## COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. November 21, 2006

Present: Mayor Naugle

Vice Mayor Hutchinson, Commissioners Moore, Rodstrom, and Teel

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas

City Auditor - John Herbst
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney - Harry Stewart
Sergeant At Arms - Chris Herbert

## <u>I-A - Florida Atlantic University's Hometown Tour</u>

Frank Brogan, President FAU, said their presentation is unique and they are not here to ask for anything. They have grown to over 26,000 students encompassing seven campuses stretching from Dania Beach to Port St. Lucie, including the Harbor Oceanographic Institute. The graduate and research programs have advanced and have established a name for the school. Therefore, they feel it is important to reacquaint everyone with the University and they are doing it through a program known as "Hometown FAU." They are also re-introducing the school to alumni.

Mr. Brogan said the C-Tech Campus is one for Ocean Engineering and Marine Research located in Dania Beach. Work is done with the Navy and several patents have been issued regarding submersible vehicles used to locate mines, along with the development of high-tech cameras that would be used in the space shuttle flights. The school is now going to be home for a grant to be used in finding new sustainable forms of energy. The Gulf Stream and the ocean currents would be used to propel turbines that would be placed on the ocean floor to generate sustainable energy that would be pumped back to the mainland and used to power communities.

Mr. Brogan said the Davie Campus is the second largest for the school housing over 7,000 students. They are working with the City to make it more driveable and walkable, and so that it would be more cohesive. Hopefully, when mass transportation runs along I-95, it would extend to Davie. Additional funds have been received for a new building that would be jointly owned by FAU and IFIS which is the agricultural extension of the University of Florida. There are to be three other new buildings for the campus.

Mr. Brogan said they are the model school for students attempting to obtain a baccalaureate degree in connection with their partnership with Broward Community College. The first two years could be done at Broward Community College or at FAU or Miami Dade or other surrounding schools, and then they are guaranteed a transfer to the State University system and all credits would be transferred. Not only would this be time efficient, but also a tremendous saving in cost.

Mr. Brogan said the downtown area is one of the more unique higher educational centers in the country located in the Twin Towers where FAU and Broward Community College share space, staff and students. As each of their campuses are being reinvented, they are looking at new programs, along with reviewing existing programs.

They believe by putting in the new plaza would help to improve the atmosphere of the area. These programs are designed to serve a special population.

Mr. Brogan further said that Boca Raton is the largest of the campuses and a great renaissance is taking place in that area, and they are about to double the on-campus housing and increase the retail and athletic facilities. This would create the traditional hub for the University while they continue to grow the non-traditional portion of the school which is the hub of their bio-medical and bio-science programs. They are in partnership with the University of Miami and Miller School of Medicine. The first two years of the program can be done at the Boca Campus and then the student can transfer to the University of Miami. Many students do residency work at Jackson Hospital. Within two years, due to receiving approval from the State for continued expansion, a student would be able to complete their entire four years of medical education on that campus, and residency could be done at Boca Community Hospital or an affiliate hospital in Broward or Palm Beach Counties.

Mr. Brogan said that Jupiter had been a sleepy campus several years ago, but the biomedical cluster forming in the vicinity has a center at this campus. There is 75,000 sq. ft. of temporary state-of-the-art research facilities, and ground has been broken for their 385,000 sq. ft. final structure on the campus. Programs would then expand in those areas. This is also the home of their Honors College which is expanding to all of their campuses.

Mr. Brogan said that further north are two more campuses, the Port St. Lucie Campus and the Harbor Branch. Funding has been received recently for a new building at Port St. Lucie, and a new building had been opened at Harbor Branch housing a state-of-the-art research facility.

Mr. Brogan said they are also playing football at the University and it is an exciting time for the school. Various alumni were introduced.

Mayor Naugle asked when the stadium would be completed. Mr. Brogan said that recently they had been informed that this was a three-part proposal involving doubling the housing on the Boca Raton Campus, more retail, and the athletic facilities. They have tentatively agreed that the stadium would be present on the campus within three years.

Mr. Herbst, City Auditor, asked about obtaining access to the school's library system. Mr. Brogan said that they would provide assistance in that regard.

A video was shown about the school and written information is attached.

## I<u>-B - 40-Year Building Safety Inspection Program - Building Safety Inspection</u> Program Fee - Code Amendment

Valerie Bohlander, Building Department Director, said she wants to talk about the building safety inspection program mandated to them by the County that is an effort to ensure the safety of buildings that are 40 years old or older. This would be a six-year phased-in program starting with 11,000 sq. ft. or larger buildings down to 7,000 square feet. Electrical and structural inspections would be done by certified architects or certified engineers and if repairs were necessary they would be delineated. A list has

been provided to the Commission consisting of 313 buildings to be inspected. A new list would be provided in January of buildings that were 7,000 square feet and larger on down.

Ms. Bohlander said she wants to propose to the Commission to amend the ordinance to include building inspection fees of \$200 which would cover the cost of the program.

Mayor Naugle said this was brought about due to the collapse of balconies and other structures in various surrounding areas. He asked what other cities were charging for these services. Ms. Bohlander said that some cities are charging \$325 to \$200. Staff feels that \$200 is fair and equitable while still recovering costs. Mayor Naugle asked if there is an additional charge for reviewing the material. Ms. Bohlander said there is a charge of \$75 per hour by the electrical and structural personnel, and a \$50 per hour charge for administration. Mayor Naugle asked about how much time is needed to review the plans of a larger building. Ms. Bohlander said that at least one hour would be needed for larger structures.

Commissioner Teel said some of the building along the Galt have begun the process of rebuilding their balconies.

Ms. Bohlander said that staff intends to do the outreach to the buildings in order to help them understand the process.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked about a grace period. Ms. Bohlander said there is a notification period consisting of 90 days and they realize that in some instances there would have to be a lot of work done.

Mayor Naugle asked if information would be provided to the residents informing them who to contact regarding the work to be done. Ms. Bohlander said there are professional associations that individuals could be referred to.

Commissioner Teel said that the Galt Mile Website shares a lot of information regarding contractors and other needed information.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked if there would be an assessment charged to the condominium owners. Ms. Bohlander said she did not know how this would be handled.

Mayor Naugle said that probably the inspection fees would be taken out of the condominium contingency funds, but the actual work required would probably be assessed to the individual unit owners.

Commissioner Moore said that the Broward League of Cities also has an approved list of engineers. He asked why they are now involving buildings consisting of 7,000 square feet. Ms. Bohlander said that this was to begin in January, 2006, but that had been delayed due to the hurricane repair work taking place. Commissioner Moore asked why they would not continue with the buildings consisting of 11,000 sq. ft., and then go on to the intervals proposed.

The City Attorney said that he believes the statute dictates that the work be done by year and they are now one year behind.

Commissioner Moore said he is concerned and if delays occurred, than why could the system not provide the opportunity to continue the program as if it had just started this year. He asked if requests have been made as to whether that could be done or not since the amount of buildings have increased. Ms. Bohlander said that she could attempt to see whether the Board of Rules and Appeals have the list ready because the present list was received in late January which consists of buildings of 11,000 square feet. Commissioner Moore said he would like staff to make a request to the Board of Rules and Appeals if they would consider this, and if not he would like some sort of rationale provided to the Commission.

Mayor Naugle said they could move forward and adopt the ordinance, along with the fee, and then move forward with the 11,000 square foot buildings. There could be a delay of the 7,000 sq. ft. buildings until a response is received from the Board of Rules and Appeals. He said that a fall-back position could be to do one in the winter and the other list six months later or possibly back everything up one year. He suggested that they request things to be backed up one year, and the ordinance would be brought before the Commission for two readings.

**Action:** Commissioner Moore wanted to request some leniency from the Board of Rules and Appeals concerning the backlog that was created from the hurricanes. There was consensus to make the request for an additional year in order to comply and to provide an ordinance for consideration.

## I-C – Establishment of a Beach Business Improvement District Advisory Board

The City Manager said he wants to make sure that this Commission is comfortable with the creation of the structure of this advisory board so an ordinance could be prepared.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson asked how they are going to determine who the business owner would be to serve on the board that was leasing space in the proposed district.

Ron Hicks, Director of Economic Development, said staff would put together a list for the Commission to make their appointments.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that one member is to be recommended by the Central Beach Alliance, and asked if that was only going to tax the commercial properties. Mr. Hicks confirmed. Vice Mayor Hutchinson asked what is the rationale behind having a resident serve on the board. Mr. Hicks said that the consultant suggested that there be a broad representation, and therefore, a resident has been included.

Commissioner Moore asked why a member is to be chosen by the Central Beach Alliance. The City Manager said it would be up to the Commission. Commissioner Moore said he would rather not have the Alliance choose an individual for membership on the board and just have a resident chosen.

Mayor Naugle said the advisory board is to be comprised of nine property owners. Three of those would be the highest assessed properties and two of the least assessed properties. He feels the two lowest should not be chosen, but that two other smaller business owners could be chosen. He asked if the three highest are chosen should it be someone that is from here since some of the properties are owned by off-shore corporations and were to be automatically placed on the Board. He believes that the

Commission should make the appointments and most boards require individuals to be residents. He is not sure if the three largest owners should automatically be placed on the board either. He said that possibly three out of the ten largest property owners could be selected.

Commissioner Moore said the properties are taxed and the business and in vestment is already located in the area, and therefore, there should not be a residency requirement attached to the appointment. He said that possibly three out of the five highest property owners could be chosen, and he also differed in regard to the two lowest property owners. He agreed that they needed to deal with the felony backgrounds regarding appointments, but he also believed the lower tax payers should also be involved.

Mr. Hicks said the rationale of including two of the lowest property owners is that the larger properties have a great deal of money and would benefit more from any improvements made to the area, where a smaller business might not have as much money to contribute to such improvements. There needs to be a balance in that regard.

Mayor Naugle said there is a difference in selecting from the smaller property owners and taking the two lowest investors. Mr. Hicks said that they could pick three from the top five property owners and two from the smaller property owners.

The City Attorney said that the Commission might want to hold off creating this advisory board until the assessment roll comes out. He believes there could be some issues that would be difficult dealing with as to what is residential and what is commercial. He said they are going to assess commercial property and the City has taken the position that everyone of the condo/hotels is commercial property, and some have homestead exemptions. Therefore, they would have to decide how to proportion the representation.

Commissioner Moore said he is concerned about the smaller investor and feels they should be represented.

Mr. Hicks said the assessment roll should be completed by January 4, 2007.

The City Attorney said that the Board could be created by resolution and they would not have to do an ordinance. This could be done at the time the assessment is adopted.

Mr. Hicks said that when this idea was presented, he assured everyone that the property owners would be represented and have a say. The Commission confirmed.

Mr. Hicks said further that the Atlantic has been parceled out and there are some homestead exemptions, but since they have been broken down there are now in the minority.

The City Attorney said they could still be in contention for one of the lower positions.

**Action:** There was consensus to wait for the assessment roll to be available, anticipated on Jan 4, 2007.

#### I-D - Alarm Response Fee

Commissioner Moore requested that this item be placed on the Conference Agenda at the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Sharon Anderson, Assistant Police Chief, made a presentation regarding this matter. See attached material. She said the information included contains a brief history regarding the alarm ordinance, some basic information, and a status report. The proposed fees are designed to offset the cost of police and fire-rescue response to false alarms. She said there is a provision allowing a lien to be placed on a property for fees not paid. There is a website that explains the ordinance, the registration requirement, and the fees. She said that fees could also be paid on line, along with registration fees.

In 2003 the ordinance provided for one free false alarm and a second call or more would have a \$50 fine for residential alarms, and a \$100 fine for non-residential alarms. More resources are required for non-residential alarms. It has been determined that each false alarm could cost a department 20 minutes of officer time and amount to \$70. Some police departments will not respond to alarm calls, and some only dispatch an officer if an alarm employee has responded to the site. She said this does not apply to fire alarms. The mitigation process has been approved, and they are currently in the process of translating all correspondence in Creole and Spanish.

Commissioner Moore said that the door hangars should also be translated into Creole and Spanish. He further said that his greatest concern is the commercial properties that owe thousands of dollars in regard to false alarms. He said he is an advocate of the fee and response, but they need to find a method of addressing how such alarms are treated and the fees generated.

Assistant Chief Anderson said that last fall there have been some issues regarding personnel and computer problems occurred regarding billing. Therefore, they fell about four months behind and then larger bills were put out. The list being compiled would be mitigation requests for time limits.

Commissioner Moore said this shows that the existing process is not working. He is concerned about the amount of fees being charged to a commercial property. There should not be a private sector business utilizing the City's workforce for their profit, and that is what an alarm service does. He agrees with the concept of a second call, but when this was first designed he felt the alarm company should be charged for the workforce, and then they should collect the monies from their clients. A number of things have changed and the citizens want to feel that their properties are being protected by having the alarm system. The irony is that some of his constituents call for a police officer and do not receive a response as quick as there was for an alarm. He believes that this matter needs to be revisited.

Mayor Naugle asked if the City had legislative authority to charge large companies for alarm responses. Commissioner Moore said if there is authority to charge the constituent, than there should be authority to charge whoever the bill is being directed to.

The City Attorney said the problem is that there are four layers consisting of the owner who is responsible for the alarm and its maintenance, the company installing the alarm, and the monitoring company. He did not believe they could be charged for the call-out.

Commissioner Moore said he would like further information on what authority the City has in connection with charging for the alarm responses. He asked if other options could be provided for consideration.

Mayor Naugle said information should be provided regarding whether the City could charge the alarm company, who is receiving the monthly fee for the service, the call-out charge.

The City Attorney said that not all alarm systems are monitored and sometimes when alarms go off neighbors call. From a practical aspect, he said that no alarms would be monitored in this City.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said the monitoring companies could disclaim because they do not work on the alarm, and therefore, a malfunction would have to be handled by the company who installed the alarm.

Mayor Naugle asked for staff to investigate this issue further. Commissioner Moore agreed.

Mayor Naugle said he believes the commercial fees should be higher because more back-up personnel are involved when responding to an alarm.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson further said that she was never a proponent of this item because when it originally came to the City it was during a tight budget, and asked if the office has been staffed appropriately since they collected over \$1.5 Million and had projected only collecting \$600,000.

Commissioner Moore asked where the revenue went to that was generated from these fines. The City Manager said that the monies go into the General Fund at the end of the year. The question is whether the monies should initially go into the police fund.

Mayor Naugle said in his opinion this is not a budget issue, but a behavior modification and fairness issue.

Commissioner Moore asked if the overage from the projected revenue would allow them to consider the fee.

Chief Roberts said the State Statute that went into effect in July, 2006 requires two calls, and therefore, the calls should diminish. He said things are getting under control again and he asked if this same system could be used for the next year, and then re-evaluate its effects. The bills would be sent out in a more efficient manner and with the calls decreasing so would the projected revenue.

Assistant Chief Anderson said that the billings for the 60 individuals going through the mitigation process total about \$98,000, and they were asking to cut about \$44,000 of that amount.

Commissioner Teel asked if there is a difference in the response by the police officers if it is a panic alarm from a residential unit. Assistant Chief Anderson said that there is a prioritization on calls. Chief Roberts further said that in the past where alarms constantly

went off, they sent out the crime prevention unit to the location to attempt to determine the problem.

Commissioner Moore said he wants them to look at the opportunity as to where the charge might be placed, and he is concerned that commercial properties feel they are being put out of business with the services of attempting to keep their inventory. He further said that he is also concerned about the amount of the fee being charged and whether they should continue charging for the second response.

Mayor Naugle said that this would come back as a Commission report.

**Action:** The City Attorney was asked to research the feasibility/legality of charging the monitoring company instead of the property owner.

# <u>I-E - Police Department's Personally Assigned Vehicle Program - Proposed Out of County Reimbursement Charge</u>

Bruce Roberts, Chief of Police, said they are not adding any vehicles to the fleet and any cost associated with the extension of this program would be fully recouped, and that is done per pay period. This is intended to help in recruiting officers and retaining the officers hired. He said 151 officers have been hired since last year, and other agencies are trying to compete with this City and new officers do not have an allegiance. Thereby giving this option to the officers could be a significant incentive. He said the fee is graduated and they want to implement it after the first of the year.

Commissioner Moore said he is totally opposed to this program and believes it is a waste of tax dollars. It is only a grandiose situation for the police officers who are being treated differently than other employees. He believes this is wrong even if they are paying. He said he would be in support of the program if this is for officers living within the City's boundaries to emphasize their presence in a neighborhood, but most officers live outside of this jurisdiction. He further said that in some instances there were accidents with these cars when officers were off-duty.

Mayor Naugle said this would provide the ability to track qualified personnel and other jurisdictions are doing this at this time. If the City does not participate, than they would have to make it up in pay or elsewhere. He said that productivity is another issue and the officer would not have to sit and wait for a car to be turned in. There is also a problem with the storage of the vehicles at the Public Works Compound and discussion has taken place regarding spending funds on a parking garage in order to store such vehicles.

Commissioner Moore said during the budget hearings, he thought this Commission was going to take on some issues that were significant regarding delivering services and discussions centered around pensions. Comparisons were being made between the private and public sectors. It is perceived that taxes could be increased just to cover costs, while businesses increase their profitability in order to deliver a defined benefit, rather than dealing with a defined contribution. He further said that because one government is making a mistake and giving away public dollars, does not make it necessary to follow their mistakes. He feels the background information is not reflective of fact and even though they are saying there is a reduction in the wear and tear of the vehicles, what about the 48 officers who live in Palm Beach County putting on extra

wear and tear. He said in regard to down time and waiting on cars, than it might be better to have more trucks available in Public Works so shift changes could occur quicker. It becomes an evaluation of what the government could deliver while keeping the taxes down. He does not think this City should follow this practice. He said they need to address this in a real sense and state that as policymakers this is not a good policy to follow just as it is not a good policy to follow a defined benefit.

**Action:** There was consensus approval to implement an out of county reimbursement charge of \$55 to PAVe Program participants living in Palm Beach or Dade counties. Participants living north of Lake Worth Road in Palm Beach County and those living south of NW 167 Street in Dade County would pay \$65 each pay period. This charge will be implemented via payroll deduction. Commissioner Moore was opposed.

#### III-B - Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

#### Audit Committee

Action: Deferred.

Cemeteries Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

#### Charter Revision Board

Commissioner Teel said that she recommends that Susan Tramer be appointed to the Charter Revision Board.

Commissioner Rodstrom said that she recommends that Judy Stern be appointed to the Charter Revision Board.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

#### Citizens Police Review Committee

Mayor Naugle said that he recommends that George Trodella be appointed to the Citizens Police Review Committee.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that she recommends that Alan Stotsky be reappointed to the Citizens Police Review Committee.

Commissioner Moore said that he recommends that Roosevelt Walters be reappointed to the Citizens Police Review Committee.

Commissioner Teel said that she recommends that Linda Shallenberger be reappointed to the Citizens Police Review Committee.

A consensus appointment was made for Ted Fling to be appointed to the Citizens Police Review Committee.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

#### Community Appearance Advisory Board

Commissioner Rodstrom said that she recommends that Alain Harounoff be appointed to the Community Appearance Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

#### Community Services Advisory Board

Commissioner Rodstrom said that she recommends that Adriane P. Reesey be appointed to the Community Services Advisory Board.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

## <u>Downtown Development Authority</u>

Mayor Naugle said that he is recommending that Bill Scherer be reappointed to the DDA. There was a consensus for that appointment. He also said that he is recommending that Fred Pazio be considered for the vacant DDA position.

Commissioner Moore said that he would like to interview the candidates for this board, and therefore, let everyone know that resumes would be accepted from individuals interested in the DDA post. He said that the election could be held at the second Commission Meeting in December.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that she is recommending that Allie Waldman be considered for the Downtown Development Authority position.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

#### **Education Advisory Board**

Commissioner Moore said that he recommends that Frances Payne be reinstated to the Education Advisory Board.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

## Fire Rescue Facilities Blue Ribbon Committee

The City Clerk said that all the members of this Committee have been contacted and they are all willing to be reappointed.

Mayor Naugle said that he recommends that Patrick McTigue and Douglas Ruth be appointed to the Fire Rescue Facilities Blue Ribbon Committee.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that she recommends that Allan A. Kozich and Norman W. Thabit be reappointed to the Fire Rescue Facilities Blue Ribbon Committee.

Commissioner Moore said that he recommends that Diane DeLyons Shuler be reappointed to the Fire Rescue Facilities Blue Ribbon Committee.

Commissioner Teel said that she recommends that Donald Bastedo and Mary Graham be reappointed to the Fire Rescue Facilities Blue Ribbon Committee.

**Action:** Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

## General Employees Pension Committee

Mayor Naugle said that he recommends Ron Cameron to be appointed to the General Employees Pension Committee.

**Action:** Formal Action to be Taken at the Regular Meeting.

Historic Preservation Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Northwest Progresso Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Nuisance Abatement Board

Action: Deferred.

#### Police & Firefighters Pension Committee

Mayor Naugle recommends that Romney Rogers be appointed to the Police & Firefighters Pension Committee.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

#### **Unsafe Structures Board**

The City Clerk said that the three individuals were appointed at the last meeting, but they would be announced tonight.

Action: Formal Action To Be Taken at Regular Meeting.

#### **IV- Commission Reports**

#### Broward Partnership For The Homeless

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that in conjunction with the Broward Partnership for the Homeless her group is doing a program called "Souls For The Soul," and they are collecting new shoes sizes ranging from Infants to 17-years of age. Distribution would take place at her Pre-Agenda Meeting/Christmas Gathering on December 18, 2006. So far she has collected about 25 pairs of shoes.

#### **Bullet Proof Vests**

Commissioner Moore said that the City's policy in regard to bullet proof vests is that the officers are given \$40 towards the purchase of a vest, and then wearing the vest is voluntary. He believes that if tax dollars are being used for a person's protection, than they should be required to wear them. He asked if this issue could be placed on the Commission's Agenda for discussion and to have the Police Chief make a presentation. Therefore, he asked if the item regarding the purchasing of vests could be pulled from tonight's agenda.

Mayor Naugle said that he believes the item needs to remain on tonight's agenda because vests have to be purchased for the new recruits.

Commissioner Moore said if there is no set policy, than they would not have to purchase them because there could be an overabundance of vests.

Chief Roberts said that new recruits need the vests and other officers need replacements. Commissioner Moore asked how many vests are to be purchased.

Kirk Buffington, Procurement Services, said there is a blanket purchase order for 120 vests, but they may not purchase all of them.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked if the new vests being purchased are lightweight, but still provide protection and could be worn comfortably on a daily basis.

Chief Roberts said there is a lightweight product, but when officers are in the heat and not performing a dangerous task, they may opt not to wear them. Most officers most of the time are wearing the vests in their patrol cars. He said they are going to assess the type of vests to be purchased. He said that they offer \$40 - \$50 to the officers towards the purchase of a Level II vest which is not the best that is available. The best one is known as Level 3A which is lightweight. The officers can upgrade which costs them an additional \$100 to \$150. In connection with the recent incident, the officer was wearing a Level II vest which saved his life, but a .40 caliber gun was used in that case and the bullet went through the vest. A Level 3A would have prevented the bullet from going through. He added that there are no side panels on the vests, and therefore, part of the body is unprotected. He said there is ammunition on the market that is made to pierce vests.

Commissioner Moore said that possibly the City should spend more money and purchase the better lightweight vests and require that they be worn. He said that the issue should be revisited.

Commissioner Teel said that she agrees with Commissioner Moore's suggestion and further information should be supplied regarding the matter, but at this point the vests should be purchased for the new recruits.

Mayor Naugle said that this issue would be brought forward for further discussion at a Commission Conference Meeting.

## Security at City Hall

Commissioner Moore said there had been previous discussion regarding the security at City Hall and how the first floor should be reconfigured and how office space could be used at the Parking Division by the Water Department. No comments have been received regarding this issue, and therefore, he would like to have a status report provided to the Commission.

The City Manager said that information would be provided to the Commission at their next meeting.

## Purchase of Property for a Park at 2401 N.E. 27<sup>th</sup> Terrace

Commissioner Teel said that since April they have been trying through Broward County Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program to purchase a parcel of property off Bayview Drive which is attached to City-owned property. This would be a good location for a park. The owner purchased the property with the idea of building a spec house and the neighbors approached the owner saying a park would be good at that location.

County Commissioner Jim Scott allocated \$1 Million for the property, but since the parcel was appraised he agreed to provide his remaining discretionary funds of \$57,000 towards the project. There is still a shortfall, but the owner has reduced the price considerably. A public hearing is to be held on December 12, 2006, but the City has to show the County their interest in this project.

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the owner has reduced his price to \$899,000. County Commissioner Scott dedicated \$57,237, thereby making the shortfall \$58,013. Commissioner Teel is asking that \$58,013 be taken out of the City's impact fee towards the purchase of the subject property.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said she is in support of the project.

Mayor Naugle asked how much money is available in the fund. Mr. Thornburg said there is over \$700,000 in the impact fee fund. The main purpose of that fund is to develop such properties. The properties received from the County Parks Bond have to be developed within five years. Mayor Naugle said the subject site is down the street from George English Park, and therefore, asked if this is an underserved area. Mr. Thornburg said the site is slightly less than one acre and is quite a ways north of George English Park.

Commissioner Teel said the subject lot is about 12,588' and the area has a lot of small children. She said that the neighbors are looking for a small park with possibly a swing set and not a lot of amenities for the young children.

Commissioner Moore said he is concerned about going over the appraised value, and asked if additional information could be provided. He asked if such information could be provided to the Commission at their December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Teel said the owner has reduced the price several times, and this is in an area of expensive homes. These owners have paid a lot into the bond, but have not seen a lot of benefit for their area.

Mr. Thornburg said that they only need a consensus to move forward from the Commission at this time, and a vote would not have to be taken until it is time to withdraw the impact fee monies.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said that the Land Preservation Board did not make a decision on the purchase contract because they wanted to know how the City felt about the gap which was \$116,000 last Thursday.

Commissioner Teel said that she believes the County would not move forward on this if the City does not contribute. She feels this is a good opportunity for the community.

Commissioner Moore asked what about the monies allocated by Commissioner Scott since he is no longer in office and are those funds still on the table.

Commissioner Teel said if it is up to the new Commissioner and they do not agree, than the project would not go forward. Mr. Thornburg said the property would automatically go to the open-space list. The next step would be to go through the application process.

#### Victoria Park Holiday Home Tour

Commissioner Rodstrom said that Victoria Park would hold their Holiday Home Tour once again on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and she encourages everyone to attend.

#### V - City Manager Reports

The City Manager said he wants to introduce the City's new Interim Fire Chief, Gerald Simon.

Chief Simon said he has 30 years experience in the fire service. Twenty-three of those years were in Santa Clara, California where he has been Chief for the last six years. He was also the Chief in Oakland, California for five-and-a-half years under the Former Governor and now Mayor, Gerry Brown. He also served in Union City, California for a short period of time. He thanked everyone for their greetings and said he is honored to serve the City.

The City Manager said he wants to thank Chiefs Justinak and McInerny for their hard work during this period of time.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25 p.m.