

stated, "I agree." Councilman Cooper stated, "I **move** to rebuild at 10,000 square feet." Councilman Kelly **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to rebuild the golf-course building at 10,000 square feet. The **motion passed unanimously** by roll call vote. The City Manager stated, "Based upon comments at the Retreat, I will try to reduce the debt as much as I possibly can. We'll probably have to do some kind of variable bond that allows us to bring it down and call it at a lower rate. I'll bring that financing plan back to the City Council once we have it worked out. It is going to take about \$7 million to take the debt, and assume \$3 million to replace the building and the cart barn that is associated with it. That will come back to you at a later date."

13. NEW BUSINESS

a) **DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION ON GROWTH MANAGEMENT, REFORM AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FROM THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, MAYOR MINSKY**

Item 13 a) had been pulled from the Agenda.

b) **RECOMMENDATION FOR CHANGE IN SPEED LIMITS ON VARIOUS STREETS, CHIEF OF POLICE**

The City Manager stated, "The recommendations come from the Chief of Police. He has worked with the City's Traffic Engineer. These recommendations are made pursuant to Chapter 71.01 of the City's Municipal Code." Mayor Minsky commented, "I'm going to be a little contrary on this one. Most of the complaints that I get about traffic within the City are speeding. It is common knowledge that speeders will generally run on the average of 10 to 15 mph above the posted limit. Unless we are bearing down and we're going to take away that envelope, where they can comfortably drive 10 to 15 mph above the speed limit and not have to worry about it, I am not comfortable with taking it up from 35 to 40 mph, which means we're going to have traffic going 50 to 55 mph through the center of our City. I can't support it, because I have too many traffic problems with speeding as it is."

Vice Mayor Christensen said, "My concern was on Airoso Boulevard. I heard that the reason we left it at 35 mph was to accommodate the people, when we did the construction and widening because of all the driveways. People were backing in and out of their property. I agree. It boggles my mind that we get complaints daily on people speeding. We constantly have to have the Chief go out and set up speed traps and set out the traffic-radar trailer to try to calm people down. If we take them one at a time or do them all together, my concern is the Airoso issue." Mayor Minsky stated, "On Airoso, if you try to get out of this complex about 4:00 p.m., people that make that turn coming off of Port St. Lucie Boulevard are hitting about 50 mph when they get there. It is almost impossible to get

out safely. We're talking about intercity driving. If we boost it up, even if it is only 5 mph, they are going to boost up theirs 5 to 10 mph. I'm only two and one-half miles from here, and it takes me about six minutes to get here driving at a safe speed. What is it going to save, one or two minutes to get to the other end? It's going to endanger people. I can't go along with it." Councilman Cooper said, "I agree. But Gatlin Blvd, from PSL to I-95 is a six-lane divided road at 40 mph. I think that 40 mph is a little low. We have 40-mph speed limits on two-lane roads."

Vice Mayor Christensen stated, "Chief, everything was recommended to be bumped up by 5 mph with the exception to Rosser Boulevard. Is there a particular reason why that would go from 30 to 40 mph?" Chief Skinner replied, "I worked with Ms. Graham on this, and I also had discussions with my staff. In no way am I trying to up the speeds. Speeding is a significant problem in this City. We are trying to establish some consistency with some of the roadways. Thornhill Boulevard and West Virginia are all at 40 mph, and we have Airoso, which is a divider road, at 35 mph. We looked at the roadway, the residents on the roadway, and engineering studies to determine if that was a safe speed. Realistically, people generally drive at what they feel is safe on the road and not the speed limit."

Kim Graham stated, "We did a speed study at three separate locations on Rosser, because the characteristics of the roadway change. The median is very wide toward Gatlin, but when you get south of Paar, the right-of way decreases. When we did our speed studies, we saw that people near Gatlin were traveling at 40 mph, but as you got further to the south that decreased. That is why we are recommending 30 to 40 mph, because that is actually what people were driving in that area." Mayor Minsky asked, "If they were driving at 50 mph, would we recommend that it goes to 50?" Ms. Graham replied, "You should post the speed limit at what people are driving. From a traffic-engineering standpoint, people drive the speed where they feel safe driving based upon the characteristics of the roadway." Mayor Minsky commented, "In that case, you might as well move it up to 65 mph." Ms. Graham continued, "That is how we determine how to make our recommendations." Mayor Minsky said, "Unfortunately, we don't have very many streets where they have controlled access. We have a lot of streets with a lot of curb cuts, like Airoso. The advantage they have is that they only have to check traffic one way. There are some that have to check two ways. I've pulled out of a drive where it was all clear, and somebody came speeding around the corner at a high-rate of speed. They were on my tail before I noticed them."

Chief Skinner commented, "In all likelihood, those individuals would probably speed no matter what the speed limit is. Our focus is on the drivers who obey the speed limits, as opposed to those individuals who are consistently violating the law. We wrote over 25,000 citations last year. I don't think that we will ever write

our way out of the traffic situation here in Port St. Lucie. But we also look at the other end. Since the completion of Airoso and Gatlin, we've had numerous complaints from individuals who feel that the road is far too low in terms of the speed, and particularly those two roads, based on the width of the road."

Councilman Kelly stated, "There are six changes here, and I have the same concern as you on Airoso, but for a different reason. When we did Airoso Boulevard, we met with these people at the Community Center. We promised these people that that 35 mph was going to be the speed limit. I can't go against the promise that we made. The other ones I don't have a problem with, except Morningside. There are three schools right there on Morningside. I call Chief Skinner all the time to put radar up over there. There are two grammar schools and a high school right near there. The kids are around there all the time, and they are using it. People are trying to beat the light on Port St. Lucie Boulevard. I have a problem with raising the limit there." Chief Skinner stated, "That's a good point, Councilman. That road was changed prior to me getting here. I think that road has been 25 mph for a good number of years. The only inconsistency is the side streets that we all live on at 30 mph. We're saying that it is okay to do 30 mph on a residential. But on Morningside, which is a divided highway, it is 25 mph. Recognizing that there is a school zone there, we'll continue to monitor that, as well as the blinking light." Councilman Kelly added, "And the kids ride their bikes there."

Mayor Minsky asked, "Does the Council want to separate any of these, or do you want to take them all in one lump?" Councilman Kelly replied, "I would like to do what Councilman Cooper said and separate them." Councilwoman Berger stated, "I think it is important that we be consistent with the specifications that are normally used in these surveys, to determine the speed limits throughout the City and state. If I am driving down a side road, and I know that that is normally 30 mph, and make a right turn on Morningside Boulevard, there would be no reason for me to think that it would change to 25 mph. Yes, there are school zones there, but they are posted school zones. Going slower also becomes a safety concern. I don't mind breaking these out if we want to vote on them individually, but there are specifications out there specifically for them that the Traffic Engineering Department has looked into."

Mayor Minsky stated, "On Prima Vista going west, there is a sign that says '20 mph when light is flashing,' and then there is a sign that says 20 mph. So the speed limit is 20 miles an hour, but it says that you only drive that when the light is flashing. There is no reason for it to be that. Yet, it has never been changed. We have the school crossing over there. We have a fire station, which has a light that they can control. I've seen them pull out of that station time and time again, without turning that light to red." Councilman Cooper said, "I have discussed this with them before,

and with Ms. Graham about putting some signs up in the past. I believe that part of that problem is that that light also activates the Airoso light. Their fear is that that traffic stops in front of their driveway. I know that is not the best answer. Most of the time they feel that it is better to be able to get out of the station, as opposed to having the traffic back up and block their driveway." Mayor Minsky said, "They have the light right in front of the station. They should have one before and one after." Councilman Cooper said, "I agree, but people have the tendency to block that driveway. We discussed changing the size of the lenses and putting some signs up that say 'Stop Here on Red.' It is so confusing for all of that activity to be within 75 feet of the intersection. It's a no-win situation. Chief Sizemore is aware of it and would love our input on someplace to move Station #3 and Station #5 in the future. He agrees that it is a problem, and he would like to have both of those stations off the busy roads."

Mayor Minsky stated, "Let's go down the list. Which ones do you want to leave the same, and which ones do you want to increase?" Councilwoman Berger stated, "I am going to say change it to all of them." Vice Mayor Christensen **moved** to change the speed limit on Gatlin Boulevard, Rosser Road, Floresta, and Macedo Boulevard. Councilman Cooper **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to approve the changes for Gatlin, Rosser, Floresta, and Macedo. The **motion passed unanimously** by roll call vote.

Councilman Kelly **moved** to leave Airoso at 35 mph. Councilman Cooper **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to leave Airoso Boulevard at 35 mph. The **motion passed** with Mayor Minsky, Councilman Cooper, Councilman Kelly, and Vice Mayor Christensen voting in favor, and Councilwoman Berger voting against.

Councilman Kelly **moved** to leave Morningside Boulevard at 25 mph. Councilman Cooper **seconded** the motion. The City Clerk restated the motion as follows: to leave Morningside Boulevard at 25 mph. The **motion passed** with Councilman Cooper, Councilman Kelly, and Mayor Minsky voting in favor, and Councilwoman Berger and Vice Mayor Christensen voting against.

c) DISCUSSION OF CREATION OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY RESEARCH & EDUCATION AUTHORITY AS PROPOSED BY STATE SENATOR KEN PRUITT, MAYOR MINSKY

Mayor Minsky commented, "I am not proposing this." Vice Mayor Christensen said, "I spoke to Senator Pruitt a couple of weeks ago, and in reading this bill that he has proposed, from my discussions with him, he is making some changes that would be major changes within this bill. I'm wondering if we should hold off until we receive an updated copy of the bill that he is proposing." Mayor