



City of Margate

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Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Workshop

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano
Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz
Commissioners:
Anthony N. Caggiano, Lesa Peerman, Joanne Simone

Interim City Manager Samuel A. May
City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Monday, July 10, 2017

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

In Attendance:

Interim City Manager Samuel A. May
City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

1) PRESENTATION(S)

A. [ID 2017-470](#) FY 2017-2018 BUDGET WORKSHOP

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY provided a PowerPoint presentation. He explained that this Workshop was to present the proposed General Fund Budget Workshop for the Commission to set the maximum total millage rate. He stated that Margate was a family friendly community that brings a home town feel. He said that Margate's mission was to partner with the community to provide the highest quality services in a progressive and cost effective manner. He noted that the last Strategic Plan had the values of R.I.S.E., which stood for responsibility, integrity, service and excellence. He stated that the Margate employees rise to the challenge. He said that the new Strategic Plan would be coming soon with the word "Accountability" added.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that on the list for General Fund Budget per person for full service municipalities Margate was very low at \$1,000, compared to Cities ranging from \$786 to \$1,800. He explained that the Margate taxable values started in 2009, at \$3 million dollars, after which it went down in 2012. He noted that it was currently at the 2010. He stated that the total City millage was at 6.9 in 2009, and went to a peak of 7.9892 in 2012, and was currently back down to 7.0593. He stated that 50 percent of the people in Margate paid \$400 and up with about 50 percent paying less than \$400 in property taxes to the City. He mentioned that people spoke about Margate having a high millage rate and taxes and he pointed out that based on the average assessed single family home with the millage rate, Margate was paying \$629 taxes to the City. He stated that Cities like Lighthouse Point had taxes of \$1,987, and that Margate was the lowest

full service City in Broward County; however, Margate provided a very high level of services. He noted that Coconut Creek was not a full service City.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY showed a breakdown of the taxes in the City. He stated that for the average assessed value of \$139,000, with the Homestead Exemption of \$50,000, the total property taxes were \$2,119 with \$788 going to the School Board. He said that \$506 was going to Broward County Property Taxes and the City received \$629. He showed the Unassigned Fund balance was \$8.5 million dollars or 16.2 percent, which was where the percentage should be according to the GF08. He showed total Fund balances for Unassigned, Assigned and Committed and noted that there was a high amount in the Assigned Fund balances. He noted that Lighthouse Point, Lauderdale and Coral Springs were low, but Margate was doing okay. He stated that the Assigned Fund balances included health insurance, computer equipment, capital projects, emergency preparedness and vehicle replacements, etc. He explained that the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Assigned Fund balance was \$23,935,000 and the CAFR actual Fund balance was \$8.5 million dollars.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that some of the costs of doing business in the City was the 20 percent budgeted increase in health insurance. He said that the taxable value increase from 2017 was 11 percent with a two percent increase in Ad Valorem Tax Revenue, assuming there was no change to the total millage. He explained that if there was no change to the millage it would be 7.0593 mills, and there would be no increase to Building permit fees. He showed some of the incoming revenues, such as Public Safety Revenues, Ad Valorem Taxes and year-to-year General Fund Revenues. He noted the millage if decreased or increased by .25, .5 or by 1. He said that it would be \$682,000 for .25 up to \$2.7 million dollars for 1. He also showed the approximate City Tax for each homeowner as \$22 for a .25 raise.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted the General Fund Expenditures, which included Police and Fire, Parks and Recreation and Public Works. He noted that the year-to-year General Fund Expenditures were personal services, which included everyone in the City and all benefits associated with them. He stated that the total from 2017 to 2018 for operating transfers and capital outlay was \$61 million dollars to \$69 million dollars. He noted that it also included the addition of the Fire Station and the expenditure of the insurance increase.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY showed the department personal services and operating expenses department by department. He noted that there were some key personnel changes in some areas with no changes in other areas. He stated that there were no changes in the City Commission, City Attorney, City Clerk's office, Human Resources, Parks and Recreation or Public Works. He said that there were changes in the Building Department with the addition of an Electrical Inspector Plans Examiner and four part-time positions. He stated that the City Manager's office was looking into adding an Assistant City Manager and a Multi-Media Specialist. He stated that the Fire Department was adding seven Firefighter/Paramedics and the Police were adding two Police Officers with a Crime Scene Technician. He added that as part of the Enterprise Fund, a Treatment Plant Operator would be added, as well as an Electrical Instrumentation Technician and a Project Manager. He stated that some positions would be reclassified, such as the Grants Manager into the City Manager's office from the Economic Development Department. He added that an Account Clerk III would be reclassified to an Accounts Payable Supervisor; an Office Specialist II would be reclassified to Office Specialist III in the Police Department; and a Technology Application Specialist would be reclassified to a Systems Analyst in the IT Department.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that the General Fund outlay included the Law Library, 15 Police vehicles, miscellaneous equipment, Fire vehicles, storage structure and ground maintenance vehicles for Parks and Recreation. He added that the Capital Fund outlay included the First Station 58 replacement, Desktop Replacement Program for \$130,000, Dog Park \$1 million dollars, Firefighters Park improvements, Southeast Park improvements and Marina improvements to include a bathroom facility. He stated that Public Works had neighborhood identification signs, City Hall Police Department restroom renovations, City Hall elevator, and the Sports Complex re-roof.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that the operating millage was 6.5183 and the debt service millage was .5410. He said that the 2017 adopted Budget total millage was 7.0593. He noted that the City was proposing to keep it the same for 2018.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the Budget Message and a proposed Budget would be submitted to the Commission on August 15th with the first Public Hearing being held on Wednesday, September 6th at 5:01 PM. He stated that the second Public Hearing would be Tuesday, September 19th at 6:00 PM.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked the Interim City Manager for his presentation. He suggested going through the revenue, expenditures and then review each department.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that he worked diligently with Staff and the Finance Department, as well as each department to cut the Budgets to bare bones.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Simone, to lower the millage rate by .25.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that because the property values went up 11 percent, the money should go back to the residents. She noted that the \$680,000 could come from the \$2 million dollar increase received from the 11 percent or from the Resource Recovery Board.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

No: 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the Annual Operating Budget was for \$69 million dollars and he asked whether there any questions regarding expenditures and revenue. Hearing no questions, Mayor Ruzzano proceeded with a department by department review.

CITY COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the \$4,800 car allowance, the \$480 for a phone allowance and the \$108 for the life insurance could be placed back in the General Fund.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she did not take the health insurance, life insurance, car allowance, phone allowance or the Employee Trust Assistance; therefore, those amounts could be placed back in the General Fund. She stated that the residents

just received an increase of \$75 for the Fire Assessment Fees. She felt that the City should be good shepherds for the resident's money, which should start with the Commission setting the example. She wanted some things reduced or changed such as the Certificate Frames, Promotional Activities, Home of the Month and the Health Insurance. She clarified that the Home of the Month could use the same sign transferring it from home to home each month. She added that the Commission should take off their Health Insurance. She also wanted to see the donations for individuals and organizations stopped. She felt that the \$6,000 Travel Budget should be cut. She noted that it was raised on incidentals from \$5,000 to \$10,000; however, she wanted it cut back to \$5,000.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that she paid her own health insurance.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained that two Commissioners were making close to \$75,000 a year with salary and benefits received, which she felt was wrong. She noted that after 35 years as a Teacher, her salary was not that high. She noted that she wanted the car allowance to be removed; however, she believed it was necessary to wait for the Attorney General's opinion.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she wanted the cost of certificate frames decreased to no more than \$1 per frame or no more than \$300.

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH clarified that the account also included promotions for certificates and frames for unique situations, such as 35 year presentations. He noted that Commissioner Simone was referring to the frames used at the Commission meetings, which accounted for about \$3,500 with the other \$1,000 for other types of presentations.

CONSENSUS was not given to reduce the cost of frames.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE wanted to reduce the Home of the Month cost of \$1,500 for the year.

MAYOR RUZZANO mentioned the \$50 gift card.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN believed that it was a donation from Ace Hardware.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY said that they were being purchased from the City Manager's Budget for Ace Hardware.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that it would be coming from the City Commission Budget in 2018.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned where the signs were from.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that they were purchased from Vinylot. He clarified that the numbers provided were not the actual expense numbers, but what was budgeted. He said that \$900 was budgeted; therefore, \$900 was not to be exceeded.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that \$50 gift cards cost \$600 from the \$1,500 left \$900 for the signs, which cost \$708 for 12 signs.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that if he could find the signs cheaper he would do so.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE felt that the individuals were probably throwing them away and the City did not need to spend the money.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY clarified that this was a Budget or estimate, and that how to handle the operations could be discussed in the future.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that her concerns were on the record and she reiterated that she wanted to discuss Health Insurance.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that elected officials should not get Health Insurance.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that the elected officials should receive it because all other employees received it. He did not think it was fair that the two Commissioners who had insurance from a separate source were against it.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that she was against it before she was a Commissioner and since 2003, and had nothing to do with whether or not she received it. She stated that it was an elected position and the Commissioners were not City employees.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he filled out paperwork stating he was an employee.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that employees could be fired from their jobs by the City Manager or Department Heads; however, the Commission was elected and could not be fired. She said that as an elected official the Commission would be fired by a recall petition or not becoming elected.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE noted that she could have the City's insurance; however, she chose not to take it.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the City's Health Insurance cost \$21,326 for the Commissioners.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that she never took City insurance and did not take it now; however, she would not deny other people the benefit. She noted that three Commissioners had other sources of insurance.

CONSENSUS was given to keep the Commissioners City Health Insurance.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE mentioned reducing the Commission Travel to \$5,000.

CONSENSUS was given to reduce the Commission Travel to \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE wanted to reduce the City Commission General Budget for donations to \$5,000.

CONSENSUS was given to keep the donations at \$10,000 and not reduce it.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE wanted to reduce the Mayor's Fitness Challenge. She felt that T-shirts, trophies and plaques were not necessary.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned whether the students needed to receive both medals and plaques.

MAYOR RUZZANO said yes, because the students enjoyed it and would never forget it because it was a great program. He noted that only two winners received plaques.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the plaques came from the \$7,500 or did they come from the plaque allotment.

CITY CLERK KAVANAGH stated that the plaques came from the plaque account because the \$7,500 was already allocated to the Mayor's Fitness Challenge.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned whether the \$7,500 was used entirely.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the \$7,500 went to Mr. Schroeder to utilize for the event at three schools. He clarified that the \$7,500 paid for the T-shirts and everything, but was handled through the school.

CONSENSUS was given to keep the Mayor's Fitness Challenge at \$7,500.

MAYOR RUZZANO referred to Page 10 to discuss the Car Allowance of \$24,000. He stated that in 8 years the Commission had not received a raise; therefore, if receiving a 1.5 percent raise for those years and each Commissioner received a 12.5 percent raise, the allowance would be \$15,000, which would save the City \$9,000 after eliminating the Car Allowance.

CITY CLERK KAVANAGH clarified that 1.5 percent over 8 years equaled 12 percent.

A motion was made by Mayor Ruzzano, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that the Car Allowance be eliminated, but a 1.5 percent annual raise for 8 years be added for each Commissioner. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES questioned whether he should withdraw the request to the Attorney General for his opinion on the Car Allowance.

CONSENSUS was given to have the City Attorney withdraw the Attorney General request.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that money was paid out.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that any money paid out would be paid back.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether it could applied against the raise.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY said that the raise was for 2018.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that whatever he received for a Car Allowance could be taken from his next checks.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES suggested leaving the request out to the Attorney General and just agree that depending on what the Attorney General's opinion was, the three Commissioners who received the Car Allowance would not have to pay it back.

MAYOR RUZZANO said he would just take the loss.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that the opinion was not needed; however, she suggested paying it back over four months over eight paychecks for the people who received the Car Allowances.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that the cost savings was based on the base salary and did not include anything else. He said that he would calculate the actual savings and report back to the Commission at the First Public Hearing.

MANNY LUGO, 1129 East River Drive, mentioned the \$75 Fire Assessment and the City Manager mentioned a \$2 million dollar increase to the City. He asked whether the Ad Valorem would be increased.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that the amount of the assessed value of your home was increasing.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that because the assessed value went up the City was getting an extra \$2 million dollars from the Ad Valorem.

MR. LUGO asked that the Commission readdress the Fire Assessment and the recommendation that the Vice Mayor made to reduce it to \$250. He noted that the low income people were being hurt, were very angry and the Commission did not listen to them, which was a mistake. He said that the Commission's goals were logical; however, this was an emotional impact.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that this Budget was based on the \$300.

CITY MANAGER

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she wanted to see the 457 Retirement Plan to be readdressed when contract negotiations came forward. She understood that it could not be taken out of the Budget.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that the 457 was given because we had a prior City Manager who was not on the Pension Plans; therefore, as a contract agreement, a 457 Retirement Plan was provided. She added that it was also provided for the City Attorney. She noted that if in the Federal Retirement System (FRS) it was not provided. She explained that it was in Interim City Manager May's contract; however, he was previously an employee in the FRS system. She added that City Clerk Kavanagh received it because it was provided to two other Charter Officers.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned how much the 457 was with regard to money.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY thought it was seven percent.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that it was \$12,780, which went up each year based on the City Manager's salary. She noted that it was in addition to an FRS contribution. She clarified that a 457 Retirement Plan was a tax sheltered annuity. She asked the City Attorney whether he was vested or a member of the FRS prior to coming to Margate.

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES said that he was neither vested or a

member of FRS.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked why any member of the FRS needed a second pension when working for the City. She stated that she would not vote for that, because it was \$12,700 for one, \$12,700 for another and close to \$10,000 for the other, which she felt was a way to save money. She said that there was no legitimate reason for the second pension. She noted that their contracts did not renew annually, and that this could be discussed at any time.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he had a 457 that he contributed his own money into.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the Interim City Manager's contract would not have received it.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned the car that was recently purchased and said that she did not understand the \$4,800 vehicle benefit as opposed to car allowance. She understood that it was the taxable amount and she asked why that was provided to people who drove to the City and remained and occasionally left the City. She suggested doing what was done 12 years ago by having pool cars that could be used, rather than having them take the vehicles home. She said that would save on the gas and the insurance.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that there were Staff members that had pool cars 12 years ago.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that both Len Golub and Sam Moschella had vehicles. He added that former IT Directors had vehicles and most Department Heads did have vehicles to take home.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she had a problem with paying the insurance and gas for those vehicles.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY reiterated that all of the Directors have had vehicles.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned the people getting car allowances in 2016, and said that Doug Smith said that he provided those allowances because he felt like giving them something commensurate with their positions.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that was only for two people, and that the Finance Director had a vehicle allowance for at least 10 years or more. He explained that those who had a vehicle were on call 24/7 and came in at all hours of the night. He said that only three people received allowances and the rest had vehicles. He noted that they were using City vehicles for City business. He added that they also had their own vehicles as well.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the 457 Pension Plan would be discussed at a Commission meeting. He asked the Interim City Manager how long he was in the position.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that he was in the position since January of 2017.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned naming him the City Manager because six months had passed.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that a contract had to be negotiated.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES said that the six months would be in September.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the car would be negotiated in his contract.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he did not receive a vehicle allowance; however, he did have a vehicle. He noted that he had the same benefits as he had as the Public Works Director, which included the City vehicle.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked whether the Assistant City Manager was a new position, and he asked whether the plan was to hire from outside. He also asked how much was going to be paid.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was a new position and he would be looking to advertise within for the position. He added that it would be under the Department Head pay scale.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned the responsibilities of the Assistant City Manager.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the Assistant to the City Manager was being eliminated.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY replied that the Assistant would replace him when he was not present and to run all the departments. He stated that all of the departments would report to the Assistant City Manager and be able to run the day to day operations of the City.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he did not want to be referred to the Assistant City Manager when Mr. May was here.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that would not happen.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the Commission could direct the Assistant City Manager in Mr. May's absence.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said no and explained that he would continue to deal directly with the Commission.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the position title list went highest to lowest.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said not at all.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked why the Grants Manager was being moved from Economic Development to the City Manager.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that it should have been there from the beginning.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY agreed and noted that it was in the Charter and read Section 4.08.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that it was too important and dealt with too much

federal money to be in a sub department.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked why it was under Economic Development, when the Charter said that it needed to be in the City Manager's office.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that was before his time; therefore, he could not answer that question.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that Yolanda created the Economic Development Department and figured Grants and Economic Development went hand in hand. She said that after the City stopped paying other people to handle the Grants, she developed the Grants Department under Economic Development. She agreed with Mayor Ruzzano that she did not want to hear Department Heads going to the Assistant City Manager.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY clarified that some things that could be handled by the Assistant City Manager they would be; however, important issues would be handled by the Interim City Manager. He said that he did not want to take anything away from the Department Heads or the Commission.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that part of the City's problem was that there was no line of succession with people learning how to get to the next step.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned Doug Smith.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that Doug Smith was picked by the City Manager to train under the City Manager. She agreed with whatever the Interim City Manager wanted to do with regard to the Assistant City Manager.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked what the duties of the Assistant to the City Manager were and wanted to know why both positions were needed.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the Assistant to the City Manager would probably be reporting directly to the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager would be over the Grants Manager and Communications Manager. He clarified that another person was needed in the office, because the Staff was now scrambling. He noted that he sometimes could not even answer emails for three days at a time. He said that he needed somebody to assist him with his day to day activities, which would be the Assistant to the City Manager; however, he was busy doing the Assistant City Manager roles. He stated that to make the office work efficiently, another person was needed.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that for all the years before there were not three people.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY clarified that there were two Secretaries, one Assistant City Manager, one Assistant to the City Manager called the Deputy. He stated that he needed the extra position to operate efficiently.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO mentioned how the City had grown.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that there were no prices given.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that the Multi-Media Specialist would be an entry level person and the Grants Manager would be about the same.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she did not work for the City of Margate;

therefore, she did not know what an entry level position was.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was about \$44,000 for the Multi Media Specialist, \$58,000 to \$81,000 for the Grants Writer and about \$95,000 to \$98,000 for the Assistant City Manager.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the Grants Manager had to be someone who wrote Grants.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he would probably go higher than \$58,000 because he wanted someone with experience and he agreed that the individual would be able to write Grants.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked that Mr. May include the dollar amounts when discussing positions in the City Manager's Budget next year. She added that any additional positions should be shown under his department. She asked whether the money was already budgeted for these positions.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said yes.

MAYOR RUZZANO referred to Page 13, Item 1, said that the Budget indicated \$170,000 increase this year in salaries.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the \$611,000 was for all positions; however, it did not break it down.

MAYOR RUZZANO suggested that for future reference that the new positions be typed in red.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that was a problem because it left out any negotiating power he may have to hire a person.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that a range could be placed there.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked whether there was any chance where an individual could make a lot of money if they wrote a lot of Grants.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY replied that we could not pay based on bonuses, because it was against the law. He noted that a firm could be hired to do that.

FINANCE

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referred to Page 17, and said that the Finance Director had an allowance and not a benefit and she asked for a consensus to remove it. She noted that in 2015, it did not exist. She noted that it was partially put in the Budget in 2016.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said she did not know what Gail had and that she could have had a City car.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ replied that she did not care about way back then; however, she was concerned about now. She understood from Doug Smith that the allowance was never there before.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY stated that was not true and that it was in the

Budget for Gail Gargano, former Finance Director. He said that it was not in the Budget when Mary Beazley became Finance Director, but then Doug Smith, former City Manager put it in the Budget. He reiterated that Gail was receiving a Vehicle Allowance for quite some time.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked how much actual driving was done for the City during the day for the Finance Department.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he could not answer that, but he felt that it was probably not a lot.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that was the issue. She stated that she had no problem with having a pool car available.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that there was one pool car for the entire City Hall and possibly one for Human Resources, which was being used quite a bit.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked how many there were for the City.

POLICE CAPTAIN LAURA SUDMAN stated that the Police Department had about 15 pool cars.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that Public Works had a pool car and typically they were old beat up pickup trucks or pool cars.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that prior to the new car for the City Manager and the City Attorney there were 2 SUV's being used, which she assumed were pool cars.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that one was left as a City Hall pool car and one went to the Parks and Recreation Department as an in-service vehicle.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether cars coming out of service when normal replacements took place could be used as pool cars.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that there was a possibility of that. He noted that some cars came out of service at the end of their lives; however, there were cars that were used as pool cars.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked whether using pool cars was more or less expensive than using the Vehicle Allowance, because she was previously told it was more expensive to have the pool cars.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that depended on its use. He explained that for someone using the vehicle a lot would be cheaper to have the allowance; however, if the individual used the car rarely it would be cheaper to have a pool car. He further explained that if a Department Head was driving the vehicle on a daily basis, they could not have a pool car because it could be unavailable and would not be available at all times.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the amount bothered her because the use was not justifying the amount of money. She did not feel it was the job of the residents to pay for someone to get to work.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY questioned whether Vice Mayor Schwartz wanted the amount lowered to \$250.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether each Department Head received \$300.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY responded that there were only three other Department Heads; Finance, Economic Development Director and the Human Resource Director, who both received a Vehicle Allowance. He stated that the other Department Heads that had vehicles received the Vehicle Benefit by receiving the vehicle. He noted that those individuals were using their vehicles multiple times daily. He noted that the City Clerk also had an allowance with a contract, which was a different situation. He said that IT received a Vehicle Benefit and had a vehicle.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned how the benefit was determined.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was based on the vehicle received. He noted that it was a formula set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with regard to how much the rate of a lease vehicle cost. He stated that the number shown was a budgeted number that was not received for the Vehicle Benefit, but it was the value that was assigned. He noted that taxes would be paid on those benefits.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned why the City was paying the insurance and providing the gas.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that most of the driving done was for the City. He said that trying to separate that for the Department Heads would be an accounting nightmare. He noted that they did pay the taxes on the benefit. He explained that it was far less to give \$300 than to buy those Department Heads a vehicle. He said that he would not ask for an employee to pay for their gas because it was part of the operational needs of the City.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the School Board filled up the gas tanks for their cars.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether some departments were higher than other.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that all the Department Heads that received the Vehicle Allowance all received \$300 a month or a car. He stated that if a newer car would provide a more expensive benefit. He noted that the taxes paid on the benefit would also be more. He added that those who received the Vehicle Benefit or car were the employees who were typically called in to work on the weekends.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned the Building Director not being called in.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that the Building Director often was called out to assess buildings, such as if an accident involved a building.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the Economic Development Director position drove all over the City.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ agreed with the Interim City Manager that for those who drive around a lot it was cheaper to provide them \$300 a month; however, for those who did not drive around, she felt they should not have it at all. She stated that there were different levels at which this should be funded. She stated that it should be funded based on usage.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked whether Interim City Manager May felt that anybody currently receiving a car or an allowance was not justified in receiving it.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that there were people who used a car less than others, and that the Finance Director used the car less than the others; however, he did not know the day to day activities of the Finance Director.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that the City Commission Budget was just reviewed and nothing was cut other than \$1,000; however, the Commission was going to penalize the City employees, which she was not willing to do.

NON - DEPARTMENTAL

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that this was the area that included Special Magistrate, Code Red, Contract Services and the Lobbyist.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked what the Retiree Premium was.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that it pertained to when stopping the Health Insurance for retirees.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether the Special Magistrate took in and whether he paid for himself.

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES said yes and explained that the Special Magistrate was required by the Statute. He noted that the Special Magistrate issued a lot more orders than he got paid for.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE referred to Page 5, Code Violations for the Special Magistrate.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY stated that it was \$154,000 in Special Magistrate Code violations.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he was told it was over \$5 million dollars.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that might have been the total owed, but the revenue last year was \$154,000.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the City liened the property and then waited until somebody sold the property.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that in 2015, there was a reconciliation and some people actually settled out.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that it was a type of amnesty and people could pay a portion. She said that many people did not know they had liens on their homes.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned the consultant for \$25,000.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was what was budgeted. He stated that last year \$115,000 was spent for the Grants Consultant. He noted that the City still had a Grants Consultant who was helping the City reconcile the accounting and forensic audits.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the Commissioners who went to Tallahassee needed to determine whether the Lobbyist was worth the amount he was getting paid.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that David Sigerson helped the Commission to see a lot of people while in Tallahassee and he was very highly respected.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN agreed that he was able to have them meet people on both sides for all of the issues Margate had.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned the spiking of bank fees from \$14,000 to \$69,000 to \$45,000.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY explained that the fees used to be booked at net and were now being booked at gross so an expense could be shown. She noted that some of the banks provided an earnings credit, which was shown as revenue.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked what was being rebranded for \$10,000.

ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER ADAM REICHBACH replied that it was part of the ongoing branding efforts being done throughout the City. He noted that any type of promotional materials showing the new City brand would be included.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked about the insurance charges for \$2.9 million dollars.

DIRECTOR BEAZLEY explained that the insurance charges were what was transferred to the 501 Fund, which was Worker's Compensation and any General Liability Insurance.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned whether Code Compliance was being taken from Economic Development.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY said no because Dan Topp would still be at Economic Development. He noted that it was under Code Development Inspector. He said that Mr. Topp went from Code Compliance Officer of Zoning to Code Development Inspector. He stated that there was no pay raise, but just a change in title.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked for clarification of Mr. Topp's job.

ACTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REDDY CHITEPU explained that Mr. Topp was responsible to look into the businesses and the Code in terms of business licenses. He verifies businesses, gives Notice of Hearing to the businesses with expired Local Business Tax Receipts (LBTR). He said that Mr. Topp also looked into the Zoning end of the signage violations and sign installations and variances for applicants appearing before the Planning and Zoning (P&Z), the Board of Adjustment (BOA) and the City Commission. He added that Mr. Topp was also required to make sure the signs were installed and removed when necessary.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether his job included grand opening signs and the amount of signage covering windows and businesses.

DIRECTOR CHITEPU said yes; however, he explained that he was working with Code

Compliance to determine what the responsibilities were, because previously, it was Code Compliance who enforced the Sign Code.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether Mr. Topp's salary was compensated by the CRA, because he was doing CRA Code as well.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he may be doing Code inside the CRA area; however, it was not compensated by the CRA because there was no additional work performed. He stated that he could look into that.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that most of the sign problems in the windows were in the CRA area.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN thought that the CRA was why the Economic Development got the Code person.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ suggested splitting that salary or move it completely because he specialized in this particular group.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that most of the businesses were in the CRA area and he would look into it and said possibly 75 percent to 25 percent

MAYOR RUZZANO asked who oversaw Code Compliance.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that Code Compliance was in the Police Department under Police Chief Dana Watson.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked how many people worked in Economic Development.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY listed the employees as follows:

*ANDREW PINNEY – ASSOCIATE PLANNER
ANDY DIETZ – ASSOCIATE PLANNER
LESLIE HOFF – LOCAL BUSINESS TAX RECEIPT SPECIALIST
PAUL ROBINSON – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR
DAN TOPP – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSPECTOR
RITA RODI – OFFICE MANAGER
OFFICE SPECIALIST II – VACANT POSITION
GRANTS MANAGER – VACANT POSITION
SENIOR PLANNER – VACANT POSITION
DIRECTOR – VACANT POSITION*

CITY CLERK

THERE WERE NO COMMENTS MADE REGARDING THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that there still was no Secretary.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY said that Nancy was currently fulfilling some of the duties as the Paralegal and Legal Secretary for the City Attorney; however, she was

funded completely out of the City Manager's Budget, which came from the General Fund.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked what the percentage the City funded for the FRS.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was funded different for each position. He clarified that every employee paid three percent.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that some people had a 1.6 percent multiplier and others were 3 percent.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that those who were three percent were Special Risk employees and the Elected Officials. He clarified that the amounts contributed were different for each group. He reiterated that the Employee Contribution Rate was 3 percent.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ wanted to know what the City contributed.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that Regular Class Employees, which included the Federation of Public Employees (FPE) and the non-bargained for Administrative Employees, had a Contribution Rate of 7.92 percent; Special Risk Employees, which were the Police and Fire, had a Contribution Rate of 23.27 percent; Elected Officers had a Contribution Rate of 45.5 percent; and Senior Management was at 22.71 percent. He stated that the Senior Management included Department Heads and had a multiplier of two percent.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ remembered giving Department Heads two percent. She explained that once a year a window was opened and the City Manager was allowed to designate people into the Senior Management Class.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that he was with the City for 29 years and only remembered Department Heads ever receiving two percent. He noted that he was at 1.6 percent until he became a Department Head in 2009, when he received two percent.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONER SIMONE mentioned the School Resource Officer (SRO) being in the Budget.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY explained that they were part of the Regular Police Officers, and they received assignment pay for being an SRO.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE questioned the status of using retired Margate Police Officers as SRO Officers.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he spoke with Police Chief Dana Watson regarding the suggestion, and Chief Watson was not in favor of using retired officers. He noted that Chief Watson felt that a situation could arise where an actual Police Officer might be needed. He also felt that the Retired Police officers would not be as effective as the Active Duty Officers. He suggested having Chief Watson meet with the Commissioner to discuss the issue.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he heard from other Cities what a huge savings it was because they were being paid a fixed rate with no benefits. He added that they worked

part-time and only when school was in session. He stated that he wanted to explore the option.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was a budgeted amount, which would be less, and it could be discussed.

MAYOR RUZZANO felt that it would be significantly less.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE agreed because the School Board only put in a certain amount of money and the City paid the rest.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that the School Board was being asked to increase that amount.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he was in agreement with having Retired Officers for SRO Officers. He mentioned an increase for salary and wages for Police Extra Detail going from \$115,000 amended in 2017, to a proposed \$350,000.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY explained that it was grossed up in the revenue. She said that a contract was obtained with WalMart with an increased amount of special details, which was reflected in both the revenue and the expense.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that the City was actually making money on that situation.

MAYOR RUZZANO suggested charging the businesses that were open 24 hours a little extra because of the Police presence needed.

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES said that was something that was negotiated with the various vendors who were using the City's services. He stated that there were generally contracts; however, the City could attempt to increase it more. He noted that last year the rates were increased and the contracts were redone with the vendors.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether that was done annually.

POLICE CAPTAIN LAURA SUDMAN said that it was done as needed and that some of the extra duty detail vendors were weekly.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that there was an additional position for an Assistant Chief and asked whether there was a budgeted amount for that.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was a little higher than the Captain.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked about Call Takers and asked whether we had people taking calls when being referred to Broward Sheriff's Office.

CAPTAIN SUDMAN explained that the Call Takers were there Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. She clarified that if calling the non-emergency number for Margate, it would be picked up by those Call Takers. She noted that if they were busy, it would roll over to the voice mail.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked about the Professional Services Other under Operating Expenses, which went from zero in 2015, to \$90,000 in 2016, to \$125,000

amended for 2017, and \$125,000 again.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY responded that it was for contracting out the Crossing Guards. He noted that the City was using employees previously.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked how the Crossing Guards were working.

CAPTAIN SUDMAN said that she had received no negative complaints that had not been resolved.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR KELLY SCHWARTZ explained that it had to be budgeted at \$125,000 because it was not certain if schools would be open in the summer. She noted that traditionally, they were not open in the summer; however, the money needed to be available. She said that less was spent, but that any balance would go into the Fund Balance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that there were seven new people were budgeted; therefore, overtime should be lighter.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY said that the overtime should be way down.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the City never turned down new people.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that it should help with Worker's Compensation claims, as well as overtime and other things.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the longevity was killing the City in every department.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was disappearing because all new employees hired since 2007, would not receive longevity.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked for clarification as to what longevity was.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that after being with the City 10 years, an employee would receive an extra \$1,000; after 15 years \$2,000 was received; and after 20 years \$3,000 was received. He said that it was received at the end of the year in one lump sum given in the paycheck.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the Building Department was self-funded.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY agreed.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that she was happy with the changes made and the new hires. She noted that moral was better too.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY mentioned that a new Structural Inspector was hired.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the County was still being used.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that was being done very rarely.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked about the Engineering Firm.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the Engineering Firm was for special services.

BUILDING DIRECTOR RICHARD NIXON said that only one person was being used to cover the Mechanical Inspections now, and everything else was being done in house.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that as the Building Director, Richard Nixon would now be hiring a Mechanical Inspector.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned what Professional Services Other for \$275,000, which was shown under Operating Expenses.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that was for the County Inspectors and the Engineering Firm being used. He noted that a Chief Structural Inspector and a Structural Inspector were hired. He added that a Mechanical Inspector would be hired as well. He stated that Director Nixon did a great job recruiting Inspectors from all over.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the projections for Building Permits had gone down.

DIRECTOR NIXON said that it was opposite now with the construction boom.

MAYOR RUZZANO mentioned prior discussions regarding the hiring of an Architect or Project Manager for some projects, and he asked whether that was still being considered.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that a Project Manager was being hired for Engineering for the Engineering portion; however, hiring a full time Architect had not yet been looked into. He said that it could still be considered and a Budget Amendment could be made to do that. He clarified that the total number of permits issued had a target of 4,000.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked about the Building Department not being able to move extra money into the General Fund because they were self-funded. He said that if many people were hired and the Building Department was running a surplus, they would just be building up money. He questioned why they were ever understaffed if they had all of the money coming in.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the Building Department was understaffed because they could not hire people and could not get people to take the jobs; however, due to Director Nixon, the Building Department was getting fully staffed.

IT DEPARTMENT

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked when the website was going to be done.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it would be completed in October.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN mentioned the City Hall WiFi.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that some glitches were being worked on to get that taken care of; however, the speed was good. He noted that it had to be acknowledged. He stated that if logged in properly, it was running faster than the cell phones were.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked why when in other establishments it was automatic and you did not have to acknowledge it. She understood the speed was fast; however, it did not allow you to get on any other sites without spinning.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY understood and said that it would be taken care of.

PUBLIC WORKS

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that he received many calls thanking the City for handling the rain days.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she loved the street cleaner and did not understand why a schedule could not be figured out so cars could be moved off the street for the cleaners.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY said that was difficult to do because some areas had a lot more leaves from Oak Trees that took more time. He noted that they tried to hit the heaviest areas first.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN suggested adding another street cleaning machine to next year's Budget.

ACTING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR NICK CUCANATO said that a new machine was needed.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the old machine could still be used.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said he preferred not to do that.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN suggested that Public Works ask for two machines next year. She added that she loved the curb pressure cleaner also.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that only a few Cities had the cleaners.

ACTING DIRECTOR CUCANATO said that it improved the appearance of the City and was started about two years ago.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she never saw a street sweeper in her neighborhood.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that only streets with curbs were swept.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether there was budgeting specifically for infrastructure for roadways.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that was in the Roads Fund and that there was currently a large reserve being put away for when the roads needed resurfacing.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned whether electric lines could be buried when resurfacing.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that was not an eligible expense. He explained that the Road Tax was very specific as to what the money could be used for and burying electrical lines was not one of the expenses.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether other Cities were taking the money from the Capital Fund.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that there were various ways of funding that, but they were definitely pulling it out of the Road Fund.

ACTING DIRECTOR CUCANATO said that was a Florida Power and Light (FPL) issue and it was very expensive.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that after Hurricane Wilma Cities began burying their wires for obvious reasons. She asked whether that could be required for new construction.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that could definitely be required. He added that it could be part of the Impact Fee that was being looked into by the City Attorney.

PARKS AND RECREATION

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether Calypso Cove was making money.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY said that it was a service provided to the residents and parks were not meant to make money.

MAYOR RUZZANO stated that it was a great service.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked what the Aquatic Supervisor and the Aquatic Coordinator did when the pool was closed.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MIKE JONES clarified that the pool was opened seasonally to the public; however, it was a year round operation for maintenance and swim lessons. He noted that currently 11 months of swim lessons were being taught. He stated that the Aquatic Coordinator was coordinating all of the in season lessons and the Aquatic Supervisor oversaw all the operations. He added that the Maintenance Coordinator was also there all year long maintaining the pool. He noted that he was trying to run more aquatic programming, such as Water Aerobics, but with the colder weeks, activities were cancelled for the public. He said that the pool was heated; however, the air was cold.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned whether the morning swim was available.

DIRECTOR JONES responded that it was still offered for \$1.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the pool needed to be maintained yearly and off-season maintenance was also performed because it could not be done during the season.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked what the charge was for swim lessons.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the lessons varied because there were many programs. He mentioned the Voucher Program, private lessons and group lessons. He explained that the Voucher Program was very successful. He said that the residents were charged zero and the \$45 Voucher was collected from the Broward County Swim Central Program. He noted that the City was on pace to hit the maximum capacity with the contract with Swim Central. He added that Margate was one of the very few Cities in the County to do that.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether that could be negotiated annually.

DIRECTOR JONES said that he would have to look into the terms.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked whether the program would renew year after year.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the City was definitely in support of the program.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN was pleased that there were trees to be given away. She said that the Budget did not tell her what the acquisition of vehicles was and whether it was trucks, etc.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the acquisitions were for trucks and that he could put an asterisk next to the item.

FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that it went up.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned who the operating expenses were paid to for this fund.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR KELLY SCHWARTZ explained that the operating expense was broken down to recruitment supplies, training rifles, laptops for training, training Glock guns, SOT Ballistic Shields and the launchers, along with any other miscellaneous operating expenses the Police Department would need.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that this was the fund that could only be used for the Police Department in certain ways.

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES said that was correct. He added that both Federal and State were limited by the Law, Chapter 932, Florida Statutes.

GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the Fire Station was being built in 2018.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY agreed that it would be in the next Budget year.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that was done wrong because the design was already paid for and this was supposed to happen this year. She asked whether a bathroom would be added to the Marina.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY agreed and explained that it would need a Lift Station or some form of grinder pump to get the sewerage to the sewer.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether it would come from the Engineering Budget.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he was not sure, but it was not a lot of money.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that it would not be a lot of money. He provided a handout and explained that he did not want it to look like a box.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he was not a fan of the Dog Park and he felt that \$1 million dollars could be saved.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN disagreed.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that where the new proposed Dog Park was, the parcel just south of Firefighters park; therefore, some of those trails would be able to be utilized. He added that the parking from Firefighters Park would be utilized and the cost might not be \$1 million dollars.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked whether permission was received from the Carolina Club.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he was currently in negotiations.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the negotiations were for the extra parking.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY agreed.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether the Carolina Club would have to be paid for that.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that parking was needed for the Dog Park as well. He clarified that the Dog Park was going to be at Firefighters Park on the south side near the walking trail.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MIKE JONES clarified that the south end of Firefighters Park where there was currently a Canal, there was a 60 foot separation property line to the top of the Canal Bank. He explained that the proposal was to make it usable for the public and bring the currently property fence line closer to Firefighters Park extending it approximately 40 feet by 125 feet for extra space. He said that it would be cornered off for small and big dogs. He stated that conceptual renderings would be back this week, which he would review with the City Manager and bring to the Commission. He noted that the small and large dogs would be in approximately two acres of area, as well as the additional parking improvements that were proposed for Firefighters Park. He said that the monies assigned for the Dog Park were definitely under \$1 million dollars, but the additional money would go into the paving of the Firefighters Park parking area. He stated that it would combine all the Capital Projects from different locations into one location. He said that as one project the contractor would only have to mobilize once and do it as a joint project. He further explained that it was broken down by line item, and the goal was to have it fully engineered and out for one bid to be able to do it with a cost savings.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that it would still be \$1 million dollars because a parking lot was being paved as well.

DIRECTOR JONES said that the parking was accounted for in a separate project, so it was a matter of additional parking on top of the previous parking. He stated that from 70 spots, he was looking to do 90 spots now. He noted that some of the parking would be moved into that portion of the Budget for the project.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN felt that more parking was needed at Firefighters Park anyway.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked how much had currently been spent on design and wherever the park will go.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it was being designed as part of the current year's Budget and he was working with the Engineers. He noted that the Commission told him to stop moving forward on the prior location at the Florida Power and Light (FPL) easement by Paradise Gardens III; therefore, he went right to the current property, which was received through a Land Preservation Bond from the County, as well as some Grants for the pavement. He said that it was now going to be expanded and a little more comfortable while backfilling the canal, bringing in a walkable sidewalk connecting the park to the parking lot and making Firefighters Park look larger.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked about using the lake.

DIRECTOR JONES said that was not currently in the plan.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the lake could be used for fishing now.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that it needed to be dredged because it was very shallow.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the banks could be reshaped.

DIRECTOR JONES explained that part of the design was also to relocate the current launch that Public Works Stormwater was using for cleaning the canals. He noted that it would be relocated into the paved parking area as a boat launch that could possibly be used by the public for smaller crafts.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked what exactly was being proposed for Firefighters Park for the money.

DIRECTOR JONES replied that besides the Dog Park, parking, and Canal filling, there would be playground construction and improvements to the lights. He explained that Landwater Conservation Grant was applied for in the amount of \$200,000 and had been awarded; therefore, a contract was coming before the City for that Grant. He stated that the \$200,000 would go back into Firefighters Park for improvements to the Basketball Courts, Tennis Courts, Picnic Shelters, the walking trail, the fitness station and restroom renovations. He reiterated that all those projects were being combined into one massive project for cost saving purposes.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that \$2 million dollars was going into Firefighters Park in the next year or so, and he asked about the parks at the south end of the City. He mentioned Southgate Park where the people were requesting a water fountain.

DIRECTOR JONES clarified that the Mayor was referencing Serino Park and said that he could look into obtaining a chilled drinking fountain.

ACTING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR NICK CUCANATO clarified that there was no fountain at Serino Park or at the Southgate Park.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that when trying to have chilled water fountains in all City parks, Serino Park was in the process of being built.

ACTING DIRECTOR CUCANATO said that the fountain was at Public Works, but he was never directed to install it so it was used somewhere else.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that all the parks should have fountains.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that the Staff would look into making sure all parks had chilled water fountains.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the City owned the property at the park towards U.S. 441. He clarified that it was where the walking trail was.

DIRECTOR JONES said that anything inside the walking trail was in the City Park and was originally proposed to have a Cell Phone Tower, two hard courts and a future restroom from the overall Master Engineer Plans, but was cut from the project for construction and Budget purposes. He noted that the five year Plan included installing a restroom and the hard courts would possibly be repurposed.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the outdoor equipment would be good around the track, as well as a handball backboard wall.

MAYOR RUZZANO mentioned the sand at Serino Park, which he thought the City was eliminating.

DIRECTOR JONES agreed and said that it was being done under Repair and Maintenance versus Capital, but if the Commission directed, he and the City Manager would map out the quickest way to get rid of the sand, which could be costly.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the park was old and was always crowded.

DIRECTOR JONES said that it was as old as David Park and the equipment was installed in 2001.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he would love to see medians beautified. He stated that it was beautiful going from Rock Island Road south from Sample Road through the Carolinas; however, once Royal Palm Boulevard was reached, it looked like a different City.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY noted that the Carolina Maintenance Association maintenance stopped south of Firefighters Park.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the City should pay whoever the Carolinas were paying, because it looked beautiful.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he would look into the cost to maintain with a

landscape company, because it was a higher level of service than what the City currently did.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the park Budgets started at \$60,000 one year and \$440,000 the next year on every park and she questioned why.

DIRECTOR JONES said that was the five year outlook. He explained that the City was trying to get the design done in the prior year to have a full year to discuss it with the residents and Commission, while going to construction the next year.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that Dog Parks were specifically for people with dogs, but the Fire Station was for everyone. She felt that the money to be spent on the Dog Park could be used to reduce the Fire Assessment \$25 for everyone across the board. She suggested putting off the Dog Park for one year while dropping the Fire Assessment.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the Dog Park had been put off for 14 years and people were waiting for it. She noted that it was supposed to be a simple Dog Park.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that it was not simple anymore and it was \$400,000 last year and was now over \$1 million dollars.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the original plan for the park was not a good plan because of the kill zone it had. She stated that many people wanted the Dog Park.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned the seniors who were being hurt with the Fire Assessment, and that they were not walking their dogs. She noted that the Coral Springs Dog Park seems to work fine.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the residents did not want to go to Coral Springs, but wanted to stay in their own town.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that a Fire Station needed to be built. She stated that it was a tradeoff, but one took care of the City and one took care of a specific group of people. She felt that it was a pot of money and she said that there might be a dedicated source that would allow the reduction of the Fire Assessment.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the Fire Assessment was a yearly problem.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she would worry about that next year.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO stated that Margate could not afford a reduction, because it compounded year after year. He noted that the City was also being faced with a new Homestead Exemption. He mentioned people talking about getting rid of plaques, and taking away things like Home of the Month signs, but \$1 million dollars needed to be spent for dogs to play. He said that it made no sense and he had no problem with getting rid of the Dog Park.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE hoped Vice Mayor Schwartz was wrong, because she was not willing to pay \$1 million dollars for a Dog Park and hoped it was no more than \$500,000 when done. She said that an area was already determined that had trees, sidewalks and parking; therefore, she did not expect it to cost \$1 million dollars.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that he built a Dog Park in Tamarac, which was 3.2 acres, which had trees to be removed and a lot more work than needed to be done in Margate.

He said that if put out to bid and it was too much, the City could hire a fence contractor to install a fence and Public Works could do concrete pads and shelters. He stated that there was no reason the City could not do it.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the \$1 million dollars was the Engineer's guesstimate. She noted that it had not gone out to bid and a bid was not received to build it for \$1 million dollars.

DIRECTOR JONES agreed and explained that was the opinion of cost for 3.8 acres.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN reiterated that the residents were waiting for it and she did not believe it would cost \$1 million dollars. She mentioned that it was now being packaged together. She asked whether people who built parks were different from people who built parking lots.

MAYOR RUZZANO agreed that they were different.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN expressed concern regarding bundling it together.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that once a preliminary design was received from Director Jones it could be reviewed and might be something that could be contracted out in house, rather than hiring a General Contractor. He added that the existing infrastructure that already existed might be able to be used. He said that it could be done at a Budget and would still have a very nice Dog Park. He stated that some gazebos and water service would be needed; however, he did not think it would be \$1 million dollars.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the Parkland Dog Park was built and financed by developers. She suggested speaking with some of the developers.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that when developers came to Margate, they did nothing for Margate, which she did not understand. She said that Margate never asked, but other Cities expected.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that a stipulation could be added when people were reviewed by the Development Review Committee (DRC) to have a feature would be added to the City, but it would be a stipulation added to the DRC. He noted that it would be hard to do that after the permits were provided.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that there was not much developable land left in the City. She noted that the Community Center should have been paid for by whoever was developing it.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she previously suggested using the Resource Recovery Board (RRB) money for the Fire Assessment, which got turned down. She said that the RRB money was put in the Project Initiatives and she wanted it moved back into the General Revenue so that it could be used towards 911 Communications.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that it might be better to wait until in negotiations. He supported Commissioner Simone about it and felt that it would be the future move.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that in order to do anything with the Citizen's Project Fund, it would have to be done by a Resolution. He stated that if the Commission wanted to use it for the 911 System it could be just set aside in an Assigned Fund. He

noted that the money would earn interest wherever it was; however, it should be in an Assigned Fund.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN suggested leaving it where it was now until ready to do it by Resolution.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she just did not want it used accidentally.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he wanted to see it used to help finance circular driveways for residents to get the cars off the roadway. He stated that money could be lent with matching funds, which would increase values of homes.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that a lot of travel was done and he asked whether a specific credit card was used to earn mileage towards travel.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY said that there was the P-Card, which gave a rebate. She stated that she was increasing the use of the P-Card and just negotiated the contract. She added that Florida Power and Light (FPL) bills would be paid by the P-Card.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked about residents being able to pay water bills on line with American Express.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that American Express charged more than Visa and Mastercard.

RECAP

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked why a design or plan for the Fire Station could not be found that was already used in another City, because of the cost of the design.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY explained that the Fire Station was situated on a little sliver of land; therefore, the City was not able to piggyback and use some of the architectural services that were standard details. He noted that there would not be another Fire Station anywhere that would match the footprint. He told the Commission to let him know if they did find something, because it was currently in the initial design phase.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked how much that the design phase was costing.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was a budgeted item for \$300,000, which was a percentage of the estimated cost.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES DIRECTOR REDDY CHITEPU explained that the design and inspection was usually 10 to 15 percent on a standard design, but for a complicated design it could be from 20 to 25 percent. He clarified that it was a different range depending on the complexity of the project.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that it was a phenomenal amount of work to design the Fire Station and the City was being charged billable hours.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she was not used to someone taking 20 percent of the total.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that when a building was built at a specific cost, you could look at the design cost and say it was a certain percentage of the building costs. He noted that this was a two-story building.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked how many square feet the build was.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY was not aware of how many square feet.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the cost was about \$600 per square feet to build, and he mentioned a prior meeting where a building for the Community Center of 40,000 square feet was quoted at \$200 per square foot, which was wrong. He asked which Fire Station was the oldest that needed to be replaced next.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was Fire Station 18, which was built in 1988.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked whether there was any type of insurance to protect and indemnify the City against illegal activity such as with the Grants situation. He said that he asked the City Manager for an affordable policy.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he would get back to the Commission regarding the insurance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to set the maximum millage rate at 7.0593, which will consist of the operating millage rate of 6.5183 and the debt service millage of 0.5410. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that many computers were going to be replaced, and she mentioned that the Senior Center could use those computers.

IT DIRECTOR JIM WILBUR said that in the past, some had been given to the Senior Center. He noted that the City's Policy was for all obsolete computers to have the hard drive physically destroyed at Public Works. He noted that the shells without the hard drives would then be sent to ARC Broward to be recycled.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked that Director Wilbur get with Ms. Diaz of the Senior Center.

IT DIRECTOR WILBUR agreed to do so and noted that when the Senior Center was done with the computer, they would be disposed of per the City Charter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo

Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: _____

DRAFT