then we would've had to see it, and then we wouldn't be talking about this today because it is an open structure. You can't make the noise quiet. You can't.

On behalf of the council and the Village of El Portal, I apologize to you, but when I looked at it for myself, I'm on your side. It needs to be shut down. That's crazy. We went one night when it was blaring. I see why. It's open space. Thank you so much, Mr. Mayor.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward.

Anybody else for Good and Welfare? All right. Name and address, for the record, again.

**Participant 1:** Yes. 8525, NE 4th Avenue Road. I just wanted to thank you for that. I think that is a really important point. When they were talking about the mitigation and everything like that, that's a major problem is that the place is built like a speaker. It is a tunnel that has opening on both sides. One potential option would be for them to enclose the space if they do want to continue to have these types of events and that sort of thing. That's all I want to mention. Is that is I think a very core issue is that element that the structure of the space. If it was an inside place, I don't think we would be here today. They wouldn't be able to play the music at the same volume and have their guest enjoying.

Having said that, I do think that as the ordinance states and what I think is reasonable being where they are located that they can also-- I think that their guests would enjoy to hear the volume at a lower level and still be able to have the same enjoyment from that. If that is a possible solution as well, to find what that level is and then make sure that that level is-- there's some sort of way to make sure that that's where it's staying.

**Councilperson Urbom:** The hours also. The hours are a huge point of contention. it's just absolutely way too late, on top of everything else, in addition to, yes.

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**Participant 1:** Yes. Thank you very much. I really appreciate that. At the same time, I just want to note that I do-- My heart, I love the Village of El Portal for so many reasons. It has a deep place in my heart, and I hope that it can stay a place that I and many other people want to live, that is a place that we can enjoy the quiet enjoyment of our homes. Thank you very much.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Anybody else for Good and Welfare?

**Councilperson Martin:** I just have a little comment.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Go ahead, Councilperson.

**Councilperson Martin:** I definitely knew what SkateBird was. I have seen SkateBird previously. I think that both of the things can live at the same time. It can be a great venue when used as a skate park, because I do think that there are benefits to that for our young kids, for those who are into skating. I think it's a great landmark for the village. However, I think we're running into an issue with how they are using it, and the use is where it gets money. I still think that SkateBird is a great addition to the landscape of the Village of El Portal. I think that how they are using it is problematic and something that we can be impactful on, and then they will have to make the business decision of like if they are going to continue to use it that way or what mitigating factors, what actual mitigating factors they can employ.

I do think it's a more nuanced conversation than, "We love SkateBird," or, "We hate SkateBird." It's something that I'm happy that Councilman Urbom is going to engage in at the council committee meeting, because I do think that there is a place to make it such that you rightfully are able to quietly enjoy your property. It would drive me crazy. I have a three and a four-year-old. I don't know how you've done it as long as you've done it, but in addition to that figure out a way where Mr. Strauss can operate in the way that we envision him operating in the village. We definitely hear you. Hopefully, the next committee meeting will get us closer to threading that needle and coming up with a solution that's good for the community and also good for where we envision this area of El Portal going. That's all I want to say.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Thank you very much Councilperson Martin. Anybody else for the-- Oh, we have somebody. Say your name and address for the record for me, J.R. Thanks.

**Mr. Rivero:** Good evening. Jay Rivero. 225, NE 86th Street. Who is code enforcement Committee in the village? Who is the chairperson?

**Councilperson Urbom:** I'm the chair.

**Mr. Rivero:** Who's the other two?

**Councilperson Urbom:** I'm chair and the other two--

**Village Manager Alou:** Councilman Pirela, and Councilperson Lightfoot.

**Mr. Rivero:** Okay. Can you, please, put on the agenda for your next meeting, and I will be here, review of ordinance or resolutions for what the village currently has and what needs to

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be updated. I've been asking for this, because someone filed complaints against my property, [unintelligible 01:05:57] because of lights. The individual is utilizing county ordinance, not village ordinance, and we need to get this fixed because I cannot live with a dark backyard, back patio, and also not have my security lights because my lights are disturbing the individual. Okay? I don't want to say much, but we need to review all of our ordinance to make sure that residents of the village follow the guidelines. If you abuse the system, we need to create some sort of a fine for calling on unnecessary items.

**Councilperson Urbom:** I will say that recently, we have decided to kind of split resources regarding our urban planner, who has been helping us updating codes and ordinances. What we have found is that they have a very specific expertise at a very high level with certain things, but they have been getting bogged down a little bit in a lot of these discussions about various ordinances.

We've actually already taken a step to bring in another planner who can handle almost exactly what you're talking about more efficiently while the original urban planner is able to stay on task with some of the larger projects. The ordinance, in general, we are very well aware is outdated, and throughout the code, we need a great many updates to it. As different things rise to a priority level, the squeaky wheel gets the grease, right? Again, I very greatly appreciate all comments brought in to the council to make these things aware. I would be happy to put specifically on the agenda something regarding lighting, but it would be completely unfeasible to do a full review of the entire code at a committee meeting or even a series of committee meetings.

The code itself is an active work in progress that is being given a great amount of time and money by the village, in terms of seeking outside professional help to help us get our ordinances up to date. The most up-to-date ordinances before we brought in these urban planners were from 1984 I believe, and then before that, we might be talking 1950s, before the-- It's been 30 years and then 30 years again.

**Mr. Rivero:** Can I make a suggestion?

**Councilperson Urbom:** Absolutely.

**Mr. Rivero:** Create a town hall meeting, put that on your agenda, let the residents decide which ordinance have affected them, or make those our priority, the residents bringing those concerns to you. Set up a town hall meeting with all the residents so that we could address what is affecting us.

**Councilperson Urbom:** I like the suggestion. Okay.

**Mr. Rivero:** Okay? Another item. The county just left, but what's the status on sewer to the line--

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** [unintelligible 01:09:47]

**Mr. Rivero:** Does the state-- It's going to provide additional money?

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** This is a long conversation. Why don't I call you tomorrow, and we can have a conversation?

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**Mr. Rivero:** Okay.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Because it's going to be a long conversation.

**Mr. Rivero:** That's it. My three minutes are over.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** All right. Thank you very much. Anybody else Good and Welfare? Seeing and hearing none, I'm giving a motion to adjourn.

**Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward:** So moved.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Lightfoot-Ward. Do I have a second?

**Councilperson Martin:** Second.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** Seconded by Councilperson Martin. All in favor say Aye.

**Councilmen:** Aye.

**Vice Vice Mayor Nickerson:** All opposing say Nay. Guys the regular council meeting for Tuesday June 27th, 2023 is adjourned at 8:16 PM. Thank you very much.

**[01:10:29] [END OF AUDIO]**

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