

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the CITY COUNCIL of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Mayor Oravec on January 12, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members

Present:

Mayor Gregory J. Oravec
Vice Mayor Linda Bartz
Councilwoman Michelle Lee Berger
Councilman Ronald E. Bowen
Councilwoman Shannon M. Martin

Others Present:

Jeff Bremer, City Manager
James Angstadt, Interim Public Works Director
Maiga Auguste, Detective
Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney
Pam E. Booker, City Attorney
Julio Borrás, Police Officer
Kevan Carmichael, Lieutenant
Edward Cunningham, Communications Director
Richard R. Del Toro, Assistant Police Chief
Edwin M. Fry, Jr., Finance Director/City Treasurer
Paul Grohowski, Master Sergeant
Daniel Holbrook, Assistant City Manager/Community
Development Director
Dominic Ignelzi, Police Officer
Carmine Izzo, Lieutenant, Police Department
Bradley Keen, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Mike Lubeck, Code Compliance Manager
Brad Macek, Assistant Utilities Director
Jim MacMillan, Police Officer
Renee Major, Risk Management Director
Jesus A. Merejo, Utilities Director
Leo Niemczyk, Lieutenant
Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk
David K. Pollard, OMB Director
Jack Reisinger, Building Department Manager

Patricia Roebling, Assistant City Manager
Patricia Selmer, Community Services Director
Patti Tobin, Interim Planning and Zoning Director
Jack White, Police Officer
April C. Stoncius, Deputy City Clerk Supervisor

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Clerk gave the Invocation, and Mayor Oravec led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Oravec stated, "Happy 2015, and welcome. It is important to recognize that proclamations are more than just pomp and political circumstance. In many ways, their meaning, and importance to our community, are much more substantial than the items we are going to discuss on the business agenda. Accordingly, I invite you to reflect on their importance and underlying meaning to our community. I also invite you to heed the call to serve that is embedded in many of those proclamations. Our third proclamation is for Martin Luther King Jr., Day. In his honor, and with heeding the call to serve in mind, I would like to share his belief that life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' If you would like to answer that question with, 'Working to improve Port St. Lucie,' or the lives of your neighbors and fellow citizens of Port St. Lucie, please reach out to us. Anyone on the City Council or staff can help you, and we can work together to find an outlet for that energy. There are many opportunities."

a) PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mayor Oravec stated, "Many of us would like to partner with the School Board to improve our schools. If you asked someone on the School Board how you could do this, they may respond by telling you that they need help overcoming poverty and a lack of parental involvement. Mentoring can help with the latter. Mentoring has been proven to make a difference, and we are very lucky to have Big Brothers Big Sisters in our community, but we don't have enough mentors. I've heard that the wait can be as long as two years, and a lot can happen in two years." Mayor Oravec read the Proclamation, and presented the Proclamation to Sabrina Seme, Volunteer Recruiter, Big Brothers Big Sisters, who said, "Since 1984, Big Brothers Big Sisters has worked tirelessly to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported, one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. Mentoring is simple. We ask that our mentors spend one hour a week, or four hours a month, as a friend with a child on our waiting list. We currently have nearly 200 children on our waiting list. We are always accepting new mentors to help fulfill that goal, and we would like to recognize the mentors that have stepped up to better their community. Without them, many may have been lost in adolescence. At this time, we would like to ask local members of government, and the community at large, to think about the 200 children waiting to receive a mentor. We ask that you use the observance of National Mentoring Month to

get involved, by signing up to become mentors with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and sharing in the opportunity to serve your community with others. Together, we can ensure that the children of our community achieve success in life, no matter what." Mayor Oravec asked, "Do we have members of the Council who volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters?" There was no response. Mayor Oravec stated, "Sign me up."

b) PROCLAMATION – ARBOR DAY

Mayor Oravec read the Proclamation, and presented the Proclamation to Joleen King, President, & Dianne Aguiar, Vice President, Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens, who said, "On behalf of the Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens, I thank you for this recognition. Arbor Day brings back memories for many of us, of childhood Arbor Days in elementary schools, truly one of the beginnings of our modern green movement, for ecological responsibility. On a separate note, I would like to report the continued success of the Friends of the Port St Lucie Botanical Gardens' partnership with the City of Port St. Lucie. The initial data shows that during calendar 2014, our volunteers willingly donated over 14,634 hours at the Botanical Gardens, for a real dollar value of \$329,991, based on the national multiplier for charities. We, the Friends, are your partner in this endeavor, and we look forward to a continued relationship, and moving ahead toward greater achievements to the benefit of the citizens of Port St. Lucie, our county, and the Treasure Coast. I invite everyone to join us this Friday at the Botanical Gardens at 11:00 a.m. for Arbor Day."

c) PROCLAMATION – MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Mayor Oravec stated, "Friday night, we had the opening reception for the community's Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. I was honored to attend, on behalf of the City. Many members of the MLK Committee would have liked to be here, but they could not, because they had a walk and church service, and the church service started at 7:00 p.m. We have several people in the audience, who will help us receive this Proclamation." Mayor Oravec then read the Proclamation, and stated, "Officer White from the Port St. Lucie Police Department will be receiving this Proclamation, and I also see my friend, and community leader, Rudy Howard in the audience. Mr. Howard, you may also share any comments. If there is anyone else after the presentation who would like to celebrate with us, please do so." Mayor Oravec presented the Proclamation to Officer Jack White, Port St. Lucie Police Department, who said, "I would like to tell the members of Council and the citizens of Port St. Lucie that it is an honor and a privilege to come before you. I am honored to receive this Proclamation. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. established a lot of hard work, and did so peacefully. We do have some work to do. I was at Windmill Point Elementary School today, and I was observing traffic. The kids don't see black, brown, white, or red. They just saw a Police Officer. The only thing they wanted to do was high five the Police Officer and hug him. They don't see color. I think if adults can see things the way children do, this world would be a better place."

Mr. Howard said, "I didn't come prepared to say anything, but I am most grateful for the opportunity to come up here on behalf of one of my all-time heroes. I don't want what

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did to be lost on us. He did non-violent protests that raised issues that made us think; made us contemplate different values, and different ways of handling situations. Sometimes, people on the other side may not have agreed with what he was doing, but he generated a conversation, and he brought people together. As we move forward with the challenges that face us in 2015, please keep in mind that a non-violent protest is a delivery of ideas, which allows us to think about different things, and different ways to do things. Non-violent protest is the bedrock of America, and may that always prevail as part of who we are.”

Mayor Oravec stated, “There is a great deal of care put into these letters and proclamations by me and staff. This letter is addressed to Officer White. I’ll skip the first paragraph. It goes on to state, ‘As you know, Dr. King’s contributions to mankind are too many to chronicle in this short letter; however, as I reflect on his legacy, and you, as a recipient of this Proclamation, it seems fitting to recall his belief that life’s most persistent urgent question is, what are you doing for others? You are one of those special people who can respond to this question with a true and substantial answer. You can point to decades of hard work, spent in service to your country, community, fellow man, and children, in countless capacities; hard work which continues to this day. You have tried, and succeeded, in positively influencing the world around you. Thank you for your service to our community, and your dedication to making Port St. Lucie a better place. Thank you for helping us honor Dr. King, and to call upon others to answer one of life’s most persistent and urgent questions.’”

d) PROCLAMATION – CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mayor Oravec asked, “Can all the first responders in the room stand up? Also, please stand up if you’re retired. Once on the job, always on the job. I think everyone on the Council has a deep appreciation for first responders. I think everyone on this dais, at least as far as the elected officials, have a first responder in the family. I have an uncle, Councilman Bowen has a son. Councilwoman Berger and Councilwoman Martin have husbands, Vice Mayor Bartz has a brother, and the City Manager has a son. We certainly have a deep appreciation. In response to some of the shootings across the State of Florida, the Governor proclaimed last week as First Responder Appreciation Week in the State of Florida. Due to the timing of our holiday break, we were unable to match the same date, but we certainly heed the call. I found it interesting that at tonight’s meeting, we found the Dr. King and first responders on the Agenda. As we try to make sense of the world around us, and we’re looking in the headlines, there is a lot of shooting going on out there. I haven’t yet determined, at least for myself, whether it is more than it has ever been, or it just feels that way, because of an omnipresent press. It is certainly out there, and while I can come to a number of conclusions, I know that on any given day in the United States, there are millions of customer service transactions between first responders and members of the public. In my personal experience as a professional for the past 18 years, the grand majority of those went right. Are there mistakes made? I’m sure there are. I’ve seen mistakes made. I think the beauty of having these two Proclamations on the same night is that even when a mistake is

made, when is shooting anyone ever the solution? Dr. King espoused non-violent protest. If there is a problem, and it is substantiated, the answer is communication and correction, not killing your fellow man. As I think about what is going on in the world, there is not an hour that the Council and I do not think about the safety of our first responders, and appreciate what you do without our community. Without safety and rules of law, I ask the question, can you have a community? With these things in mind, I'll read the Proclamation." Mayor Oravec read the Proclamation, and presented the Proclamation to Chief Parrish, who said, "I would like to thank the Mayor and members of the Council for this Proclamation, and the continued support of the St. Lucie County Fire District, and the firefighters. This past year, the Fire District responded to nearly 46,000 emergencies, from motor vehicle accidents where we literally had to cut people out of cars, to critically ill patients that we respond to all across the county. As you know, Governor Scott proclaimed January 5, 2015 – January 9, 2015, as First Responder Appreciation week, partially because of the recent tragedies, but also because of first responders' commitment to their profession and their communities. Just last month, I had the privilege to join Lt. Chris Longo, and Lt. Steve Burns from the St. Lucie County Fire District as they were recognized by the Governor and the Cabinet, with the Governor's Heroism Award, for their actions during a working structure fire, where our firefighters went in and pulled an 8-year old boy to safety. Thank God, he is still alive today, but unfortunately, his grandmother succumbed to her injuries from that fire. This was truly an act of heroism. There are another 350+ firefighters, who are ready, willing, and able to provide the community that type of service. I am very proud of them, but I want to tell you another story that happened here recently. You won't hear about it in the newspapers or on the television, but firefighters from Station 10 on Dalton Circle responded to a call on November 25th. A 7-year old had been hit by a van while riding his bike. He was severely injured, and had to be airlifted out to Palm Beach for treatment. They didn't forget that young boy. The firefighters went to visit him frequently. On Christmas Day, they were there for the family, and the visited the boy, bringing him Christmas gifts. These are just two of many examples why I'm proud of the St. Lucie County Fire District firefighters, and I'm certainly proud to be their Fire Chief. There is one other story I'd like to have a friend of the fire service and the community share. I would like for Joe Payne to tell us about the Big Heart Brigade."

Joe Payne stated, "I've been working with the St. Lucie County Firefighters and Paramedics for the past 14 years. I've had the pleasure of being a part of the Big Heart Brigade for several years, and I am currently the president. I am not in uniform, but I wear multiple uniforms throughout the day and week. We had a lot of firefighters come out the week leading up to Thanksgiving Day, and Thanksgiving Day. We prepare a lot of meals and distribute them to families in Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County. We delivered approximately 2,000 meals this year; last year we only did 1,000. There is a growing need, as we see more people needing meals. Being able to double the meals in one year is unbelievable. I was telling the Chief a story this evening. When we were all done cooking and packing up, we got a call about a structure fire. The house was destroyed. They were getting ready to have their meal, but they didn't get to have their meal. We had some meals left over, so we packed them up, and the Chief was able to drive to their place. It probably wasn't on their mind to eat at that time, but when all was

said and done, they had something to eat that evening for Thanksgiving. It is truly amazing to see all the firefighters and their families coming out, and to be able to help out, even if it's first responders trying to provide for other organizations. It is a great help to any organization when you are able to help on your non-working hours." Chief Parrish stated, "Thank you Mayor and Council. You have the greatest first responders."

Assistant Chief Del Toro stated, "On behalf of Chief Bolduc and the men and women of the Port St. Lucie Police Department, I want to thank you for this special Proclamation, as part of First Responder Appreciation Week. It is an honor and privilege to stand here and accept this recognition on behalf of the members of our Police Department. I was asked to speak about an incident of bravery. Everyone I speak to has a different definition of bravery. Bravery is officially defined as the quality that allows someone to do things that are both dangerous and frightening. On September 23, 2014, at approximately 5:00 p.m., the Police Department received a 911 call which, in my opinion, would put that quality to the test. The Police Department, and our brothers and sisters at the St. Lucie County Fire District, received a call regarding a female subject who had threatened to commit suicide by jumping off the St. Lucie West turnpike bridge, down onto the turnpike in oncoming traffic. The female subject had climbed on top of the caged fence walkway, and was found by officers sitting and overlooking the turnpike. Officers arrived, and Master Sergeant Paul Grohowski and Detective Maiga Auguste arrived on scene and quickly established a verbal dialogue with the female, while other officers provided the necessary traffic and perimeter control. It should be noted that this was during rush hour traffic, and traffic had to be stopped on St. Lucie West Boulevard and the Florida Turnpike in order to control the situation. After a very tense negotiation period, Master Sergeant Grohowski and Detective Auguste were able to convince the female subject to come down from the overpass, and not follow through on her threats to commit suicide; however, even though she agreed, she was too terrified to move. At that moment, and without hesitation, Master Sergeant Grohowski, followed by Lieutenant Niemczyk, quickly climbed on top of the overpass cage fence and successfully assisted the female subject in coming down, saving her life, while risking their own in the process. The following officers assisted in bringing the female to safety: Lieutenant Leo Niemczyk, Lieutenant Kevan Carmichael, Master Sergeant Grohowski, Detective Maiga Auguste, Officer Dominic Ignelzi, Officer Julio Borrás, and Officer Michael Cimino, who couldn't be here tonight. Will those officers please stand and be recognized."

Assistant Chief Del Toro continued, "The next day, Chief Bolduc and I were approached by a citizen who had witnessed the incident. He expressed his gratitude for the actions of the officers, and also told us that he had taken several photographs of the incident, which he wanted to share with us. I would like to take a moment to share those photographs with you. I think you would agree with the old saying that a picture is definitely worth a thousand words. During Master Sergeant Grohowski's initial encounter with the subject, he was not strapped or tethered to anything. Although she agreed to come down, that situation could have quickly turned the other way as well, with her grabbing onto him. He did not hesitate for one moment. There are pictures of the initial contact, and the other officers coming onto the cage, and a picture of them

taking her into custody and bringing her down safely. The last photograph, in which I blocked her face out for privacy reasons, illustrates the care and compassion our officers have for people. It wasn't about taking her into custody, putting her in handcuffs, putting her in the back of a police car, and going out to the next call. These officers really care about the people we serve. As you alluded to, Mayor, the past few months have been very difficult for first responders across the nation, especially police officers. There are approximately 800,000 law enforcement officers across the United States, and every day, we respond to emergency calls for service, and put the definition of bravery to the test. Sometimes, we have a split second to make a decision, without the benefit of hindsight, and knowing very well that we may face criticism for our actions. We are not perfect, and as we alluded to before, we definitely make mistakes from time to time. I believe that this incident illustrates that police officers and firefighters around the country will not hesitate to put their own safety at risk to serve and protect our communities. To me, that is the definition of bravery. Again, it is an honor and a privilege to accept this recognition. I'd like to thank you, as well as the members of our community, for the continued support of all of our first responders." At this time, Mayor Oravec asked all the first responders to come forward to take a picture.

Mayor Oravec stated, "Council, I would like to thank you for the time afforded for that. We always hear about it when things go wrong, and that is across the country, but I don't know that we hear about it in the same way when things go right. I really appreciate the time to share those first responder experiences, and the things that go right."

5. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

CHARLES RAY – TORREY PINES

Mr. Ray stated, "I live at 5322 NW Chicopa Street in Port St. Lucie. Mayor Oravec has had the unfortunate occasion to listen to me speak for many hours in connection to other matters. I have a question concerning Torrey Pines tonight. I sent a letter to Mayor Oravec, and I wanted to speak to the Council regarding a number of other matters that I think need to be addressed. Torrey Pines is asking the City to take \$8 million in an escrow fund for our building. I have the current appraisal for that building from the Property Appraiser, and it is well in excess of \$9 million. Basically, this firm wants you to give them a \$9 million plus building for \$8 million. In my judgment, you are subsidizing this corporation for another million dollars. If, in fact, it was worth it to the City of Port St. Lucie, I would usually support these kinds of projects. As Councilman Bowen knows, I am a big proponent of subsidizing spring training baseball, because I think it brings economic development to our area. My problem with this development is that the president of this firm makes \$441,000 a year, or more. I don't mind you taking money off my table to support a poor person, or poor family down the street, but this is not what we're supporting. We're supporting somebody that makes far in excess of what most people in this town make. Secondly, there was some mention made of him living in Port St. Lucie. I looked at the land records, and I see that Pamela and Richard bought a house in Castle Pines, which is not in Port St. Lucie. You have someone who has had

seven years of subsidized corporate activity, and he doesn't live in our town. I looked at all the senior scientists listed on their web page. I ran their names to see how many of them actually live in Port St. Lucie. Less than half of them live in Port St. Lucie. This is a firm that I think we need to look long and hard at before we give them more money. I don't mind you giving my money. Right now, we've pledged about \$150 for every man, woman, and child to this firm. . . ." Mayor Oravec interjected, "I'm sorry, your time is up." Mr. Ray said, "Be careful about what you do."

PAT SIMMONS – ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROMOTING PORT ST LUCIE

Ms. Simmons stated, "I live at 968 SE Browning Avenue, in Port St. Lucie. The reason I'm here tonight is because we're talking about hiring a professional marketing firm. That's all well and great; however, I think you're putting the cart before the horse. I think we need to have a plan to present to this firm, and say what we want done. My idea is that we have a group of interested residents, maybe two or three from each district, and have them form a focus group, or advisory committee, nothing formal. Have them come up with some timelines, deadlines, and a real plan. Perhaps they could partner with the Communications Department, and put together a great video or a PowerPoint presentation. They could come together and form a consensus, then bring that to you, and hopefully, you can move forward to present it to the marketing firm. If you have the residents become a part of this, they'll buy into it a lot easier than forcing it down their throats. I would like to be a part of that, and I would volunteer. Just think about it. You have my phone number. Let's see what we can do as a City, in partnership with all of us."

Mayor Oravec stated, "Before I invite the next person up, I'd like to put a question to the Council. As you may be aware, staff has requested that 13 b) be removed, which would take place during Item 6, Additions or Deletions to the Agenda and Approval of the Agenda; however, someone has signed up to speak under Item 13 b). I was thinking it may be appropriate to ask the gentleman to speak now. Would that be appropriate?" The Council concurred. Mayor Oravec stated, "Mr. Ahrens, please come forward."

RICHARD AHRENS – PRINEVILLE WATER TREATMENT

Mr. Ahrens stated, "I'm speaking on behalf of Ahrens Companies, located at 1461 Kinetic Road in Lake Park, Florida. I came here because we were informed that Item number 13 b) may be removed from the Agenda tonight. I stand here tonight saying should it get back on, our firm is willing to step back up and continue on with our negotiations."

6. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Oravec asked, "Are there any additions or deletions to the Agenda?" Councilwoman Martin **moved** to approve the Agenda. Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. Mayor Oravec asked, "Is that with Item 13 b) removed?" Councilwoman Martin responded in the affirmative. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for

approval of the Agenda, with Item 13 b) removed. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

a) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 17, 2014; SPECIAL COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS NOVEMBER 20 & 21, 2014, WORKSHOP DECEMBER 15, 2014

b) TREASURE COAST WOODCARVERS, REQUEST FOR CITY SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF LOCATING TEMPORARY SIGNAGE WITHIN THE CITY'S RIGHTS-OF-WAYS FOR THE 31ST ANNUAL WOOD CARVING SHOW SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2015, CITY MANAGER

c) REQUEST FOR UNITY OF TITLE, VIRGIL J. VINZ, TO COMBINE LOTS 9, 10, AND 32, BLOCK 2080, PORT ST. LUCIE SECTION 21, TO ALLOW THE OWNER TO PLACE A DETACHED GARAGE ON HIS ADJACENT VACANT LOT, LEGAL DEPARTMENT

d) REQUEST FOR UNITY OF TITLE, MICHAEL W. MARKLEY AND JENNIFER A. MARKLEY, TO COMBINE LOTS 15 AND 16, BLOCK 2006, PORT ST. LUCIE SECTION 22, TO ALLOW THE OWNERS TO PLACE A SHED ON THEIR ADJACENT VACANT LOT, LEGAL DEPARTMENT

e) REQUEST FOR UNITY OF TITLE, CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY, INC., TO COMBINE LOTS 5, 6, 7, 8 AND TRACT B, BLOCK 449, PORT ST. LUCIE SECTION 10, TO ALLOW THE OWNER TO COMBINE AS ONE PARCEL FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, LEGAL DEPARTMENT

f) TERMINATION OF RESTRICTIVE COVENANT, LOTS 14 AND 15, BLOCK 1099, PORT ST. LUCIE SECTION 8, TRC #300, TAMMY S. HARRIS AND MACK J. HARRIS, CITY IS OWED \$7,119.08, LEGAL DEPARTMENT

g) STS MAINTAIN SERVICES, INC., MOWING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF CITY HALL COMPLEX AND VARIOUS LOCATIONS, #20140126R, \$47,400, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR TWO YEARS WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR PERIODS CONTINGENT UPON SATISFACTORY SERVICE, OMB

h) STS MAINTAIN SERVICES, INC., MOWING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND VARIOUS LOCATIONS, #20140158R, \$22,440, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR TWO YEARS WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR THREE ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR PERIODS CONTINGENT UPON SATISFACTORY SERVICE, OMB

i) SOUTHWIDE INDUSTRIES, INC., TRAFFIC STRIPING & MARKINGS

FOR PUBLIC WORKS TRAFFIC ENGINEERING, #20150007, A 2014/2015 ANNUAL BUDGET OF \$110,000 AND A 2015/2016 ANNUAL BUDGET OF \$150,000, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR TWO YEARS WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW FOR ONE ADDITIONAL TWO YEAR PERIOD, OMB

j) **MELVIN BUSH CONSTRUCTION, INC.**, CHANGE ORDER #1, SAVONA BLVD PIG LAUNCHING & RECOVERY STATIONS, #20140085, \$5,963.75 FOR A FINAL CONTRACT TOTAL OF \$101,917.25, CONTRACT PERIOD REMAINS FOR 90 CALENDAR DAYS WITH NO OPTION TO RENEW, OMB

k) **WAIVER OF BID, CHAPTER 35.04 (C) FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, PARAGON ELECTRIC OF VERO, INC.**, PURCHASE OF (1) 125 KILOWATT CUMMINS GENERATOR, #20150034, \$48,575, OMB

l) **FERRY LAWN SERVICE, INC.**, AMENDMENT #18, MOWING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, #20060116, \$2,118.54 FOR A NEW CONTRACT TOTAL OF \$910,480.35, OMB

m) **ENVIRONMENTAL LAND DEVELOPMENT, INC.**, PRIMARY VENDOR, AND **SAMPSON TREE SERVICE COMPANY**, AS THE SECONDARY VENDOR, PROVIDE LOT CLEARING AND TREE REMOVAL, #20140149, THE NUISANCE ABATEMENT PROGRAM HAS A BUDGET OF \$75,000 THAT WILL BE MONITORED THROUGHOUT THE PROJECT, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR TWELVE MONTHS WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR TWO ADDITIONAL 12-MONTH PERIODS, OMB

n) **SNYDER MARKETING SOLUTIONS**, REQUEST FOR CITY SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF LOCATING TEMPORARY SIGNAGE WITHIN THE CITY'S RIGHTS-OF-WAYS FOR THE BUD LIGHT PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDING FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 17 & 18, 2015, CITY MANAGER

Councilwoman Martin **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Mayor Bartz **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of the Consent Agenda. The **motion passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

8. **SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES**

There was nothing heard under this item.

9. **OTHER PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a) **PORT ST. LUCIE RESIDENTIAL STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT AREA, BOUNDARY #420, SW HAMPSHIRE LANE**

Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, Mayor Oravec closed the Public Hearing. Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Boundary #420, SW

Hampshire Lane. Councilwoman Berger **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 9 a), Street Lighting Area Boundary #420, SW Hampshire Lane. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

b) PORT ST. LUCIE RESIDENTIAL STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT AREA, BOUNDARY #421, SE TODD AVENUE

Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, Mayor Oravec closed the Public Hearing. Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Boundary #421, SE Todd Avenue. Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 9 b), Street Lighting Area Boundary #421, SE Todd Avenue. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

c) PORT ST. LUCIE RESIDENTIAL STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT AREA, BOUNDARY #422, SE IRONTON AVENUE

Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing. There being no comments, Mayor Oravec closed the Public Hearing. Councilwoman Berger **moved** to approve Boundary #422, SE Ironton Avenue. Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 9 c), Street Lighting Area Boundary #422, SE Ironton Avenue. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

d) PORT ST. LUCIE RESIDENTIAL STREET LIGHTING ASSESSMENT AREA, BOUNDARY #423, NW BURRI COURT

Mayor Oravec opened the Public Hearing.

CHRISTAL YOST, said, "I live at 5809 NW Burri Court and have been there for 16 years. I'm friends with all of my neighbors, and I know that the lighting has been submitted by one of my neighbors. The only thing that I am concerned about is the location of the lights, as I would like to move the lighting at the opposite ends of the street to illuminate the cul-de-sac and at the corner where you turn into Burri Court. Those lighting adjustments would better serve the community, and I also have a petition where most of the neighbors agree." Mayor Oravec asked, "Will you present that petition to the City Clerk?" Ms. Yost replied, "Yes. Everyone feels that if they have to pay for something, then they should have a say as to where they go." Mayor Oravec stated, "That seems like good input. Thank you, ma'am. Please present the City Clerk with the petition. Madam Clerk, you have actually been working with the residents in this area." The City Clerk advised, "Yes, the Engineering Department has, upon the request of Ms. Yost. The Engineering Department gave me the maps that are in front of you this morning. We have moved the lights between Lots 8 and 9 on the cul-de-sac, and at the intersection of Burri and Cahaba, between Lots 3 and 4. The original light, between Lot 1 and 2 will stay. We could not place a light across the street on Block 3174 between Lots 42 and 43, because that is a different street and those residents are not included in the boundary. You may have a copy of the new map where we were able to put three lights, with one right at the center of the cul-de-sac. This map will be going out with the

ballot tomorrow, so residents can see the placement of the three lights, providing that this is approved." Mayor Oravec stated, "Great. Thank you for that explanation."

There being no further comments, Mayor Oravec closed the Public Hearing. Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Boundary #423, NW Burri Court. Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. Vice Mayor Bartz said, "I received a call on this today and think that the residents are going to be much happier with moving the light to the cul-de-sac. That seemed to be their big concern, as it is where the children play when they are out in the evenings. I think that they are going to be much more pleased with this map. I thank the Engineering Department for working on it, and the Clerk as well." Mayor Oravec said, "Thank you Vice Mayor, for sharing that input." The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 9 d), Street Lighting Area Boundary #423, NW Burri Court. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

10. **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

a) **ORDINANCE 15-01**, TO REZONE 5.0 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED WEST OF VILLAGE PARKWAY AND NORTH OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF BECKER ROAD FROM ST. LUCIE COUNTY AG-5 (AGRICULTURAL – ONE DWELLING UNIT PER FIVE ACRES) TO GU (GENERAL USE) FOR A PROJECT KNOWN AS FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY (P14-159); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 15-01 aloud by title only. Mayor Oravec inquired, "Staff, do we have enough in the books to provide for adequate buffering of this when it comes forward for development? Prior to approving the ordinance, do we have enough safeguards, as substations are vital to the community? Obviously, we all depend on them. At the same time, there are examples of good substations and bad one. By way of example, I would offer the substation on US 1. Many people may not even realize it is there, because it is behind the trees." The Interim Planning and Zoning Director approached the podium and replied, "Yep, I remember that one going in." Mayor Oravec continued, "There are others, such as the entrance to the City at the turnpike and Port St. Lucie Boulevard. Regardless of how much we may have been spent, there is probably no way for it to be adequately hidden with the elevations and other factors and will always be a rough spot into the heart of the City. Moving forward, if we could avoid that situation, it would be great." The Interim Planning and Zoning Director stated, "Interestingly enough, the Site Plan for this development has already been approved. It came first as a result of the state statutes, so we need approval." Mayor Oravec pointed out, "Before the zoning is approved, the Site Plan was approved. For people at home, that is pretty A-typical." The Interim Planning and Zoning Director stated, "It is not the norm. That is correct. There is adequate buffering and will have an eight-foot wall. The site is large. It would be centered on five acres. I don't think you can see it from the road, between the landscaping and the wall. I can provide you with a copy of that, because it might have been before your term started." Mayor Oravec said, "I just want to make sure that it is going to be adequately buffered. Thank you for the information."

Councilwoman Martin **moved** to approve Ordinance 15-01. Councilman Bowen

seconded the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Ordinance 15-01. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

b) ORDINANCE 15-02, AMENDING ORDINANCE 09-73, AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE TO AMEND THE CONSERVATION LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ACQUISITION PLAN (P09-015); PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 15-02 aloud by title only. Councilwoman Berger **moved** to approve Ordinance 15-02. Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Ordinance 15-02. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

c) ORDINANCE 15-03, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE TO ENTER INTO A THIRD AMENDMENT OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE AND SL FAMILY RECREATIONAL CNT, LLC; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City Clerk read Ordinance 15-03 aloud by title only.

VINCENT CLOE said, "I live at 17080 Hammock Lane and am the owner of Invincibles Adventure Park. I believe my lease is coming before you tonight. I haven't read the copy, but in discussing it with staff, I believe it is the same lease that we have always had. I would like to extend the lease past five years. I understand the Council's concerns with the length of the lease, but I won't be able to develop what I want to develop in a five year period. If I can't have a 25 year lease, then I would prefer to have at least 15 years. I don't want to table this tonight as I want it to move forward, regardless. We have been working on this for quite a few months, and I would like you to consider extending my lease without a five year rollover. I have completely and totally proven to the Council and the community that I'm an asset and that there is no negative impact on the community. Yesterday, we had our first national event. We booked 39 hotel rooms in Port St. Lucie and spent thousands of dollars at a local pizzeria, so we are doing pretty well for Port St. Lucie. It is not a deal breaker, but it is something that I would like you to consider. Thank you." Mayor Oravec commented, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Martin said, "The ordinance reads that the extension is for seven years. Wait a minute, five years, I'm sorry. I agree; I think the Paintball Park is amazing. My only concern is with the Site Plan. If we are making other people who come into the City to develop businesses follow the Site Plan, then everyone needs to follow it. If amendments have to be made for new uses, then those things have to be done. We can't pick and choose one business development or company over another. I would like to see, no matter if we do it for five years or whatever term we all agree on, the Site Plan compliance happen." Mayor Oravec remarked, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Berger stated, "I'm in agreement with Councilwoman Martin. I support the suggestion and recommendation by staff on this lease, with the option of five

additional years. My concerns are with the Site Plan as well. Had we been able to get 100% on the Site Plan issues, then I would probably agree with ten years as a minimum. With the things that we have learned along the way as a City about ADA, the requirements, and how complicated it could get, I don't think it would be in our best interest to move forward with that long of a lease. It would probably end up costing the leasee a lot more money than they anticipate by getting into a ten year lease than having to abide by those mandates that are out there. I support it as presented."

Mayor Oravec stated, "Thank you, Councilwoman Berger. Under the category of unintended consequences, if I heard Councilwoman Berger correctly, you support it as is, but if you open up the can of worms of a longer term lease, which may not necessarily be a bad thing, then the leasee should be prepared to make a much larger capital investment. Is that correct?" Councilwoman Berger replied in the affirmative. Mayor Oravec continued, "I tend to agree with your line of thinking. Additionally, it is not just an extension of a successful public/private partnership where effectively the City provides these recreation services at no direct cost and it is through a private provider. If we are going to do that and go with a multi-year long term lease on this key piece of property, I would feel the need for a proposal process request and go through the competitive selection process to kind of hit the reset button. Not only in addition to the capital investment, I think that if you go down that road where it is more than just a continuation of the status quo there might need to be a bigger process. I would certainly advocate for one. As a point of order, could the City Attorney or members of the Council refresh my memory on what is required to go to the Planning and Zoning Board now when there is an issue of City-owned property, and when there is some kind of disposition of ownership interest?" The City Attorney responded, "Items may go to the Planning and Zoning Board that are now at the discretion of the City Council." Mayor Oravec clarified, "So the word 'shall' was changed to 'may'." The City Attorney replied, "Yes. If it is a large project that you would like community input/involvement and a little bit more discussion, then those items may be sent back to the Planning and Zoning Board. On something like this, they did not want the standard leases and routine things to be brought to them. We discussed this specifically at a joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Board; not the standard leases for tower sites and things like this to come back before the Planning and Zoning Board for approval and consideration." Mayor Oravec said, "Thank you for that clarification." The City Attorney remarked, "You are welcome." Mayor Oravec clarified, "So it is 'may'."

Mayor Oravec said, "I think they have been very successful, and it is an example of public/private partnership that works. I'm happy to support it as is. If we change the term so that there is less flexibility in dealing with a strategic parcel, then I'm going to request changes. That is where I'm at. I'd like to hear from the rest of the Council, so we can either approve this item or build a consensus for something different." Councilman Bowen stated, "I agree with staff's recommendation on the issue. With the Site Plan and everything else, I don't see a 15 or 25 year agreement in my vocabulary. We should just go with the staff recommendation of a five year term, the Site Plan approval, and all of the stuff that has to be taken care of." Mayor Oravec said, "Thank you very much. Vice Mayor, do you have anything to add?" Vice Mayor Bartz replied in the negative.

Councilwoman Berger said, "I agree with the RFP process, as it is out here for a reason. I would also like to see, when we get to that point and maybe even before, another discussion on what the true partnership looks like. When I think of public/private partnerships, everybody has some skin in the game. The whole point is to provide the best services to the citizens at the least amount of cost. We've done that with the hobby train station on Becker Road." Mayor Oravec added, "At the old fire house." Councilwoman Berger continued, "Yes. They have a great facility; it is a full building with parking and bathrooms. If you have an opportunity to visit and enjoy the hobby trains, you can also utilize the facilities. It is in a park setting basically, which is a public/private partnership as we have defined. I have had multiple conversations with staff about the need to really consider how our Utilities Department can contribute to providing a bathroom at the facility. Whether it is there or at another location in the future, there are so many moms and dads who go with their younger kids. It breaks my heart when I'm out there and see everybody trying to figure out how to use the porta-potty. It is something that I'd like to see change, because, although it may be another entity that is running the facility, the perception of many citizens and people who come from outside of the City is that this facility is ran by the City. I'd like to be able to provide a restroom. Thank you." Mayor Oravec commented, "Thank you."

Mayor Oravec said, "I think it might be beneficial to workshop that piece of property in the future. We could talk about the restroom facility and the long-term vision. It is a very strategically located property." Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Ordinance 15-03. Councilwoman Berger **seconded** the motion. Councilwoman Martin noted, "I just wanted to point out that we had a discussion in the past at a Workshop in October with regard to this facility and the fact that a lot of things haven't been done that were supposed to be. We did not come to a consensus at that time with regard to the restroom facilities. Maybe we could go back and read the minutes to refresh our memories." Mayor Oravec stated, "You never know. There is a different Mayor, so maybe it will be the swing vote for a consensus." Councilwoman Martin remarked, "You never know." The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Ordinance 15-03. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

11. RESOLUTIONS

a) **RESOLUTION 15-R01, APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT FOR ST. LUCIE WEST PLAT NO. 190 (P14-074); WITHIN THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA; ON THE REQUEST OF MONTVILLE CENTER ASSOCIATES, L.P.; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO COUNTERSIGN SAID PLAT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The City Clerk read Resolution 15-R01 aloud by title only. Councilman Bowen **moved** to approve Resolution 15-R01. Vice Mayor Bartz **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Resolution 15-R01. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

b) **RESOLUTION 15-R02, PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE**

RULES OF COUNCIL, REPEALING THE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED RULES OF COUNCIL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City Clerk read Resolution 15-R02 aloud by title only. Councilwoman Martin said, "I need some help to refresh my memory when we discussed this item. I know we talked about taking the committee reports, assignments, and comments off. I thought we agreed to discuss it at the workshops. My concern is that not as many people will be watching the workshops as they do with the regular City Council meetings. I know we are switching to the nighttime workshops, but we would reach more people during the regular City Council meetings. We don't know how many people are going to be watching the workshops, so I'd hate to miss out on opportunities to give the public information. I know it is going to be a trial run, so I'd like to hear what everyone else has to say about it."

Vice Mayor Bartz said, "It is not so much that we don't know what is going to happen, as far as the number of people being at the workshop. But to have those reports given on a monthly basis may be a little bit more difficult instead of every couple of weeks. I think that we should still continue to have those reports given twice a month for the public. I know that we have talked about this. It was the chance to walk away, think about it, and then read it again in the agenda packet." Mayor Oravec said, "Thank you."

Councilman Bowen stated, "I agree with what I've heard from Councilwoman Martin and Vice Mayor Bartz. I think we should just keep it status quo. The committee reports and the City Manager's report are very special every two weeks. I'd rather have more frequent communications with the citizens and keep the reports at the Council meetings. If we have to add anything, we could do it at the workshop. I'm pretty happy with the status quo right now." Councilwoman Berger said, "That is news to me, because I thought this was an opportunity for us to expand on what we were talking about. It wasn't that long ago when we used to do this just once a month during the regular City Council meetings. The way that I remember the discussion, we talked about how we could add value and talk about events that we were attending in a way that was productive and engaging with each other, without it looking like glory be to me segments. When we are here in a business setting, it is about the business. When we are in a workshop setting, it allows us to really get into other discussions. I really like the one time idea of utilizing some photos that Councilman Bowen had done. It doesn't seem appropriate for here, but at the Workshop it may work. That is what I thought we were going to do, but I'm comfortable with whichever way the majority of the Council wants to go."

Mayor Oravec said, "Personally, I'm happy to go along with the majority. After observing the City Council meetings for a very long time, this section of the meeting that we are talking about is often curtailed, depending upon how long the rest of the meeting took. It is the area that gets trimmed, if we've gone long on other items. The idea of this was to have robust discussion. I'm happy to go along with whatever the Council wants for the Council reports and comments. I have a stronger feeling about the City Manager's report, because, in my time serving as your Mayor, I have not really seen a robust

report from the City Manager. That is not to be a negative comment on him, but I want a detailed City Manager's report on a monthly basis in some form whether it is either on this agenda or the workshop agenda. Furthermore, I'm a strong advocate for having an item on the agenda where I can get a City Attorney's report due to the number of cases that are outstanding and very important projects and initiatives that the people want to know about. Case in point, during the Council comments tonight, I'm going to ask where we are at with negotiations and paperwork for Torrey Pines. It is something that I'd like to be able to ask for on the record. It is one thing if I ask for something behind closed doors and I know about it, but we represent all of these people who also want to know. It is the best way for me to give them an answer. Thank you."

Councilwoman Martin said, "I agree with being able to give your comments. If we weren't having comments at the end of this meeting and took that out of the Council Rules, I'm sure that you would bring it up as a discussion item. But then you wouldn't have the ability to bring it up since it was not something we talked about on the agenda. You wouldn't have that time to bring up comments about a certain subject. I'm not concerned about a report for the City Attorney, because we are given the Bulletins of Interest every month that informs us of what each department is doing. It is all public record, and I know that sometimes we share that information when we are talking. I also like to add that information in my newsletter that I share each month. I use those Bulletins of Interest, because it includes information that we normally don't give out to the public. I think it has been a real value to have and will go with the consensus of the Council with regard to a more robust City Manager's report. I don't have a strong feeling either way about the need of having a more robust City Manager's report." Mayor Oravec stated, "Thank you. I share a lot of your opinion. In fact, my prepared comments on this item state that while I support moving the Councilmembers' reports on committees to the workshop, shouldn't we maintain an ability to make announcements and public requests? I see that same need for comments as you do. I feel like it was going to be missing something, if we went along with just the document or instrument that was presented to us. When we get the Bulletins of Interest, there may be something that comes up that could amount to a policy issue and we can't discuss it, unless we are at a meeting. Case in point, I received so many utility complaints regarding customer service as far as wait times last week. I believe that the City Manager and staff are working on an improvement plan, but that is something that I would love to hear at a public meeting and not just in a bulletin. Our residents are busy, and I haven't found a tool that is better than this meeting yet. People watch this meeting. I know that there are a lot of people who care about the wait time and the customer service they receive from the Utilities Systems. If they heard the City Manager acknowledge that we are not hitting our service target during this meeting or a televised workshop . . . It is not the level of service that we want to provide; it is saying that we can do better will go a long way and letting the people know that we are addressing it. That is all that I'm after, but I'm willing to go along with whatever the Council wants. Based on my interpretation of the conversation, it doesn't seem like we have support for what was presented to us as written."

Councilwoman Berger said, "In the Council Rules, Section 15, the last paragraph on the

last page states, 'Waiver of Rules. The Council may, at any time upon a motion and majority approval, waive all or a portion of the rules and procedures during the course of a meeting.' If we agree that a lot of things happened in the previous week and want to talk about them in the beginning of the meeting or add an item for comments to the agenda, we always have an opportunity to do so. As far as the Council making comments, that is what we are elected to do. So making comments at the end of the meeting is something that will probably continue to happen. The discussion that happened at the Workshop was lengthy, so I'm a little bit surprised that we are here today talking about a different thing. It was really about allowing ourselves to be more engaged with each other. The committee reports, reporting to each other about what we did at the committees, and reporting to the public about votes that occurred at a committee that weren't televised. The other engagement piece is really what we are talking about; having true dialogue with each other. It does get cut, whether it is because it is deemed as maybe not appropriate for the business meeting or, especially with the new Mayor, we are here until midnight all of the time for God's sake. We are going to be cutting things left and right when it is time to move forward with the committees. It was just an option for us to be able to talk more and, in my opinion, share more with the public. We can do it both ways by having the option of keeping it the same and add something to the workshop, if you want. I don't know that it needs this much thought put into it, to be honest with you. I do agree with you about the extended reports from staff being both from the City Manager and the City Attorney. Whether it is here or at the workshop, I think that people would love to hear those segments."

Councilman Bowen said, "I would recommend that we table Resolution 15-R02 for further clarification and discussion during the next workshop. It seems like we talked about something and maybe we forgot about it," and **moved** to table Resolution 15-R02. Councilwoman Berger **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to table Resolution 15-R02 to the next workshop for discussion and further clarification. The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was nothing heard under this item.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a) **CAPTEC ENGINEERING, INC., STORMWATER BASIN STUDY OF THE CENTRAL WATERSHEDS, #20140155, \$340,010, WHICH INCLUDES A \$10 INDEMNIFICATION FEE, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR 270 CALENDAR DAYS, OMB**

The City Manager said, "Over the course of the last couple of years, we have talked about so many items relative to our environmental stewardship. During one of the Retreats that we had last year, we were talking about the specifics relative to a need for an actual study relative to our stormwater system in the central portion of the City. Today, we have been able to accomplish the actual improvement of all of our stormwater basins, except for the central district. We would be looking at, in terms of this analysis, the existing stormwater management facility and providing

recommendations for an improved level of service, in addition to the expected level of improvement upon completion of the recommended improvements. As a part of that process, we have requested proposals. Staff has worked diligently with respect to the preparation of a contract, which you have been presented with. The recommendation is to move forward with the study and enter into a lump sum contract with Captec Engineering in the amount of \$340,110, which includes a \$10 indemnification fee for the stormwater basin study of the Central Watershed Project. The time period of this contract is for 12 months."

Councilwoman Martin **moved** to approve Item 13 a). Vice Mayor Bartz **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 13 a). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

b) DESIGN-BUILD FOR THE PRINEVILLE WATER TREATMENT SITE NEW COMBINED MAINTENANCE BUILDING PROJECT, APPROVE FIRMS SHORT LISTED BY EVALUATION COMMITTEE: #1 THE AHRENS COMPANIES, #2 PAUL JACQUIN & SONS, INC., #3 RICHARD K. DAVIS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION AND #4 THE MORGANTI GROUP, INC., AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH #1 RANKED FIRM, #20140086, OMB

(Clerk's Note: This item was removed at the request of Utility Systems.)

c) CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING & INSPECTION (CEI) & GEOTECHNICAL (GEO) FOR REHABILITATION AND GATE AUTOMATION OF WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE A-19, APPROVE FIRMS SHORT LISTED BY EVALUATION COMMITTEE: #1 CAPTEC ENGINEERING, INC., #2 CULPEPPER & TERPENING, INC., AND #3 AMEC ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE, INC., AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH #1 RANKED FIRM, #20140156, OMB

The City Manager said, "The A-19 water control structure runs just to the west of the turnpike. We are looking at improving the control structures, which are utilized, and managing the control of the drainage runoff. It is for an 8,800 acre watershed. The A-19 structure has been in place for almost 30 years, and a recent inspection determined that there was deterioration in several elements of the structure. This item before you would approve the firms shortlisted by the Evaluation Committee as follows: Captec Engineering, Culpepper & Terpening, Inc., and AMEC Environmental Infrastructure. It will allow for the start of negotiations with Captec, which is the Number One scored firm, so that we can move forward with the rehabilitation and gate automation of the water control structure of A-19."

Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Item 13 c). Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 13 c). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

d) ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT, MCCARTY RANCH & EXTENSION, APPROVE FIRMS SHORT LISTED BY EVALUATION COMMITTEE: #1 ARDAMAN & ASSOCIATES, INC., #2 ANDERSEN ANDRE CONSULTING

ENGINEERS, INC., #3 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES, INC., AND #4 GLE ASSOCIATES, INC., AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH #1 RANKED FIRM, #20140166, OMB

The City Manager said, "Back in late 2012, the City purchased just over 3,000 acres of property on the west side of the community, commonly referred to as the McCarty Ranch. We also purchased another 1,900 acres recently, which we refer to as the McCarty Extension. The original intention of the purchase of the McCarty Ranch was for the provision of water services to the citizens of Port St. Lucie over the next 50 to 100 years. The purchase of the extension property was also a part of that plan, in terms of creating an additional reservoir that already exists on the extended property. As a part of our efforts, you have a recommendation for a motion that would provide for environmental site assessments for the McCarty Ranch and the extension before you. It is really the first phase of transporting the water from the C-24 Canal into deep injection wells, so that we can utilize that water for the next 50 to 100 years. We went through our normal review of the CCA Process and obtained a shortlist from the evaluation committee with the Number One firm being Ardaman & Associates. This motion would provide for the start of negotiations in order to bring back a specific price of this project."

Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Item 13 d). Councilwoman Martin **seconded** the motion. Councilwoman Berger commented, "This item is very exciting. It is an opportunity for us to do more than just claim to be ahead of the curve on environmental items that are important to the entire Treasure Coast Region. It is just another example of how we are planning for the next 100 years, not just for the City, but for the entire estuary and the Treasure Coast itself. I would love to make sure that our planning process is appropriately shared with the public through our media, which is always available to us, as our product won't be finished for a while. I would also love to meet with the right people, which are our neighbors to the south in Martin County and Senator Negrón, as we move forward with Amendment 1 issues and the possibility of funding. I'm very excited about what is going on here and the possibility of creating some partnerships with our local Orcas and Harbor Branches of the world with their instruments and equipment that could do water quality monitoring. All of that is something that could be wrapped up into this project."

Mayor Oravec said, "I'm enthused about this process, but I also feel the need for balance in doing things that we would like to do while taking into consideration budget realities. I hope that with every action we take, we really have the budget in mind. I think during the first quarter of 2015, we will have to address a number of challenges. I think that everyone on the Council and some residents are aware of the budget cuts and difficulties that the City has had since the bust in response to the challenges with special assessment districts and Digital Domain. I'm not quite sure that everyone is as tuned into the utilities. Over the course of last year, I have spoken to a number of people who were familiar with the 3% increase every year, so I'm hoping with things like this, we can find alternative funding sources. Maybe these types of projects could be funded through grants and other things. One of the items that we removed from the agenda tonight was for a construction project funded by the Utilities System. I hope that

we find the right balance and are able to address our challenges, moving forward. Thank you." Councilwoman Berger noted, "It sounds like you built on what I was saying as well. We need to have partners in order to get this connected to Amendment 1, conservation funding, and availability of funding for appropriate uses for water conservation and restoration. My understanding from everything that I've read and the people that I've talked to is that this is the year Tallahassee is looking for projects to get behind, whether it is this year locally or finding ways for the water to go south in Okeechobee. Everybody wants to be a hero on this project. We have an actual project that can have shovels in the ground and making a difference immediately. I would hope that somebody might actually listen to it and help us fund it, so agreed." Mayor Oravec remarked, "Thank you." The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 13 d). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

e) MCTEAGUE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, #20140157, \$438,331.10, WHICH INCLUDES A \$10 INDEMNIFICATION FEE, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR 180 CALENDAR DAYS WITH NO OPTION TO RENEW, OMB

The City Manager said, "Since 2006, the City has prioritized the design and construction of sidewalks, Citywide. The emphasis on our sidewalks has been within a two-mile radius and proximity to schools creating a safe route to schools for our children. For the past several years, we have been able to dedicate \$250,000 annually for the design and construction of sidewalks. During our February Retreat, staff provided the City Council with the sidewalk construction and highlighted four missing links or areas of sidewalks throughout the City. As a result, the Council increased the funding from \$250,000 to \$800,000, with the intent of being able to construct the missing link. The item before you tonight will accomplish that. It provides for the construction of just under 10,000 linear feet of new sidewalk in the City. There is a listing of the locations that we have discussed in the past. This contract is in the amount of \$438,331.10. It will fill in missing links that have existed throughout the City, and therefore we recommend approval and award of a contract with McTeague Construction Company in the amount of \$438,331.10, with a contract period of 180 calendar days with no options to renew."

Mayor Oravec added, "The Council and staff set the wheels in motion for this before I came on board. I would like to express that I'm proud of the City for finding a way to increase its investment in sidewalks. Thank you. I'm sure that there are a lot of people out there, including around Airoso, Bayshore, and Peacock Boulevards, Country Club Drive, and other places that will be happy about these missing links being filled in. I look forward to working with you to find additional funds and ways to do more on sidewalks. A lot of people out there want them, so thank you Council." Vice Mayor Bartz **moved** to approve Item 13 e). Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 13 e). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote

f) TINDALE OLIVER DESIGN, NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS FOR VARIOUS CITY PLANNING AREAS, #20140148, \$240,010, WHICH INCLUDES A \$10 INDEMNIFICATION FEE, CONTRACT PERIOD IS FOR 36 MONTHS WITH NO

OPTION TO RENEW, OMB

The City Manager said, "Over the last several years, probably beyond that, we have had discussions relative to Neighborhood Planning. The idea and concept behind this is to take a look at our various neighborhoods and identify things that would provide an enhancement in the quality of life for the residents of Port St. Lucie. In the past, we have held a public input meeting where we received input from the residents, specifically relative to what they would like to see within their neighborhood. Staff has held numerous meetings relative to neighborhood planning, as well as discussions with the City Council at various workshops and retreats. As a part of that process to move forward, we have taken a look at a bigger picture, in terms of neighborhood planning on a larger scale, than what our original thought was in Planning Area 3, which is the central part of the City. This proposal provides us with an opportunity to look at the number of neighborhoods and to have a professional assist us in the Neighborhood Planning Process. It is a request to enter into a lump sum contract with Tindale Oliver in the amount of \$240,010, which includes a \$10 indemnification fee for consulting services of neighborhood plans for various City planning areas. The contract duration is 36 months, with no option to renew. The funding comes from the Neighborhood Improvement Fund."

Councilwoman Martin **moved** to approve Item 13 f). Vice Mayor Bartz **seconded** the motion, and asked, "How often will we be updated on this? Certainty not at the end of 36 months, correct?" The City Manager responded, "No. We will be providing ongoing updates as to where this process leads. It will include meeting with the City Council, citizens, and staff. We will have key waypoints to make sure we inform you as to where we are in the process." Vice Mayor Bartz remarked, "Thank you." The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 13 f). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

ADDENDUM

g) CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING & INSPECTION (CEI) & GEOTECHNICAL (GEO) FOR D-9 DRAINAGE RIGHT OF WAY GABION BASKET PROJECT, APPROVE FIRMS SHORT LISTED BY EVALUATION COMMITTEE: #1 ENGINEERING DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, INC., #2 CULPEPPER & TERPENING, INC., AND #3 DREDGING & MARINE CONSULTANTS, LLC, AND BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH #1 RANKED FIRM, #20150006, OMB

The City Manager said, "Continuing on with our stormwater system, we are also providing an opportunity for improvement to the D-9 drainage right-of-way. For those of you who aren't familiar with this area, the D-9 is east of the turnpike and probably halfway between the Crosstown Parkway and Prima Vista Boulevard. The two streets are Lakehurst Drive and Duval Avenue, specifically. This program provides for work on gabion baskets, which are rectangular shaped wire baskets filled with some form of rocks or concrete. The purpose of baskets is to provide stabilization within our canal system by diverting flow away from a point in the canal that would cause deterioration. In order to continue with the completion of the project, we would need to install the

gabion baskets along the drainage right-of-way. It allows the drainage to flow and the Public Works Department to perform routine maintenance. The item, before you tonight, is to approve the firms shortlisted by the Evaluation Committee and start negotiations with the engineering design firm. The Number One firm being Engineering Design & Construction, Inc. We request approval of this item.”

Councilman Bowen **moved** to approve Item 13 g). Councilwoman Martin **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 13 g). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

14. DETERMINATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

a) COUNCILWOMAN MARTIN, WORKSHOP COUNCIL MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 2014

Councilwoman Berger **moved** to approve Item 14 a). Councilman Bowen **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: for approval of Item 14 a). The motion **passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

Mayor Oravec commented, “Looking at the agenda, I would say that we were really trying to race with accomplishing our resolution. Staff probably thought we were going to resolve the format change of the agenda, but as it turned out the Council did not want to change the format of the agenda or at least it is subject to further clarification at a workshop. Therefore, Mr. Bremer, I will give you this opportunity for a City Manager’s Report.” The City Manager remarked, “Thank you.”

15. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – UTILITY BILLING CUSTOMER WAIT TIME

The City Manager said, “To take off on the conversation that we have had relative to our utility billing system, we have a new billing system, and it was not met with the pleasing results that we originally had intended. We had a number of issues that did evolve as part of putting that program in place. One of the things that it tells us is that we are more successful at preparing our own programs, than using programs that are already prepared for general use. An example is our Panda System through the Building Department, which was prepared and developed by our MIS Department. It was implemented without flaws or issues. With the utility billing system, we have always had concerns about a wait time. This is probably the beginning of what we will be moving towards, in terms of metrics and some type of understanding of our processes, costs, and efficiencies that we have with the systems. We thought that an interesting start would be with the Utility Department, since we have received some complaints about the wait time. In a cursory review, we find a couple of items that are of note. We know when the busy times are, which is after the Notices of Delinquencies and Shutoffs are sent out. It tends to prompt an enormous amount of calls. Interestingly enough, about 25% of our customers are late payers. The results are that you don’t get access to the Utility Billing Department on a normal basis when the notices are going out. We need to be able to provide the residents with an approximate wait time. We know of the

frustrations that we have when contacting Comcast, other cable companies, or the DMV. But at the same time, there should be some relative expectation when you call to be given a wait time. We are working towards that and feel that we can accomplish it. One of our residents forwarded their suggestion of a program that would provide a callback opportunity when the phones are busy. That would improve our customer service relationship, if you have a 20 to 30 minute wait. I have asked the Finance Department, who oversees the Utility Billing System, for a plan of action as to how we are going to improve our customer service and provide an understanding to our customers of a wait time. It can be as simple as suggesting another time to call back, if the resident has a general question during the busy times. We are underway and anticipating a memorandum this week from Mr. Fry, which will give us some waypoints and deadlines as to when we can see some programs, ideas, and recommendations on our Utility Billing System." Mayor Oravec commented, "Thank you. I really appreciate your attention to this and other customer service areas. You said a couple of things that really lit me up in a positive way. Metrix, waypoints, and timelines. Because studying how to fix something isn't the same as fixing it. I think that, too often, when government fails it is because someone in charge thinks that the process is the outcome, and it is not. The outcome is the outcome. Having exceptional customer service is our desired outcome, and without the waypoints and timeline to get us there, we are not on our way to achieving it. Thank you very much for looking into that."

16. COUNCILMEMBERS REPORT ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**VICE MAYOR BARTZ – HOLIDAY LIGHTS/WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA/TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL/SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE NETWORKING LUNCHEON**

Vice Mayor Bartz said, "I am going to touch base on just a couple of things. Councilwoman Berger, I know that you worked on it, so I have to tell you that I have heard a lot of positive comments on the dreidel at St. Lucie West Boulevard. Thank you very much for that. It was very well received. I had the opportunity to attend the Wreaths Across America service that they have every year. They have those services at the graveyard in White City. Law Enforcement helps bring in truckloads of wreaths to honor our military, those who have fallen and the POW's. After the service, we place wreaths on those headstones. It is a really moving service, and our local veterans do a great job." Mayor Oravec interjected, "Not only did you attend, but I think that you unexpectedly addressed the audience in my absence. So, I just want to tell you how much I appreciated that you stood in on my behalf with no notice. I had the flu and was down for approximately five days. I cannot say thank you enough or apologize for my absence to the organizers." Vice Mayor Bartz continued, "Thank you. We have had a Tourist Development meeting. Councilwoman Berger, we are looking into putting those cameras in different areas, but we are still perfecting what we are doing now. We look forward to moving some of those cameras into the City. We also talked about Riverwalk Boardwalk and other areas. Last week, we had an opportunity to attend a small business resource networking luncheon. It was put on through the EDC and held at IRSC. There was a lot of good information about organizing and what we could do, not

only locally, but regional, what we want to be and how to get there. The Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director was there. It is really nice to see how well he presented and how respected he was. There is a lot of work to be done. There were a lot of stakeholders involved from the college and the business environment. I think that this is just in the very beginning phase and you will see this group do some good work."

COUNCILWOMAN BERGER – TOURISM/WOW4/FIRE CHIEF SELECTION

Councilwoman Berger said, "I was excited to read that there is an abundance of monies available in a way that hasn't been in ten to fifteen years from the tourism taxes that are coming through. Right?" Vice Mayor Bartz advised, "It has gone up. We actually had an abundance of monies some time ago. Unfortunately, it had to be used in north county. When I say unfortunately, it is unfortunately for us. However, it was put to good use with our Navy Seal Museum, Heathcoat Botanical Gardens, and Backus Gallery." Councilwoman Berger continued, "Not to digress, but I wore a Navy Seal t-shirt on Saturday at the Botanical Gardens and a couple other events, and I have never gotten so many compliments about what I wore. I think that it was timely with the events that are going on, world-wide. Everyone was yelling out that it was time for the Navy Seals to come out. The other thing that I wanted to share with you, so you could bring it back to your group, is that I recently had an opportunity to book some hotel rooms for my managers when they visit the City. I needed about 10 rooms, and the entire St. Lucie West area was pretty packed because of the Golf School. When I walked into various hotels, I was surprised at the amount of youths and chaperones who were there. It was really packed, so I just want to reinforce the fact that there is something working out there. It is a big deal. One of the things that we have talked about in the previous workshops that hasn't gotten any traction is the Art Without Walls project, WoW. We were hoping to have an opportunity to place sculptures that the county has in various places in north county in the City, and allow the WoW project to be executed in the City. There is no progress, as far as I know. The last I heard was that the City Manager was going to be speaking with their staff, which I know he has been. The last update that I received was legal concerns about accepting assets and how to insure it. That will go on forever, but these are pieces that we are not asking to spend more money on by commissioning new art; these are sculpture already there. We are suggesting that we create one space for everyone to enjoy the art at the Botanical Gardens. We could add photos inside of the building. There are all kinds of opportunities to get people engaged with art contests. We have seen it in other cities where they paint manatees and buoys. When I walked through the Botanical Gardens the other day, they had a couple of pallets that were painted so originally. I thought of how that was such a simple thing to do, it's not expensive, and you could get all kinds of people participating in it. I know that we talked about that, and it really has just stalled. So, if there is anything that the Council could pull with the County Commission or relative staff. Please continue to do that, because the City of Ft. Pierce is behind us and wants to work with us. When I spoke to Mayor Hudson, she had told me that they were talking about assisting with the transportation. We have some great partnerships that are ready to go." Mayor Oravec asked, "When was this discussed?" Councilwoman Berger answered, "It was probably

in August or September.” Mayor Oravec questioned, “What entity was it, were there some type of administrative pushback from?” Councilwoman Berger replied, “The Board of County Commissioners, we haven’t heard back from.” Mayor Oravec clarified, “It is just a matter of responsiveness.” Councilwoman Berger responded, “Some of the art sculptures belong to the artists, but the majority, I say, belong to the taxpayers. The Board of County Commissioners have the rights over them. They were funded through the Art & Cultural Alliance, which had some difficulties within the last year. Wherever that issue is, I think that it has been disbanded or maybe they are trying to reconcile it, but these are pieces of artwork that belong to our community. We have not had a great opportunity in south county, meaning Port St. Lucie, to enjoy them or make them available for the citizens here. We are trying to gather everything while providing the space to make it happen.” Mayor Oravec suggested, “How about I send a letter to the county.” Councilwoman Berger noted, “I sent a letter to the county, originally, asking for the commitment. We received the commitment from the City, which I will get a copy for you. Maybe the City Manager can give an update, but he was reaching out to staff there as well.”

Mayor Oravec said, “In a different life, I worked with staff to get the concrete pad poured in front of City Hall where sculptures were shared in conjunction with the past Wow Show. That is what put the chess pieces down, and the piece currently located there is called *The Adapter*. To me it looked like a boat, but to the artist it was an electrical adapter.” Councilwoman Berger commented, “I thought it looked like a dreidel. When I heard that it was an adapter, I thought that it was cute for the front of City Hall. The City Manager, Engineering staff, and the Parks and Recreation Department created an amazing platform, similar to what is out front, but I would say even better when you see it in the Botanical Gardens with the sculpture that was donated. That was the genesis of something new, and it could be a kickoff of a way that our citizens can get involved by creating a sculpture garden that they can be proud of. We are talking about transport being the biggest expense, because the product already exists.” Mayor Oravec remarked, “It should be easy. I will be happy to reach out.” Councilwoman Berger continued, “Lastly, the Fire Board has been interviewing the short list of candidates for the Chief’s position. We have our meeting next week, which is open to the public, for the selection of the Chief. Hopefully, everyone will get a chance to attend. It is an important event. I think that each Board member was given the opportunity to interview. Since I was new to the Board, I took that opportunity to get to know the applicants. We spent at least one hour with each applicant. My notes are available as public record through the attorney with the Fire Board. I wanted to make sure that was available, and the applicants know that as well. I am very honored to be a part of the process. These are three great candidates, and I can say that it is an internal process. I think that people get fearful when they don’t know the Fire District or whatever agency it is when we say that we are not looking externally. The manpower planning, mentorship, and amount of resources that were put into getting these gentlemen ready for the next level will be a payoff, not only this time around, but for future rounds. You can see the investment that had occurred and I am very impressed with the applicants. We, the City of Port St. Lucie, don’t have a Fire Department under our City standards or as our Police Department is. This Fire District is our Fire Department. In the way that so many people

got involved in the selection of the Police Chief, I hope that as many are involved in the selection of the Fire Chief.”

COUNCILWOMAN MARTIN – FIRE CHIEF SELECTION

Councilwoman Martin said, “I am going to just expand upon that a little bit. We did an internal process, like Councilwoman Berger said. We have three outstanding candidates who have a multitude of years of experience and are very well rounded. The reason that we started the process a little early is because Chief Parish will not be retiring through the DROP Program until October 1, 2015, but we are in the process of Succession Planning and the Strategic Plan, which is really important. Not only are we losing Chief Parrish in October, we are losing Assistant Chief Duran in November and Deputy Chief Herndon in December. The Fire Department thought it was very important that we start the process early to allow the new candidate to work with the current Chief on the new Budget Season starting in March and to start building the Succession Planning Process. We also have several people who are in the DROP or retiring, so they will be talking about the number of promotions that have happened next week. There has been 18 promotions as a result of the people leaving through attrition and the DROP. I met with the candidates individually. I’m not sure all of the Board members have as they are individual meetings, but I think most of them have. We will be deciding if we will have public discussion as far as interviewing the candidates. It is really important. We want to make sure that the organization stays fluid in order to continue providing the best services possible. We are also in the hiring process. During the last budget, we said that we will hire 30 additional Firefighters, EMT, and Paramedics. We broke that phase between January and March, so I believe that there are 18 in the process of being hired and the rest will be hired in March. I am looking forward to it.”

COUNCILMAN BOWEN – FIRE CHIEF/SHOP WITH A COP/SHARING CITY SUCCESS WITH HOAS

Councilman Bowen said, “It was good to see Chief Parrish in attendance tonight. He is quite an exceptional person. I got to meet Ron Parrish when he was a lieutenant 22 years ago. I watched him move up the ranks and the department grow. Before the holidays, I got to witness the *Shop With A Cop* event where the Police Department meet with underprivileged children and shop at Walmart. It was really great. To see the needy children look up to the Police Officer, was quite a blessing before Christmas for me. I also took to heart what our consultant, Lyle Sumek, told us during our last Strategic Planning and have been embarking on a plan to reach all 24 HOAs in my district. My goal is to meet all of the HOA within the first six months. I was able to meet with three in December and have three scheduled for this week. You can learn quite bit of what is going on by talking to the property owners. Our consultant suggested to take our success stories, which I have. Quality of life, low crime, and other opportunities that we have in Port St. Lucie. I am starting to listen to Mr. Sumek quite a bit now.”

MAYOR ORAVEC – COMMUNICATION/NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING/SOUTH BEND BRIDGE WORKSHOP/EDUCATOR AWARD/MAYOR’S IRON CHEF

Mayor Oravec commented, "Councilman Bowen, thank you for your advocacy on behalf of the City. Communication is really important and fundamental to what we do. It is low hanging fruit; it is one of the things that can be easy and cost effect to do. In looking at the inner section of Councilman Bowen's comment regarding getting out there and doing it, and Councilwoman Berger's comment about communicating what we hope to do at the McCarty Ranch. We need to set up the system and get it in place, so those types of communications can happen automatically in a very intuitive or easily understandable way where we don't spam people's inboxes. It is really something that we need to work on. It is a new year; happy 2015. One of my resolutions is that everything that I do on behalf of the City is either carrying out a specific duty under the Charter, Code of Ordinances, or in some way it is meant to work with you, the Council, staff, and public, to make Port St. Lucie a great place to live, learn, work, and play. In getting here, one of the things that people wanted to know was how the Mayor is going to compare to being City Manager. I can tell you that one of the things that is very different is that I do not get to talk to the City Council. I used to talk to you every day, when I was the administrator, or as frequently as we needed to. I don't get to do that anymore on any real meaningful basis because of sunshine, so as much as it may feel like I am holding you until midnight. This is one of my few opportunities to brainstorm with you, and I really appreciate hearing about what each of the Council is doing on behalf of the City. I appreciate hearing about the Fire District, which is a tenth of our tax bills. How many of us are heavily, individually, involved with the Fire District? We are not. It is so vital. Another thing about being Mayor is to see the connection of things and hopefully explain it to the people watching at home in a digestible, easily understood way. We had an item on tonight's Agenda about Neighborhood Planning, and there was not much discussion on it. It is a huge thing when you think about the City, how big we are being incorporated in 1961, no one really being here until the late 1980's. That traditional city was 80,000 quarter acre platted lots. The newer communities in St. Lucie West, Tradition, and Southern Grove are going to capture a lot of the investment. What happens to that traditional city, central city, eastern Port St. Lucie? It is really vital that not only do we have the continuing development of those western areas, but we can never forget about our existing neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Planning Process is critical to doing that. In maintaining and enhancing our existing neighborhoods, to work hand in hand with our neighbors. To give you a concrete example of what Neighborhood Planning and resulting improvements can do, the round-a-bout at Floresta and South Bend Boulevard is fantastic. Sure there are things with lighting that we need to work on, but between that and the Boat Ramp Park that is finally taking shape. Each of those improvements was something significant on its own, but together there is a synergy where even more is accomplished. Neighborhood Planning allows you to layer those improvements. I am hopeful that we could, through the Neighborhood Planning Process, address each of our neighborhoods. On the specific issue of South Bend, I was hoping that we could workshop a way to improve the bridge in a cost effect fashion. We have done this great work with the round-a-bout and the Boat Ramp Park. In a previous life, I had asked staff if there was a way to beautify the bridge with paint. I have been contacted by several property owners regarding how the bridge looks. With all of the boat traffic and everything that we are doing, is this not a great time to investigate just some paint or columns with lights on either side of the bridge? We took

one of the worst intersections in the City and turned it into an amenity. If it is okay, I would like to discuss the South Bend Bridge at an upcoming workshop. **(Clerk's note: There was a consensus.)** I went to Frances K. Sweet Elementary School, where the Milken Foundation awarded the Educator Award to Ms. Routten of Port St. Lucie. Unbeknownst to her, they recognized her on a national basis for her excellence and awarded her a \$25,000 check. The first lady of Florida, Ms. Scott, the Commissioner of Florida Education, the School Board, and the Superintendent were there. It was outstanding. In that category of learn, I would like to see us work with our School Board to have more A rated schools. The bottom line is that you have to express how it has improved, and until there is something better I think the letter grade is as good as anything. I would like us to have more A rated schools, but while we are on that journey as Councilman Bowen said, it is important to communicate success. Certainly having a nationally recognized educator is success. That is a nation-wide award. I was a judge at Morningside Elementary School this morning for a spelling bee. It was fun. We have a lot of good spellers who won't have to use spell check in the future. I have attended the Treasure Coast Education Research Development Authority meetings, the Chamber Executive Board, and various leagues of regional governments. Circling back to schools, I also had the pleasure of having lunch at St. Lucie West Centennial High School. Please know that they have an exceptional culinary program, and they will host and cater your business meetings. They are available to go off campus to events. They are very economical and outstanding. The food was very well prepared." Councilwoman Berger suggested, "They could also prepare food for our workshops." Mayor Oravec continued, "We could certainly look into that. As an off shoot to that, I will work with them and some sponsors in our community to hold a Mayor's Iron Chef Event. We will have to rename it obviously. They are competitive in the school district; each of the high schools have a program where they compete. Centennial High School has won the state award, so I hope to have some fun with that and give them a free practice session in the future. We had the Martin Luther King Proclamation this evening. Martin Luther King Day is supposed to be more than a day off, but a day to reflect on the legacy of Doctor King. It is also supposed to be a day of service. My family will hopefully be teaming up with the principal and members of St. Lucie West Centennial High School to paint the entry sign there. As it turns out, we will probably have to do it on Sunday or another day. In addition to our event at Whispering Pines Park on Monday, there is also a parade in Ft. Pierce, which I will be attending. It may be that I will be attending so many public functions that I won't be able to get my service in until another day. At the Chamber Executive Board, I discussed Torrey Pines and the real need for the business community to be engaged in decision making and the public input process. I was not advocating for a specific position; I was advocating for engagement. I really feel like we could benefit from hearing their voice on important issues, like Torrey Pines. This evening, someone brought up the issue of Torrey Pines. In doing so, it identified that the assessed value was around \$9,000,000. An assessed value of \$9,000,000, makes the current proposal easy, because \$8,000,000 under the current proposal would be immediately available to the City. Compare that to what happens now if something goes wrong where we would have to take court action to execute the Reverter Clause, take possession of the building, decide what we are going to do with the building, market the building, and sell the building. We could look at Digital Domain to see how long that

would take, what expenses are involved, and staff time. Having to maintain the building during the process, and then the commission which may be required in order to sell the property for an unknown amount. Additionally, while we own the building, it is off of the tax roll. Whereas, if you substitute the Reverter Clause for the agreement that is on the table, there is \$8,000,000 that flows to the City in a relatively expedient fashion. So when you analysis it, you look at \$8,000,000 versus \$9,000,000, if that in fact is what it would sell for less all of those expenses. Then by the way, the \$8,000,000, since the bank takes possession of the property right away, it goes on the tax roll. So there is the benefit of it being back on the tax roll. By doing apples to apples, you have \$8,000,000 on one side and \$9,000,000 on the other. Depending on how you want to do it, you either need to add to the \$8,000,000 or subtract from the \$9,000,000 in order to do a real apples to apples. I bet under that scenario after you get done subtracting from \$9,000,000, it is pretty close to \$8,000,000. I just wanted to point that out for the public, because the Council is actively thinking about it and is concerned. This is just one of several issues that the Council is working on currently."

Mayor Oravec asked the City Attorney, "Where are we at with Torrey Pines? Are we on track?" The City Attorney answered, "Yes, we are. We have made the first round of revisions to the Grant Agreement. We have a draft of the Escrow Agreement; in the very early stages of working on that. A meeting is being scheduled to meet with Mr. Dobbins in order to go over their financing for the project. We are on target with bringing the agreement back on the February 23rd date as discussed initially." Mayor Oravec said, "Thank you. I am happy to hear that."

Councilwoman Berger commented, "I am sure that we have all read the article recently in the newspaper about the relationship of biotech, in general, within the state of Florida and Torrey Pines to Jeb Bush who is possibly running for president. I would like to make sure that we have our Communication Department ready to deliver the right message, so that we don't become collateral damage in a national discussion. There is a threat for anyone who may be on the other side or decides to speak against Former Governor Bush as a candidate for president that we get lumped in as one of his choices while he was governor. There were many decisions that he made, we happen to be one of them to get some funding here, but funding was also diverted throughout the state of Florida for other things. I just want to talk about the message that is going to be out there and be ready for it, because I don't feel that some of the discussion that is happening, some of the articles that are written are in the best light or in a productive fashion. I recognize our realities and challenges, but as we are moving forward with it and accepting those challenges, I would like to do as much as we can to stay out of that discussion." Mayor Oravec noted, "Thank you. It may be inevitable. I look at it from a different angle, which is that we may find that we have new allies who want to see biotech succeed, so I am exploring it from that side. There is significant power and investment that maybe could be brought to bear on making sure that biotech succeeds in Florida."

17. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD - (IF NECESSARY AS DETERMINED BY CITY COUNCIL AT CONCLUSION OF PUBLIC TO BE HEARD)

There was nothing heard under this item.

16. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Karen A. Phillips, City Clerk

April C. Stoncius, CMC, Deputy City Clerk Supervisor