Special Meeting, 1st, Budget Hearing

September 21st, 2015
5:01 P.M.
The first Budget hearing of the North Miami City Council was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Monday, September 21st, 2015, beginning at 5:01 p.m.

(Phonetic spelling of each speaker’s name may be used throughout the minutes unless correct spelling is known.)

1. **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

   Mayor Smith Joseph: Okay it’s after 5:01, the meeting is in order.

   ROLL CALL
   
   Mayor Joseph Here
   Councilman Galvin Arrived at 5:07 P.M.
   Vice-Mayor Keys Here
   Councilman Bien-Aime Here
   Councilman Desulme Here

   City Clerk Etienne: Mayor, we have a quorum to proceed with the Budget Hearing.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

   Mayor Joseph: Who’s going to do Pledge of Allegiance?

3. **INVOCATION**

   Mayor Joseph: Thank you for all. And we ask Mr. Manager to please lead us in Invocation.

   City Manager Ghany: In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful, all praises due to God. Lord of the world, master of the Day of Judgment, day alone do we serve and day alone do we ask for help. Guide us in the straight path Lord and dress us with your favors. Govern us and govern us to put our government and our Mayor and Council. And please let this meeting go smoothly.
4. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Mayor Joseph: I’m not sure how we want to proceed. Whether we’re going to have public hearings after we…

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

City Clerk Etienne: We’re going to read the tab, just like a Council Meeting. So Tab A, for the record I have to read the entire resolution in its entirety. So bear with me.

**TAB A**

City Clerk Etienne: (reads resolution by title only)

PROPOSEDE RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE OF 7.9336 MILLS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 – 2016; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND ALL OTHER PURPOSES.

Mayor Etienne: Whereas, the City of North Miami Florida (CITY) as considered, an operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Section 200.065 Florida Statutes 2014 and whereas, the millage rate necessary to fund the City’s operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 is 7.936 mils which is 5.36% more than the roll back…that’s what it says, 7.9336 miles. So operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 is 7.9336 mils which is 5.36% more than the roll back rate of 7.5300 mils. And whereas, in accordance with Statute 200.065 (5) Florida Statutes 2014 as amended from time to time, a majority vote of the Mayor and City Council is required to adopt a rate of up to 7.9336 mils. And whereas, the Mayor and City Council find that the adoption of the proposed tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 is in the best interest of the City. Now therefore be it duly resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida as follows. Section 1, adoption of tentative millage rate. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida hereby adopt 7.9336 mils as the tentative millage rate on assessed property value necessary to fund the City’s Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 operating budget. Section 2, effective date; this resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption. Passed and adopted by a blank vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami this blank day of blank 2015. That is Tab A.
Mayor Joseph: Thank you very much. Does Staff have a presentation before we open it to the public?

City Manager Ghany: Sure, I’d like to turn it over to Terry Henley, Assistant Budget Director for a brief presentation on the Budget 2015 – 2016 Budget.

Assistant Budget Director Henley: Good evening Mayor and Council, Terry Henley. This is a brief presentation on the Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 Proposed Budget. There’s five items we’re going to talk about today. The first is the total budget for all funds, the General Fund Revenues, Expenditures, Enterprise, Stormwater/Utility and Water and Sewer Utility. Then Capital Projects and then I’ll wrap up with the summary highlights for what we can take away from today. The Proposed Budget for this year is $136,300,000.00. And about 42% of this is the General Fund, 39% is your Enterprise Funds and the rest of the funds comprise about 19% of the total budget. And that includes some small project funds as well as internal services, which is your Fleet and your Risk Management/Workmen’s’ Comp, Housing Rehabilitation, which is 1%, debt service 1% and transportation which is 2%. And that’s like your surtax and your gas tax. The General Fund for FY 16 is $53.4 million dollars almost. And this represents a $3 million dollar difference than last years Adopted Budget which was $60.1 million. Now the variance or the difference can be contributed to a couple of factors. One being the elimination of the Red Light Program, Red Light Camera Program and the use of reserve money to fund MOCA as well as some $700,000.00 in capital projects voted last April. This slide is your revenues. Now your revenues, the largest revenue source is taxes which is 43%. Of the taxes, $16.2 million is your advalorem. Non-revenues is $15 million, intergovernmental $6.7 million, charges for service $4.3 million almost. License and permits almost $4 million, miscellaneous $1.8, fines and forfeits $826,000.00 for a total of $57.4 million. This slide represents what our millage rate has looked like the last 10 years. And as you can see it was as high as 8.5 back in 2006. This year, like the last two years, we’re proposing to keep the same millage rate of 7.9336. Now this slide if I could focus your attention on the middle column. This middle column is how we calculate the property taxes. We take the total values in North Miami, which is almost $2.4 billion dollars, we apply our millage rate of 7.9336 against that and we get about $18 million dollars in total advalorem property taxes. Now out of this $18 million we have some to divvy up to the CRA as well as the City. The CRA is going to get $1.8 million of this and then the City will get the remainder which is $16.2. Now the proposed millage rate, even though it’s the same as last year, it equates to $1.5 million dollars in additional revenue over the roll back rate. So that means the General Fund will get about $800,000.00 and the CRA $700,000.00. Now the next two slides show we’re going to spend that additional $1.5 million dollars. This $800,000.00 for the General Fund, we have some proposed projects, community projects and that includes improvements at North Bayshore Park, City-wide beautification art of $60,000.00, Housing Rehabilitation $110,000.00, Keystone Community Center and Playground $100,000.00, Keystone Point Community Garden almost $3,000.00. The Sans Souci
Tennis Court $65,000.00, Sasso Pool $200,000.00. South Gate...and this Sasso Pool of $200,000.00 is listed to do the improvements on the interior of the facility. There’s another $60,000.00 on the next slide from the CRA to do the exterior, which will address slum and blight. Also we have about $11,000.00 for South Gate Entrance Keystone and Utility Box Wraps combined. There’s also three supplementals that are included in this $800,000.00. $120,000.00 of it is for Constituent Service Aids work and also $50,000.00 for the Study Program and $20,000.00 for the Taste of North Miami. Now even though this is not a CRA meeting, the CRA is getting $700,000.00 in addition over last year as a result of the 7.9336 millage rate. And this slide shows you $2.5 million dollars in projects. It includes a P3 (Public-Private Partnership) Capital Project to be determined this year at $500,000.00. A carry over funds, this is money that we have committed to finishing existing projects in Fiscal Year 15 which will be carried over. Then there’s $300,000.00 to do downtown plaza. This is lighting and improvements. As well as Oleander Park renovations at $250,000.00, Splash Pad & Pavilion Pepper Park $250,000.00, Museum Beautification at MOCA. This is to do landscaping and paint the building at $150,000.00. Green Tail Improvements almost $140,000.00, the Griffin K9 Facility $125,500.00. A sewer model update at $120,000.00. A decorative crosswalk $75,000.00, Sunkist Grove Beautifications $75,000.00. Iron Manner Fountain Restoration $70,000.00, Sasso Pool Façade Beautification. This is to do the exterior at $60,500.00. And $20,000 for Griffing Estates Park Renovation. Continue on General Fund Expenses, this slide shows General Fund Expenses with all departments. And you’ll notice this year we’re 5% less than last year. But...and if I could focus your attention on the far right where you see the percentage changes, I’ll go through the few variations which are important to highlight. There’s several positions moved around where Code got five positions and that was reorganization. So Building gave them a couple of positions as well as Public Works. So you see the variations in those budgets as a result. There was also...MOCA if I could focus your attention that. You’ll see that it’s funded at about $1 million dollars. And this is at its typical funding levels. Also if you could look at Non-Departmental, you’ll see that Non-Departmental is about $1.8 million dollar difference. It’s less this year as a result of using some reserve funds for capital projects. And also what’s built into this budget, there’s $510,000.00 built in Staff COLA and merit increases. This has not been seen City-wide since 2011. The next two slides are for your Enterprise Funds, this is Stormwater. Stormwater is about $3 million dollars. And it includes 45% of the $3 million to operate, 6% for Internal Services, 15% for debt, 16% for reserves and 18% for personnel. Your Water & Sewer budget $48.7 million dollars, 10% for personnel, 44% to operate it, 1% for internal services and 14% for capital outlay, 31% for reserves and others to do future capital projects. This is a capital project slide and it represents almost $12 million dollars. One point one of this $12 million dollars is to do General Fund capital projects and that includes $920,000.00 almost for vehicles as well as computer switches and software; Police laptops. Another project $57,000.00 almost to redo all the restrooms in City Hall. The next topic is transportation and there are about six or seven transportation projects and this is your gas tax and ½ sales tax that you use. These projects they do improvements to the roadway as
well as the sidewalks. And there’s traffic calming and traffic studies and the installation of transit shelters as well. The bottom is your Enterprise Capital Projects and it includes vehicles for Stormwater and Water & Sewer as well as a number of projects that are going to improve the plant, the water main, the water line, lift stations and sanitary sewer rehab. This is the last slide of the presentation and these seven points will drive home what’s importation to get out of this. What’s important is, we have the same millage rate as the last three years. This millage rate is 7.9336. It represents a $1.5 million dollar increase that we’re going to get in additional revenue. It’s $800,000.00 to the General Fund, about $700,000.00 to the CRA. And those are to do capital projects which were outlined earlier. Other capital projects included $12 million dollars almost in infrastructure City-wide. And what’s built into this Budget is COLA and merit increases for Staff. What’s not in this Budget is the Red Light Camera and its revenue. What’s also important to know is that MOCA is funded at its traditional level of $1 million dollars. Are there any questions?

Councilman Galvin: Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Joseph: I have dozens and dozens of questions. How do we want to handle all this procedurally this evening?

City Clerk Etienne: Right now we’re discussing the millage rate. The Budget is the second item that I’m going to read into the record. We’re just on Tab A now, which is the millage rate. So just to let you know.

Councilman Galvin: Fair enough, as long as we’re going to ask our questions...

Mayor Joseph: After the public.

Councilman Galvin: Before? After? As long as we’re going to get the questions.

Mayor Joseph: Anything to add Mr. Manager?

City Manager Ghany: Nothing. Apart from the presentation I think the detailed Budget was provided to each one of you. So for any further clarifications I will coordinate to our Budget Department.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Let me add. Right now we’re getting ready to discuss adopting the tentative millage rate. Once we set the tentative millage rate it’s important to know, this number can be lowered at the next Budget Hearing. However, the number cannot be raised at the next Budget Hearing. So we are going to adopt it. Again, this is tentative. This is the first hearing, so we can lower the millage rate at the
next meeting if that’s what the Body so chooses to do but we will not be able to go higher than this millage rate once it is adopted at the recommended 7.9336. For the record, the 7.9336 is the same millage rate. Property values did go up so it does equate to a slight tax increase. But the millage rate is the same exact millage rate as it was last year. But again I just want to make sure that we’re on the record saying that it can be lowered after this meeting at the next meeting but it cannot be raised. At this point the 7.9336 is what Staff is recommending.

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Sorey…the…maybe it’s listed somewhere else. The funding that I requested for the North Miami Adult program. I don’t see it listed here. Is it somewhere else?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: If you go to your detailed budget book sir. It’s in the Non-Departmental section.

Mayor Joseph: What page is that?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I’m getting to tell you right now sir.

City Manager Ghany: It’s 377.

Mayor Joseph: 377 is the cover.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Page 386 sir.

Mayor Joseph: I got up to 384.

Councilman Galvin: Are we discussing the Budget or the millage rate, I’m confused? If we’re on the millage rate…if this is the millage rate I’m shutting up. If this is Budget, let’s have at it.

Mayor Joseph: I just haven’t seen the line that’s all. So let’s do the Public Hearing for the millage rate and we’ll come back to this afterwards. The millage rate item is open for Public Hearing for whoever wishes to be heard. Anyone from the public who want to comment on the millage rate item? Public Hearing is open. Public Hearing is now closed.

City Clerk Etienne: Could I have a motion to approve Tab A, the millage rate?

Councilman Galvin: So moved.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Second.
City Clerk Etienne: Motion was made by Councilman Galvin to approve Tab A, the millage rate. It was seconded by Councilman Bien-Aime. And I will do a roll call vote with your permission Mayor.

Mayor Joseph: Go ahead.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Bien-Aime  Yes
Councilman Desulme  Yes
Mayor Joseph  Yes
Councilman Galvin  Yes
Vice-Mayor Keys  Yes

City Clerk Etienne: Tab A has been approved 5 – 0.

**TAB B**

City Clerk Etienne: Now Tab B and for the record I have to read it in its entirety. So please be patient.

City Clerk Etienne: (reads ordinance by title only)

PROPOSED ORDINANCE (FIRST READING) OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016; AUTHORIZING THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CITY FOR THE 2015-2016 FISCAL YEAR; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BUDGET; AUTHORIZING A "RETURN ON INVESTMENT" TRANSFER FROM THE WATER & SEWER UTILITY FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT BUDGET AMENDMENTS (REVENUE AND/OR EXPENDITURE) TO APPROPRIATE OR UNAPPROPRIATE FUNDS AS REQUIRED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR, AND TO AMEND THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TO FACILITATE THE YEAR-END CLOSING PROCESS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
City Clerk Etienne: Whereas, the budget of the City of North Miami, Florida (CITY) for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2015 and ending September 30, 2016 (attached hereto as “Exhibit 1”) was considered at public hearings held on September 21, 2015, and September 30, 2015, as required by Chapter 200, Florida Statutes; and whereas, the Mayor and City Council wish to approve and adopt the Budget of the City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015, and ending September 30, 2016, and to authorize that this amount be raised by taxation for the operation of the City for the 2015 – 2016 Fiscal Year. Now, therefore, be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida that Section 1, Budget Approved and Adopted. The Budget of the City of North Miami for the 2015 – 2016 Fiscal Year, (attached hereto as ‘Exhibit 1”), is hereby approved and adopted. Section 2, Implement Budget Amendments. The City Manager is hereby, authorized to implement Budget amendments (revenue and/or expenditure) by resolution, to appropriate or un-appropriate funds as required during the fiscal year, and to amend the prior fiscal year budget, by resolution, to facilitate the year-end closing process. Section 3, Expenditure of Funds Appropriated in the Authorized Budget. Funds appropriated to the various departments in the Budget may be expended by the directors of each department by and with the approval of the City Manager in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter and applicable Ordinances. Expenditures of funds (including, but not limited to enterprise funds, internet service funds and expendable trust funds) under circumstances which additional revenues are generated by user fees or charges to offset the cost of supplying a service to residents or other City departments, shall not be limited by estimated appropriations, but rather by actual revenue, and to that extent, the actual revenue received shall be deemed to be appropriated. Section 4, Return on Investment of Water and Sewer Fund Assets. The Budget includes a transfer from the Water and Sewer Operation and Maintenance Fund to the General Fund representing the return on investment that taxpayers would receive if the utility were sold. The transfer for the 2015 – 2016 Fiscal Year is calculated at 6.5% of Fixed Assets as of September 30, 2013. This transfer may be made annually but will not exceed 7.5% of the utility’s net Fixed Assets. Section 5, Checks. All checks on City bank accounts shall be signed by any member of the City Council and the Finance Director. Section 6, Amount of Taxes. The approximate amount of $18,986,506.00 shall be the amount of gross taxes to be raised by the operating ad valorem tax levy authorized by Resolution of the Mayor and City Council. Section 7, Authority of Manager. The City Manager is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents and instruments and to do the same and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary of proper for carrying out the transactions contemplated by this Ordinance. Section 8, Repeal. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent are repealed. Section 9, Severability. If any word, clause, phrase, sentence, paragraph, or Section of this Ordinance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration of invalidity shall not affect any other word, clause, phrase, sentence, paragraph or Section of this Ordinance. Section 10, Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage on
second reading. Passed and adopted by a blank vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami on first reading. This blank day of blank of September 2015. And just for the record, passed and adopted by a record…by a blank vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami on second reading this blank day of September 2015. That is Tab B.

Mayor Joseph: Thank you. Any added thing from Staff now? Nothing? Public Hearing is now open.

Ms. Brown: Good evening Judy Brown 1100 N.W. 128th Terrace. Today or this afternoon I’m coming to you as an advocate of the Library Board. I’m seeking information about the funding for books in the Library. Why do I ask this question? Well because in the past the Library has been the target of budget slashing. And I want to emphasize just how important the Library is to our community. Also I want to remind the Mayor and Council that our Library provides a tremendous service to our residents. As evident of the visit to the Library prior to its closing, the exit doors count was 28,000 visits to the Library. And on an average month exit door count runs between 23,000 and 26,000 visits a month. Therefore I’m hoping that the Library did get its funding requested for books. Because it will be a shame to have spent $1.5 million dollars on renovating the Library and then turn around and not provide funding for books. What City does that? Finally, it is very important to fund the Library because of the new digital resources we have. Such as Mango, Hoopla, Overdrive 3M and (name indistinct) without money. You cannot fund these digital programs without money. And I’m hoping that the Library did get its piece of the budget pie. Now I have to put on another hat and that’s from Sunkist Grove. I’m coming as an advocate for the elderly at Sunkist Grove. In the past our elderly residents have been overlooked and not been able to participate in the programs that the City have for the elderly. I’m asking this Mayor and Council to please consider the fact that our residents in Sunkist Grove, they are not…the services that are provided for the residents somehow we have…our elderly residents have not had their opportunity to participate in the different services for the elderly. So I’m asking the Mayor and Council to please open their hearts. Because I do not want to attend another meeting and hear that an elderly woman was asked to leave the Sunkist Grove Center and was put out in the rain. That should not happen in our City. We are…North Miami is much, much better than that. So I’m asking that you please give some money so we can have a bus service. We can get the word out you know that if it’s a bus at Sunkist Grove Center at certain times a day to bring them over. So they can participate in the services and then drop them back off. We would…that would…you know that would benefit because sometimes they just sit home all day and their children or whomever is seeing about the elderly they have to work. So they were dropping them off at the park but sometimes…you know that got messed up. So I don’t want to belabor the point. I’m just bringing it to your attention. And I’m asking that some funds be provided for our elderly because they too deserve to have a seat at the table. Thank you.
Ms. De Leon: Good evening Karen De Leon, 1935 South Hibiscus Drive. I am here as a representative of your Parks and Rec Commission. I know you don’t hear from us often enough but seeing this year’s budget we’re excited to feel that we actually exist in the City. And you’re hopefully going to hear more from us. What I’m really excited about is the amount that you’re actually looking at improving in our Parks and Recreation especially at Sasso Pool. That is our pride and job and our only pool. I’m really excited to see that that is on...in the budget. We’re looking forward to seeing beautiful improvements and seeing that pool operating all year long into the future. Other improvements across the Board, they’re on both sides of the City. They include community centers, etcetera. Excellent. A note that I would just like for you guys to put in the back of your mind. This year we have the Showmobile under repair. That’s going to work a little while longer. With the amount of times we use the Showmobile, the amount of times we give it away for free, we...our Staff does an amazing job. Duct tape does an amazing job but that is something in the future that we will be asking that you guys look into for the future. Thank you very much for your consideration for this year’s Parks and Rec request.

Ms. Goose: Good evening my name is Nadine Goose. I’d like to first of all thank the Mayor and the entire Council. As a City of North Miami resident I would like to thank every one of us for making education the number one priority in the community. We would like also to thank you guys again for the grant. It’s very important, education is very important in the community. Without education there will not be...one days you guys are going to get old and you will...we will need replacements. So thanks again for the grant.

Chief Each: Kenneth Each, 776 N.E. 125th. I don’t know if it’s in the Budget or not. Mr. Galvin I gave you a list of the sidewalk on Emerald Drive that was busted up at about...just about 15 different locations. And you’re good enough to give it to the Public Works Department. And I think...I hope it’s a temporary fix. They went out there and they put asphalt on it. But it is dangerous and that definitely has to be repaired. And also on Arch Creek Road, the CRA years ago put in beautiful, beautiful trees. And Arch Creek has now become or has...I want to say for the last 15 years, been a drag strip. And a couple of cars have overturned. And they’ve taken out several trees over there about 15 of these button wood trees and I would like to see them replaced, so would my neighbors obviously. If that could be done. And also on the embankment if we can get some sea grass up there instead of having the City come back out there and spend another $25,000.00 to eradicate the weeds. But something like a sea oak grass, that would hold the embankment in place. I don’t know how much it would be four or $5,000.00. It wouldn’t be much but it would...it would stop the repetiveness of the crew coming out to get rid of the weeds and stuff like that. That’s what we would request as the good citizens of Emerald Drive, Arch Creek and Northeast 16th Avenue. Thank you very much.
Mayor Joseph: I guess Public Hearing is now closed. Mr. Sorey, your mentioned page 386 for the information that I asked.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Mayor Joseph: Where it says project estimate, I don’t see it.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: On Page 386, Non-Departmental which is the grants to other page. If you see…

Mayor Joseph: I see (inaudible), PAL.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: If you go to…second from the last one that’s listed, adult continuing…

Mayor Joseph: Okay I see it. I got it. Any other questions?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Mr. Mayor I just have a question about that $120,000.00 for the adult education center in North Miami. I remember we…$100,000.00 that’s how much we put in the Budget.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Bien-Aime: How much was spent?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Last year…the year before I believe we spent about $85,000.00.

Councilman Bien-Aime: For 14?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: For FY13. This year FY15, we had scaled it back to $50,000.00. I think right now to date, we’re almost at $40,000.00. But we don’t have all the invoices in yet. So probably by the time we reconcile we’ll probably be around $50,000.00. So…but I know they do take the money as…they know what they have and they know what they have to work with. We give them the budget ahead of time so they know the amount. So I’m guessing people are turned away because they know they only have up to an amount of $50,000.00. And I think they spread it out. I’m not positive but I think that’s how it works.

Councilman Desulme: Are we asking questions regarding the Budget or…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes right now we’re discussing the Budget.
Councilman Desulme: I know Councilman Galvin wanted to go. We spoke about the senior program. And I think I told you regarding the Gold Program the Parks and Rec used to have...if it was possible from our conversation. I think I mentioned it to Terry as well. Assign $125,000.00 to at least start with...at least a day or two a week somewhere at one of our facilities for our seniors in the City.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir. In the Proposed Budget that we have before you today, that is not funded at the time. If you’re giving us direction to go back and seek and look for additional money to make some stuff, we would need to move around a couple of things in this Budget that we have forward to fund it.

Councilman Desulme: Do we have anything left or it’s a balanced Budget?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It’s a completely balanced Budget sir. It’s completely balanced.

Councilman Desulme: So we got to look…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: But everybody has their questions. I don’t know if it’s going to be adjustments to anything.

Councilman Desulme: So do we just ask questions randomly or do we…do you just call out or how does the process…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Typically we’ve had several different ways. I know several years ago Councilman Galvin chose to go page by page.

Councilman Galvin: I’m going page by page tonight.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: So everybody does has their stuff. So if you have…whatever you have that you want to actually go through, we’ll answer your questions as we go along.

Councilman Desulme: The only question I have was Pepper Park, the playground. I know that was a concern and I think I spoke to Terry last week and I said, please see what we can do. Because I have been getting complaints and I drove out there. So…and I don’t see it in this Budget.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes and Councilman, we did fund everything that we could possibly. I know we have a lot of projects in here. A lot of parks improvements. That’s one that we didn’t get to. But again as we go through, if you see other areas that you might want to alter, we can adjust those accordingly.
Mayor Joseph: Next?

Vice-Mayor Keys: I’m not going to be as long as you. I’ve got about six items. You want me to…okay.

Councilman Galvin: I’ve got about 60.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Starting with…you want to talk about that Adult Education. That was one of my questions. We’ve budgeted $100,000.00 for the last few years. We’re only using between 50 and $60,000.00. I would like to take $40,000.00 off that and put that towards seniors. It’s stuff for adults but I’d like to use that towards the senior programs, which we don’t have. I feel that over the last three years it’s been a good program. A lot of people who wanted to catch on the high school GED were able to. I don’t think we need to leave $40,000.00 sitting there. I’d like to see that go for the seniors. And speaking about you know education, you just gave us this line item of $50,000.00 for a Study Program. I got a little back up but I don’t see who the $50,000.00 is going to paid to. All of a sudden we have an outsider getting $50,000.00. I don’t have any information on it. I don’t know what type of corporation. The background…this is something that we did with the CRA. We’re giving $100,000.00 which helped 10 students. The little bit of background I have is $50,000.00, round up helping 17 students. I would like the most bang for our buck. I really don’t like seeing big chunks of money going to only a few people. So before I’m comfortable with the $50,000.00 line item called Study Program, I need to know what it. Please, I need who it’s getting paid to, what the credentials are and how many people are going to be helped.

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Sorey, you want to make a presentation on that because you have the information? This is not a new project. This is a prior that was presented to me. It’s been in this City for…how many years now?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The project was done back in 2008 – 2009. I know them and once we got to 2010 that’s when the CRA hit some rough times and the project…the program was actually eliminated at the time. The Study Program is a workforce of professional…

Councilman Bien-Aime: Which line item are we referring to?

Councilman Desulme: Please for clarification what are we on?

Mayor Joseph: That’s the Study Program 386.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That was in the presentation. In the presentation and the line item on the Community Projects that we did do. This is a supplemental request that’s why it’s broken down.
Vice-Mayor Keys: But I’m not seeing…okay we did it…again, we spent $100,000.00 back when the CRA started for 10 people. This is a study of 2009, 28 students started, 11 dropped out. So we got 17 people. I don’t know what we paid for. But I don’t see who the…I don’t even see who the money is going to. I don’t see the corporation, the organization, the background, the financials of the company and what we’ll really getting for.

Mayor Joseph: How is the money disbursed?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The money will be disbursed as the majority of the funds that we are doing and we’ve been doing for the last couple of years. The money is disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Once the people…once the organization does come in and go over the complete program with us. As they have expenditures we’ll be expending on a reimbursement basis. Part of the money is for intern jobs where the youth will learn government and other practices within the City. As that happens, the City is responsible for those…to making those…the internship making the nominal internship payments to the students.

Mayor Joseph: What is the recruitment process?

Vice-Mayor Keys: How many students for the $50,000.00?

Mayor Joseph: Hold on one second. What is the recruitment process?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: You have to be a North Miami resident and be within either the 11th or the 12th grade.

Mayor Joseph: You will monitor…how do we monitor the execution or the practice of this?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It wouldn’t be the City’s job to do the monitoring of the process. The individual Dr. Joe Labrod will be responsible for producing the documents to us. Showing us the people are residents of the City and doing all the necessary back up and providing all the necessary reimbursement papers moving forward. Let me say that with this type of thing it will…you know once it is approved, we will have the guidelines and everything established to start it back up. And it will be…the information will be conveyed to the Council on moving forward.

Mayor Joseph: Do they choose the kids based on needs or just first come whoever?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I know they have a certain number of people applied. I believe the last time I think about 200 students applied and then they break
down and they choose…I guess according to GPA and so forth in what students interests are who we will determine would be the chosen ones to participate in the program.

Vice-Mayor Keys: So I’m not getting answers like how many kids or how many children are going to be helped and who is doing the program? Who is the company that is getting this? Our Budget doesn’t usually encompass a lot of outside people other than the City. We have a few (inaudible) organizations like our foundation and the chamber and PAL but other than we’re not usually budgeting organizations like this. We put this in other areas. So who is actually the payee of the $50,000.00?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Again, the $50,000.00 would be reimbursement.

Vice-Mayor Keys: To who?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: For the vendors that will use this program…

Vice-Mayor Keys: Who are the vendors? Do we have vendors?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: This program has several speakers. The major component of it is to have speakers that come and speak to the kids. The kids themselves are vendors as they’re paid for their internships. The last program included a trip once they did their initial government. It went through working actually with the City doing government programs. And then they did take a trip to Tallahassee, met with Rick Scott and I believe it was Rick Scott at the time. And other people in Tallahassee. So…

Councilman Bien-Aime: Can you tell me where is that? What department?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It’s not in a department sir.

Mayor Joseph: Non-departmental.

City Manager Ghany: Non-departmental general fund.

Mayor Joseph: We’re on page 386.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Just for the record Councilman Bien-Aime and Council. Anything that’s not part of your normal Budget does not get put inside your Budget book. Because the Budget book we know is about 500 pages. And it gets lost in that stuff.
Vice-Mayor Keys: I saw this line item about two hours for the first time where we’ve had our Budget for several weeks. I have no idea where this money is going to, who is in charge of it, how many people. I mean just to put $50,000.00 for line item to me is not the right way to do things.

Mayor Joseph: It is the right way Mrs. Mayor…I mean Vice-Mayor. It is the right way because the gentleman approached me a few months ago…

Vice-Mayor Keys: What gentleman? What company? What organization?

Mayor Joseph: Would you please let me speak? I would never interrupt you while you are talking.

Vice-Mayor Keys: You did interrupt me cause I was giving my questions.

Mayor Joseph: The gentleman approached me about this program. Duke, when was it about two or three months ago?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Mayor Joseph: When I called you down and we had a meeting with him. As I understood it, it’s a program that used to be funded by the CRA as you just stated. And for the past couple of years the program actually stopped. He actually reminded me that some of these kids were recruited from North Miami High. They actually used to come to my office. Where they actually pair the kids with different professionals. Lawyers, doctors, CPAs, business people. It’s a way to expose those children to certain arenas they would have not been exposed to had we not…would have this program. So know I’m a sucker for kids. Whenever people come to me and present a program that makes sense, a program that has to do with empowering kids, keeping them away the (inaudible), keeping them away from programs. Other kids don’t need this program because they are…they have the means. Their parents do have the means but some of the kids, a lot of the kids in our City, they do have the means. Of course some people couldn’t care less. But I do know that these children if we do not represent them, if you don’t go to bat for them, nobody else will. So that’s why I took the initiative and I called Mr. Sorey who was the Budget Director at the time. And I asked him to please see if he can reinstate this program. And I think we would fall to our kids, we would be doing a disservice by taking this opportunity from them to be exposed to things that other rich kids are exposed to.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Thank you. I think it’s probably a very good program. I would like more information before I just give $50,000.00. I have nothing except the six year old study noted as the CBDG. That’s where it belongs under a CDBG funds for the
Mayor Joseph: Well make sure (inaudible) make a presentation at the next meeting.

Vice-Mayor Keys: So let me keep going please. A few line items, City Attorney. We’re in the process of getting a new City Attorney. I think our City Attorney was hired at a very high rate and had some raised. I’d like to go back to a line item of 175...I’m recommending $175,000.00 as opposed to $226,000.00. I believe that’s in line with the other municipal attorneys in Dade County. And I think if you put 226, that’s what we’re going to have to pay. I believe we can get a good attorney or a firm for $175,000.00. I don’t know what they’ve come in at but I think we’re starting way high. We don’t need to do that. We just...our pay scale has been way too much in the past. With that being said Mr. Ghany has tended his resignation and will not be here after most of the next year. I would also like to lower that management line item from 226 back down to $190,000.00. If you start it at 225, that’s what you’re going to pay. I believe we can get a good City Manager. I think the last...before Mr. Ghany we started way too high with a manager and paid way too much and we just followed. Now that we’re looking at someone else in that position, I’d like to bring it back down to 190. We do not need to just give away $36,000.00 cause that’s what we’ve been doing. So that’s my recommendation for those two high positions. There’s about an $80,000.00 savings right there. The only...we have outside counsel at about $88,000.00. I would like to just round that up to $100,000.00. I believe last year if you can answer, our outside counsel was well over half a million. I know that was extraordinary but I’d like to make sure we have enough in there for outside counsel. And there’s a couple of line items, I think the travel for City Attorney between all the bars and the conventions, we got a $2,000.00 line item for International Lawyers Conference, which I think could be eliminated. There are a lot of other conferences, bar, Florida Bar, Federal Bar. We’re spending thousands if you look at your line items. I think the International Lawyers Conference we could just slash $2,000.00 there. It’s minor but if we go through line by line, we can save a lot of money. The question is, last year I believe we had a federal lobbyist for $30,000.00. We have a line item this year of $80,000.00 for a federal lobbyist. I don’t know what we’re looking at or what’s on the horizon. But I’m not sure why we just stuck an extra $50,000.00 in our budget for a federal lobbyist. That is not our local lobbyist, I believe it’s also $80,000.00. But the federal at 30, if we’re not doing any federal lobbying, I think it’s adequate. I don’t know what we’ll be able to do with this this evening, but last year we had 159 Police Officers. I believe this year the budget still calls for 159 Police Officers. I’ve heard the residents, myself. We would like more Police Officers, more Police presence. We’ve eliminated the Red Light Cameras and everybody said, well we need Police Officers. Let them monitor the lights. We do not have the Police power to do the traffic patrol and monitor the red lights. So I would still like more Police Officers. Something I’m going to put on the table in front of the Council is, I am looking for a
municipal officer to walk the beat of our municipal complex. I want...we’ve talked about security. We have maybe...we took away the security guard. I would like an Officer who leaves the Police Station, walks through MOCA, walks in MOCA, comes over to City Hall, walks around, goes up and down the stairs. Gives the residents a sense of security. We just spent $250,000.00 from the CRA to put in a really terrific restaurant. Seventy-five people, 75 seats outdoors. I think that would be a little bit of insurance to make sure that people will come and be safe and feel good about sitting outside in our new restaurant in the evening and not worry. If a Police presence is out there walking through. Also he would continue the beat on...up and down like three or four of City blocks. Watch for little...ticket for jaywalking. Just the presence of that. They do not need a car. They could either do walking or bicycle or Segway. So I don’t see it. I’ve asked for it. I don’t know if we can put it in the CRA since it is in the CRA district. But I’m putting it on record that I do want an additional municipal Officer to walk around our complex. I also don’t see any additional Code Enforcement Officers. The residents have all spoken on Code. In our Comprehensive Plan it says we must have one officer for every square mile. We do, I believe have in the Budget nine Code Enforcement Officers, we have nine square miles. However there are also additional requirements for the commercial and multi-family buildings, additional Officers are required. So I believe we are short on Code Enforcement. That is the biggest cry I hear from everyone in the City. I really wish we could find some money for additional Code Officers. And also as far as school and mentoring, we are spending $120,000.00 for our youth for peer tutoring. So I think we are spending a lot of money on student monitoring. And that’s that for now.

Councilman Desulme: Mr. Mayor, can I go?

Mayor Joseph: Go ahead.

Councilman Desulme: I do have a couple of items. And one of the particular items, I know Vice-Mayor Keys you mentioned this Code Enforcement, I would like to see additional Code Compliance Officers. But let’s just go back a little bit and I would like to do it chapter by chapter. I did talk to either Terry or Duke regarding some of the directors. I know there’s not equality in pay when that comes. And I would like to see if everybody is up with the directors. However that we are mentioning, is there a plan? I know you guys...they’re all getting raises which is great to at least equalize our City, where we get the best out of the best.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: In the past I would refer back to the Clarence Patterson days. We have an administrative regulation when individuals do move up through the rank. As you move up, you basically get a 5% increase to move up. A lot of directors are made and they actually come through the ranks to the position of director. However there are circumstances where you have individuals that we do get directors that do come from the outside. The directors from the outside they’re afforded the ability to negotiate their salaries. This puts a lot of them when you do get a qualified person, this
puts them at the high end of the salary range. As that does happen in the Clarence Patterson days, we had a serious inequality with the directors. You had new directors coming making the $90,000.00, the high $90,000.00 and the directors who came up through rank making about $70,000.00 or $75,000.00. So something had to be done back then to level the playing field or to not even have animosity within the government and within Staff. So changes were made to bring everybody up and making it equitable. And in house the Manager and myself have been working in looking at the salaries of the individuals, of the directors as it’s been brought to our attention by Staff. So we are looking to make those changes to provide equality among the directors. So we are looking into that.

Councilman Desulme: Thank you sir. The next question, I know we don’t have a federal lobbyist and I did have a conversation as we were talking. We only need to have I guess the one locally in Tallahassee. Can we allocate that $80,000.00 for the program that we are looking for since we don’t have a federal or is there a plan in place to get a federal lobbyist? Or what was the $30,000.00 next year? Do I have 50 or do I have all 80?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: If it’s the will of the Council, you guys make the decision. It was questions about a federal lobbyist, the lobbyist is there. If the Body is saying now that they don’t want a federal lobbyist, this the time that we will make any adjustments to the Budget. If the Body votes to remove the money from there, we will move the money and place it to...where we want it to go.

City Manager Ghany: It could be reallocated.

Councilman Desulme: Mr. Manager your professional opinion. Are we getting one? Do we need one? Did we...I believe it was $30,000.00. Vice-Mayor Keys said that was used last year.

City Manager Ghany: Initially why a federal lobbyist was put into the Budget was a few years back when we were looking at the water or the possibility of getting federal funds for allocation for the construction of the Water Plant. At the down turn in the economy I think we pulled out that funding source. It was originally $50,000.00. I believe it was Ackerman-Sentifitt at the time. Last year it was pulled out. We only used the State lobbyist and it was none. This year it’s put back in for $30,000.00 at the funding level...I’m sorry $80,000.00 at a funding level. And that’s just a brief history on the federal lobbyist.

Councilman Desulme: Two last questions. We did talk about the books in the Library when we were going over the Budget. And my understanding because of the renovation, when will that be because I was okay with that as an answer. Because I’m assuming we won’t have the place if it’s under renovation. There’s no place for the
books etcetera, etcetera. And I did say very clear, I would definitely make sure next year moving forward that we do have whatever allocation for books. Cause I do understand that, so are we still at…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Last Fiscal Year during this same Budget Hearing the Council did allocate $50,000.00 for Library books. So they purchased $50,000.00 worth of books last year. This year, cause that was a one-time request by the Council. This year the $50,000.00 has not been budgeted for books.

Councilman Desulme: Have not right?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No.

Councilman Desulme: But I did ask…I can’t recall if it’s you or Terry and it was said because of the renovation. Which I said that makes sense to me. Are we still…when is the renovation finished? Will it be this Fiscal Year?

City Manager Ghany: Yes. We’re looking by the end of October to do an opening at the Library.

Councilman Desulme: So we need 50 for the Library. I just have one more question, well two actually. The Police Department, I know we talked about and I looked at the items and I support fully having more Police, they’re doing a great job. However, I did have one question regarding the cars. I know there’s almost a million dollars, nine hundred and something allocated for cars. Talking to Police, well trying to get some information. I’m trying to get a fair understanding. We need 352 for the agreement that we have, correct? Is it possible and I’m going to propose this to the Council. We could move at a pace where we do fund whatever million that we need for the amount of cars that we need and this alleviate the additional six hundred and something. Because trying to figure where the six hundred and something was trying to get from, it’s for additional cars on top of the 25. So if we’re at a standpoint maybe you can scale back and look back and perhaps moving and getting the cars a little bit slower than forcing the Budget. And I think that kind of would help out. Because they only need 352 for the 25 cars that they need. So why should we try to get them 40 if we are going through some problems. And we can certainly use that money elsewhere.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: If it’s the Council’s wish. Staff looks at just replacement values and we go off replacement models and try to replace cars. We haven’t replaced…this was actually…we did spend a million dollars for 2013 where we had the progress 2013 money. We just this Fiscal Year here, we’re buying about 25 cars. Staff was recommending to actually go forward and do about 40 cars. And that’s just Staff’s responsibility to make sure that we’re looking at stuff like that. So that’s what Staff did. If this Body wishes to amend that, you know we can amend it right now. I
believe the breakdown breaks down to about $480,000.00 that would be available to spend if you so choose to amend purchasing the cars. And we do it on a scale. I mean if you want to take all 40 cars away then that nets you about $480,000.00. If you want to take it down, we can take it down accordingly.

Councilman Desulme: My understanding was we have 25 we have to get, which I understand, which is fine. Its 352, correct? That line item is nine hundred and something. So how did we get it to four something?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: When you do purchase the cars, the cars from all of the different funds to purchase the cars. And there’s money coming from Water & Sewer, Stormwater also. If you want to make a change, I can make a change for the General Fund which is about 76% of the amount. And that’s how I get the $480,000.00 amount. So we can do that if we’re not buying cars or something that does associate it at some sort with that utility or enterprise, we can’t use that money. We have to return that money to the enterprise.

Councilman Desulme: I just feel that with us hearing from the Library, from the senior program, we do want the cars. We are getting 25 and next year we could go ahead and get the additional 25. You know the year there after until we get…instead of us rushing to get 100 because the Library is important. The kids are important. So that right there would just clear up four hundred and something. It’s just a suggestion. My last point…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Let me address that for you sir before you move forward. If you did…no let Terry.

Assistant Budget Director Henley: If you were to reduce it to 25 cars the General Fund, it pays for 76%. That would give a savings of $164,000.00 almost.

Councilman Desulme: Okay I’m lost. So the number nine something and I know I’m not a Budget person. If it’s nine hundred something thousand for the cars and I was told we need 25, which I think is definitely.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The $900,000.00 is buying 40 cars.

Councilman Desulme: So for 25 cars it’s $352,000.00?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Desulme: That’s what I’m saying. So 352 minus the nine something, we should have had somewhere around five something left. But I understand
Terry say 76% of the General would be four hundred and something. So how did we get down to one something?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We’re saying cause you mentioned maybe we’re only buying 25 more cars.

Councilman Desulme: No, not more. The 25 we’re getting, we’re supposed to get. That’s what I’m just saying. Because Vice-Mayor Keys mentioned something that’s very important. We need…I see the Police Aide which…the Public Service Aide which the Budget balanced on. I would prefer to do that. To get additional Officer…I’m not saying the cars are not important. I’m just saying we could at least just…do it responsibly. I mean we need books, we need everything. So maybe this year we get 25, next year you an additional 25. Cause I understand each 25 is a million dollars at the end of the day. So instead of us trying to go and budget a little bit irresponsible, we say we’re getting 40. We’re on the hook for two million versus one million. Because this year if we’re putting the 352, next year it’ll be 700. So instead of that I would think it would be more safe if we just go with the 352. Maybe something, a miracle happens. We get some money somewhere and we go ahead and purchase whatever we need moving forward. But I think that the Police, the kids and the books are much more important. Especially the rehab of home. I would love to see if we could…if we have a little extra what we could do in the City. I just saying, thank you.

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Bien-Aime?

Councilman Bien-Aime: I don’t want to say much tonight because in two weeks I’ll come back and work the Budget Director what I want to get done in the Budget. It seems like in the Police Budget no money was put aside for the PSA. How much money was allocated?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Not for any additional PSAs, no.

Councilman Bien-Aime: How many do we have now?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I believe we have three PSAs on Staff now.

Councilman Bien-Aime: We have only three PSAs, okay. Do you money in the Budget for new Police Officer?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No additional funding for new Police Officers.

City Manager Ghany: You actually approved a grant application, the JAG. One of the grants that we applied for three additional Officers. Actually was scaled back
from five Officers to three Officers. Hopefully the City is awarded the grant. We can hire those three Officers. The reason why we are scaling it back is at the end of a five year period, the City will actually have to pick up the tab for the Officers. Meaning that we will have to pay for the Officers fully. So the Federal Government, we have applied and hopefully we should be successfully and hiring three Officers in the upcoming Fiscal year. And then every year after that, the allocation of their salaries will be budgeted.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But you don’t know if you…if the grant is going to be approved.

City Manager Ghany: No we don’t, it’s potentially on the grant approval. That’s correct.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Based on that Budget there is no money for new Police Officers.

City Manager Ghany: No additional Police Officers.

Councilman Bien-Aime: No money for PSA. Did you put money aside for Code Enforcement?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No additional Code Enforcement Officers sir.

Councilman Bien-Aime: And everybody from the community is asking questions about new Code Officers and new PSA and new Police Officers. And I think that’s something you got to sit down. I don’t want to say take money from the cars that we’re going to buy to hire new Police Officers. I think you’re going to have to sit down with the Chief of Police and come up with a different view in the Budget. One million dollars for cars, no new Police Officers, no new PSA, no Code Enforcement, when we’re receiving calls everybody day about break ins. And I think that you need to work on that and bring something in the next Budget Hearing about that. That’s the only point I have for tonight. Maybe in two weeks I’ll come back.

City Manager Ghany: Did you have a number in mind Councilman?

Councilman Bien-Aime: No I don’t. You’ve got to sit down with the Police. I don’t have that. As a responsible person, I don’t want to say…and we understand that the Police do need cars. And I see that on the street. And in two different occasions it seems like it’s a must. But 40 cars and no Police Officers, no new Code Enforcement, no money for PSA. And I understand the PSA doesn’t cost a lot of money about $25,000.00 a year. That’s something that you need to consider.
Councilman Desulme: Just a point of clarification. I am advocating for
ew cars. I’m just advocating at the speed we are getting them. And that would help us
out if we act a little responsibly… (inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Galvin?

Councilman Galvin: Thank you Mr. Mayor. I want to thank Staff for
taking the time to meet with me this morning. And I’ll reference some of the things we
talked about today. I’ve got a lot of questions but I’m going to try to go through them
thoroughly and concisely. But I want to quickly touch on a couple of things my fellow
Councilmembers brought up. The Study Program for $50,000.00, is that going to be
awarded to a singular vendor in the end and will there be a normal purchasing vendor
process that’s followed in awarding that? I heard a name of a particular individual
mentioned earlier. Does that mean that anybody else who might provide this service
should just not apply or are we going through a particular process whenever we get
around to awarding that $50,000.00?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Councilman, through the Mayor. It’s
not…again it’s not us giving the person running the program $50,000.00. The
$50,000.00 will cover expenses through the program. So the individual, say if we had
John Brown who was running the program, John Brown would not get a check for
$50,000.00 from the City of North Miami. John Brown will say, hey I’m going to have
this person. They’re going to be speaking and we’re going to have these people are going
to be working here. Those people will be required to turn in timesheets. The person that
spoke, the guest speaker that spoke, the trip that they go on will be accompanied by
receipts or requests made upfront for funding. It would go through Staff. It wouldn’t be
no one person getting a check. It would be on a reimbursement as the program goes. I’m
sure it’s going to be some management of the program. Normally it’s like a 10%
management cost when you have somebody doing something. But it won’t be a
$50,000.00 check written to anyone. It will be a reimbursement…on a reimbursement
basis. But Staff is aware of the concerns and Staff will bring forth the full presentation
for the program for the next Budget Hearing.

Councilman Galvin: If I remember there was a similar program in place
about four to five years ago. And that individual got $100,000.00 and a lot of that money
ended up going to adult speakers who came in to address the kids, not to programs for the
actual kids. In fact the cost for those kids to travel to Tallahassee it ended up being 10
kids. And a small fraction of that $100,000.00. The rest of the money went to adult
speakers who came in to address the kids. I think, my thought is, I’m like the Mayor. I’m
all about what we do for the kids but not for adults to get paid to come to talk to kids. So
if you can be mindful of that, please.
Mayor Joseph: Can I add to something to what he just said? Is there any way that we can actually establish some kind of guidelines as to how use the money?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes and…

Mayor Joseph: We should just establish the guideline and develop a process of monitoring it.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes. It’ll be monitored and it might be an idea you know that we monitor it how we do all of the other non-profit with the CDBG gives the grants out. We do have monitoring. Where they have to provide us reports. Some reports will be produced to this Board and let us know how the program is going and what’s happening.

Councilman Galvin: Thank you Mr. Mayor. And then on Councilman Desulme’s questions about the Police cars. We did spend a million dollars in 2013. How many cars did we purchase then? Does anybody know off the top of their head? And did those cars go to upper management or were they squad cars on the street?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: All of the cars did go to the majority of the Command Staff and Sergeants. I believe there’s a couple of cars that were on the street but no…the significant amount was for Command Staff and upper management sir. The 25 vehicles that are being purchased, that we’re referencing regarding the $352,000.00, 24 of those cars or 23 of those cars are road vehicles. One of the vehicles is a Crime Scene van and the other one is something along those lines as well. So none of the vehicles being purchased now are going for that. Should we move forward with the purchase of the 40 cars, specific instruction has been given that they’re to go on the street for whatever cars we do purchase when we move forward.

Councilman Galvin: That would be my opinion because I thought if the brass just got a lot of fancy SUVs, it’s time for the guys on the street and woman on the street to get their squad cars. Cause those cars get recycled, they’re running almost 24 hours a day. So whatever we end up doing 25 or 40, if it’s going towards the folks on the street, I’ll be more comfortable.

City Manager Ghany: And at the next Budget Hearing I’ll get you a breakdown of the million dollars and who got those vehicles.

Councilman Galvin: Now I’m going quickly go department by department if I may and just ask a couple of questions per department. Starting with Mayor/Council, I’ve got my 2014 Budget book and my 2015 Budget book. Sorry everybody, I did go page by page and compare each one. So when amounts jump significantly, what I’m going to do tonight is ask questions why they jumped significantly. And playing along
with the theme of the night, I see a lot of Staff having been added to this Budget but not in our Police and Code. I believe there are places where we can scale back on Staff. And if we want to increase Staff, move those costs over to Police and Code. So starting on page 15 of the Mayor/Council budget, division 400 Travel Conferences and Meetings. It’s listed there as $1,500.00. There’s a typo there that should be $2,000.00. Page 15 Mayor/Council line 305. That amount should be $2,500.00. Question just policy wise…

Councilman Bien-Aime: You said 305, right?

Councilman Galvin: Line 305 I think it was. It’s listed as Travel, Conference and meetings $1,500.00. I believe that number should be $2,500.00. Just a typo I wanted to point out.

Vice-Mayor Keys: That’s the table. We spend that much for the table?

Councilman Galvin: It’s listed as Travel, Conference and meetings. Miami-Dade League of Cities gala. In last year’s budget book the all amounts add up all exactly the same. Last year it was listed as $2,500.00, this year it’s listed as $1,500.00 but the bottom line amount still totals the same. That’s the only place I can find a mathematical error. If that’s been reduced fine. I’m just trying to get our math accurate. After about the first quarter that Dolphins game I said, I’m done with this. I’m going to look at the Budget book. Procedure wise, I see that District 1 office still gets $5,000.00 for Travel.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Where you are? Still page 15?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Page 18 now.

Councilman Galvin: District 1, I get $5,000.00 for Travel. I think in my 17 years I’ve used $5,000.00 total. What procedurally becomes the money I don’t use for Travel or any other expenses? Where does that money go?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: In the past, if you don’t use your Travel money…I know in the past we’ve had other things that come up that you might want to do in your district or other needs you might see that are there. Somebody might come request you purchase a table or something. That $5,000.00 is there and we can make an amendment should you…

Councilman Galvin: There were years that without any amendments or anything like that it was given to other City Councilmembers who had over spent their budget for Travel.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I wouldn’t say it was given.
Councilman Galvin: It was reallocated by City Management. I won’t name the names of the Councilmembers or the years. I’m looking…what answer I’d like to hear is, Councilman if you don’t spend it, it goes back into the General Fund.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: And that’s what all expenses throughout this Budget. If the money is not spent, it goes…it just falls back into the unexpended money. It falls back into the General Fund for next Fiscal Year.

Councilman Galvin: Thank you. Moving…wait, one other thing. It’s not listed under Mayor/Council but I think it’s under the Non-Departmental expenditures, which I don’t have right here at my fingertips. You’re recommending…we already list in Mayor/Council page 14, the first line 101. We already list that there are two Constituent Service Coordinators in the Mayor/Council office. I also understand you’re now recommending that we hire five new additional Constituent Service Coordinators in the Mayor/Council office that aren’t listed here under Mayor/Council, they’ll be under Non-Departmental. Am I accurate?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Right now it’s in for five Constituent Service Aides, not coordinators. The aides are not full time positions like the Constituent Service Coordinators are. These will be aides that actually help each district person. The girls…I’m sorry. The two individuals that are the Constituent Service Coordinators do the majority of the stuff for the Council. We do believe that maybe some of the Council or maybe the office itself will be run a little smoother. So we are looking to hire help to address some of these issues where we do have some constituent service complaints. To have somebody in place to answer these, to do the follow up on this for each individual Councilperson. The individuals that are requesting is a 29-hour employee. They are part-time employees to work for the actual Councilpersons. We’re in the process of developing a policy…we’re looking into developing a policy that says how these people and who they will report to. Currently as it speaks they do report to the Councilperson but I do meet with the individual every Monday morning. They do show up to our Staff meeting and they give an update of what they’re working on with their Council people.

Councilman Galvin: Let me jump in there. That’s so wrong on so many levels. First off, any employee of this City should work for the Manager of this City, not for the Councilmembers. That’s where we create all sorts of problems with people not understanding who’s in charge around here and the line of command. Secondly, I’ve been around here a long time. I get a huge volume of constituent cases every day. There’s no way in heck you will convince me that we need to hire five new people in the Mayor/Council office with each of them reporting to a single individual Councilmember and we don’t have money for more Police Officers. So right there, those five aides at 29K should be listed under the Mayor/Council budget not under a Non-Departmental where somebody has to go digging to find them. And to begin with, my opinion is, they are unnecessary Staff members. Twenty-nine hours…now that raises other level of
question for me. Twenty-nine hours a week is a temporary position or a part-time position, which is more accurate?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Temporary employment.

Councilman Galvin: Temporary employment. Will they work on a month to month?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They have a contract. The contract is always terminated at September 30th where we possibly do renew the contracts.

Councilman Galvin: So these five positions, we’re going to advertise them going forward if they’re approved in this Budget cycle? We’re going to advertise them through general personnel channels?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: With most of our temporary employment contracts, most of the times they aren’t advertised positions.

Councilman Galvin: They are not or they are?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They’re not.

Councilman Galvin: How would the public know that these positions are open if they’re not advertised?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We have people that come in every day that request…say hey, I want to work. And we say fill out one of these applications. If something comes up, we’ll call you. That’s how we get a lot of the…

Councilman Galvin: So you’re telling me it’s really…we might want to get our Personnel Director up here. You’re telling me it’s really our process to have people fill out just a random blank slate application. And then suddenly we’re calling them for a temp job, balancing our books in the Finance Department. Or a temp job helping with the Parks Department in the summer?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That’s not what I’m telling you sir.

Councilman Galvin: Okay so again, remind for me please.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I’ll rewind for you. In accordance with…depending upon the level of the work that’s going to be done. Yes we do look for individuals. If we’re talking about somebody balancing the books in the Finance Department, of course we’re going to be looking to hire accountants to do that.
Councilman Galvin: So coming back to these specific Council aides, how will you advertise those five positions going forward?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That I’m not positive of. I would have to work with the Personnel Director on it. Right now we do have a couple of Constituent Service Aides that have already started. So it’s two that are already in place. And it was...you know that’s just how we moved forward with it.

Councilman Galvin: So you’re telling me we’ve already hired two of these five even though we haven’t yet approved the Budget?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir. Two of the five are part-time employees whose contract will be terminated on September 30th pending Budget approval and moving forward.

Councilman Galvin: But I’ve got my 2014 Budget that we approved. There are no Council aides there. You didn’t ask us for any Budget amendments to add those Council aides. And now you’re telling me we’ve magically hired two aides out of five even though we’re about to terminate them?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Not magically hired sir, I wouldn’t use that term. I would say...

Councilman Galvin: I used it.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I would say, there are things that we do need to get taken care of. Constituent service requests, they come in all the time. So we have someone that came in, that we brought in to help us with that. As management we are trying to make sure we’re operating as efficiently as possible and making sure we address all the needs of the Council. So we made an administrative decision to hire the one individual to take care of the constituent service complaints. The person has been there now probably maybe two months now. Another one was hired to handle some stuff for District 4 as we move forward. And I envision one being hired for each of the districts. Like I said, we are looking to establish a policy. And moving forward right now, this is more on the line of, we’ll see how it works. It doesn’t move forward. If it was any intent to deceive this Council it would have been buried in this 500-page document. But as we saw, it was part of our presentation to let you know this is how we were looking in moving forward. If the Council so wishes to remove this item and deems it not necessary, we have no problem removing items sir.

Councilman Galvin: I’ll just stop flagging that horse for now. Moving on to the City Manager’s Department, page 28. The overall operational cost of the City
Manager’s Department has jumped $170,000.00 over last year to now be just under one million dollars for the City Manager’s Office alone. That’s based on page 28...26, sorry 26.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: And that is the Federal lobbyist, which is that $80,000.00.

Assistant Budget Director Henley: There’s also an additional $40,000.00 budgeted in Public Relations and this is for print advertising of Council agenda and first read ordinances. That contributes to the variance.

Councilman Galvin: But how much did you say?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: That’s $40,000.00.

Councilman Galvin: For what purpose?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: It’s for print advertising.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: This was a request that was made last Fiscal Year. It wasn’t in the Mayor/Council but it was present in Non-Departmental Budget in the amount of, I believe $27,000.00. And this was a request of Councilman Keys to have everything moved to The Herald to make sure we advertise with The Herald.

Councilman Galvin: So the $40,000.00 essentially is our lobbyist...excuse me, essentially our printing in The Miami Herald.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: That total together is $120,000.00. There’s an additional $50,000.00 then. I’ll echo what the Councilwoman said on page 27, line 101 City Manager’s salary. That’s advertised...that’s this year published at $23,000.00 more than it was last year. So again, we’d save ourselves $23,000.00 at least right there coming down. And then there’s a line item this year that didn’t exist last year. I’m hoping somebody can explain to me. The Chief of Staff is listed this year as $71,000.00 but I don’t see a line item explanation of the Chief of Staff in 2014. What was the Chief of Staffs line item salary in 2014?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: $66,000.00 sir.

Councilman Galvin: So that Chief of Staff is getting $15,000.00 more under this year’s Budget?
Deputy City Manager Sorey: Every position listed in the Budget sir is…I want to believe it was about $68,000.00, I’m not positive. But every position listed in the Budget sir is accompanied with about a 7% increase. During Mr. Henley’s presentation, he did outline in his Budget we have in place for a merit increase of 5% and 2% cost of living increase.

Councilman Galvin: So again, let me rewind. In 2014, what was the line item salary for the Chief of Staff’s salary?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: It was $66,000.00. When you multiply that by a COLA and a merit increase, it comes out to the $71,000.00 that you have on page 27.

Councilman Galvin: So all department heads are getting that same COLA and merit?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: Yes.

Councilman Galvin: There’s nobody who’s not getting a COLA and merit?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Nobody in the City…it’s up to negotiations with the unions. Every employee that’s currently employed, every full-time employee currently employed by the City of North Miami will receive a 2% cost of living increase and a 5% merit increase.

Councilman Galvin: Is there anybody who’s getting more than a COLA and cost of living…excuse me and a merit?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: As alluded to earlier with Councilman Desulme’s question. The Manager and myself and the Budget Director, we have been going and looking to level equality throughout the directors pay. So we are looking at that. As we’ve had a few of the directors have moved up through the ranks and the pay equality is not there. So that will be something that is addressed sir.

Councilman Galvin: So there will be Staff members you’re recommending get more than a cost of living and a merit increase?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: Who are those people you’re recommending tonight get that?
Deputy City Manager Sorey: We’ll have the list for you at the next meeting sir.

Councilman Galvin: Well how can you expect to vote in favor of a Budget tonight and the answer is, we’ll have it for you next meeting?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: As I was saying, it only goes…it only affects directors and actually the Chief of Staff is one of…is considered one of the directors. So yes it is sir. I don’t have the list here with me. I can ask the Personnel Director if he does have the list or to bring the list for me and we can go over that later on sir.

Councilman Galvin: It’s just going to be real difficult to vote. You can see where I’m going tonight. If we don’t have some solid answers, how am I going to vote in favor of a Budget that you guys keep saying, we don’t know but we’ll get you the answer. That’s cool if you got it…if that’s just the case for one or two. But it’s not going to be cool if this is the case in every case.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No problem sir.

Councilman Galvin: Allow me to move forward now to the City Clerk’s department, page 44, line 101. There’s a Constituent Services Coordinator listed here at $43,000.00. That line does not exist at all in last year’s budget so this is a new position it appears we’re creating. Is that correct?

City Clerk Etienne: What happened was, I had two Administrative Specialist, an Interpreter and a Deputy Clerk. What I’ve done, I’ve traded off one of the Administrative Specialist positions for a Constituent Service Coordinator position. Cause as you know we see roughly…I mean over the past four or five years, I’ve seen over fifty something thousand people at the Clerk’s Office and we do a lot of constituent work. I am elected City-wide like the Mayor is. So a lot of people come to us with a lot of stuff. So in actuality I borrowed one of your Constituent Services that worked for you part-time Guerty. And I’ve asked Budget and the managing department to bring her downstairs to help me with our constituent services. So what I’ve done, no positions were added. I eliminated one position and turned it into something different.

Councilman Galvin: So it was an even…

City Clerk Etienne: An even switch.

Councilman Galvin: So the salary levels you believe remain the same essentially dropping that Administrative Specialist and adding the Constituent Services Coordinator?
City Clerk Etienne: I think it was roughly...cause our constituent...we had two individuals who retired which was Olga and Jackie. Their salary were roughly fifty something thousand annually. So what happened was, this Constituent Service Coordinator is at a completely different pay grade. But overall, it’s relatively the same. But yes the new Constituent Service Coordinator gets paid roughly eight to $9,000.00 more than the Administrative Specialist. But it’s all overall the same in salary because our retirement...the individuals who were there before as our Administrative Specialist were in fact getting paid much more because they were here for a very long time. So it was basically an even switch.

Councilman Galvin: Your answer mathematically does match that 2014 Budget.

City Clerk Etienne: I’m that guy Scott. I’m that guy. I get my facts right.

Councilman Galvin: In your...still in the City Clerk’s Budget line 305 and it’s highlighted in gray. I see a lot of stuff that’s highlighted in gray through this Budget and I’m sure why cause there’s no explanation. But line 305, the conferences and meeting expenses for City Clerk and Staff tripled.

City Clerk Etienne: Doubled. So what happened was, when you’re a City Clerk you’re required to have a particular certification. You’re supposed to have your Certified Municipal Clerk certification and your Municipal Masters Certification. When Jacqie retired, we didn’t have anyone down there with that certification. So what I’ve done, the Clerk’s Office, Stephanie and I, we go and actually get our training, our CMC training which is required through the IIMC, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Florida Association of Clerks. So what we do, you’re looking at two real clerks where we have to go to conferences annually so we can get our points to keep up with our certification. Which is a CMC, Certified Municipal Clerk and the MMC, the Masters Municipal Clerk certification.

Councilman Galvin: So does that amount increase so much because now there’s two people getting that?

City Clerk Etienne: You got it.

Councilman Galvin: There’s two people instead of one getting that.

City Clerk Etienne: That’s correct.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Excuse me. We do have a typo on 305, which we already brought up. Typo for the year, it should be 2016.
Councilman Desulme: Madame Vice-Mayor, can I… I have one question. Since Councilman Galvin is going through page by page. We talked about this, I thought we had… cause I had questions. Councilman Galvin, the same way you did you can ask the Budget, that’s how I did it. I just thought that we did it before the meeting that’s why I didn’t have any questions. But I do have one since you are going line by line. His account expense is a little bit… it’s doubled that the Council. How is that?

City Clerk Etienne: My expense account?

Councilman Desulme: No, no not you. This is a budget question sir. Isn’t it a Budget question?

City Clerk Etienne: No, it’s in the ordinance. The ordinance specifically states that the City Clerk gets a $60.00 expense and the Council gets a $300.00 expense. But the salary needs to be the same.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Why are you getting the $600.00? We get $300.00, where does it say you get $600.00 a month because that was one of my questions.

City Clerk Etienne: I can find it in our ordinance for you. I can find it for you.

Councilman Desulme: The expense is set within the ordinance? No. The expense is… Mr. Budget Director. The expense is in our ordinance?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I believe…

Councilman Desulme: As a former Clerk I don’t… I think… in fact Mr. Burns is the one… that doesn’t add up for me. But anyhow… Councilman Galvin as you’re going line by line I don’t want to interrupt you but I do have some questions since we are now just doing it line by line, which is good. Thank you.

Councilman Galvin: What page was that? Do you know Mr. Desulme what you’re looking at?

Councilman Desulme: It’s 35 I believe.

Councilman Galvin: I’m still on page 45 right now too. Line 318…

Councilman Desulme: 315.

Councilman Galvin: You were at line 315.
Councilman Desulme: Exactly, I’m sorry.

Councilman Galvin: Gotcha okay I see it. That is double what the City Councilmembers get. I remember passing the rule that says he should get what we get but somebody please verify that that’s in line. 318, legal advertisement of public notices. That jumped $20,000.00 to $60,000.00 this year. Is that the Miami Herald money?

City Clerk Etienne: No that’s last year. Councilman Bien-Aime came on last year and requested a $20,000.00 increase because now we also advertise…it’s not The Herald. The Herald is basically at double. Because what we do, as you know the Charter gives us the exclusive authority to put out the public notices. So we use a lot of venues. We use the Daily Business Review. Of course we use Caribbean Media, Hispanic Media, etcetera. So that’s what we use that fund for. However, the additional forty that the Mayor/Council has was a request made by one of the Councilmembers where they wanted the Manager to double the advertisement we’re doing but just to use The Herald. Cause we didn’t…we basically use the Daily Business Review which was much more financially feasible.

Councilman Galvin: So the additional $20,000.00 that you’re getting this year, where will that money…

City Clerk Etienne: It’s not an additional. That was in…this is the exact amount we got last year.

City Manager Ghany: The request on the advertising, I believe it was at the request of Councilwoman Keys last year. Readvertise for advertising of the City’s agenda in The Miami Herald, that’s where that budget came in for us to actually advertise in The Herald.

Vice-Mayor Keys: But we’re not…excuse me Councilman Galvin.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Why it’s not in your book Councilman Galvin, the request was made…I want to say the request for the additional $20,000.00 was made during one of the Budget meetings. And we don’t…and that’s why you don’t have the change, which where you see the $60,000.00 there.

Councilman Galvin: I’m looking at the…when you say one of the Budget meetings, what do you mean?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The $20,000.00 change was made in second Budget Hearing. Your book wouldn’t have been adjusted to reflect that.

Councilman Galvin: Okay, that’s fair enough.
Vice-Mayor Keys: But where…let me ask, if you don’t mind while we’re on this line item. Mr. Clerk, you said we were doubling the advertisement. We’re not also advertising the agendas in the Daily Business Review?

City Clerk Etienne: No because the law requires us to advertise…

Vice-Mayor Keys: In one paper.

City Clerk Etienne: Right, the ordinances in the paper. So now what we do cause before we only advertised in The Herald and nowhere else. So Spanish media, they didn’t know what was going. Haitian media, Caribbean English media etcetera. And I sent you a list of the Medias. So what we did, we found a much more cost effective paper of general circulation in which we meet our legal requirements. And we advertise with the Daily Business Review and all of the other foreign Medias. Now The Miami Herald was way too expensive and we do not use The Herald. However, the agendas are posted online and you guys who (inaudible) is something discretionary. It’s extra through the Manager’s Office but that’s a $40,000.00 expense that you guys are just putting out there.

Vice-Mayor Keys: But that’s the agendas, the Planning Commission agendas and the Board of Adjustment agendas that are being advertised in The Herald. But you’re not also advertising those, correct?

City Clerk Etienne: I’m sorry repeat that.

Vice-Mayor Keys: You’re not advertising…

City Clerk Etienne: We’re only advertising what’s legally required. We’re just meeting our legal mandate pursuant to the Florida Statutes. That’s all we’re advertising. Anything in addition is between the Mayor and the City Manager; Mayor/Council and the Manager.

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Attorney, do we have to start the regular meeting at 7? We only have 18 minutes left.

Councilman Galvin: And that’s why I said…

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Or shortly thereafter.

Mayor Joseph: Huh?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Or shortly thereafter, yes sir.
Mayor Joseph: But what does this charter call for? Do we have to start exactly at 7?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: No not exactly.

Mayor Joseph: Shortly, what’s shortly?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Well you can start after 7 o’clock if this meeting should you know take a little longer.

Mayor Joseph: Okay.

Interim City Attorney Galdos: As long as it starts after 7.

Councilman Galvin: Next page 47, line 101. Last year we had an Interpreter listed for $34,000.00, this year that position Interpreter is gone. And instead it says Records Management Supervisor for $45,000.00. So what was the change there? What happens to our Interpreter and why does the new person $11,000.00 more?

City Clerk Etienne: The Interpreter was moved over to the Police Department cause they needed it for Code Enforcement Hearings. And the City Clerk Office is required to manage records. The records that’s required pursuant to the charter. And unfortunately when we were…there’s an industry in Tallahassee, it’s the Florida Management Library something. We have to keep a particular retention schedule. We were in violation of…let’s say if there’s 15, 20 rules, we’re in violation of roughly 17. So Louis was forced to…

Councilman Desulme: Excuse me Mr. Clerk, can we please…Councilman Galvin as we move forward, try not to call any employees name or…if we can. I know this is public thing.

City Clerk Etienne: So our Interpreter, he got his CMC, Certified Municipal Clerk. So he was acting as our Records Management Supervisor where he was constantly in contact with Tallahassee. So anyway that was the position we opened. And again that position was at a completely different classification. It wasn’t an Interpreter anymore. That position was moved over to the Police Department. And so we replaced that position with Records Management Supervisor. So as before we didn’t get an additional position. We switched it off but because the classification was different, he got an additional…he did get a raise cause his job description was drastically different. And now I must say, we are in compliance with every…we’re in compliance across the Board. We have no violations because our Records Management Supervisor is properly retaining the records, destroying the records and informing Tallahassee of such. And
there’s other stuff that he did find out that we’ll discuss in the future. But put it this way, through our audits and our cleaning up, our management, we realized that those resolutions from years ago. Literally from the 1960s and 70s and 50s that we can’t find and that’s not there. So we are in process of informing Tallahassee and letting them know. Cause as you know by law we’re required to keep those things permanently. And so that’s what he’s doing, things to that extent. But it’s not an additional position. It’s basically a tradeoff of what we need, something that’s necessary as opposed to having an Interpreter.

Councilman Galvin: I’m going to jump to Finance now. Last year the Finance Director’s salary was capped at $96,000.00 and change. This year it’s $127,000.00. Why are you recommending that the Finance Director get an additional $30,000.00?

City Manager Ghany: Actually your Finance Director was an Interim Finance Director who is presently no longer here. The City actually has the position advertised for more than a year. The type of experience and the qualification for the position of Finance Director did not match the salary range that we have there, hence the reason why there’s an increase in that line item.

Councilman Galvin: So the current Finance Director is getting paid in line with the past years?

City Manager Ghany: With the current…with the past year, I’m sorry. That’s correct.

Councilman Galvin: And so will the Finance Director see a salary increase of approximately $30,000.00 if this is approved tonight?

City Manager Ghany: Presently he is actually working on a part-time basis to cover. For the upcoming Fiscal Year in September, it will be a permanent position that he would be assuming.

Councilman Galvin: And will that permanent position come with the new salary?

City Manager Ghany: Will come with the new salary, that’s correct.

Councilman Galvin: Okay that’s 37…that’s thirty plus thousand dollars. That sort of sounds like it’s more than the COLA and merit that others are getting. So I think we need to be mindful. You’re saying we’re doing these things to come in line. What happens next year, do you come and say, well we got to come in line with salaries again and take all the departments from 80, $90,000.00 up to $130,000.00? I mean in the
past even our high upper management Attorney and Manager have barely made that money. And now we’re talking about bringing each and every department head to that amount, it sounds like. Are there any other new Finance positions that are being created this year?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: In this upcoming Budget right now the Assistant Finance Director Job is vacant. So there’s going to be an Assistant Finance Director Job that’s going to be vacant. Staff is still evaluating, looking to bring someone in under Utility Billing side. That is Enterprise Funds though. So that’s not present here. But we’re not sure that that’s where we’re going to be going. But the only thing that’s going to happen, we will have an Assistant Finance Director hired probably within the next coming months. But we are still actively trying to determine whether we’re going to bring in somebody in a supervisory capacity to manage the Utility Billing Department, to get that back on track.

Councilman Galvin: Who currently manages Utility Billing?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Right now we have…I think it’s a supervisor or coordinator. We do have someone there. However, as we’ve seen with some of the problems we’ve had. We might need a little more…someone…the qualifications are minimal for the job and that’s not getting it done. So we’re probably going to need to hire someone on a different stature. Maybe post the position to get somebody a lot stronger in a position like that.

Councilman Galvin: So we’re going to hire a new Assistant Finance Director and we’re going to hire a new Utility Billing Supervisor?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: And it’s still under…the Assistant Finance Director’s position has been in the Budget. I mean it’s just vacant at the current time.

Councilman Galvin: So if it’s vacant, we’re not spending the money. Here’s the thing I keep coming back to. We have come up with all these ways to create Staff positions and there’s nothing for Cops. And so you know, if we can hire deputies here and new supervisors there and different aides for Councilmembers, my opinion, nix them all and move all the money to Cops, a couple of Code Compliance thrown in.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But Mr. Scott Galvin, I think that question…just to continue with your question. Did the Police Department in their Budget request for more Police Officers?

Councilman Galvin: If they didn’t, let’s give it to them anyway.
Councilman Bien-Aime: We want to make sure the Police Department didn’t ask for it and then we’re going to give…hire more Police Officers.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I don’t believe we had a request for additional Police Officers. However, there was an additional request for Code Enforcement Officers.

Councilman Galvin: And the Utility Billing Supervisor is listed in the Utility Billing section if I get over to that? And I’m trying to move quickly cause wait ‘til I get to the Parks Department. In fact for time sake…no I got to hit I.T. Page 106, Information Technology page 106. Our I.T. Department Budget this year has increased from…increased an additional $220,000.00 to $858,000.00. I’m sorry if I misspoke the page, it’s 106. Page 106 I.T., it looks like the overall budget amount goes to $858,000.00. That’s an increase of $220,000.00 over last year for I.T. Do I have that information in my book?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: Sir, overall there was only a $15,000.00 difference in I.T. and that’s a 1% increase. Let me have your page number again please.

Councilman Galvin: In this year’s budget page 106, last year’s budget page 103.

Councilman Desulme: But the book that I have it’s a decrease 4%, 4.82%.

Councilman Galvin: On page 106?

Councilman Desulme: Yes 104.

Councilman Galvin: 104, I’m looking at 106. Does everybody’s 106 list…

Assistant Budget Director Henley: No everyone has the same. Look at the department total which is page 104.

Councilman Desulme: It’s a decrease.

Councilman Galvin: Why would pages 104 and 106 not match?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: Because 106 is a division total. There are two or three divisions in I.T. And those three division totals add up to the department total on 104. And the total department budget on 104 is only $15,000.00 more than last year, which is a 1% increase.
Councilman Galvin: We’re going to have to have some long detailed meetings between now and the second Budget Hearing. Because I see monstrous increases where you’re telling me there’s only small increases. I see our Webmaster in house, filming and broadcasting increasing $90,000.00. I see copying $30,000.00 up, administration up $50,000.00. So get ready, we’re going to have to have some long meetings about the I.T. Department. And everybody’s going to have to explain to me please, where that money is going to go. I also see a new Assistant I.T. Manager in the I.T. Budget for $86,000.00 salary. Is that a new position as I seem to interpret it?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: Yes that’s…it’s not necessarily. It is a new position but it replaced two I.T. Analyst position. Last year you’ll see those analysts budgeted at $50,000.00 each, came up $100,000.00. So that’s $15,000.00 savings. Those two analysts with professional manager, Assistant Manager. So the I.T. Budget is one less position this year than last year.

Councilman Galvin: But is that one position that remains, are they getting an increase in salary?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: It’s a new person.

Councilman Galvin: The new person, are they getting more than what the old person did?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: The old person was two people. Two people at $50,000.00 each. The new person…those were two…

Councilman Galvin: I get it. I get it. The two people last year got $50,000.00 each. They’re gone now there’s one person. How much are they going to get 86?

Assistant Budget Director Henley: Eighty-six.

Councilman Galvin: Okay, that one person just got a nearly 50% raise from 50 to 86.

Assistant Budget Director Henley: No sir, that person came from another municipality.

Councilman Galvin: Whoever they are specifically. I’m doing my best not to name names. Follow me here. The Deputy I.T. person last year theoretically would have made $50,000.00. You’re shaking your head Duke. Correct me.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No sir. Last year there was no…
Councilman Galvin: But theoretically had there been one…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Theoretically had they been there, it would haven’t been two analysts that made $50,000.00 each, combine $100,000.00.

Councilman Galvin: So we took…here’s the thing. Just keep this simple guys. You took two positions that together would have made 100 but they didn’t exist. So how much did we pay this last year to those two people?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They did exist.

Councilman Galvin: So you fired them?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We had a vacant position and then one person was fired.

Councilman Galvin: So those two $50,000.00 are gone.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: And now you’re bringing back one instead of two but that one gets 86.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes. A higher staff level. Someone who can do more work. We needed someone who can actually help out the director to do some of the technical work. But in looking at it, you’re still talking about pension cost. You’re talking about health care cost. You’re talking about other costs, which per individual equates to almost an additional 60% on the salary. So right here it was actually a healthy savings in this move that was made.

Councilman Galvin: Did we advertise?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: When we meet and talk about this, I need to see all the advertisements as well. How much does our Director of I.T. make?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Approximately $98,000.00 sir, I believe.

Councilman Galvin: So the assistant is coming in real close on his/her heels. Are there any outside I.T. costs that I haven’t brought up this evening that you want to bring to my attention? Are they any outside advertising costs, contracts with
outside companies or anything else related to outside expenditures of which I should be aware of this evening?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: There’s several costs that refer to maintenance on our servers, monies that’s spent with Eden. You have lease payments on the Financial Management System. We have Laserfiche Documentation Maintenance. I.T. has, you know when you talk about the I.T. Budget you’re talking about several of these. You have Comcast stuff, livestream we have, the Public Wi-Fi that’s a cost to us. Channel 77 Programming, the Scada System Upgrades.

Councilman Galvin: Tell me about Channel 77 Programming if you will please. I don’t get Channel 77 anymore because I don’t have Comcast. So fewer and fewer people are switching to AT&T are actually seeing Comcast. Are we investing more in our Channel 77 Programming this year than we did last year?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It’s going to probably be about the same price.

Councilman Galvin: Probably or it is? I learned this is jury duty the other day. The judge says, you don’t want to hear the pilot get on the plane and say, I think I can land this a little bit later today. You want to hear the pilot say, I know I can land this plane. So please with specificity, are we spending more on Channel 77 Programming this year than we were last?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The number is changed sir. We’re pulling it up now to see what the costs was last year.

Councilman Galvin: For those of you who are watching on Channel 77 at home, this is not a mistake. We’re just looking up some information.

Mayor Joseph: Actually why don’t we continue with the additional questions while he looks for the information.

Councilman Galvin: I’ll hop over to the Parks Department. There also appears to be some duplication of pages in here that I’ll just chop that up to a Xerox mistake. But I’ll bring them up in private later just to make sure we’re not doubling these numbers. In the Parks & Recreation Department, there’s a Customer Service Liaison, this is page 265. Page 265 Customer Service Liaison, last year their salary schedule was 16. This year it’s a 22. What does that represent as far as dollars?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: As far as dollar wise it just…the pay grade is up and to the max the individual can make. So that’s all that represents. Probably I
would say last year it had to be a typo for it to be a pay grade 16. Pay grade 16 is one of our lowest levels of pay grade. So I’m sure that has to a typo in last year’s budget.

Councilman Galvin: Okay can we verify that and discuss that privately.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: On page 280…sorry 268…266, sorry. 266, Parks and Rec Administration. It appears that administrative costs have gone up $50,000.00 this year. Why did administrative costs increase $50,000.00?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The administrative cost went up by?

Councilman Galvin: Last year I see it as $450,000.00. This year it’s $508,000.00.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That is…one of the positions was moved over into…the Assistant Public Works Director. I’m sorry, Assistant Parks and Recreation Manager. Last year that position was vacant. It didn’t get…I don’t believe it was funded last Fiscal Year, this year it was funded.

Councilman Galvin: So you created…there is not currently an Assistant Parks and Rec Director?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It is a current Assistant Parks and Rec Director.

Councilman Galvin: I thought I just heard you say it was not funded last year.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It was funded the individual…it was funded, I know it was funded. It must have been supplemental last year. But it definitely was a funded position. So it must have been a supplemental, it would show up on that page.

Councilman Galvin: See again I’m hearing, I think I can land this plane. Must have been, either it is or it isn’t. It is a supplemental or it isn’t a supplemental. I need to know these things because it looks like that new Assistant Parks and Rec Manager gets $65,000.00.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Traditionally the Parks and Recreation Department has always had a Director and an Assistant Director. There was some movement in the Parks and Recreation Department the year before. The Assistant Director wasn’t in place. We had several issues with the Parks and Recreation...
Department and last year we funded the position for an Assistant Director to try to...to get ahead of it and make sure we didn’t have the same problems. So it was a funded position the last Fiscal Year.

Councilman Galvin: And I know what tradition is so you know, we’re really heavy with Staff higher up. Rec Leader I’s, Rec Leader II’s, Assistants. Parks is getting real top heavy and not real program heavy. The...page 267 line 141, 267, line 141 employee contribution to pension plans. And I’ve seen this everywhere but here’s one example. The amount here doubles to $120,000.00 this Fiscal Year. Why is it doubled?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The calculation for the Pension Plan is based upon what happened in last Fiscal Year.

Councilman Galvin: The salaries that they earned?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes the salaries that they earned.

Councilman Galvin: So if the salaries that they earned last year are all the same, everybody saying everybody salary is still the same. Councilman is just confused. If last year’s salaries were all just the same and it was $60,000.00, why is everybody’s salary is just the same and this year’s contribution to the Pension Plan is $120,000.00?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The Pension Plan Contribution is like...I did say it’s based on...it’s holistically based. We turn around and it is separated amongst the departments. But it is for the four full-time positions. While the number went up, I can’t give the exact answer why the number went up.

Councilman Galvin: But I’m being expected to vote tonight on that.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: Does anybody else have any?

City Manager Ghany: The Pension Plan Contribution based on the Budget is all an actuary projected number. We get an actuary projection from our Pension Administrator and the cost is then...the actuary cost is then spread out, given to Budget to put into the Budget. So you will see the actual cost is based on a projection. And that is what is budgeted. You will see an increase annually but this City’s annual pension contribution increases. And it’s not just for one department. It’s generally we cut a check for roughly $6 million dollars to go into the Police and the General Employees’ Pension. That’s how it’s done.
Councilman Desulme: I was going to ask the Budget Director because we’re all sitting here looking real…and I’m not saying anything. There’s two problems. I asked you, the Budget is not online. The public really don’t know what we’re looking at. But I spent three hours because you guys asked me to spend three hours of my time to go over this. So please extend that same time to Councilman Galvin and the other members. Because we’re sitting here, the public don’t know what we’re talking about and we are going line by line, which we did three hours ago and now we’re going back again over it. I think the idea was, you were going to meet with us privately prior to this to share our concern. Cause I asked a lot of the questions to try to clear this out. So please try to extend the same courtesy to all of us, at least we won’t be here to doing this whole thing over again.

Councilman Galvin: And in their defense they have repeatedly offered to meet with me. My feeling and this is just my preference. As a Councilman I’ve learned over the years, that sometimes the answers you get privately will differ from what you get right here in a room full of people with a camera running. I prefer the answer I get right now in front of a room full of people with a camera running. So I turned down a lot of them…and I did meet with Staff for about an hour this on Budget. But I turned down a lot of those things and I could have asked all these questions ahead of time and I could have just sat here quietly and flown right through things. But then nobody would know I was asking these questions and I want to hear the answer on the record with the microphone on. So it sticks serving with me, this is what I’m going to do for the time that I’m up here. Line 301, Office Staff 30 hours a week, 52 weeks. Last year it was 20 hours a week for 52 weeks. So they’re now getting…those folks are getting $5,000.00 more this year. Why did the Parks Director need to increase his office staff? Are those part-time employees or are those full-time employees?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Those are part-time employees. 301 is outside temporary help sir.

Councilman Galvin: How many part-time temporary employees do we currently have in the Parks Department?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Probably…

Councilman Galvin: Probably or sure?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The temporary employees in the Parks Department come and go sir. You have people who work for Soccer. People who coach basketball, people who run the park…

Councilman Galvin: At this very moment and I know that the Parks…see in my day Directors would be up here answering these questions and you guys wouldn’t
have to have immediate, specific recall of every single fact. So I think when we’re
talking Parks, the Parks Director should be there, the Building Director should be there
etcetera. But again, and I’m trying to eyeball the back of the room. There’s the Parks
Director, maybe he can come forward and tell me. How…as of right now, how many…

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Corker, are you willing to come forward?

Councilman Galvin: That’s up to the Manager, I’m sorry. I’m not
calling…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We can answer the question sir.

Councilman Galvin: How many part-time Parks employees do we
currently have?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The part-time employees, it depends on what
time of year it is sir. If we don’t have soccer going right now…

Councilman Galvin: On September the 21st, 2015, how many part-time
Parks employees do we have?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We’re adding them up right now sir. We
have a list of them. We’re adding them up now.

Mayor Joseph: Do you have the number Mr. Corker? He has the number,
so let him just tell us.

Parks Director Corker: Good evening. Parks and Recreation Director,
Derick Corker, City of North Miami. Councilman Galvin, we have 101.

Councilman Galvin: You have 101 part-time employees?

Parks Director Corker: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: How do you advertise those part-time employees’
positions?

Parks Director Corker: Depends on the type of programming for our
summer camps. They are offered…they are advertised through the Personnel
Department, which they go out to everybody in the City.

Councilman Galvin: So are all of your part-time employees advertised
through the Personnel Department?
Parks Director Corker: I believe the Deputy Manager stated that not all positions are always advertised. They are always an opportunity to go to the Personnel Department and you can find if there are opportunities for employment.

Councilman Galvin: I’m uncomfortable that in any department we would have any open employment position that we do not advertise. It’s not fair for somebody to hear about something word of mouth and show up and just get a job. That’s what it’s sounding to me like we’re doing. And out of 101 temporary part-time, when we meet privately been now and the second Budget, I want to know exactly how many we advertised and how many we didn’t advertised. Have we hired any Parks part-time temp employees in the last two weeks?

Parks Director Corker: No sir.

Councilman Galvin: Zero in the last two weeks?

Parks Director Corker: Not in the last two weeks.

Councilman Galvin: Okay. I’d like to see all of that documentation please. I’m going to start skipping some of the smaller $3,000.00 hikes and $5,000.00 hikes I see in these budgets. Parks and Recreation page 274, Recreation Supervisors it looks like it’s shown here. Line 101, Recreation Supervisor looks like there’s two of them. This year two Rec Supervisors will earn together $120,000.00. Am I reading this correct so far? And there will not be a Recreation Superintendent. Last year we did have a Recreation Superintendent’s position. What happened to that position between last year and this year?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The superintendent position was eliminated. Also...

Councilman Galvin: Did we fire somebody?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No we didn’t fire somebody.

Councilman Galvin: Did they retire?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They didn’t retire sir.

Councilman Galvin: So how did we eliminate a position if there was a person there?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The position was moved around and that person was made a Recreation Supervisor. In an effort to flatten out the Parks and
Recreation Department, two superintendents, the prior year before there was a…two years before there was a Parks Superintendent on the Parks side that was eliminated as well. Then we came into the Recreation side and eliminated it as well. Just to flatten out the organization. The supervisors were reporting to the superintendent. The superintendent then in turn reported to the Assistant Director or the Director.

Councilman Galvin: So the superintendent that was there last year has been demoted to now be a supervisor?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: So with that demotion there was obviously a pay decrease?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I believe the individual that was changed and moved over still fell within the pay range, you know their step. So I don’t believe he was at the maximum step. So when he did move over, I believe the individual still remained in the same…well kept the same salary because it wasn’t in the top of the grade of the…

Councilman Galvin: So they were demoted in name and title but not in salary?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Exactly.

Councilman Galvin: And now this new supervisor…is there a new supervisor this year? There’s two this year?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No.

Councilman Galvin: There were two last year.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes.

Councilman Galvin: So again, last year there was one Rec Superintendent and two Rec Supervisors making three in total. This year there’s just two in total. Am I correct?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir but if you go later on in the book you’ll see…I believe it’s in maybe 478. There’s a position that wasn’t funded last year which was a Recreation Coordinator I believe. That’s where the other position was moved to.
Councilman Galvin: Skipping to page 278. Personnel Services detail, it’s about the middle of the page. Rec Specialist there’s listed four this year. There were…there was one last year. So looks like we’ve added three Recreational Specialist.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That’s not accurate sir.

Councilman Galvin: Okay guys your book is a mess. I’m comparing A to B. And time after time I’m just being told I don’t get it. I get this guys. I’ve been up here longer than all of you guys combined. So if you’re showing in one year you had A and this year you have B, you need to be ready to describe the difference. Again it’s showing this year that you’re planning to have four Rec Specialists. That’s three more than we had last year. Am I wrong?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Last year we had four Rec Specialist as well sir.

Councilman Galvin: The Budget Book shows one. Rec Coordinator, there were none last year and there’s one shown this year. Have we increased our Rec Coordinator position?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That’s the position that I was just referring to when you said it was three supervisors. There was a Rec Superintendent and it did. That position was bumped down. The individual was bumped down to a Recreation Coordinator.

Councilman Galvin: I’m voting against this Budget tonight. We’re going to have serious, some serious time spent before the second Budget Hearing. And I’m going to lay in to every staff change. I’m going to have every detail of information about everybody who’s been hired in this City for the last several years. And I’m coming guns a blazing because if we can’t increase our Police positions but we’ve got all sorts of people moving around here, getting Staff salary increases here, adding positions over there. I don’t see that in the Police Department. I don’t see any more boots on the ground. Our priorities are wrong. I could go…I could literally go page after page more through the Parks Department but I think…

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Councilman, do you have any more questions for the Staff please so we can continue?

Councilman Galvin: Yeah. Now we’re going to jump to Non-Departmental under PAL. Page 382, the line again highlighting…why were there several things highlighted in gray in this Budget?
Assistant Budget Director Henley: Things highlighted were changes from last year compared to this year.

Councilman Galvin: Okay this year PAL allocation is $300,000.00. What was its allocation last year?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: One million dollars.

Councilman Galvin: So we’re…they’re requesting $300,000.00 this year versus one million dollars last year?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They’re not requesting $300,000.00. Last it was a million dollars that was still in place for the Progress 2013 for the PAL building. During one of the Council meetings a decision was made by this Body to remove $700,000.00 to fund the money that was needed by MOCA to move forward. So we took $700,000.00 out. Staff has…in time that money was allocated by Progress 2013. It’s not in Staff’s liberty to remove that $300,000.00. That money was set there I believe by resolution when we did it. So the three hundred was put back.

Councilman Galvin: What is it expected that $300,000.00 will go towards if it’s approved this evening?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: If we…if whenever a decision is made to do something with the PAL building, there’s $300,000.00 that’s in place there. If the Body sees fit, you can remove the $300,000.00. But it wasn’t Staff’s decision to move the $300,000.00. This is us putting the money that’s left over where it’s still supposed to be.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Just a quick question about PAL. One million dollars was for the building.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes.

Councilman Bien-Aime: You take $700,000.00 and you give it to MOCA.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes.

Councilman Bien-Aime: And you have $300,000.00 left for the building.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes, that’s correct.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Okay the money is not unallocated.
Deputy City Manager Sorey: No it’s not unallocated. It’s there. We left it where it was supposed to be, that’s all I’m saying.

Councilman Galvin: So again you’re just saying the $300,000.00 will go toward a structural building if that’s what…you’re shaking your head. Tell me please.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No I’m not shaking my head. I’m saying the $300,000.00 is in place. If you determine that you’re going to build a PAL building, if you come up with a public/private partnership, whatever you want to do with PAL, $300,000.00 is available there towards a building or however this Body feels to move forward with addressing the building needs of PAL. It was a million dollars. Again this was appropriated during Progress 2013. A million dollars was set aside for PAL to build a building. During we needed…we wanted to move forward with MOCA. We took $700,000.00 out and now that left you with $300,000.00. Us placing the $300,000.00 here is just us being transparent to let you know that there’s still $300,000.00 available for PAL Progress 2013.

Councilman Galvin: Has PAL made any requests towards this Fiscal Year for any funds specifically?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes. PAL did make a request. I believe it was a request for their allocation to be moved from the proposed $195,000.00 to go up to approximately $250,000.00.

Councilman Galvin: So they’re requesting 250 and we’re giving 300?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: No sir. They can’t have this money. You have to give this money to them.

Councilman Galvin: But they’re requesting ninety-five.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: For operations.

Councilman Galvin: They’re requesting 295 for what?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Two-fifty.

Councilman Galvin: They’re requesting 250 for what?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They’re requesting $250,000.00 I believe it’s to go towards their peer tutoring and the operations of the PAL program.
City Manager Ghany: Programming and Operations for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

Councilman Galvin: And why did we not just set aside $250,000.00? Why are we allocating potentially $300,000.00? Why is that being set aside?

City Manager Ghany: Sir, last year the one million dollars that was allocated from the Biscayne Landing allocation was allocated for a PAL structure to be built. The PAL structure was not built with the intent of including it as part of the Cagni renovation. $700,000.00 was taken away from that one million allocation and was allocated to MOCA. $300,000.00 remained. That $300,000.00 that is in that line item still remains in the Budget as part of the capital improvement for Cagni Park improvement.

Mayor Joseph: And they’re requesting an additional 250.

City Manager Ghany: Right.

Mayor Joseph: (Inaudible – simultaneous discussion) …not for the building, for operations.

City Manager Ghany: It’s 250 that is requested is for operations and programming. That’s all they’re requesting.

Vice-Mayor Keys: I’m looking at 75 for PAL and 120 for Peer, so it’s 195.

City Manager Ghany: But they’re requesting…but the question was, how much did they request. They requested 250, in the Budget it’s 195.

Councilman Galvin: Where was their request made and in what form?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The request for the 250 was a discussion being made and the possible to come to the Council. We did advise…

Mayor Joseph: With a resolution.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That didn’t come to this Board so it just didn’t come forward.

City Manager Ghany: The request was made to the PAL Board and it did not reach the City Council via resolution. At the last PAL meeting it was requested that they come before the City Council for the $250,000.00 request for programming and operations. It was approved by the Board.
Mayor Joseph: The request…what they are planning to do, they are planning to come with the request tonight as a matter of fact. And because of the…they did not have time to put it in before their Board because their Board has to meet on it and make a final decision. So I told them that I will actually sponsor the resolution for the following meeting for it to be part of our agenda in our next meeting.

Councilman Galvin: I’m down to my next couple of questions. Although PAL please, I seem to be the easiest guy for everybody to reach via phone and email. But the hardest to reach when somebody has a money request. Please just email me what it is you want. How much money are we spending this year for new sidewalks versus last year?

City Manager Ghany: $100,000.00.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: In Transportation we are budgeting approximately $100,000.00 for sidewalks.

Councilman Galvin: Citywide?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Last Fiscal Year more money was spent but that was where Council had money and Council was allocating money. I believe $250,000.00 was allocated by Councilman Bien-Aime to do sidewalks out of the money he had. I believe Councilwoman Keys had funds available and she allocated additional money for sidewalks. Traditionally what we’ve always budget is around $100,000.00 for sidewalks. Changes are made when we had money left over, I believe what we had last year we had the $700,000.00 left over Council to appropriate. During the Budget Hearings and more money was placed for sidewalks. This year Staff did not bring a bucket of money for Council to appropriate. Staff went on making sure we address some of the critical needs we had throughout the City. And those were all identified in Terry Henley’s presentation.

Councilman Galvin: So how much did we spend this year on sidewalks?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Well over $400,000.00, probably about $480,000.00.

Councilman Galvin: Question for the City Attorney’s Office. Mr. Attorney, do you know how often do we get sued for trip and fall incidents on our sidewalks?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Every now and then.

Councilman Galvin: Every now and then, every week or two days.
Interim City Attorney Galdos: Probably about four a year.

Councilman Galvin: Four a year?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: How much do we normally settle those trip and fall accident claims for?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Usually below $25,000.00.

Councilman Galvin: $25,000.00 each?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: So if we sued this year for four trip and falls, this is our average, that $100,000.00 is out the door.

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Could possibly, yes sir.

Councilman Galvin: I think we should look at more money set aside for sidewalk repair somehow because history will show that we’re going to probably have more people fall down and that money will never even patch a sidewalk. Turn to the FIU Stadium for a second, North Miami Athletic Stadium. Grand opening when I was senior in high school in 1986. I’m getting to ready to celebrate my 30 year high school reunion in 2016. In 30 years, those bathrooms at the back of those buildings, I’ve only been in the guy’s side of it maybe the ladies side looks better. But the bathrooms are horrendous. Are we planning on spending money for any type of upgrades and improvements at the FIU North Miami Athletic Stadium?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: In this current Budget there is no funds for doing improvements at the stadium. However, during the…I believe we did have a problem with the bathrooms, that was addressed during this Fiscal Year. It was addressed through the Fiscal Year.

Councilman Galvin: So I guess I haven’t been to any of the football games yet this season, it just started. If I go out there I’m going to see spanking new bathrooms versus what I have seen the last 30 years?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We’ll let the Parks and Recreation Director…

Parks Director Corker: Mayor and Council, this year we were allocated funds from the CBDG to renovate one of the restroom facilities. To the north end of the
North Miami Stadium bathrooms were renovated. New tile…from the floor, the wall, new urinals, new partitions, new sinks and new hand dryers. So they were renovated this year. That project completed August 16th I believe it was, which was a Monday. And it was opened up before the season kicked off for this year’s season. So the south end is still the same bathrooms that you had back when it opened up 30 years ago. So unfortunately the south bathrooms are still that way but the north end bathrooms have been renovated.

Councilman Galvin: I would like to see us find some funding for some stadium renovation in those bathrooms. Additionally, how comfortable are we with the structural soundness of the…has anybody ever gone out there and tested the stands themselves where people sit and stomp and things like that?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We had this discussion in Staff meeting today. We will be and we have been monitoring the stands and our Building Official has monitored it. And we do make adjustments as we need. Right now through our find we are looking at some things that may be need repairs. But we are keeping a monitor on what’s going on. So we do have no possible threats or any pending lawsuits.

Councilman Galvin: So there’s no worry right now with the season being open and a couple thousand kids being in there banging their feet on that. It’s no worries that there’s any structural…

City Manager Ghany: Certainly Councilman with the…there were some concerns. The Building Official spoke to me, Parks Department Director/Manager already spoke to me about it. A structural engineer is going to be out there examining the stands and a report will be used on the structural integrity of the stands themselves.

Councilman Galvin: How long until the report comes back? Any guess?

City Manager Ghany: Derick?

Parks Director Corker: We met with them Friday, the structural engineer, independent structural engineer. He did provide us with a proposal and invoice for his services. He told us it would take him almost a week to two weeks to complete his report and provide it back to the City.

Councilman Galvin: Are you comfortable, on the record everybody. I like the answers that I get when the lights are on and the cameras are open. Are we…there are games this Friday, several high schools use that stadium on a weekly basis. Are we comfortable that everything is cool at the stadium when the kids go to play their games this weekend?
City Manager Ghany: I’ve already instructed the Building Official to go out there and do an evaluation. If the...under his inspection, the evaluation of the stands are not fit or not structurally sound, they are going to be shut down based on my orders.

Councilman Galvin: And just make sure if that happens please to communicate that to the high school as early as possible. They depend on ticket sales.

City Manager Ghany: Actually I’m…you know…

Mayor Joseph: Actually Mr. Councilman you are aware that we are departing from questioning about the Budget.

Councilman Galvin: Well no because I think we need to have more money in place for the Budget to…

Mayor Joseph: I am on with you on that, that’s why I wanted to actually go back on the question of the sidewalks. Because Mr. Manager, you know you and I we’ve had numerous conversations about the sidewalk issues. And I’ve always told you, if I want to be known as one type of Mayor, I want to be known as a street Mayor.

City Manager Ghany: That is correct.

Mayor Joseph: I want to see the streets of the City of North Miami repaired, restructured. And I’m all with you that. I mean I’ve been sent pictures by constituents about us patching up sidewalks with asphalt. We are the 6th largest City in the Miami-Dade County, in the US of A and we are patching sidewalks with asphalt. And they just go and patch them up and you see the big mountain of asphalt there and the (inaudible) of somebody just trip. You’ve already gone over that. Big potential for our streets and you’re talking about City beautification and spending money here and there for other stuff. And yet, we are neglecting the very face of our City which are the sidewalks, which are the streets and our streetscapes. So I was not going to mention that but I know that we’re going to have a second reading. But next meeting I would like to see much, much…$100,000.00 for sidewalk repair is nothing. It’s just pretty much patching up something and then just wait for a big avalanche to happen.

City Manager Ghany: Correct. That’s basically patching two streets. It’s approximately (inaudible) of concrete. That’s what it is.

Councilman Galvin: Here’s the problem we have Mr. Mayor. If we don’t make those changes tonight, we’ll have a significantly altered Budget on second reading in two weeks. Which will actually require it to be a first reading because it’s going to be so publicly different that it was tonight. That’s why we do the Council meeting on the night of first Budget read. This is when you really have at it for hours and hours as we
eliminate this to fund this and we eliminate that to fund that. If we want money towards sidewalks, if we want money toward FIU Stadium. If we want to get rid of Council Aides that aren’t necessary in my opinion, tonight is when we have to do it. Cause if we come back and they present us a totally different Budget in two weeks that’s actually first reading.

City Manager Ghany: That’s correct. The direction so far is to remove the Constituent Aides for additional Police Officers.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Where’d you get that from?

Councilman Desulme: That’s not the direction.

Councilman Galvin: It’s my opinion it needs to happen (inaudible – simultaneous discussion). It’s absolutely fact gentlemen and lady, that if we want to make significant changes to the Budget tonight, it has to happen tonight in this room. (Inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Mayor Joseph: Hold on one second. Mr. Attorney. How do we go about this? Should we do it as a form of a motion?

Interim City Attorney Galdos: Yes sir because opinions may differ. So you need to as a Body give a collective answer to City Administration to bring it back with the changes.

Councilman Bien-Aime: While we are talking about sidewalks. I do understand we do need sidewalks. Last year alone in my district we spent about $400,000.00 on sidewalks only.

City Manager Ghany: Only in your district and in Councilwoman Keys, there was an additional $100,000.00 spent there for only repairs. Most of the work that was done last year…

Councilman Bien-Aime: But for new and repairs it was about $400,000.00 only in my district.

City Manager Ghany: In your district that’s correct.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But in Council Keys was $280,000.00 between new and repair.

City Manager Ghany: Most of those were repairs.
Councilman Bien-Aime: And from what I understand you have an RFP out for $200,000.00 for new installation and repair.

City Manager Ghany: That’s correct.

Councilman Bien-Aime: I think 150 is going to be spent in District 3 to do the sidewalk on 127th and other areas. That means when it comes to sidewalks in my district and I think I’m on top of that.

City Manager Ghany: That’s District 3 but throughout the City I believe…

Councilman Bien-Aime: Yeah for that $200,000.00 it’s going to be throughout the City.

City Manager Ghany: I believe two years ago when a presentation was done here on sidewalks, the City actually requires about really $3.2 million dollars just to keep up with the repairs and the amount of sidewalk repairs that is required. So $100,000.00 allocation is just a minimal…

Councilman Bien-Aime: But that $100,000.00 is not part of the ½ penny of the Transportation money.

City Manager Ghany: No it’s separate.

Councilman Bien-Aime: They’re separate. That means you always can use the transportation for sidewalks.

City Manager Ghany: It depends on the location because there are restrictions on the Transportation Fund as well.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But also in the CRA you can use those capital improvements for sidewalks.

City Manager Ghany: Correct but also restrictions. Only for construction of new sidewalks not repairs.

Councilman Bien-Aime: We understand that.

Vice-Mayor Keys: (Inaudible – simultaneous discussion) repair sidewalks.

Councilman Bien-Aime: No I’m talking about construction.
Mayor Joseph: Capital Improvement projects. Again, what I was actually asking following the expression I got concern about the sidewalks requesting more money. If that were to be done in a form of a motion to vote on and I think I would consider that.

Councilman Bien-Aime: I have to vote…I think we lay out everything that we need. I think you are going to come up…

Mayor Joseph: How much are you recommending that we put aside for sidewalks, new sidewalks and repairs?

City Manager Ghany: (Inaudible) spent last alone we spent $480,000.00.

Mayor Joseph: In one district?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Yeah.

City Manager Ghany: $280,000.00 approximately in District 2. I believe in District 1 we spent a little less than $100,000.00. District 4 was only repairs, you know minor repairs and that’s throughout the City.

Councilman Bien-Aime: And you have another $200,000.00 out there?

City Manager Ghany: Presently there’s an RFP out there.

Councilman Bien-Aime: You haven’t start that for $200,000.00.

City Manager Ghany: But most of that is going to be spent in District 3.

Councilman Galvin: Mr. Mayor, I’d move that we eliminate the City Council Aides that total approximately $150,000.00 and move that money towards sidewalk repair.

Vice-Mayor Keys: I’d second that for discussion.

Councilman Desulme: Is it discussion?

Vice-Mayor Keys: If I could say something? I know that I could use some assistance because since I’ve been in office we’ve had aides coming and going. And I virtually have no assistance whatsoever with answering constituent calls, keeping track. I’m doing it really myself. I could use some help. But whether we actually need five separate aides at 29 hours, I think that’s a bit exurbanite. So if we could keep some
money to hire one or two, I could use some assistance. But I personally don’t need 29 hours.

City Clerk Etienne: Councilman Galvin, your motion was to…

Councilman Desulme: Hold on, it’s discussion.

City Clerk Etienne: I just wanted to verify. Was it to allocate it to sidewalk improvements or to Police Department hiring? I didn’t hear the last part. Your motion was to eliminate the Constituent Service Aides and allocate the funds to…

Councilman Galvin: $150,000.00 doesn’t get you far with Police Department. I mean…

Councilman Bien-Aime: It’s 120 for the aides.

Councilman Galvin: I motion that it be moved towards sidewalk repairs. If the Body wants to vote that down and move it to the Cops, I mean that’s going to be worth like one cop at $60,000.00.

City Manager Ghany: One cop is approximately $160,000.00 on the street with the Police car, all the equipment and everything with pension and all the other allocations. It costs the City approximately $160,000.00 per Officer, per Sworn Officer.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Yeah but at the same time we have PSA that we can use the money for PSA.

City Manager Ghany: Direction, you need to tell us whether you want the Sworn Officer or a…

Councilman Galvin: Forget Sworn Officers, that’s why I want to get down and…that’s why I was going after all the Parks and all those other Directors. We are seriously heavy with Staff and we can do away with almost all of that and move that over to the Police Department. That’s when you’re coming up with some real money to come up with cops. But if we’re going to just talk about the 130, $140,000.00 from the aides, put that in the sidewalks.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Mr. Mayor, if I may? Through the recommendations or the suggestions of salaries, the City Attorney salary. If it’s the will to drop the salary to $175,000.00. Through the City Manager, if it is the will to drop the salary to $195,000.00. If it is the will to reduce the lobbyist by $31,000.00, right now we’re talking about $252,000.00 we have available. If you guys want to make those changes.
Councilman Desulme: But there are some other line items I specifically mentioned. Nobody kind of said anything. But now all of a sudden… (inaudible – simultaneous discussion). But it seems like you’re taking money away from…cause I made suggestions before.

Mayor Joseph: We understand that. There was a motion and discussion.

Councilman Desulme: Are we in discussion?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Yeah. And for discussion about that money and Mr. City Manager by experience and I understand that the ½ penny Transportation money can be used for sidewalk. When you put that $100,000.00, when you have capital improvement from the CRA, that mean you have a lot of money available that we can use for sidewalk besides that $100,000.00.

City Manager Ghany: That’s correct.

Mayor Joseph: Let’s decide an amount tonight.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But Mr. Mayor what I was saying, it’s like last year $100,000.00 was allocated to sidewalks throughout the City about $200,000.00. But we end up spending about 600 to $800,000.00 in sidewalks only because of the ½ penny. Because of the CRA we can repair and new sidewalk. Like in my district only…

City Manager Ghany: Most of it was spent in District 3 Councilman. So I believe…

Councilman Bien-Aime: No you spent…280…

City Manager Ghany: In repairs in Keystone and Sans Souci area.

Councilman Bien-Aime: And 400 and something in my district. That mean it was $100,000.00 budgeted for that but you end up spending almost $800,000.00 because in the Budget you used capital improvement money…

City Manager Ghany: We reallocated capital improvement and right of way improvement funds to cover it, that’s correct.

Councilman Bien-Aime: I don’t think the sidewalk is an important item to find money elsewhere and put it in that $100,000.00 because we have other avenues that we can go find money for sidewalks.
City Manager Ghany: As I said, the two sources of funding that you’re referring which is CRA and Transportation. There are restrictions on those funds.

Councilman Bien-Aime: We understand Aleem. We said new sidewalks. We understand.

Vice-Mayor Keys: I’ll withdraw my second to… I think what we need to do is go through a lot of these big line items and get numbers and then we allocate it.

Councilman Desulme: I agree. Are we will discussing…

Councilman Galvin: I’ll withdraw my motion to eliminate the five aide positions. I’ll withdraw that if somebody wants to suggest something different, go for it.

Mayor Joseph: What I would like to suggest is maybe give direction to Staff to see if we can at least save us some money from other projects and programs to get at least about one million dollars allocated for sidewalk repairs.

Councilman Galvin: Shaving off a million dollars (inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Mayor Joseph: I mean whatever you people are planning for the future, you see what you’ve been doing in the past, if last year we spent about $1.2 million. So we should estimate and we should project that we’re probably going to need about the same. And we’re talking a City that is nine point square…

City Manager Ghany: 9.3.

Mayor Joseph: 9.3 square miles and this is a City that was built back in the 40s, 50s and it’s an old city. And we have to… we cannot just keep going like trying to patch things up as we go along. Some cities they have actually a one year, two year, three year, four year, five year plan. So why can’t we in the City of North Miami do the exact same. Why should we just go and then this week and this week we do this and do that. Let’s have a comprehensive plan for our City if we are to move it to a new level not patching things up as we go along. I would like to see us go and identify at least about a million dollars for our comprehensive plan for sidewalk for the upcoming year. We can do it.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I understand Mr. Mayor. Right now all the projects that we did list which was listed in Non-Departmental was about $794,000.00. In making changes, if we do want to make changes right now and if we’re looking for a million dollars, Staff’s first recommendation would be to eliminate those projects. The next recommendation would be to eliminate the cars that we’re looking at purchasing.
Councilman Desulme: Not all of them, the 40.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The 40 additional cars we were looking at purchasing. And that basically would bring your amount up to...I mean a little over $1.1 million dollars. To just Staff to go in and to find a million dollars without just cutting these big items, we would have to be talking about reductions in personnel. If you choose there’s $500,000.00 that we had budgeted for the COLA increases...

Mayor Joseph: No, no, no don’t even go there.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I’m not going there sir.

Mayor Joseph: I’m not going to touch the employee’s salary increase.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: And I’m not making that recommendation. I’m just saying to get to that number that we’re looking for and if this Body wants that number, some serious changes would have to be made for a million dollars. And us going back to the table ourselves and making those cuts, the cuts will be significant. So to echo what Councilman Galvin says, you’re talking about making some cuts again that’s coming back to you guys in the Second Budget Hearing and basically going with a whole new book for you if you want to do a million dollars.

Mayor Joseph: I’ve been asking for the street repairs and the sidewalk repairs for months now. And for months I’ve been alerting you, I’ve been asking you. I say when the new Budget comes please I want to see a big chunk of money allocated for street repair including the sidewalks. It’s very important because I’m the one that get the calls. I’ve been sending you the pictures. When I text you and then we go and visit them, I got all of the pictures here.

Councilman Galvin: Question for you Mr. Mayor. And I guess this is really for Staff. We still haven’t closed on the sale of our land at SoliMia, am I correct?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes sir.

City Manager Ghany: No we haven’t closed.

Councilman Galvin: If and when that sale closes, how much money will come to the City and when approximately will that come?

City Manager Ghany: We actually got the closing documents last Thursday. I’ve spoken to the developer today. I think within the next two to three weeks, the closing should be done.
Councilman Galvin: And how much will that bring into the City within that two to three weeks?

City Manager Ghany: With the present contract that we have for the sale of the property, we’re looking at six million dollars because it’s approximately 55 acres. Six million dollars as the first deposit with an additional $1.67 million for the next 10 years.

Councilman Galvin: So if we get on October 15th, we’re into the new Budget year, $6 million dollars on October 15th, here’s a check. How do we deal with that budgetarily? I mean we can sit over here and fight with each other for $100,000.00 for sidewalks, $100,000.00 for the City. What is the administration’s plans for that $6 million dollars?

City Manager Ghany: What it is, it’s going to be added revenue to your Budget. And there’s going to be a Budget amendment based on that $6 million coming in, in this Fiscal Year. So unless there’s an allocation for that $6 million right now, it’s going to unallocated if we get it for the next Fiscal Year, unallocated funds.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Councilman, upon the receipt of the $6 million dollars, right now we did balance the Budget without looking at the $6 million dollars. That’s what our goal was to do. If you do get $6 million dollars it would definitely be Staff recommendation to put at a minimum about $3 million, two to $3 million dollars in the Reserves. The rest of the money will be used on various projects. I would definitely say that we would have caution. It would be projects that don’t create additional maintenance or other additional cost to us. It’s one time money so we wouldn’t be looking to create any new positions with this money because it is one time revenues that will be coming in. So you can’t count on that money moving forward. So that’s it. The major thing would be to put probably half of it in reserves. The other half to do something that actually does a return on investment.

Councilman Galvin: Our Reserves are currently how much?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Five million dollars sir.

Councilman Galvin: We’ve burned some revenue there cause that five million we put on addition to what we had. So we’ve been spending that but let’s say we get $6 million and we put $3 million in Reserves that means we have $3 million to work with. You can take $1 million and split it up over five years and have two cops at 160 for those five years. My math is a little rough, no? I mean we sometimes get grants from the State.

City Manager Ghany: We have applied.
Councilman Galvin: And then we have the cop in hand, so to speak, for that brief of time that we have the grant. We can almost consider some of that SoliMia money as a grant, even though we can’t create positions for the next 30 years. We could create a few positions for the next five years. I’m just throwing out an idea.

City Manager Ghany: Another thing that has come to light too as well is, since this is CRA, the only area for our TIF funds, our Tax Increment Finances is actually based our CRA based on the SoliMia cite is actually funding Police Officers from the CRA revenues themselves.

Councilman Galvin: Right but I was just talking about the straight up sale of the 55 acres at SoliMia. That cash, we could get a little bit more creative with. And if we’re looking to put Police Officers on the street, you can put a couple more on the street using a fraction of that $6 million. Even if you put half of it in Reserve. If you need to make structural repairs at the stadium, you can use some of that money to make structural repairs out at the stadium. After wasting everybody’s time tonight, I’m now saving everybody a little time by saying, let’s not forget that that money is real close around the corner and let’s not claw each other’s eyes out tonight to try to figure out how to do some of those things when we can do that in three weeks. That’s just a suggestion. But I’m still am going to be clawing at some of these Staff positions that you guys have.

Mayor Joseph: All right so the motion was…

City Clerk Etienne: It was withdrawn.

Mayor Joseph: It was withdrawn right?

City Clerk Etienne: That’s correct.

Vice-Mayor Keys: May I say something? Is the Council…are you all in agreement…I mean I’ve listed three line items for $135,000.00. The Manager’s salary, the Attorney’s salary and bringing the federal lobbyist from 80 back down to 30, there’s $135,000.00.

Councilman Bien-Aime: The Federal lobbyist, we don’t have a Federal lobbyist. We eliminated it. It was zero last year.

Vice-Mayor Keys: It was 30 last year, we raised it to 80. I would like to at least take 50 back out.
Councilman Bien-Aime: We spent $30,000.00 in Federal lobbyist last year?

City Manager Ghany: There was a line item allocated for $30,000.00.

Councilman Bien-Aime: For a Federal lobbyist?

Vice-Mayor Keys: I don’t feel that he took it all out or not. But I’m saying at least…

Councilman Bien-Aime: But we don’t have any major…

Vice-Mayor Keys: But we increased it by 50, let’s take at least the 50 out.

Councilman Galvin: Someone make a motion.

Vice-Mayor Keys: I make a motion.

Councilman Bien-Aime: I second you on the motion.

Mayor Joseph: And it passes.

Vice-Mayor Keys: My motion would be the attorney at 175…

Councilman Galvin: He doesn’t have it…

Vice-Mayor Keys: Let’s change the salary of the attorney to $175, the Manager to $190 and the Federal lobbyist back down to 30, which would be $135,000.00.

Mayor Joseph: The attorney to what?

Vice-Mayor Keys: One-seventy five.

Mayor Joseph: And what is it now?

City Manager Ghany: Two-twenty six.

Councilman Galvin: And the Manager to 190?

City Manager Ghany: And the Manager from the same number to 190.

Mayor Joseph: I seriously (inaudible) for the sidewalks.
City Manager Ghany: You’re going to get with the Biscayne Landings funds.

Councilman Galvin: You’re saying that but you’re going to be gone by then. You retired.

City Clerk Etienne: So the motion that I have on the floor. Motion; Vice-Mayor Keys makes the following motion to reduce the Attorney salary to $175,000.00 that’s currently in the Budget to reduce the Manager’s salary to $190,000.00 and to reduce…I’m sorry the Federal lobbyist to reduce it back down to $30,000.00. That’s the motion made by Vice-Mayor Keys, do I have a second?

Councilman Desulme: Second for discussion.

Councilman Bien-Aime: I second already.

Councilman Desulme: You did?

Mayor Joseph: We already passed it.

Councilman Desulme: Yes, if we voted I’m voting no. I didn’t think we voted. I thought it was open for discussion.

Councilman Galvin: Keys made the motion and Bien-Aime seconded the motion.

Councilman Desulme: Vice-Mayor Keys I absolutely agree with the lobbyist but I do think that we are in a transition phase for North Miami. We have to look at the best out of the best. We don’t know who we’re getting. I think we just have to be a little bit careful in capping especially the top two best persons in our City. I’m not talking everybody’s salary because I don’t have any problem with that. I do think that you need to get…you get what you pay for. I mean I decided to be a teacher and I’m making which is nothing but that’s the part that I decided to do that. But if we are moving forward and this is a City, we’re trying to attract the best. My suggestion is, let’s say that we meet and give the professional opinion and let them come back with us. You need a million, I need $300,000.00, a hundred for my senior program, 150 for the playground and $50,000.00 for the books, that’s $300,000.00. I do not mind anything else. I’m okay with this Budget cause we spent five hours between Terry and Duke going over it. If you do that, I’m okay. That’s just my motion.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Can we get some averages because 226 is really higher than I mean anywhere? And if we put it there, it’s going to get spent. We in the past gave some very high salaries.
and we’ve been stuck with it. We have two new positions that will be open. So now is the time. We don’t have anybody out there that we’re going to be disparaging saying you’re not worth this, you’re not worth it. We don’t know who’s going to be out there. Now is the time to cut the salary.

City Manager Ghany: With all due respect Councilman. The RFP out for your…presently for your City Attorney, it ranges from $225,000.00 to $600,000.00. In Miami-Dade County your managers make anywhere from $160,000.00 to $275,000.00 and that’s the range within Miami-Dade County.

Councilman Desulme: Our neighboring cities around us, I’m not counting Biscayne Park just the big ones.

Mayor Joseph: North Miami Beach is one what, 180?

City Manager Ghany: North Miami Beach is approximately $180 yeah.

Councilman Desulme: They’re much smaller. I’m saying the top four since we’re number five. Okay Miami Gardens.

Councilman Bien-Aime: They’re bigger.

Councilman Desulme: I know they’re bigger but I’m just trying to get…we can’t go lower.

City Manager Ghany: I will have to find out. I don’t want to give you a number that I don’t…

Councilman Desulme: I mean Councilwoman Keys, I’m okay with 200 but these are professionals.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But what you have to understand Councilman Desulme, people that say no, no, no. But $175 you’re going to get…somebody that’s doing good out there is not going to come for $175,000.00, you need to understand that. If you want anybody, that’s fine. But if you want someone that’s doing good, like a law firm, you’re not going to find a good one. That’s what you need to understand that. But another thing, if in the process of hiring a City Attorney we find out that we’re okay with someone and that person in order to be here need more money, then we do the adjustment. We can do that.

Vice-Mayor Keys: So can we bring it down to $200,000.00 each and then we’ll save $50,000.00? So hopefully we can find (inaudible – simultaneous discussion).
Councilman Bien-Aime: It can be negotiated. If it’s $75 it’s better to negotiate a higher pay…

Vice-Mayor Keys: We can always find somebody. If you put it up there that it’s this high, they’re going to take it.

City Manager Ghany: Can I make a suggestion? Throughout the year there’s always people leaving the City and Staff coming in. The Staff that is coming in is always coming in at the lower rate. There’s always salary savings with Police Officers, General Employees when hired. Fifteen or $20,000.00 to make up salary for a City Manager or a City Attorney can be done. Budgetarily, we will make the adjustment.

Councilman Bien-Aime: That mean you’re okay with our recommendation?

City Manager Ghany: The recommendation that is made we can do it. Based on salary savings and we can do the corrective measures during the course of the year.

City Clerk Etienne: So Mayor, would you like a roll call vote or a general vote on Councilwoman Keys motion?’

Councilman Galvin: Mr. Mayor, I’m unclear. Are we under the original motion of dropping $226 to $175 and $190 or are we under an amended motion?

Mayor Joseph: No, no we are with the new motion.

City Clerk Etienne: Would you like to amend your motion Councilwoman Keys? And if you are, may you please state the terms?

Vice-Mayor Keys: So I will amend it to lower the City Attorney to $200,000.00 and the City Manager to $200,000.00 and the Federal Lobbyist from 80 back down to 30.

City Clerk Etienne: What was that?

Councilman Bien-Aime: From 80 to 30.

City Clerk Etienne: Okay Councilwoman Keys amended that motion. May I have a second to that amended motion?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Second.
City Clerk Etienne: Motion was seconded by Councilman Bien-Aime. All in favor? AYE. All opposed? Item passes. The amendment passes 5 – 0.

Councilman Galvin: Mr. Manager, I’d like to make an additional…I’d like to amend the Council Aides. I’d like to reduce the number of Council Aides from its proposed five to two.

Mayor Joseph: How are you going to allocate them? Whom are they going to represent?

Councilman Bien-Aime: I do need one.

Councilman Galvin: They need to…somebody…I’m telling you right now. I get a mess of constituent case work, a mess. I have a list…

City Manager Ghany: (Inaudible) of over a hundred.

Councilman Galvin: I have a list of over 100 constituents that every Monday I’m throwing at you. If you gave me carte blanche to walk through this City Hall, I could close out those hundred in less than a weeks’ time. We really don’t need to have somebody for each person. You can have one that does the even districts, one that does the odd districts. And there are already two Constituents…what was their title?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Coordinators.

Councilman Galvin: Coordinators in the Mayor/Council Office. They can be the Mayor’s people. I’m just making this up right now. I still think it’s too much but I’m trying to meet everybody half way. We’re a City of sixty to 70,000 people. We don’t need a Mayor/Council staff that’s double the number of Mayor/Council. So I’ll again suggest that my motion would be to reduce the number of Council Aides from three to two. Excuse me from five to two.

City Clerk Etienne: Do I have a second to Councilman Galvin’s motion? Item fails for lack of second. Do I have a motion to approve…I’m sorry Mayor.

Mayor Joseph: Where are we now?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We’re going to have to vote on the Budget. The money that we’ve reduced, is there a recommendation where the money is going to that we just reduced from the salaries?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Based on the recommendation you’re going to…
Councilman Desulme: Councilman Galvin, the stadium, the senior program, the Library books.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: It’s $102,000.00.

Councilman Desulme: You only have 200?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: $102,000.00 you guys just…

Councilman Desulme: What about the cars? We didn’t talk about that. That’s $400,000.00.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Are we removing the cars? The 25 cars are already under contract. That’s all, we’re not doing any additional cars.

Councilman Desulme: We don’t have the money because we got to fix the bathrooms, the seniors and the Library books.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Okay.

Councilman Bien-Aime: But how many new cars you’re going to buy?

Councilman Desulme: Twenty-five.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Twenty-five new besides those…

Councilman Desulme: We got to do something for the people.

Councilman Galvin: You guys need to tell us. Somebody step in here and lead.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: This is not…there are 25 cars that are under contract period. We have to…

Councilman Bien-Aime: For about 300…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: $352,000.00. We’re leaving that. In moving forward, we’re not buying any new cars. Are we going to make a motion to eliminate any new cars going forward?

Councilman Bien-Aime: No, no, no we can’t do that. But you take me to a car that was broken in the street and now you’re saying we’re not buying any new cars.
Councilman Desulme: No we’re buying 25 though.

Councilman Bien-Aime: No we’re not buying any, that’s what he’s saying.

Councilman Desulme: So wait, what is the 352 for? Because I sat with Terry, I saw with the Chief cause I’m trying to understand. The 352 is for what?

Councilman Bien-Aime: The lease to buy (inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Deputy City Manager Sorey: …we need to buy the 25 cars that’s already been under contract for us to purchase.

Councilman Desulme: And that’s a million dollar obligation we have to pay. So how many new cars is that?

Councilman Bien-Aime: No new cars.

Councilman Desulme: No it is new cars. It’s 25 correct?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes.

Councilman Desulme: So we are getting 25 new cars correct? Councilman…are we getting 25 new cars?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Twenty-five in the FY 14 – 15 Budget.

Councilman Desulme: Thank you. We are getting 25 new cars.

Councilman Bien-Aime: (Inaudible – simultaneous discussion) 25 new cars?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: In the FY 14 – 15 Budget. That you approved. You approved that a couple of months ago maybe a month ago.

Councilman Bien-Aime: You haven’t purchased those cars?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: The Purchase Order is in to purchase the cars.

City Manager Ghany: We’re in the process of getting those cars.

Councilman Bien-Aime: That mean you have 25 cars coming in.
Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes. Staff is recommending…

Councilman Bien-Aime: But you didn’t tell me that.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: That’s the 352. Staff is recommending to buy an additional 40 cars this Fiscal Year for the next Fiscal Year.

Mayor Joseph: 15 – 16.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: For 15 – 16.

Mayor Joseph: On the top of the 25.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: On top of the 25.

Councilman Bien-Aime: The way he explained it to me last time, you said last year we purchased cars, right?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Twenty-five years.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Three years lease right? And you said it’s about $380 something thousand dollars.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Three fifty two is the exact number yes.

Councilman Bien-Aime: To pay those cars.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Yes.

Councilman Bien-Aime: That’s already in the street?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: They’re not in the street.

Councilman Bien-Aime: That’s new cars?

City Manager Ghany: They’re on order. They’re not in street as yet.

Mayor Joseph: The ones for 14 – 15, they were ordered but not yet delivered. We want to get an additional 40.

Councilman Bien-Aime: We are still getting new cars for the Police Department.
Mayor Joseph: And the additional 40 would cost how much again?

Councilman Bien-Aime: That’s how you mislead me the information.

City Manager Ghany: A little over nine hundred and something, yes.

Mayor Joseph: Those are the ones that you want to put money for other things.

Councilman Desulme: I was saying with the Police that Council or Vice-Mayor Keys mentioned and get them… (inaudible – simultaneous discussion).

Deputy City Manager Sorey: I’m sorry Councilman for interrupting you. Right now if you want to make a change to the cars, you have $431,000.00 of General Fund money. If we buy no cars moving forward there’s $431,000.00 to spend.

Mayor Joseph: Towards sidewalks.

Councilman Galvin: Here’s where we can make a difference in the Police Department.

Councilman Bien-Aime: There’s money for sidewalks in Capital Improvement. Fixing the home is more important than…we’ll find the money for sidewalks. Can I make a motion to add that $431,000.00…

City Clerk Etienne: But you guys need to make a motion to eliminate it yet.

City Manager Ghany: There’s a motion on the floor.

City Clerk Etienne: Councilman Desulme has to articulate his motion for the record and then we’ll get a second. Once that money is removed, then you make a motion to allocate. So whenever you’re ready Councilman Galvin with the permission of the Mayor, please articulate your motion for the record.

Councilman Galvin: I didn’t have a motion.

Councilman Desulme: I did.

City Clerk Etienne: I said Councilman…I’m sorry.

Councilman Galvin: We get confused all the time.
Councilman Desulme: My motion is, if we can keep and you word it the correct way. Keep the 25 new cars that we’re getting. This year we reallocate the $400 and something thousand dollars back to General Funds for whatever. And if we get Biscayne Landing money, we can get 25 new cars.

City Clerk Etienne: If I’m getting this understood. The motion is simply this, continue with the 25 new cars that you’ve already allocated to purchase and disregard the additional new cars that you want to purchase. The 40 new cars that you want to purchase. The additional 40 new cars that was being purchased, disregard that and just move forward with only the 25 new cars that you’ve already allocated to purchase. Is that your motion Councilman Desulme?

Councilman Desulme: Yes sir.

City Clerk Etienne: Do I have a second to approve that motion?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Second.

City Clerk Etienne: That motion was made by Councilman Desulme...

Vice-Mayor Keys: May I ask a question?

City Clerk Etienne: …and seconded by Councilman Bien-Aime.

Vice-Mayor Keys: The 25 cars that we’ve allocated was that this year’s budget or next year’s?

Mayor Joseph: Last year, I mean 14 – 15.

City Manager Ghany: Your present Fiscal Budget yes.

Vice-Mayor Keys: You wouldn’t want to do half of them or 20 cars?

Councilman Bien-Aime: We actually have 25 cars that’s coming in.

City Manager Ghany: Councilwoman, the Purchase Order is already…we have to pay. We’re awaiting delivery on the 25.

Councilman Desulme: So the 352, we are paying the 352 in this year’s budget.

Mayor Joseph: Okay, there is a motion…
City Clerk Etienne: There’s a motion…thank you Mayor. There’s a motion and second. All in favor? AYE. All opposed? Councilman Desulme’s amendment passes 5 – 0.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Now with that change now there’s approximately and with the changes made to the salaries, we approximately $533,000.00 remaining.

Mayor Joseph: Of which 250 is for PAL.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: We need direction on how to allocate the…

Councilman Galvin: How much? I’m sorry guys (inaudible – simultaneous discussion). I did not hear. Mr. Mayor through you to Mr. Sorey. How much money is now available?

Deputy City Manager Sorey: $533,000.00 is now available.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Make a motion for at least $250,000.00 of that going towards sidewalk improvements.

Councilman Desulme: Second.

City Clerk Etienne: Okay. So I have a motion made by Vice-Mayor Keys and the motion is made that $250,000.00 of the funds go to sidewalks. Now is the sidewalks Citywide?

Mayor Joseph: Citywide.

City Clerk Etienne: So Councilwoman Keys motion is to…

Councilman Bien-Aime: For District 3.

City Clerk Etienne: Councilwoman Keys motion is to take $250,000.00 and allocate those to sidewalk improvements Citywide and that motion was seconded by Councilman Desulme.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Since it’s $431,000.00, can we allocate both money and then we call it a day. Five hundred and thirty-three, can we allocate the rest for housing rehab?

Councilman Desulme: No because…
Councilman Bien-Aime: They’ll find the money.

Councilman Desulme: What money are you going to find?

Mayor Joseph: We want to just continue with the motion. Let’s continue, we can always make a second motion.

City Clerk Etienne: Okay so the motion was made and stated on the record by Councilwoman Keys. It was seconded by Councilman Desulme. And just to repeat the motion, the motion is to take $250,000.00 and allocate it to sidewalk repairs Citywide. All in favor? AYE. All opposed? Vice-Mayor Keys motion is approved 5 – 0.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Following that, now the remaining balance now is $283,000.00.

Councilman Bien-Aime: Exactly and we have…in the General Fund we have $100,000.00 that was allocated for housing rehab.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: $110,000.00.

Councilman Bien-Aime: I make a motion to add $150,000.00 to that line. That mean it’s going to be 250 instead of $100,000.00.

Mayor Joseph: Take the whole thing, take the whole 250.

Councilman Desulme: No, no we need books. Don’t take the whole thing.

Councilman Bien-Aime: No we already have money for the books. $200,000.00 for housing rehab.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: So you want the total to be $200,000.00 for housing rehab?

Councilman Bien-Aime: No $200,000.00 toward that…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: From the 283?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Yes.

Vice-Mayor Keys: What 283?
Councilman Galvin: That remains of the 533.

City Clerk Etienne: So Councilman Bien-Aime has made a motion to allocate…you said $230,000.00?

Councilman Bien-Aime: Two hundred flat.

City Clerk Etienne: $200,000.00 to the Housing Rehab, is that Citywide or the District?

Mayor Joseph: Citywide.

City Clerk Etienne: $200,000.00 to Housing Rehabilitation. So we’re going to take $200,000.00 and we’re going to allocate it to Housing Rehabilitation Citywide. And that is Councilman Bien-Aime’s motion. Do I have a second?

Mayor Joseph: Second.

City Clerk Etienne: That motion was seconded by Mayor Joseph. All in favor? AYE. All opposed? Item passes 5 – 0.

Councilman Desulme: What do we have left?

Mayor Joseph: $80,000.00.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: $83,000.00 is left now.

Councilman Desulme: Make a motion for the books.

City Clerk Etienne: Councilman Desulme has made a motion to allocate the $80,000.00 to the Library books.

Councilman Desulme: No, not 80, 50. Fifty, let’s start slow.

Councilman Galvin: There’s eighty three remaining, $83,000.00 remaining.

Councilman Desulme: $50,000.00 for Library books.

City Clerk Etienne: Councilman Desulme has made a motion to allocate $50,000.00 to purchase Library books. And that is $50,000.00.
Vice-Mayor Keys: Second for discussion.

City Clerk Etienne: That motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Keys.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Is there a Librarian here? Lucia, do we need…you can shake your head. Do we need $50,000.00 for books? Okay, thank you.

Mayor Joseph: Okay motion passed.

City Clerk Etienne: All in favor? AYE. All opposed. Councilman Desulme’s motion has been approved 5 – 0.

Mayor Joseph: Mr. Manager you introduced more Parks that I’ve been touring with you like 140 something street that I told you that I wanted to see some benches and some trees. Can you get that $33,000.00 to do those little…

City Manager Ghany: If allocated, we can.

City Clerk Etienne: Mayor Smith Joseph has made a motion and can you please restate your motion sir.

Mayor Joseph: To allocate the $33,000.00…

Councilman Galvin: There’s only $3,000.00 now remaining.

Mayor Joseph: $33,000.00…

City Manager Ghany: Parks improvements, including trees, benches and garbage cans.

Councilman Bien-Aime: 143rd and 16th?

Mayor Joseph: The last one we visited.

City Manager Ghany: 145th and I believe it’s like 17th.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Does that include some garbage cans?

Mayor Joseph: Yes. Garbage cans, benches.

Vice-Mayor Keys: We could use…I’ve had a request. We could really use some garbage cans along Dixie Highway near the high school where the kids are walking and doing the garbage.
City Clerk Etienne: The motion I have on the floor from Mayor Smith Joseph, is to allocate $33,000.00 to Parks improvements.

City Manager Ghany: To Parks improvements.

City Clerk Etienne: That’s the motion.

Councilman Bien-Aime: In District 1.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Second.

City Clerk Etienne: Just for the record so we don’t have no confusion, this is Citywide.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Second.

City Clerk Etienne: So allocate $33,000.00 to park improvements Citywide. That motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Keys. All in favor? AYE. All opposed? Item passes 5 – 0. Now do I have a motion, Mayor with your permission? To approve Tab B, which is the Budget with the amendments...

Councilman Desulme: No, no sir, we’re not done yet.

City Clerk Etienne: I’m sorry, I thought we were.

Councilman Desulme: Mr. Manager, we still got to talk about the seniors. Can you guys please find a little…what’s going to happen between now cause we only made minor changes. The little playground and the senior programs.

Deputy City Manager Sorey: Staff will go back. How much money are we looking for?

Councilman Desulme: I don’t know. You guys…you seen the playground at Pepper. I don’t know how much it costs. The Parks Director…but I know we’re talking about $125,000.00 to start the senior program, that’s all.

Vice-Mayor Keys: Do we have consensus or we do...for the adult education. Do we still need $100,000.00 or can we shave $40,000.00 off there?

Mayor Joseph: No, why you want to do that?

Vice-Mayor Keys: Because we’ve always used $60,000.00.
Councilman Galvin: We keep throwing $100,000.00 at it but they’re only spending fifty to sixty.

Mayor Joseph: But the money stays here right?

City Manager Ghany: The remaining goes back into the Budget.

Mayor Joseph: So it goes back into the Budget anyway.

City Manager Ghany: I think what the Councilwoman is requesting is that we allocate the…

Mayor Joseph: The principal left. He’s not here to defend himself.

Councilman Desulme: I’m saying, are they going to use it. We’re all for it.

Mayor Joseph: My understanding is that a lot of people were not able to pay the $35.00 fee and some of the teachers were let go because they couldn’t accommodate for some of the salaries. And that’s why we wanted to partially subsidize that program. I think I would leave that alone.

Vice-Mayor Keys: So why don’t they use the $40,000.00.

City Manager Ghany: It’s $100,000.00 allocated every year and it’s only approximately 60 was spent.

Vice-Mayor Keys: That’s because they’re not using it. So let’s allocate it…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: If FY 14 – 15, $50,000.00 was budgeted. Right now we’re on track to probably spend approximately right at $50,000.00, maybe a little less maybe about forty-five. The prior year FY 13 – 14, $100,000.00 was budgeted. I believe $87,000.00 was spent. The high school does curtail their recruitment allowing people to go according to the money that…

Mayor Joseph: According to what they have…

Deputy City Manager Sorey: So if we told them they had $20,000.00.

Councilman Desulme: Vice-Mayor Keys, can I please make a minor suggestion. That perhaps you guys as the professional Duke, if you like to see something, I think let’s just…just like I told my two projects and let them come back. Because magically they come back with something.
Mayor Joseph: I think I would rather afford the opportunity to the principal to really come and…

Councilman Desulme: We agree with them, it’s done.

Mayor Joseph: They need the money.

Vice-Mayor Keys: It wasn’t a motion. It was just a suggestion.

Mayor Joseph: We need a motion to approve the Budget.

City Clerk Etienne: I think we’re done now. Okay, so do I have a motion to approve Tab B, the Budget with the amendments to reflect…I’m sorry. The amendments to reflect the Budget as voted on tonight. Do I have a motion to approve? Motion was made by Councilman Desulme. It was seconded by Councilman Bien-Aime. I’m going to get a roll call vote. This is an ordinance.

ROLL CALL

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<tr>
<th>Council Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-Mayor Keys</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Councilman Bien-Aime</td>
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<td>Councilman Desulme</td>
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<td>Mayor Joseph</td>
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<td>Councilman Galvin</td>
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City Clerk Etienne: Item passes, 4 – 1.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Joseph: Okay we’ll take a 15 minute recess and we’ll reconvene at 8:30 for the General meeting.