



**Village of El Portal  
Regular Council Meeting  
Date: 5/28/24  
Meeting Start: 7:06 PM  
Meeting End: 7:40 PM  
Meeting Length: 0:34:19**

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** The regular council meeting for El Portal is called to order on Tuesday, May 28 at 7.06 PM. First, we're going to have the moment of silent meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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. Thank you very much. Madam Clerk, could I have roll call, please?

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call, Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Here.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Luis Pirela.

**Vice Mayor Luis Pirela:** Here.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Anders Urbom.

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Present.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

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

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Martin will not be in today. Also present for the record, Yenise Jacobi, Village Clerk, Cristia Alou, Village Manager, and Joseph Geller, Village Attorney, and the CFO is also present.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Appreciate that. Motion to approve the agenda?

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** So moved.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Anders Urbom. Second?

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Second.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Second by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. All in favor, say aye. Aye. Opposed, say nay. Hearing none. Moving along. Good and welfare. The first good and welfare. Anybody can come up and talk about anything that's on the agenda. We also, when we get to each agenda item, you have a chance to come up and speak also. All

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right. Hearing, seeing none. Moving to consent agenda. If I have no questions or comments from the council, do I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** So moved.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Anders Urbom. Do I have a second?

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Second.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Second by Councilperson Lightfoot Ward. Madam Clerk, may I please have a roll call for consent agenda?

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Lightfoot Ward? Councilperson Anders Urbom?

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Pirela?

**Vice Mayor Luis Pirela:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson?

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes, 4-0.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Moving on. Next is GG1. This is the launch green we used. This is about, we've been introduced to this a few times. We're getting money to clean up a site. There's really no downside to this. I will open it up. Any questions or comments from the council? Hearing, seeing none. Any questions or comments from the audience? Come up and say your name and address for the record. Since this is a second reading, it's a resolution. It's not an ordinance, but it's a second reading. Attorney Geller, do we have to swear anybody in?

**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** If anybody's going to actually testify, I mean if you generally just make a comment, you don't have to be sworn in to make a comment.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Okay. Just say your name and address for the record.

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**Scott Kobrick:** Scott Kobrick, 8525 Northeast 4th Avenue Road. Basically, I came up last time during the Good and Welfare and addressed that I wanted to address this topic when it came up. Although, I guess, on the agenda and I think in general, it seems like what is being done at this meeting is not the site plan and sort of more the intricate aspects of it, but it's the green reuse aspect, which seems, I think, at face, pretty harmless and no big deal. I just had done a little bit of preliminary looking into, and one of the things that I just wanted to address and bring up is that there is something on the Florida Senate when you look into what this act calls for.

It also says that there is a potential for the individual local municipality to provide incentives beyond the incentives of what's provided on the state level. There's a long list of those incentives that's on that Senate website, and they include things such as making exceptions and providing flexibility to planning and zoning and reviewing of plans and so on and so forth.

That's sort of where I'm just a little bit concerned about, that if the village has locally provided any incentives to them, that we be careful as a village that they are not in the sense of being able to sort of circumvent the standard and critical aspects of plan review and planning and zoning and everything like that, because I think that in this circumstance, this is more critical than ever for this project, specifically being that I think it sets precedence, of course, with the trailer park and the whole neighborhood of Sherwood Forest being a historic neighborhood, that it would set precedence for the development plans and everything like that. I just want to make sure that it's being carefully considered and that I guess my question, if it's possible to be answered, is the local municipal, is El Portal providing any incentives with the green reuse redevelopment?

**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** Now, for the brownfield--

**Scott Kobrick:** Go ahead.

**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** I was just going to say-- well, some feedback there, quite a feedback loop. The answer to your question, sir, is that the village is approving the green reuse, but there are no additional local incentives which the village may give, but is not required to give to give them what they need. They haven't asked for anything additional besides the designation. The village has not offered any. None are being approved. There is a planning and zoning process to come, and if you're concerned, certainly should monitor that. There's always something that could come up that has not. As of tonight, as of second reading, as of approval, none have been asked, none have been offered, and none are on the agenda.

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**Scott Kobrick:** Okay. I guess in response to that, is there any, other than the state, is there anything that approving this would allow them to sort of be provided exemptions or circumvent standard planning and zoning and review and things of that nature?

**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** If I can continue, Mayor. The answer is they can always come back and ask for something that they're entitled to ask for. The fact that they have not, it doesn't mean they couldn't, but they haven't, nor have we given them anything. As I said, if you want to see that the proper process is followed, you should, by all means, monitor it. There will be further things. Site plan, I presume, at some point. You don't have a site plan yet. Do you, right? Okay, you do? Okay.

I mean they could be doing this after site plan approval, but I believe in this case they're not. Yes, there are other things to come, and, yes, they could ask for something, which doesn't mean the village is obligated to approve it. What this really does, since we're not offering anything and haven't asked for anything, it just means we clean up the village with other people's money. Pollution problem is addressed with paid for with state and federal funds, and we end up with a cleaner village, and nobody in the village is paying. The village itself is not paying, and I guess you could say if the federal government is paying, everybody chips in a little bit to that, but not particularly, yes.

**Scott Kobrick:** Sure. Is this sort of second reading? Is this to approve the green? Okay. All right. Yes, I just wanted to--

**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** For the record, yes.

**Scott Kobrick:** Okay, great. Yes, I just, if it stands that there's been nothing further asked and there's really nothing that could be in there, I just wanted to, because this document shows a long list of things that could be done, with the local municipality and I guess potentially the state as well, that would allow them, and I just want to make sure that that's being heard and being carefully considered when approving this.

**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** It's a very good question, sir. We have an answer.

**Scott Kobrick:** Sounds great. Thank you very much.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much. Anybody else from the audience about the green reuse, cleaning up the brownfield? All right. Seeing, hearing none. Do I have a motion? Any last questions or comments from the council?

Councilperson Anders Urbom: Yes, just one comment, I think. Just for the benefit of the public to understand a little more of what we're talking about here, what this classification

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essentially acknowledges is that the area that's going to be developed is officially in a brownfield area.

It does not require that that particular plot or all the plots actually have whatever contaminants are. The cause of the area to be identified, right?

In this particular case, it does sound like there were arsenic specifically in the soil, right? I had the same question in terms of-- I've been accused of being a cynic before and might have self-identified as one in the past as well. The question becomes, okay, so reuse, but what's going to go there is a concrete platform basically, so what's this green use we're talking about, right?

I understand that the primary goal here is first and foremost, to address this area that has high levels of toxins that if continue to leach into the water, for example, the soil is already contaminated and can't be used for things. This is, in fact, a qualified project to improve the brownfield area. As far as the details go of the site plan and things like that, that's the meat and potatoes. As far as this classification goes, it is to address the toxicity of the area, and so this toxic land certainly qualified for that. All seems to be good and great in that regard.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Councilperson Anders Urbom. Anybody else from the council? We're good? Hearing, seeing none, do I have a motion to approve resolution G1?

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** So moved.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Moved by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward.

**Vice Mayor Luis Pirela:** Second.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Second by Vice Mayor Luis Pirela. Can I please have a roll call, Madam Clerk?

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Roll call. Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward?

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Councilperson Anders Urbom?

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Vice Mayor Luis Pirela?

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**Vice Mayor Luis Pirela:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson?

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes.

**Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi:** Motion passes, 4-0.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much. We're down to the reports. Madam Manager, do you want to briefly go back, go through your report?

**Village Manager Christia Alou:** I'll make it very brief. The report is on the village website for all to read. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me about it. I'll just highlight a couple of items that I want to bring to your attention. We have quite a police department, I can tell you that. We have Corporal Torrens, who's part of the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Taskforce. She was just involved with a major sting operation regarding sexual predators approaching young children. There's more about that in my report.

Officer Ricardo Chavez, who was just here, and Officer Miguel Savanna are receiving commendations for exemplary service in traffic enforcement. These are the gentlemen who are out there on Northeast 2nd Avenue and North Miami, and all throughout the village, ticketing everybody. Their vigilance and hard work help to make the village safer for our residents, and visitors, issuing over 350 traffic citations in the past couple of months, I mean, in a very short time.

We are working with the community and our department, Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson and the Vice Mayor, I know you all have been out there on those multi-agency operations where we're addressing the traffic safety on our major thoroughfare, so we'll continue that. We want to commend those two officers for their exemplary work. Corporal Jonathan Brito and Officer Christopher Guzman received a commendation after responding to a call for assistance for a resident who was in need of CPR.

They did give that CPR to that resident. Unfortunately, that resident succumbed to the distress, but they were there on the scene and worked trying to revive that resident until fire was able to get the fire and rescue. It doesn't go unnoticed that they're community policing and being there for our residents as well. After 25 years of service as a reserve officer, a volunteer, Officer Albert Dolan retired and was issued his retiree badge. We're sad to see Officer Dolan leave us after many years.

These are some of our quieter, less-seen officers that come in and give their 20 hours a month and work on those weekends and they come through. After 25 years of service, Officer Dolan

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has moved on, but we wish him the best. Also, speaking of moving on, Plusurbia announced that Camila Zablah will be leaving the company this month. We're going to wish her all the best in her new role at the University of Miami's Urban Environmental Project.

We're sad that we can't call her. She's so responsive. We're looking for someone to take her place over at Plusurbia, as we address some other things that are coming through, which you'll hear more about, but we're sad to see Camila go. Let me just try to do a quick look because there's a lot, as always, going on in the village. I'm just going to leave that for there. Thank you all for working with us. The village CFO began the fiscal year 2023 audit on April 29th, and we're expecting a completion date of June 30.

Not only are we all caught up, we're ahead of schedule, we're doing well. Thanks to his efforts. Thanks, Mr. Taubenfeld. We're doing really well, and we're timely with all of our submissions. We're going to continue that vein, instituting the protocols as we've done, that he has worked so hard to put in place in that department. That concludes my report. If anyone, again, has any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much. I appreciate it, Madam Manager. Speaking of speeding, village-wide, over the past three to four months, we've written, Chief, 2,000?

**Chief Mendez:** I was going to say the 341 was just the one month?

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes.

**Chief Mendez:** For the?

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** For the past three, four months, how many, is it 2,300, 2,500 or something like that?

**Chief Mendez:** No, it's almost at 3,000. We actually have to go and order, request more tickets on those.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** We're almost at 3,000 tickets written village-wide in the past three to four months. Hey, we're out there, whether you see us or not. I appreciate it. You guys see my Mayor's Report there. If anybody has any questions?

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Mr. Mayor.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes?

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**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Before you go further, this is the real question, is that because we have so-- You're doing tickets on our behalf, the residents in the village, is that because they're beginning to use-- Yes, I want you to come up. All of our streets in the morning and in the afternoon as a thoroughfare, is that why the tickets are coming?

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** While the chief is making his way up there, a large part of the reason is, is what I was telling residents for a while is that we got brand new radars. These brand new radars, no taxpayer dollars, these brand new radars, which are state of the art, our officers had to first get certified in them. Otherwise, if you use the radars and the officer is not certified, it gets thrown out of court. We had to get our officer certified. Unfortunately, that radar class for the certification only occurs twice a year, and that was a problem, but now most of our officers are certified, so now is why you're seeing this influx is one of the reasons. I'll turn it over to you, Chief, for the rest of what hers, yes.

**Chief Mendez:** Again, you're right. Again, we don't give tickets, we conduct enforcement. As a result of the enforcement, and that's based on-

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** In the mic.

**Chief Mendez:** -the way we're taught-

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Oh, oh, it's not-- Okay.

**Chief Mendez:** -the way we're taught in the academy and what you learn on the road. Traffic enforcement is one of the best ways to control the problem anyway. The bad guys have to get in, the bad guys have to get out. If they see an area that is constantly being patrolled, especially with regard to traffic, they tend to stay away from those areas. Aside from that, it's discretionary, but the officers have their marching orders. We get complaints, we get inquiries, they're addressed, we set up traffic enforcement specifically. If we have a crime pattern, we set up traffic enforcement as well. The radars and the lasers just help immensely because it lets us dominate the traffic of Northeast 2nd in Miami Avenue, which otherwise, it's a massive-

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Mess.

**Chief Mendez:** -undertaking if you just have one or two guys there, once you have that rhythm going, then it's different and it's much safer to address.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** I don't want to belabor this but it's happening too much. You know where I live.

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**Chief Mendez:** Definitely.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** I'm right there. What I've experienced since the beginning of the year, which hasn't been that many months ago is, traffic is going through the neighborhood lined up, you know what I'm talking about, the cars are lined up. I live on the corner lot, and they speed through the neighborhoods now. The problem with all of that is we're not used to seeing that much traffic coming through the village and coming back into the village in the whatever.

They're using our little avenues, if you will, our short streets to detract from the main highway.

That should not be happening.

**Chief Mendez:** We also have set up traffic enforcement with regard to that specific complaint on 5th Avenue, because they come in off of the other side of 95- [crosstalk]

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** That's right.

**Chief Mendez:** -and we monitor the times, for the rush hour in the morning, as well as the rush hour returning in the afternoon.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Okay, now that you've got my 5th Avenue out of the way, I'm at the corner of 3rd. The traffic is from, you know where that is-

**Chief Mendez:** Correct.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** -and then it goes all the way back. We got that whole traffic in there, and it's a neighborhood. It goes, we have it monitored from 5th Avenue to 3rd, all the way to the curb on 86, because that's where they're going to end up, on [inaudible 00:20:38].

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** I believe you. I believe in what you're doing, but it just seems so strange that we have main traffic going from neighborhoods at main traffic speed. That doesn't sound right to me. Matter of fact, it's quite dangerous, because we've got the children going over there at this school, and horsemen.

**Chief Mendez:** One of our details is saying we've got the kids on 86, so if they come over to the school, that's why they're mandated every morning to be sure one is at the stop sign and the one is a little further up on the curb, and specifically for the kids. After that, they move on to the one on 5th and 3rd, or the other one that we give them on the other side, and we have a new one down on East 1 avenue between 87 and 86, particularly because of the same

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problem. Once traffic gets backed up, everybody uses the thin streets to go through and circumvent, and they come in two or three infractions at a time, and that's what we're focused on.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Very good. I'm still on the team. I still believe in you, but it just seems so wrong to have that many vehicles coming through. They were speeding. Now, they're backed up.

**Chief Mendez:** It's a problem that we deal with, and I'm sure it deals with [unintelligible 00:21:53], because I confer with those other teams as well, and that's why we run operations together as well, because-

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Very good.

**Chief Mendez:** -they benefit as well.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** All right. I'm much better about it. Thank you.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes, and unfortunately, we can't run operations all the time. We run it periodically, but what we have done, myself, the chief, and the manager, we got together last week, and we're changing some things up to bring more officers, because understand that, for example, in the morning when there's rush hour, that's when you'll find a lot of the traffic all throughout the village. For our officers, they're on duty, so they have to answer to whatever call happens.

Also, we have horseman, which our officers have to see what's going on over there. Then we have other areas throughout the village. We have 86 between North Miami Avenue and Northeast 2nd. We have 86 west of North Miami Avenue. We have, where there's been a couple accidents right here, 87th and Northeast 2nd. Then we have the people that want to zoom down here and zoom down 90th. That's huge also.

We've changed things to where we have to bring in more officers. Now, these are officers that are not under their normal schedules, so understand. To have that is difficult because we have to make sure that they're shifted in a particular way and things like that. It's changing. It's just El Portal is a small community and we really would need 15 officers on every shift to cover every area that we need at the same time. We just don't have 15 officers per shift, so, but it's changing. Like I say, almost 3,000 tickets. hey, numbers don't lie, so there you go. Thanks, Chief. You guys see my Mayor's Report there. If anybody has any questions about the Mayor's Report, feel free to contact me. Everybody has my number, or you can email me. The village attorney report.

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**Village Attorney Joseph Geller:** Very briefly, the only thing I'll comment on is how very pleased I am that between the manager and the CFO and I and the chief, we were able to get a contract with our police officers. It's been several years. They switched bargaining units, but we have one. It's a good contract. It's fair to them. It contributes to the number one concern of your constituents, mayor and vice mayor and council members. Why are we a city at all? We're a city because we can provide excellent police protection in the drop of a hat and get somebody there right away. That's why we're not just part of Miami Shores or the City of Miami or something like that.

This contract keeps officers here. It keeps them from just turning over and getting trained and going to another department. Keeps them here. Keeps them happy where they know the residents. They know who to expect at a door when they get called. They know who's supposed to be there and who's not. I congratulate you for ratifying it. I congratulate the team, the CFO, the manager, the chief for helping get this done. It's been too long. We didn't have one. Now you can look those police officers in the eye and tell them we treated them right and keep doing the great jobs that they're doing. Thank you all. Thank you, team. I just want to put that on the record. Thank you.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** I'm giving you a standing ovation.

[applause]

I know what's going on. Thank you so much. Yes, we appreciate that. It's been a long time coming.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Sound good. All right, moving on. I see Chavez. Is that Chavez back there? Chavez. How you doing, Chavez? Officer Chavez is back there. Come here, Officer Chavez. Come here, come here, come here, come here. Officer Chavez is back here. Let me tell you something about Officer Chavez. Officer Chavez is one of the two, Chavez and Cebeda. They're our two speed enforcers. I mean all the time. I'll be walking, up from 79th Street. I'll be like, "What? Is this Chavez?" Chavez been pulling somebody over next to the Citadel. He's pulling somebody over here, over there. Chavez is always on top of it.

Officer Cebeda, I wish you guys would meet. I have a little special thing I'm going to do for Cebeda and Chavez coming up. Officer Cebeda who you guys will meet, I call him the Terminator. You guys will see when I call him the Terminator, you guys will see why when I have that little special thing I have for them. The other day, I was out there with Officer Chavez. I said, "You know what?" I said, I was out there with Cebeda. I was out there with Chavez. V-Bev was out there with me. I said, "You know what?" I said, "Cebeda, I gave you

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the nickname Terminator because he's like a machine. He doesn't smile. He doesn't do anything. He's just straight. He's like a machine all the time. Never gets tired, never stops."

I said, "But Chavez, I need a name for you. I thought, when it comes to speeding, you're the man." I told Officer Chavez, I said, "You know what?" I said, "Your nickname is going to be SDK." He was like, V-Bev was out there, look at V-Bev and smiling. You already know V-Bev laughing already. He was like, "SDK?" I said, "Yes, SDK." He was like, "What's SDK?" I said, "Speed Demon Killer. Officer Chavez, you are the Speed Demon Killer. My homeboy SDK." When y'all see him, say, "SDK, what's up, man? How you doing? Everything all right?" Hey, Chavez, we appreciate everything you do my boy.

[applause]

Next, we're moving on to good and welfare. Anybody who wants to come up and talk about anything at all, doesn't have to be things on the agenda, anything at all, come up, say your name and address for the record, and the floor is yours.

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** I have one comment, if I may.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes. Okay, Councilperson Anders Urbom.

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Again, just for the benefit of the public, what's today? The 28th, I believe.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes.

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Exactly. All right. June 1st. We didn't have any early named storms this year. However, it's June 1st already. The Gulf is out of town. With La Nina, what that means is more Gulf origin storms. However, like Irma came off the coast of Africa, that's basically our biggest concern here in Miami. I recommend everybody to go to the Miami-Dade app, get ready. I personally, I'll just say, I personally use, I affectionately call it a Max Tracker app. Max Mayfield, okay?

I use the radar all year round and I've already started checking every other day for the five, seven-day forecast on all development in the entire Atlantic Basin, obviously, as well as the Caribbean. I would not want to be in Texas or Louisiana this year at all. Buckle up and please look after your neighbors and check in on everybody and see if anyone's got anything ready yet at all. It's upon us. Hurricane season. Welcome to it.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much, Councilperson Anders Urbom. Myself and Councilperson Anders Urbom were speaking also with the manager and the chief and we're trying to coordinate either an in-person on a Saturday morning or a Zoom preparation

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**Village of El Portal  
Regular Council Meeting  
Date: 5/28/24  
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for the town hall for the community, let them know what we already have prepared and how things go and things like that.

There's also going to be two residents who we'll be looking to speak then because we want to have all the residents also, but we also want to have the aspect of those who have moved into South Florida

from other locations that may have not gone through a hurricane yet, and just have people who have gone through hurricanes give just real deal experience, what to look out for, what to not. Sometimes the news can scare you, but when you're having been living here in Florida for a long time, you get a sense of, look, you don't have to worry until it gets to this point, do this or do this. This is how you really prepare, so we're looking to have one of those-

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Mayor, people who've been here a long time also have a base of supplies already where people who've only been here for a reason or two, three or four seasons have no base of supplies at all, don't even know what they need, so that's part of it also. That's part of the reason a lot of locals are pretty relaxed because they're already three-quarters of the way prepared, usually.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes, absolutely, which is part of what we were speaking about here, you remember, Councilperson Anders Urbom, so we're going to be looking to get that together sooner or later you guys, so wait around for that. Anybody for good and welfare, you guys can come up, you have three minutes or you guys have the floor, you know how to do it. You guys can come up in and talk about anything that you want to. Name and the address for the record, the floor is yours. Hearing, seeing none--

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

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Yes.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** We went to good and welfare and I still got some comments. When [unintelligible 00:31:16] be getting welfare, we're getting ready to go and I got something to say.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Well, just jump in like you did, like you did. Go ahead, Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward?

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** Yes, but I want to make sure that residents don't have something they want to do at the podium right now. If you've seen this paper, every city in Miami-Dade County is in it. I'm going to show you the picture. Everybody who pays taxes is in this, and these reports. As the public affairs person, I'm pleased to report we only have 43 now. We only have 43 people in this village that actually have something with

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their real estate taxes. In other words, they're delinquent, only 43. That's a record you all, I follow this every single year, that's a record, only 43 people.

Now if you were trying to be benevolent, this would be the first place I'd tell you to go and see what's going on with the residents. Last year, I had the opportunity to meet at least one or two elderly people and they had no idea about their taxes. If anybody has any problems, they need to speak up, they need to really speak up because we have an elderly population here that we've never had before, but they need to speak up. To the extent that I was able to reach out to them is no names called, but be kind. I mean, people don't want to lose a house they've been in for 40, 50 years, they may be older, whatever. If somebody wants to know if they live next to you, come see me, because this should not happen in your older ages.

That's what I found out last year, was mostly the people that have been here for long periods of time, but they didn't have the income anymore to pay the taxes. Now some of them are \$10,000, and you lose your home on that by not paying taxes. That's my last comment today, Mayor. Thank you so much. Public affairs is still alive and well. Anybody have any questions or comments that we can look at before and have a solution for it at the council meeting, make sure you go and you speak to the village manager. She'll tell you which way to go because you can't make deals with us. [laughs] That's on this council up here. Thank you so much, Mayor, I appreciate it.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Thank you very much Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Any last questions from the council? Any last comments? Hearing none, draw a motion to adjourn.

**Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward:** So moved.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Motion moved by Councilperson Dr. Anna E. Lightfoot-Ward. Do we have a second?

**Councilperson Anders Urbom:** Second.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** Second by Councilperson Anders Urbom. All in favor, say aye.

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Omarr C. Nickerson:** All oppose, say nay. Hearing none, the regular council meeting for Tuesday-- March [giggles]. May 28th, 2024 is adjourned at 7:40 PM. Thanks council.

**[00:34:19] [END OF AUDIO]**

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