

MINUTES OF A JOINT BUDGET MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AND THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 2:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007.

Chairman Chris Craft called the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners to order.

Those present for St. Lucie County were: Chairman Chris Craft; County Commissioners Doug Coward and Joseph Smith; and County Administrator Doug Anderson. Those absent: County Commissioners Charles Grande and Paula Lewis. (County Commissioner Paula Lewis arrived at 2:25 p.m.)

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander called the Fort Pierce City Commission to order.

Upon Roll Call, those present for the City of Fort Pierce were: Mayor Pro Tem Rufus Alexander; City Commissioners Edward Becht, Christine Coke, and R. Duke Nelson; City Manager Dennis Beach; and City Clerk Cassandra Steele. Those absent: Mayor Robert J. Benton and City Commissioner R. Duke Nelson.

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The purpose of the Joint Budget Meeting was to discuss funding of projects and other issues of mutual concern.

Chairman Chris Craft said he would like to thank the public for being here, as well as each of the Commissioners. He is sure everyone is aware of what is going on in Tallahassee or not aware of what is going on in Tallahassee because it is a bit confusing these days. And as each of their Boards work through their budgets that are coming up very soon for their workshops - he believes in July is the County and he thinks the City follows shortly thereafter - they are both faced with some very interesting propositions on how to move forward with local government. He thinks in the past the City of Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County has tried to work with one another in a manner in which they were hoping that in the future they can find some things that they may be able to work together on to help reduce the cost to the citizens of this great County and City. They have several items on the Agenda today, somewhere in the neighborhood of 14 items; and of those 14 items, most of them are going to depend upon funding. So they are not real sure where they are going to be come June after the Special Session of their State Legislature gets done. But he does think in any event, it is important that today since they have these two Boards together that they have a little bit of a discussion on these so they can start to lay the groundwork for how to move forward in the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said due to Tallahassee's reluctance to allow them to be beneficial to what their thoughts are, they are just going to try to ease through this. They won't have to delineate on any of it because they can just go by what they have in front of them.

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The first item on the Agenda was Park Improvements: MLK Dreamland Park - South 25th Street; Lincoln Park Community Center - Avenue M; Ilous Ellis Park - Avenue M; and Causeway Park.

Ms. Debra Brisson, St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation Director, said they have put together a power point presentation on some of the items they wish to discuss today. They will go first to **Dreamland Park**. Several months ago she, County Commissioner Smith, City Commissioner Alexander, and Jody Bonet (SLC Cultural Affairs Director) met to discuss a potential project at Dreamland Park. What they have before them today is an aerial of Dreamland Park as it is currently being utilized. The discussion that they had had to do with the possibility of putting some type of a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the site. Someone brought forward this concept they currently have in Boca Raton. Staff did a little bit of research and they were able to find out a little bit about that project just to kind of tell them a little bit of information. It was constructed in 2001 on a 20-foot by 20-foot FDOT right-of-way. It cost approximately \$250,000 plus. There was \$60,000 received in private donations and from the MLK Jr. Foundation. The City of Boca Raton contributed \$115,000; Palm Beach County - \$5,000; and Bliss Construction (Dutch Bliss) was the actual contractor and they did a lot of in-kind services as well. The Boca Raton memorial

consists of some trellising, a lighted glass top with a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., some benches, and landscaping. The proposed location to be considered for a project is along MLK 25th Street. It sits on the southeast side of the park. In the meeting with Jody Bonet and the Commissioners, they talked about the possibility of utilizing some of the Art in Public Places funds for an actual art piece. That money, after speaking with Ms. Bonet, has been put into their plan and that money would be available if they chose to move forward. She is not certain what the City of Fort Pierce has budgeted, if anything. Obviously community donations is a topic for consideration. That is what they have to date on this project.

City Commissioner Coke asked can Mr. Ward give them an update on how much money the City has in their Art in Public Places fund?

Mr. Jon Ward, Director of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, said they don't have a specific line item identified for this budget, although they have funds available for whatever the Commission elects to do. At this juncture they had sat with County Staff. He met with County Commissioner Smith and City Commissioner Nelson and they have identified the concept of something they want to do there in the way of the King Memorial, but they haven't gone so far as to develop a budget yet.

City Manager Beach said Commissioner Coke asked about the Art in Public Places allocation. It is currently about \$170,000. Mr. Ward is correct in that they have not allocated resources toward this project; however they have allocated the space in their long range Capital Improvement Plan specifically for that project. They simply haven't identified funds that would be used for that purpose.

Mr. Ward said that is true. He does have a line item for Art in Public Places that is separate from the funds they have been collecting in this year's budget for an additional \$50,000, which they can task to this. He just earmarked it, but they haven't identified a project. They can certainly apply it to this.

County Commissioner Smith said he thinks this is one on a list of very important projects they have and one of the things he was very pleased to see from the very beginning of this new birth for quite a while now. Commissioner Nelson has pretty much beat him up about the sign at Dreamland Park for awhile and they worked with Debra Brisson and did some mockups. They are trying to make sure the parks throughout the system have graffiti-resistant signs and that they create some signature pieces for those facilities. For Dreamland Park, their hope is to turn that into a park that has expanded fields and making sure they truly honor the person for which it is named. So he is pleased that they are working together. The idea is that they will have to do more of this now regardless of whatever happens in Tallahassee because the dollars are becoming limited whether or not anything occurs there. So more collaboration with all of their colleagues is the name of the game here.

Ms. Brisson said next is the **Lincoln Park Community Center** on Avenue M. They have an aerial showing the existing Community Center. As they are aware, the County was trying to acquire some additional land across the street.

County Commissioner Smith asked is trying? Ms. Brisson said, was trying.

Ms. Brisson said her understanding is that they have not been very successful with the property owner.

County Commissioner Smith said sure, but they still are trying.

Ms. Brisson said she stands corrected. They are trying to acquire. They have the money set aside; and when they can come to terms with the property owner, it can become the

County's. Basically that is where they sit with Lincoln Park. They have made some other improvements to other areas and parks around there, and they will talk a little bit more about them later in the presentation. She wasn't quite certain what direction they were headed today with this item, so she is here to become informed how they would like to proceed.

Chairman Craft said they are having issues with acquiring property.

Ms. Brisson said that is correct.

County Administrator Anderson said they went out and received an appraisal on the property. He approached the property owner and explained what the appraisal came in at. He knows the property owner had some conversations with County Commissioner Smith. Right now they have not come to terms.

County Commissioner Smith said right. When he spoke with the property owner, there was a question about the appraisal and the way the County does it. He told the property owner he is more than welcome to go out and get another appraisal, and they encourage him to do that; and then come back to the County and they can take a look at that point. He is not sure if that has occurred yet, but he can make a phone call to make sure they were in that process, if they are still a willing seller.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked how large is that parcel?

County Administrator Anderson said it is across the street from the Lincoln Park Community Center. There is vacant land there.

County Commissioner Smith said he believes it is about four acres.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked it is four acres, plus the structure, right?

County Administrator Anderson said there is no structure on the property they are looking at. But there is the County's structure. So they would have acreage on both sides of the street.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said he thought there is an existing structure. That is why he is asking because when he hears about appraisals being received on these properties, are they talking about the total piece of property with the structure on it?

Ms. Brisson said her understanding was the church was not part of the acquisition.

(County Commissioner Lewis arrived at the meeting at 2:25 p.m.)

County Commissioner Smith said they can check it out. He thinks the issue is, it is whatever the legal definition is, and the legal may be different than the actual. And that may be part of the issue with the appraisal is that the County may be looking at one set of issues and the owner may be looking at another. So maybe that is something they can double-check.

County Administrator Anderson said he and County Commissioner Smith will follow up on that.

County Commissioner Coward said in addition to the discussion about acquisition, he thinks what the County had talked about during the budgeting process was some type of a partnership of Fort Pierce to expand the community recreational uses in this area. He doesn't know if they have had that opportunity before to talk to the City about what their vision was for this property. He would like to get a little input from the City about what they

see are the needs in that area and what is the likelihood that they can possibly partner with the City maybe through the FPRA to match the \$500,000 the County put forth at this time.

City Manager Beach said what the City has in their Capital Improvement Plan is \$1 million allocated toward that center, he thinks it is in the year 2008-2009. There was a conscious decision made between he and the County Administrator that the County would take the lead on the facility and the Redevelopment Agency would provide the \$1 million toward the project.

County Commissioner Coward said he guesses he just wanted a little more feedback on the project, what exactly that entails. Are they talking about active recreation or a community center? He just wants a little more input from the City about what they hope to see there. Have they refined that at this point; or are they intending to work with the community and the neighbors and get more input before that decision is made?

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said in talking about what allocations were for that, they were talking about relocating the recreation center across the street there because of the confinement and the age of the existing building now. He knows it was there when he was a child. His concern is that this area has been neglected for many years. That is why he approached the County Commissioners and spoke to each and every one of them concerning that area, that they need to do something to enhance that area. That is why the partnership came in and they agreed. He just doesn't want it to say looking ahead to 2009 when they reallocate monies every day. He thinks right now with the situation with the gangs and things that is going on in this community, they need to look and see where there is some safe haven for their children to grow up in an environment. Believe him, if the Chief was involved in it, they would be turning some bricks and mortar out there.

Mr. Ward said the thought process of the Redevelopment Agency is, as they look at the Lincoln Park area there are a number of areas up there. They have what they call their pearl theory and the reason for that is it is fairly simple. Everyone understands how a pearl gets formed. A grain of sand gets into an oyster and just irritates the stuffing out of it until good things start to happen, layer after layer, and it becomes larger and larger. They have looked at the Lincoln Park area in total. There are areas where there are specific things going on that should be developed and an array of assets that can be developed there. The best example is the Moore's Creek area that they are currently doing a linear park now. It initially started out as a Linear Park project. They started developing a number of assets around that. The Lincoln Theater came out of that and a number of other buildings, the Betts building, and then affordable housing as an element of that. This is an example of the same sort of a pearl environment. They are looking at a fabulous recreational area. And there are very good reasons why people would want to live there, families would want to relocate there. They can build outstanding neighborhoods in areas that have these kinds of assets where kids can go and play and ride their bicycles and not cross gang territories and go long distances. What they thought was, as the Moore's Creek area is developing as a cultural area with the Lincoln Theater and a number of other assets to give it the driving force, here in the Lincoln Park Community Center area, recreation is what drives the boat here. So they thought that if they develop a new Community Center and improve all of the recreational capacity in the area, then they will also come in behind that and start looking at affordable housing and they will start constructing neighborhoods in this area. So on the heels of this they will be looking at acquisition of lot sizes to build affordable housing and really creating a neighborhood. The thought process of course in the long view of these things is, if they do this in half a dozen areas - just like sodding a lawn - these things will grow together, they will get larger. Right now they have firmed property values in the entire Moore's Creek area; and the private sector has come in and they are buying 70, 80, 90, 100 lots, something that hasn't happened in decades in that area. And they see the same thing happening in this area. When they solidify the recreational aspects of it, put in a new Community Center, start to seed it with some affordable housing, they see the

private sector coming in behind them and really growing a neighborhood. That is what they have in mind in the long view for the Lincoln Park area.

City Commissioner Becht asked with that idea, what is the next step? Because it looks like the City through the FPRA has \$1 million allocated to it and the County has \$500,000. That is \$1.5 million. What was the appraisal on the property?

County Administrator Anderson said the appraisal came in a little over \$300,000 he believes.

City Commissioner Becht asked for how many acres?

County Administrator Anderson said approximately four acres.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said that is what he disagrees with, not that he is taking any sides on anyone, but when they have a structure on a piece of property. He knows right along 13th Street, Mr. Ward and he spoke about this duplex that came in at \$300,000. He can see why the owner is not being agreeable to this. Again, he thinks they need to take away from this the questions - whether this is four and a half acres or four acres or a structure or what - they need to know for sure, and then move on with something there.

Chairman Craft said just to kind of reaffirm the position of the County and the level of commitment that the County has for this project. Through some soul-searching with staff, they came to the Board and asked what they thought about certain capital projects being put on hold for a year or two, and they absolutely refused to put this project on hold. They are leaving the money allocated and it will be there. Their commitment is to the youth of this community.

County Commissioner Coward asked are they going to ask staff to do a second appraisal? How do they get this back on track?

County Administrator Anderson said they have already done two appraisals. County Commissioner Smith and he will follow up with the property owner, because he believes County Commissioner Smith did ask the property owner to have their own appraisal performed.

County Commissioner Coward said he thinks there was some confusion whether or not this structure was included, so they are going to find that out.

County Commissioner Smith said just to close that loop, once they finish that, they will make sure that everyone is copied on the results of that.

Ms. Brisson said she will take them across the street. This is an aerial of the **Ilous Ellis Park** or Open Space Park on Avenue M. The community kind of refers to it in two different ways. They can see it houses the football stadium, baseball, the swimming pool, and some basketball courts. Over the last three or four years they have made some improvements at Ilous Ellis Park. They recently completed renovation of the pool, it is a zero depth pool now. They made improvements to the restrooms and they added a new building and a concession building and then made some improvements to the existing restrooms. They have added picnic tables, playground equipment, some domino and checker tables. They made improvements to the walking track and they also had some additional fencing done. Currently they have two projects that are budgeted for this facility. One is a basketball cover. They have recently gone out to bid. They are under contract for that cover and they should be coming to the City shortly for some permits. That project will cover the basketball courts and it is a \$620,000 project. In addition to that, they also have \$250,000 for a sprayground to be added to the pool area.

Chairman Craft asked can she explain what a sprayground is?

Ms. Brisson said it is an area where there is equipment that has water and it is interactive. Children play in it. It is kind of like they used to do as children, run through their sprinklers. It is just kind of a modern day...

Chairman Craft asked it is not in the pool? It is in an area separate to the pool so that the toddlers can use it?

Ms. Brisson said that is correct, it is separate. It doesn't hold any water. It is a recycling system so the water is recycled through. The children find it to be a lot of fun and very interactive.

Chairman Craft said he believes there is one, if he is not mistaken, in Tradition. There is also one up in Vero Beach.

Ms. Brisson said they have one they are getting ready to start construction on at Ravenswood as well. So they will be adding one at Open Space and one at Ravenswood.

Mr. David Recor, Deputy City Manager, said there is also going to be one at Jaycee Park as of this weekend for \$35,000.

City Commissioner Becht asked can they give the County the name of that contractor?

Mr. Recor said absolutely.

Ms. Brisson asked does Mr. Recor know who the equipment was with?

Mr. Recor said he can get that for her, absolutely.

Ms. Brisson said it might be a little more elaborate. They have been working with several suppliers.

Chairman Craft said if they can save money it would be great, because then they could do two.

County Commissioner Smith asked if the basketball cover comes to the City and the City does everything they can to fast track those permits, how soon would they be able to see that basketball cover?

Ms. Brisson said it is a metal structure so it will have to be constructed at the manufacturing site, but she thinks they have 180 days for construction.

Chairman Craft said he sees some members in the audience who are extremely interested in the next item, **Causeway Park**.

County Administrator Anderson said he has handouts for all the Commissioners. Several of the next items that he is going to be discussing, he has actually done backup and he has tabbed everything.

Ms. Brisson said all she has is an aerial.

County Administrator Anderson said go to Tab 2. There is a memorandum attached that he sent to the Board of County Commissioners on May 9th in reference to a memorandum from the President of the South Beach Association discussing funding for the South Causeway Park improvements. The County has \$240,000 budgeted for engineering in this year's budget using impact fees as a revenue source. At this time the 2007-2008 budget that staff has put together includes no additional funding. Attached is a letter from the South Beach Association to the County Commissioners. Ms. Brisson has put up an

overhead that shows the boundaries of the Causeway Park. And as he said, at this point they don't have any funding available.

Chairman Craft asked what do they expect the cost of this park to run?

Ms. Brisson said they are expecting to be somewhere between \$8 million and \$10 million.

City Commissioner Coke said a couple of years ago, Mr. Anderson invited herself and some other people to a meeting; and the \$8 million or \$9 million two years ago, it is probably way up from that. The point she has been trying to make with this project for a while now is, she doesn't think any of them are actually in a position to spend \$8 million or \$9 million on this park. The plans for it were wonderful with a fishing pier and all kinds of other things. Her suggestion - and she doesn't know if it has ever been accurately communicated - was that the County allow the City to take the lead - not to build or renovate this entire park per the original standards that they have - but to begin to do... She doesn't know if any of them have been to Jaycee Park or any of the other City beach parks. They are redoing a little bit at a time and she thinks they are doing five parks for \$3 million. So her thought was, since they are under budgetary constraints, if the City could possibly step to the plate and take the lead, not to do the County's design, but to go in and clean it up, put in some pavilions, delineate the parking.

Chairman Craft asked when do they want to start?

City Commissioner Coke said two months ago. If they could get on board so that at least the place looks a little bit better. When they come over the bridge and look over there... Their Public Works Department, as wonderful as they are, has been working as the general contractor for their beach parks and they have done a fine job. She likes the playground equipment at Jaycee Park.

Chairman Craft said he personally would be very comfortable with that.

County Commissioner Smith said he met with Ms. Mushier and her term was, give the park over to the City. And he shared with her politely that he doesn't think that is going to happen. But what exactly when she says, take the lead, what does she mean? What is it that the County isn't able to do that the City would be?

City Commissioner Coke said initially when she and Mr. Anderson met a couple of years ago, there was talk that there would be \$4.5 million from the FPRA budget - which they FPRA went ahead and approved and allocated - and \$4.5 million from the County's budget, which she understands the County just doesn't have now. Her suggestion would be, if they can allow Public Works to go in and look at it with the people who have been doing the design work for the City's beach parks for a lot less money than what they are talking about now, and do the preliminary stuff. Leave space for when the money is there from both entities to build the docks, leave space for the fancy pavilion, all those wonderful things. It would be great if they could do them tomorrow, but they can't. So rather than do nothing, they should in her opinion go in and do some landscaping, do some cleanup, replace what they can, get the parking in order. And that was her thought on it.

City Commissioner Becht said he thinks the point is that the City is used to doing more with less. The City doesn't have the big budget, nor do they have the whole County to take care of. But they do have he thinks a streamlined team which involves the public, because the public has helped with this. And if they could come in and do a couple of things and identify ahead of time what they are going to do. Before they undergo that, he would like to know whether the money is coming out of the FPRA, because it is not coming out of the general budget. And what three City Commissioners sitting at Wednesday's meeting as

the FPRA, what they might have in mind in terms of funding for preliminary improvements to this. Or should they wait until they get the citizens back. If the citizens are going to come back, they really should hear a budget from them on what kind of money they think they are going to allocate towards some basic improvements.

Commissioner Coward said he thought they said the money was already allocated, the \$4.5 million.

City Commissioner Becht said that is for long term improvements. He doesn't know what year the \$4.5 million is line item for, what year the Causeway Park money comes available.

Mr. Ward said he thinks it is in next year's budget.

City Commissioner Becht said they have the ability to do some shifting.

City Manager Beach said actually they don't have that allocated in a year. They have it as part of their Capital Improvement Plan, but they do not have it plugged it in to a year.

City Commissioner Becht said what he is thinking is a number less than that for going in and doing some preliminary work to dress it up without creating a problem for the long term improvements, the permanent improvements that they would hope to fund when they know what Tallahassee is going to do.

City Manager Beach asked the \$10 million estimate on that, where was the big money in that?

Mr. Ward said that is for design documents, development, for the construction of an elaborate walkway along the water, for new restrooms, a whole series of things. It also includes decorative lighting over the bridge itself and some other elements too. So it is a fairly comprehensive plan.

Chairman Craft asked does Ms. Brisson have the master plan they are working on?

Ms. Brisson said she met with Glatting, Jackson (Glatting, Jackson, Kercher & Anglin, Inc.) this morning and they have some issues. Once they have gone out there and they started their survey in looking at it, they have come in with a revision to the conceptual plan. She doesn't happen to have it with her, she apologizes. A lot of that includes a revetment wall because of the fact that the inlet spills into the area. Along the whole northern edge is a planned revetment wall of about 30 inches high. And then of course they have ADA issues because of that in getting people back down to the beach, parking, restrooms. But a good percentage of what the proposal calls for is that issue.

City Commissioner Becht asked if the FPRA was to commit \$500,000, what would her number one improvement be at this time?

Ms. Brisson said she thinks they need to recognize that when Seaway Drive is improved, there is going to be some additional landscaping that is coming in as part of the FDOT plan. She thinks it is a double row of palm trees, so that is going to help along the roadway edge. She doesn't believe \$500,000 would be enough to deal with the revetment issues.

City Commissioner Becht said nor does he.

Ms. Brisson said her recommendation would be to go in and continue cleaning out the debris. She thinks they need to deal with the overfall pipe, which is a hazard that exists out

behind Chuck's Seafood Restaurant somewhat. People are jumping it with jet skis and it presents a problem.

Chairman Craft said it is a concrete pipe and they are actually using watercraft to jump it.

Ms. Brisson said she would like to be able to keep people from getting as close as they do to the edge of the water, she thinks that creates a problem. But the long term plan calls for it to remain a pervious parking area. So it is a matter of landscaping. She thinks they are planning on bringing the old tower (Coast Guard Tower) over as part of the project.

Mr. Ward said they shifted that. Now that the City bought the Rollins Property (at South Jetty Park), they are going to put the tower out there, he thinks.

Ms. Brisson said she thinks they could certainly come up with a plan that would improve the aesthetics of the park certainly.

City Commissioner Becht said the City has gone in a different direction with the parks. They have gone grassroots up. Rather than the Commissioners or Staff necessarily telling the public what they are going to build for them, it is the reverse. They have concerned citizens who are telling them this is what they need, this is what they would use; and they built minimally what the citizens have asked and told the City they would need and use. What he was trying to do was get a feel from the City Commissioners that might be sitting on an FPRA Board, how much money they might want to allocate? So the citizens would have an idea of what kind of budget they would have for the types of improvements they might want or they might need. If there was an immediate need or an immediate failing with the Causeway Park, he wanted to hear from Ms. Brisson what that was.

Ms. Brisson said she would think it would be improving the aesthetics of it, given they can't deal with the erosion issues.

Mr. Ward said a couple of years ago they were having a conversation there were some pavilions out there that were being undercut by the erosion. So that is probably the number one issue out there now is the fact that they are losing... They can see the exposure on that northern bank there and they are losing that bank every time there is a northeaster, so therein lies the problem. And it is not only that, it is the fact that any time people go over there, they are invariably backing their vehicles into the water, which chews up the bank and it is furthering the erosion there. So the whole thought process, there is a walkway that extends westerly from this point, from the westernmost part of this, and goes around the museum point there where the historical museum is. The thought process was, continuing that walkway easterly along this entire length of bank. Not only do they create a walkway which is very attractive, but the walkway was stepped up about 18 inches, so there is a step down. They literally step down from the walkway to the beach area. What that does as an effective method is keep people from driving their vehicles over the walkway and on to the beach, they would hang up on it. So it does two things - it dresses the area up and gives people accessibility to walk along the waterway, and it also fights the erosion problem which is a huge issue. There may be grant dollars available to support that.

Chairman Craft asked was there public participation in the design of this park?

Ms. Brisson said yes. Prior to her coming, there were some charrettes that were held. Glatting, Jackson had helped in charrettes. They also have been in discussions with Ms. Peck and South Beach homeowners.

Chairman Craft said so they have followed that grassroots effort that Commissioner Becht had suggested.

Ms. Brisson said there is a place in the process for it now, because they are under design based on that conceptual plan that Mr. Ward has been referring to. There is a plan for a series of public meetings as they get closer to being able to come up with the final design. There have been some issues that came out of the surveying of the park that have required them to change some of the elements of the original conceptual plan.

Chairman Craft asked when do they expect the final plan to be complete?

Ms. Brisson said the design of it is supposed to be completed she believes in the Fall, but there is a one year processing for permitting.

Chairman Craft said he understands that, but what he is asking is kind of getting to Commissioner Becht's question. Once they have that final plan in hand, then he thinks they can start looking at that and see where they can move forward with smaller projects within that master plan.

Ms. Brisson said they need to move the pavilions back. They are having a lot of undermining. They would have to take those pavilions out because they actually have some foundation into the ground. But they could make some aesthetic changes - new pavilions, dealing with how people go in and out, and how they park. They could do some things that would really make some improvements.

City Commissioner Becht said then he would ask that they agenda this for the FPRA meeting and get a consensus out of the FPRA as to what that Board would be willing to commit for interim improvements. His concern was, when they got hit with the \$4.5 million or \$5 million figure - which always has a way of climbing up to the \$6 million to \$7 million figure - they were going to have a lot of money invested in something that the County owns. He says the County owns it, but the public owns it, and the County has control of it. He would just like to see better and nicer things there. So that was his concern, that if the FPRA is going to put that much money into it, he wanted to have some discussion on what is the future maintenance program for it and where is that money going to come from?

Chairman Craft said this is a bone of contention with a couple of his Commissioners. He thinks the FPRA is a wonderful tool and he thinks the City is doing a fantastic job with it. But if he is not mistaken, the County is probably the number one contributor to the FPRA. So those funds are part of the County's, coming from their government as well. He just wants to make sure they don't lose focus of that, that it is not just coming from the City. So if they are asking for a match on something from the FPRA, they are actually paying two-thirds of the way. He doesn't mind it, but he wanted to make sure he pointed that out, because they seem to lose focus of that at least in the public's eyes.

Commissioner Alexander said when they speak about the public, this is all about the public. Whatever dollars they spend there, it comes from the entire community. This is a much-used strip of property owned by the citizens. He thinks they deserve something better than what is there now. He goes along with a couple other of his Commissioners that they need to do something. Surely the aesthetics on it should be for immediate attention.

Chairman Craft said he couldn't agree more. He learned how to swim at this very park, so it has a little warm spot in his heart.

Mr. Recor said since they are talking about public participation and park improvements, before they move off this agenda item, although it is not on the agenda, he would like to ask their Director of Planning to come up and share with both Boards an opportunity that the City has scheduled for **Jetty Park** and the public participation process they are going to be engaging in, and invite the County to sit down and participate. If they are interested, he

thought it would be a good opportunity to inform the County of what their plans are and invite them to the table.

Mr. Matthew Margotta, Director of Planning, said what Mr. Recor is trying to do is extend an invitation to the County because he doesn't believe they have seen this in any official way. But the City staff is planning to conduct a meeting out at the Jetty Park to discuss a concept they have run by their City Commission. (Mr. Margotta displayed a drawing.) This is basically the Jetty Park, the bulk of it with the Rollins property in it. This would be the end of Seaway Drive and down here would be South Ocean Drive, and the Jetty itself is out there. All they are looking at is maybe what to grow the park into and they are looking for some public input. On June 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., staff will do a presentation and then they will gather some ideas from park users. After their last City Commission meeting, they discussed this and the idea came up to also have some sort of event in an air conditioned environment, so staff is going to put a table in the lobby here in City Hall on the 13th of June, and they will basically conduct the same type of event. This is a way to gather some input from the grassroots level and flesh out this plan and then bring it back to the City Commission. They intend to discuss this more with County Staff and probably Ms. Brisson and Mr. Anderson, and just kind of work it out that way.

Chairman Craft said he would hope that Ms. Brisson was planning on participating in that public meeting.

Mr. Margotta said this might be the first time she is hearing about it.

County Administrator Anderson said on his desk he has the titles to all the properties there, who owns what. And the County actually owns the road. They have title. They have done a title search. The County owns the road that wraps around, so the County does own some of this property. So it is very important that the County participate with the City on this.

City Manager Beach said it has always been his understanding that the County actually owns the Jetty Park and the Jetty Park is maintained by the City. He could be mistaken about that, but that has always been his understanding.

Chairman Craft said he doesn't know if Mr. Anderson wants to talk about this publicly, but he had told him recently that there is some additional land in this area that is being discussed.

County Administrator Anderson said he will bring it up now if it is okay with the Commissioners. He has been approached, and he knows Commissioner Craft was with him one day when they were initially approached, by the new owner of the Days Inn. They since have supplied him with a package of material and they are going to be setting up meetings with each Commissioner to explain their proposal. What their proposal is, they are interested in doing a swap of property. They are very interested in the fire station which is just east of Chuck's Seafood Restaurant, which will become the County's once the Fire Department moves out of there, a dollar for dollar swap of values for the east end of the Days Inn. He just noticed in what he saw here a roundabout that is going to be constructed. The roundabout only has three points of entry. They do not have a point of entry over at Jetty Park because that is the Days Inn property. What they are suggesting is if the County did consider a swap, the County would get a portion of the Days Inn, the east end of the Days Inn, and then they could use it as part of the roundabout or whatever the County and City decides to use it for. He just wanted to let them know that they have been approached by the new owner of the Days Inn.

City Commissioner Coke said she was hoping the County was going to give them the fire station for the South Beach Community Center.

County Administrator Anderson said the fire station is up for discussion on how it is going to be used. But he wants to make everyone know they have been approached.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said that just kicked his agenda item off his next meeting with the Fire District. But he is still going to bring it up.

City Commissioner Becht said the one clarification he wanted to make is that the fire station, he believes the deed restriction is that when it ceases to be used for fire district purposes.

County Administrator Anderson said that is correct.

City Commissioner Becht said a formal decision has not been made by the Fire Board yet as to what will ultimately happen with that.

County Administrator Anderson said they understand that.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Parks**.

County Administrator Anderson said the City put this Agenda together and they don't know what that means. He doesn't have any backup. He doesn't know if there is something else they wanted to discuss or not.

City Manager said his recall is that the item came from Commissioner Nelson and he is not available. He is not sure what his...

Chairman Craft said they will move along.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Avenue D Road Improvements (25th Street to Angle Road)**.

County Administrator Anderson said attached under Tab 4 of the handout is numerous correspondence between Mr. Ward and himself regarding improvements to Avenue D. The last sentence of his letter to Mr. Ward dated March 6th is, the bottom line is the County does not have funding available for any projects relating to the Avenue D roadway corridor. He has also attached an agreement that the County entered into with the City on December 16, 1996. If they go to Paragraph 7 on Page 3 regarding the maintenance of the reconstructed road where the County did contribute \$750,000 to Avenue D improvements. It says here, upon completion of the construction of the project, the parties agree that the City shall assume maintenance responsibility for Avenue D within the City limits. Like he said, at this point they just don't have any money programmed for Avenue D.

Chairman Craft asked what are the improvements that the City is looking for assistance with?

City Manager Beach said they are in the process of constructing a Human Development & Resources Centre at 29th Street and Avenue D. What they are contemplating is taking the design that exists between 25th Street and U.S. #1 and applying that design to the area from 25th Street to the end of Avenue D, which is almost Angle Road.

County Commissioner Smith said he fully supports the idea and he is looking forward to finding funding for that. He knows Mr. Anderson and he have had some conversations regarding it; and every time he sends a note over, Mr. Anderson says they don't have the money. He appreciates that, but he does think it is an important issue that they still need to try to find the money to at least assist the City in some sort of cost sharing or some type of opportunity, because that will be an entryway into the City limits from the west. Just as important, this ties in with the issue they have right there at Angle Road and Avenue D in

the County. And he thinks it goes to the whole broken window theory of industrial uses that they have, to try to find ways to beautify that area so the owners who own properties along that area understand that there will be more aggressive code enforcement there too. He doesn't know exactly how they can get there, but it is important. Because they are going to have the Boys & Girls Club and Indian River Community College right there on Avenue D, so they want to make sure it is a welcoming thoroughfare for that.

Chairman Craft asked do they have a guesstimate on the cost to make those improvements?

City Manager Beach said he doesn't believe they do. He wants to make a suggestion to Commissioner Smith in regards to contacting the County Administrator and he says he has no money - just go to the Duke Nelson School of Elected Officials, just don't stop, just keep going.

Chairman Craft said they have a lot of pressure right now in the Jenkins Road area, there are a lot of developers in that area. This is going to kind of be a gateway not only for the City of Fort Pierce and the Lincoln Park area, but also in the Jenkins Road corridor. So he thinks there is a vested interest on behalf of those developers to participate with those. So maybe they can have those conversations when they come in each of their offices pushing their plans.

County Commissioner Smith said there is a lot that goes along with that. The County is right now in the process late this year or early next year to complete a sidewalk project from Orange Avenue west on Angle Road. So as they are making all of these improvements, it would be nice to go ahead and begin to tie all those in with each other.

City Commissioner Becht said it has been his observation that Mr. Anderson, when directed by three County Commissioners or more, has a way of finding money at times.

County Administrator Anderson said he can count to three.

Chairman Coward said he had a chance to tour the Human Development & Resources Centre (HDRC) with Commissioner Nelson in the last couple of weeks just to see the ongoing improvements that are being made. He is excited about the partnership that the City was able to create there. He thinks there are several ways that the County could further their partnership. He was pleased to have voted in favor of the Avenue D improvements they made five or six years ago in partnership with the City and the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. If they start with that agreement they referenced under Paragraph 7 where it is talking about maintenance of the reconstructed road, the key line is "within the City limits". He believes Avenue D west of Zora Neale Hurston Library is outside the City limits is under the County's control. Also, if they stand outside the Zora Neale Hurston Library and look west to Angle Road, they will see the sidewalk. And the land use in that area basically is a major eyesore. He knows Commissioner Smith has been leading the charge on code enforcement issues, but that is certainly one area that he totally agrees with him they have to continue to clean those properties up and make them more acceptable because it is a key entranceway. He also thinks the sidewalks themselves, just closing the gap toward that west end. They are putting in he doesn't know how much money in the Angle Road sidewalk, but they ought to consider trying to find money out of that \$43 million allocation that they set aside monies for Fort Pierce and County projects. This would be a perfect project to add on to that Angle Road extension so they are putting in the missing link and tying in with the improvements that are already there. He also wants to encourage this Board to keep the Zora Neale Hurston Library as the next priority expansion. He thinks it is the next library on the list to get improvements. And he had a chance while he was with Commissioner Nelson to actually talk with some of the County staff at the library. There is land available. It is right next to the HDRC. It is the ideal

location for a significant expansion with the available property. So if they pool different funding sources that are available for libraries, sidewalks, and so forth, he thinks they can make a significant impact.

City Manager Beach said one of them asked the question if there had been a cost estimate on that road improvement and there has been. From 25th Street to 33rd Street is estimated at just under \$1.5 million in the City's CIP.

County Commissioner Coward asked could they ask staff to look specifically at the \$43 million that was allocated for transportation projects? He knows they earmarked \$4 million to be used for Fort Pierce city projects. This fits right into that. If there are monies that have not been allocated specifically for sidewalks, he would like to see if they could try to move that issue along. Because it is outside the City limits, do they even have a basic design for what they want that western end of Avenue D to look like? Do they have some kind of concept of the goal they are striving for?

City Manager Beach said he thinks the discussion to date has been to simply extend that design of Avenue D between 25th Street and U.S. #1 - the wide sidewalks and street parking and things of that nature. Their City limits currently end at the canal. There is a canal just on the other side of that housing addition. That is where their City limits currently end.

County Commissioner Coward asked that is where the sidewalk ends, right?

City Manager Beach said he thinks so.

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The next item on the Agenda was Development of **Governmental Services Complex on 7th Street.**

City Manager Beach said he thinks this is a subject that has come up on a number of occasions. He believes Commissioner Craft had several meetings and discussions with different groups regarding the desirability of either some type of criminal justice building location there or some other signature building that was marking the entry to the community. This is Commissioner Nelson's agenda item. What his thinking was in regards to what he wanted to accomplish today, he simply does not know.

Chairman Craft said they had a public meeting over there. Commissioner Coke and Commissioner Becht were there. He believes Commissioner Smith showed up at some point during that meeting. Basically the idea was they already have the core of the criminal justice system here in downtown Fort Pierce. There is obviously a need to expand that system and they are just looking for the way to do it to get the most bang for their buck. How can they expand it and also use it as a part of a redevelopment tool? So that is kind of what the philosophy is. They are going to have to before too long build additional space for the Health Department. The building they have over there right now with their Community Services is a sham. They need to really get that updated.

City Commissioner Becht said what he would anticipate the next step to be on that would be a planning charrette focusing on that area, perhaps encompassing the Transit Authority that is immediately adjacent to it, and the Moore's Creek project. Potentially it is a jump-off point for the Moore's Creek project that the City is working on. He would ask City Staff to include in this year's budget a modest amount of money for a charrette. If the County would be willing to match that, then he thinks they could move that idea from an idea into maybe a concept on paper.

County Commissioner Lewis said she thinks that is the idea whose time has come. With the acquisition of the Sam's Club building, they are going to be able to move some of their

storage out of there. She thinks the concept is to move Community Services to the Sam's Club building as well. The Clerk of the Court has their felony records storage there. They are moving things out of there. So she thinks they need to figure out where they are going with it, before it gets too much further.

Chairman Craft asked how quickly can they demolish that building?

County Commissioner Lewis said that is what she is talking about. They are going to get rid of it, but they need to know what they are going to put there.

County Administrator Anderson said also Chief Judge William Roby has toured the Sam's Club building with them and he is very much interested in moving Juvenile Courts to that facility. So that is another possibility.

County Commissioner Smith said he just wants to make sure that before they sell all the land and have the Sam's Club building full, that they make sure that the County's immediate needs are protected first. He knows there are a lot of people who said they didn't need the space; and now that they have the space, everyone wants it. He thinks they just want to make sure as they look towards who is going in and who is going out, that they make sure that the initial intention of that building is utilized, and then they can look at other opportunities.

County Administrator Anderson said yes, he agrees 100% with Commissioner Smith. They have more demands than space already for that building. They are going to lay it out and come back to the Commissioners with a recommendation on how best to utilize it.

Chairman Craft said there was a suggestion during the Public Safety Coordination Council that there is going to be a need for additional courtrooms in St. Lucie County. And they are trying to keep things as close to downtown area because that is where all the services are - the State Attorney, Public Defender, Clerk of Court. So one of the things that was suggested is they may be able to put a campus on the Sam's Club site and tuck it back in the corner or something so it is not an eyesore, and use some portables or concretables. He knows the City has some issues against some of those things. But they are looking for just a temporary use so they are able to expand those court services which right now is costing the County a lot of money. If they haven't paid attention to what their jail population is, he believes today they hit 1,553; and at between \$50 and \$100 a day, depending upon the inmate, that it costs the citizens of this County, they have to be able to start moving these people through the court system. Part of the problem is that they can't move them through the system quickly enough because they need more adequate space. If the City could work with them on those issues, he would greatly appreciate it.

City Commissioner Coke said she is going to weigh in on the 7th Street. Because when they talk now about moving juvenile down to the old Sam's Club building, she has some concerns with that. She knows they had all talked a year or so ago that 7th Street was great because it was the travel hub where Council on Aging ran the buses and everything else. She thinks that if they are going to tear something down and build something jointly, that the best use for that would be the juvenile court complex.

Chairman Craft said that is what they are talking about.

City Commissioner Coke said she just heard Sam's Club.

County Administrator Anderson said that is temporary.

City Commissioner Coke said she had some major concerns. She didn't catch that.

Chairman Craft said he knew it, but Mr. Anderson didn't say it.

City Commissioner Coke said she doesn't want to put something where people who have children who are already troubled have then an added financial difficulty trying to get to a location where these children need to be in court.

Chairman Craft said to that point, he thanks Commissioner Coke for bringing that up. It is his intention to have as few full time positions or few people actually working in the Sam's Club - once they have their master plan done - as possible. The County needs to put their office employees in an urban setting because they will help with that redevelopment. And that is exactly the position that the Board has taken over the last couple of months of having these discussions. That is what they want to do. They are talking about using the Sam's Club property as temporary. Ultimately it will be filled up with all of their storage one day.

County Administrator Anderson said Commissioner Craft said something very important in that they need the City's authorization on this since they are looking at perhaps concrete portables as a temporary solution which would be placed somewhere on the Sam's Club property and they would need the City's permission to do that.

Chairman Craft asked do they hear any objection from the City Commissioners on that? He knows they have rules against it.

City Commissioner Becht said he needs more information on why they need them. That is a huge building. He doesn't understand why they need to bring in...

County Commissioner Coward said that idea hasn't even been presented to the County Commission, let alone the City; so he thinks this is premature to be asking the City's position at this stage.

City Commissioner Becht said if these are going to be brought in, he would like a bomb to be underneath them that blows up in three years or five years or something like that, hopefully when the occupants aren't in them.

Chairman Craft said the reason he brought it up was because the Mayor said he was going to come back and have a discussion with his Commission, and he doesn't know if he has had an opportunity to get it on the Agenda. So that is why he wanted to bring it up.

City Commissioner Becht said when they all make their minds up, let the City know what they have in mind.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Harbour Pointe RFP**.

City Commissioner Becht said Harbour Pointe, this is something that has been of interest to the City. Mr. Beach and he made rounds with the five County Commissioners and asked that it be considered by the County Commission. The Harbor Advisory Committee made a recommendation to the County Commission that they consider putting out an RFP, so he asked that it be put on the Agenda. He put Harbour Pointe RFP on the agenda to see if money was the holdup in the County Commission not moving forward on the RFP. Because if money is the issue - he doesn't know how much money it costs to put out an RFP - but if that was the issue, then he was going to ask that it be funded by the FPRA.

Chairman Craft said unless his memory fails him, they have not had the conversation on the Board level yet as far as putting that property out for RFP. Have they?

County Commissioner Coward said no.

Chairman Craft said he doesn't remember anything other than he sat on the Harbor Advisory Committee one day. He believes as Commissioner Becht does, the time has come. They need to move forward with the investment that the County made with public dollars on that property. He thinks they have the real opportunity to set the tone with what happens in that whole Port area with what they do on that particular site. So if the County Board is supportive.

County Administrator Anderson said he is the Port Director.

Chairman Craft said he is the Chairman of the Port Authority.

County Administrator said he is not trying to overtrump him or anything. Believe him, he is not. But there have always been two trains of thought on this. He has been involved in this for many years. One thought has been that they go out for RFPs for the development of Harbour Pointe. The other thought is that they wait for the ownership to change on the rest of the Port property and then they do it all at once. Because he knows when they had the Lurssen Yachts company in here and other companies, they needed all of the property to develop what they wanted to develop. Those are the two trains of thought on Harbour Pointe. A side note, they are in the process of a joint project with the City of building a new Port entrance on 2nd Street. He has been securing funding for that through the Florida Ports Council. They are working on the design with City Staff to build a four-lane entrance in there with a median, which is going to be very attractive.

City Commissioner Becht said because of the Port control - because Mr. Anderson is the Port Director and Mr. Craft is the Port Authority Chair - the City is waiting on them to do something. He doesn't know what the County is waiting on. He doesn't want to get controversial or confrontational at this point, but what are they waiting on? What is the harm in putting the RFP out? That may in and of itself move adjoining property owners to worry about what the County and City are going to do, instead of them always worried about what the adjoining property owners are going to do. The idea is, let's be proactive and not reactive. But again, it is up to the County Commission to move forward with an RFP on the property that they own for the benefit of the public.

County Administrator Anderson said actually it is up to the Port Authority.

Chairman Craft asked could he have the members of the Port Authority weigh in on this?

County Commissioner Lewis said she might have had the discussion perhaps with Mr. Anderson or maybe she just imagined it, but she imagined they had discussed this at some point in time. She has to weigh in with Mr. Anderson. She thinks up to this point in time they are waiting to see if something might conceivably happen that would enable them to make an overall plan. Because previously every time there was action on that property, they came to them to see if they would go along with whatever it was. She doesn't know what the opportunities would be on the smaller piece. Perhaps as Commissioner Becht seems to think, the time has come to move forward irrespective of what is going on or not going on at the other property. But up to this point there has been no intent to stall or be reactive. The intent has simply been to make the best deal possible, and the best deal possible seemed to include the entire property, not just the County's little 20 acres.

County Commissioner Coward said he will weigh in just so they have clear consensus. He understands where Mr. Anderson is coming from in terms of his original recommendation and he agreed with that when they were actually actively talking about trying to put together a comprehensive Port Development Plan, a megayacht complex. The publicly-owned parcel was an integral piece of the overall plan and also a key piece of the bargaining chip,

because they were going to get revenue from that which would help them fund improvements. But having gone through the last however many years with the present landowner and the realization that a partnership seems like an impossibility, that his mind has shifted to think it is more important for them at this time to create the bookends - as it was described in his meeting with Commissioner Becht and Mr. Beach. He does think that the Harbor Advisory Committee's recommendation is sound and he does think it is time for them to put that RFP out and basically set the tone for the type of development they want to see occur at the Port of Fort Pierce.

City Manager Beach asked did they all reach a consensus on what they would propose to do there as it relates to the RFP?

Chairman Craft said that is what he was looking for. He didn't get a definitive position from Commissioner Lewis.

County Commissioner Lewis said she is sorry, she just explained where they were, she guesses. She kind of tends to agree that the time has come where they need to see whether they can do anything with their piece independently.

County Commissioner Coward said they went through a lengthy public involvement process and created a revised Port Master Plan. He believes the County has formally adopted that into their Comprehensive Plan, but they don't know the status of the City. He wants to make sure that is their guiding document. If they are going to put out an RFP, they need to have something for them to understand what their vision is. He wants to make sure it is a common vision. Is that the City's understanding, that they will be using that Port Master Plan?

City Commissioner Becht said yes.

City Commissioner Coke said the City has already adopted it and submitted it.

Mr. David Recor, Deputy City Manager, said the City has transmitted to the Department of Community Affairs; and he thinks their last communication with DCA was that the City needed to wait until their Comprehensive Plan was formally adopted, and then come back and retransmit the Port Master Plan for adoption.

City Manager Beach said the point is, the City is using that same plan.

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The next item discussed was **Taylor Creek Project and Spoil Site - Dredge Site.**

County Administrator Anderson said an update on Taylor Creek Project and the spoil site. They have completed Phase 1, which was the first phase of dredging for Taylor Creek. And they have just removed the spoil site from Mr. Bell's property. They are now going into Phase 3. Phase 3 is the reconstruction of the shoreline. They have secured Florida Ports Council funding toward that; in fact, they have a meeting next week in Fort Lauderdale which will finalize that. Following that they are going to do Phase 2, and that is what they are going to be talking about today, which is going to be the remaining dredging of Taylor Creek. Mayor Benton provided them with a map of some potential spoil sites. Mr. West is here to talk about where they stand with looking for a spoil site.

Mr. Don West, St. Lucie County Public Works Director, said he provided them with a handout that shows a map of potential spoil site locations. They had an update also for the Taylor Creek project. Unless they want to hear it, he won't get into the details of Taylor Creek dredging. But the map itself was provided to them by the City and it shows four potential locations of properties. At this point the County has not initiated an analysis of any potential sites. But what they are proposing to do is initiate a study or analysis of the

four sites that were provided to the County by the City as potential locations for a temporary site that they could use for the Taylor Creek project. What they want to do today is make sure they are comfortable with staff moving forward in that respect, that they would study just those four sites initially, and then come back with a recommendation to potentially use one of those sites on a temporary basis.

County Administrator Anderson said their ultimate goal obviously would be to have a permanent site where they could put the material in and then haul it off and then reuse that site. They really need a permanent site. However, the City's policy would not permit them to have a permanent site within the City, unless they change that policy. If they find a site within the City that really works, then they would like to have a discussion with the City of perhaps using that as a permanent site.

Chairman Craft asked how much did it cost to construct the temporary site that was at the Port?

Mr. West said it was roughly \$500,000 to construct the site. They just recently deconstructed that site. And that was roughly around \$200,000 to take it apart, remove the dykes. They had to remove some muck material that was out there as well and truck it away. So they spent roughly another \$200,000 to just demobilize it and take it apart.

Chairman Craft said so \$1 million between construction and de-construction.

Mr. West said a little bit less than that, but yes.

City Commissioner Becht said he has two competing issues and he doesn't have a solution. There is a need for a spoil site. There is probably a need for a permanent spoil site. The economics of it dictates that it should be located near where they are pulling the sludge out of Taylor Creek or the Marina or wherever. He doesn't like burning waterfront property. And the sites that are depicted on the potential spoil site parcels are waterfront sites. So he has great difficulty with agreeing to create a permanent spoil site on what is waterfront property, even though the economics of a dredging operation say that is what should happen. The headache that he has is that the solution is then to truck it, and then they put all these trucks on the road. He thinks Mr. West made a very good presentation to the Harbor Advisory Board, and he thinks it was like 1,000 trips or something like that to go anywhere.

Mr. West said yes, Phase 1 was roughly 100,000 yards of muck. Phase 2 will be almost the exactly the same quantity. It was 6,000 dump truck loads.

City Commissioner Becht said which is a lot of trips over County streets, City streets, and going where? He doesn't have a solution. He is just telling them he really has some heartburn over burning some waterfront property for a spoil site.

Chairman Craft said he understands his heartburn. But what they need to realize is, there is just some times they have to find some property somewhere for certain projects, and he thinks this is one of them. They are going to find themselves in the same position - if not these two boards, future boards - with where are they going to locate a temporary site or a permanent site? He thinks both boards are going to have to bite the bullet and find something that makes sense that is the most economical for everybody at this point. He thinks they got a clear consensus from the Board members earlier that they should move forward with Harbour Pointe. They are cognizant of the redevelopment efforts of the City of Fort Pierce. But they also have responsibility of making sure they keep those channels clean and getting those contaminants out in the most effective way possible. He does believe that Mr. West had pointed out some other concerns that they have with trucking the muck before it is dried a little bit at the spoil site. He had hoped they all take those things into consideration before they act.

County Commissioner Smith said the other side too is that he knows everyone up here is talking about a permanent spoil site and he understands that. But he knows at one of their Board meetings they had a resident come up and ask why look at permanent spoil sites, why not look at some extraction type of machines. Mr. West and he had a conversation about that. But just to kind of get it out in public, would Mr. West kind of share the difficulties of having an extraction machine versus actual spoil sites?

Mr. West said they did look into that for the Phase 1 project. There are technologies available which work very well for small quantities. One of the problems they ran into is this was such a large quantity of muck. They have a permit condition that says they have to get the work done within a six-month time window because of the presence of manatees in the creek. So to dredge a large quantity in a short amount of time, the only way they could feasibly do that in one year in one cycle would be to dredge it all at once and then de-water it and dry it and so on. A lot of the new technologies can be used for small quantities like 10,000 yards, they lend themselves well to that. They did get one bid for Phase 1 that looked at using a belt press to help dry the material in a quicker manner, and the price was double. Instead of \$3 million it was around \$6 million. So it also gets very expensive. It is not something that is totally out of the question, but it is a matter of magnitude of cost and how quickly they can get the project done, whether they do it in one year versus maybe four years.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked when they are speaking of a temporary site, what time period are they looking at? Mr. West said six months to a year?

Mr. West said yes. They completed Phase 1. It took them 30 days to dredge it; and it took roughly one year to dry the material, to de-water it, and truck it, because it was a wet season. Quite honestly, the easiest way to dry it is to spread it out on the sand in a small thin layer, and then put it in the trucks. That was the year they had the hurricanes in 2004. So it took them a long time to de-water it and dry it and then truck it away. Also, it was a large quantity - 6,000 dump truck loads was about 14 yards a truck load. So it was a lot of material in about 12 months. So he would expect about a year and a half roughly to get the project done.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said the reason he is asking is, he is looking at the areas they have marked as residential. Is there an odor or smell or any type of disruption of neighborhoods?

Mr. West said there is really no odor problem at all. The biggest problem they had was the trucks. At the time they had a lot of trucks on the road carrying hurricane debris. In addition to that, they had trouble even finding trucks to haul the muck. They had a lot of the county trucks hauling the muck, the debris hauling trucks were out there, so there was just a lot of hauling going on. But that is probably the biggest issue they have is controlling those dump trucks.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked so there is no harmful residue that is going to be left when they are cleaning up these properties or anything?

Mr. West said no. They were very successful in removing the muck at the site of the Port.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said the reason he asks is, if they are looking at the map that was given to them, he has some properties along that Taylor Creek Canal, they can see the four parcels blocked off there. He has 17-1/2 acres out there. And if it is for the benefit of the City. He is not utilizing the entire 17 acres. But the most western portion of that, he would consider if they are looking into it, see if this would be applicable to using it.

Mr. West said yes, they would be very open to that.

County Commissioner Lewis said not that it is not open to discussion, this is all very good certainly, but she would like to mention - and she is sure Commissioner Coward

remembers - when they had about 17 sites on the table and they looked through numerous methods of extraction, drying, flocculation, whatever - there was this incredible stuff they can put in it that causes all the sediment to fall out. Anyway, they have been to great lengths in this search previously. So not that there is not room to look at new technology and discuss additional sites certainly, but she thinks what they have come down to is their requirements are pretty firm at this point. There just isn't a whole lot more they can do other than what has been done. So if they could find another site, she thinks that would be an awesome thing to look at.

County Administrator Anderson said the map here was given to them by Mayor Benton as a starting point. Secondly, he is pursuing with the Florida Ports Council 50% to 75% funding from them toward the construction of a permanent or temporary spoil site and/or purchase of property.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said he won't be relinquishing the properties. He says temporary, go ahead. But that has been in the family for awhile, so it is just vacant properties, open space. There are not very many residents there. As long it is nothing they will be offended by, he is open to that. He was just looking at the area that they were trying to utilize, right through the main gut of the City.

Chairman Craft asked one of the things that concerns him, is not there a dyke there they would have to get over?

Mr. West asked does Chairman Craft mean to access the properties that are on the map?

Chairman Craft said yes.

Mr. West said they should be able to get in. They are going to have to put the dredge in the canal in that area. But as far as accessing the land areas, they should be able to get into the spoil site.

Chairman Craft said where the Mayor is talking about is on the west side of the spillway. He thinks that would create a little bit of a problem.

Mr. West said he thinks they can go around that with the dredge pipe actually.

Chairman Craft asked will Mr. West get back with them and let them know if that site would work out?

Mr. West said yes. He thinks what they could do is make that part of the analysis of the four sites. They could look at that site as well, if that would be okay; and then come back to the Board before they would move forward with anything.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Lawnwood Recreational Area Master Planning Charrette**. (St. Lucie County School District biggest user and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority wellfield protection issues).

Ms. Debra Brisson, St. Lucie County Parks & Recreation Director, said Lawnwood Recreation Sports Complex. This is an aerial of the facility somewhat as it exists today. They have some improvements currently underway. She is going to go quickly through the powerpoint so she can bring them up to date. Back in 2002 there was a Conceptual Master Plan done prior to the Parks Referendum that was put out for the public vote. This is what that conceptual plan was. It has been revised since then because things have changed. But it was a process the County Staff went through to come up with this plan. As they can see, it includes a quad of baseball, the Lawnwood football complex, four soccer fields, existing tennis facility, and the softball facility along Quincy Avenue. This plan showed an aquatics center and also an additional five-court gymnasium. They are currently beginning

to break ground she believes June 1st for the Special Needs Shelter - Civic Center - Gymnasium. The construction budget is \$12.7 million. This shows where that Special Needs Shelter is going to be placed on the site along Virginia Avenue.

County Administrator Anderson said on this Special Needs Shelter, the vast majority of the money for that is coming from FEMA and insurance.

Chairman Craft said he would like them to have a real quick overview of the kind of space that is there, what this space can be used for.

Ms. Brisson said they have about 62,000 plus square feet. It serves actually three purposes. Obviously one is the Special Needs Shelter mode. It has specific rooms serving specific clients and personnel. It will be able to handle about 500 clients in the Special Needs mode - communications, ham operators, locker rooms, restrooms, the full complement State of the Art with a kitchen that can serve hot means. And it is also self-contained for 72 hours. So it will be able to be in operation for 72 hours under generators and fuel.

County Administrator Anderson said including the 500 special needs patients, they are going to be able to house 250 additional people - caretakers, Red Cross personnel, Health Department personnel - so there will be over 700 people in there. They are going to be able to pull a rescue vehicle in there and keep it in there. They are going to have an emergency room adjacent to that. So if a special needs person has an emergency, they will move them to the Emergency Room, take care of whatever their need is, and then load them into the ambulance once the storm passes, and they will go next door to the hospital.

County Commissioner Smith asked what type building will that be?

Ms. Brisson said 180 mile per hour wind and impact resistant glass.

County Commissioner Smith asked what type building? Is it a green building?

Ms. Brisson said yes, it is a green building. Some elements of it are.

County Administrator Anderson said not green in color, but a green building.

County Commissioner Smith said they are working on it.

Ms. Brisson said in addition to that, there is a main gymnasium facility with bleacher seating for approximately 2,000. They will be able to put another 1,000 to 1,500 chairs on the floor, so they can utilize it for concerts, graduations, large community activities.

County Administrator Anderson asked so they will be able to bring the graduation from the fairgrounds into the core of the City?

Ms. Brisson said yes, they will. They should be able to if they are wanting to move. She understands they enjoyed it out there, so they will see. In addition to that, there are seven multi-purpose rooms along the southern edge which range in size approximately from 2,500 square feet to 1,500 square feet. These will serve as rooms for trade shows, seminars, recreation programming, meetings, rental facilities. They are looking at the possibility of bringing in a Wellness Center or Fitness Center into the facility - aerobics classes, gymnastics, wrestling - all the full complement of recreation programs, assuming they do okay in the next Legislative Session.

County Administrator Anderson said also there is going to be a second floor where the Parks Department is going to be housed.

Ms. Brisson said what they see north of the Special Needs Shelter is a location for the Skate Park. They have been working with the Mayor and with the Citizen's Committee and some youths to come up with a design for a skate park. The proposed location of it is shown here. This is actually the schematic of what Phase I of the park will look like. It is a plaza concept.

County Commissioner Coward asked going back to the Gymnasium. What road is that, 23rd Street? That is one of the most dangerous intersections in this general area. They have talked in the past about having some alternative. He sees here they have parking lots, but there is no connectivity that he sees on this image. Could someone explain why they decided not to make that...?

County Administrator Anderson said that decision has not been made. They would still like to wrap 23rd Street around the back and wrap it toward the school.

County Commissioner Coward said for example, if there is a County Staff person in the main building and they would like to go to the Special Needs Center, they actually have to go out on Virginia Avenue? That wouldn't make any sense. Why couldn't they just go across? It doesn't connect.

Chairman Craft said he doesn't think that is a major deal. He is quite certain they could...

County Commissioner Coward said he just wanted to point it out. It jumped out at him that there is not connectivity there. It doesn't seem to make sense.

County Administrator Anderson said they would like to relocate the entrance to 23rd Street further east so they could have a traffic signal.

Ms. Brisson said this is Phase I of the skate park. The County has budgeted \$500,000. The design with Glattig, Jackson is underway and they are working on the final plans. The estimated construction for this phase is \$550,000. Currently they see a shortfall of about \$122,000. They have had a conversation with Mr. Hood (City Public Works Director) and hopefully they will be able to work with the City and get some services that will help them to make up the shortfall in some fill, perhaps some additional help. What is nice about this concept is that it holds elements for different types of skaters. Currently the young people street skate. They like to go actually where a plaza is and skate the steps and skate the rails. But the older skaters in the community skated what was called transition skating. They can see where they have a modified snake run, some curves, and some elements in there. In the end they were able to work with both of the different age group skaters and come up with a concept that everyone was pleased with.

Chairman Craft said there was a pretty big elevation change in this design from the highest point to the lowest point.

Ms. Brisson said there is about 4,400 cubic yards of fill that will need to be brought into the site. What is going to be nice about that, it is going to allow them to make it look like a park. It is not going to look a traditional skate park. It actually will look like a plaza. It will be open and welcoming. Their intent is that people will come and enjoy it and treat it just like any other park, whether they skate or they don't skate. She is going to show them a few of the elements. She doesn't know the terminology for all of them, but the kids and the designers do. What they see in a typical urban plaza has been placed into this concept with the rails and the ramps. They can start to see the elevation changes in the plan. What is nice about this is all of the elements allow for different levels. They talk about kids who could actually come down the stair and down the rail. But if they are not quite at that level, they will be able to go down along this obstacle on the other side. The Committee also wanted to talk about the concept of a Phase II, which are bowls. They will see where some

skate parks have bowls. They didn't want to eliminate it. They understood that the County had not funded a Phase II. They are currently out on an RFP for naming rights in hopes that someone will want to come forward and have the facility named after them. They also are getting ready to start a fund-raising effort. They are going to be selling the different elements and naming the different elements at \$10,000 apiece. So the Committee is hopeful that they are going to be able to raise some additional funds for eventually conducting Phase II for the park. In addition, at Lawnwood they recently have completed construction of four soccer fields which are lit and being utilized at this time. They also have added additional pavilions at the facility as well. Currently underway projects are the Special Needs Shelter and the Skate Park. They are placing a playground over at the softball fields. They have a maintenance building that is scheduled to begin construction as well. The future of Lawnwood Park, they have currently a FRDAP (Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program) Grant to help them fund these facilities and these projects as outlined - two additional softball fields, a baseball field, four tennis courts, four batting cages, two picnic pavilions, and a playground. This is the aerial of Lawnwood Recreation Sports Complex with those facilities that are currently funded if they were to be built out. What they see is the Special Needs Shelter, the Skate Park area, the area to the north is the two softball fields and the one baseball field, and then the four soccer fields as well. There are several projects that were in the original Conceptual Master Plan that are currently not funded; and those include a restroom/concession building at the baseball field and some parking improvements. There was originally an aquatic center that was proposed, but that has been eliminated and replaced with the Special Needs Shelter. That is the Lawnwood Recreation Complex as it is today.

City Commissioner Becht said it had been his hope that the master plan would include a pedestrian trail around its perimeter and through it. Does she know the acreage of that amount of property?

Ms. Brisson said she thinks it is about 93 acres.

City Commissioner Becht said they have a wonderful opportunity, because they don't have a whole lot of traffic going through it, to create a pedestrian trail. He doesn't think those are very expensive. They could mulch it at first and the money could come in later to put asphalt or concrete down.

Ms. Brisson said she does know that at one point there was discussion of a multi-purpose trail. One of the issues with it was winding it through some of the secure areas of the facility and the space. But it is certainly something that if the Commissioners are interested in staff looking into, they can begin to look at it.

City Commissioner Becht said he was not talking about going through the secure areas. He is talking about the perimeter.

Ms. Brisson asked just around the perimeter?

City Commissioner Becht said yes.

Ms. Brisson asked tying into the existing sidewalk?

Chairman Craft said no, they need to get it off the roads.

City Commissioner Becht said just around the perimeter they are probably looking at a mile. Commissioner Craft is going to be huffing and puffing, but it would be nice for some younger people.

County Administrator Anderson said they have another opportunity. He brings this up every year and he will keep bringing it up as long as he is here. The City owns the property

on the corner of 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue. The County uses that as a parking lot, which they would really like to improve. However, the City owns it. If they deeded it to the County, then they would make improvements to it.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked swap? The County has some property right over on Fisherman's Wharf.

City Commissioner Coke asked what does the County have to trade?

Mr. David Recor, Deputy City Manager, said they want the Causeway Park.

City Commissioner Becht said oddly enough, on the Agenda is Annexation issues. Maybe they could bundle those two things together.

County Commissioner Smith said he thinks one of the other issues too, even though it is not exactly the Lawnwood area, but just north and to the east of there is the Dan McCarty track. He thinks maybe they should start looking at that as being a tie-in to this, because he thinks it is very important as to what is going on here.

Ms. Brisson said the Board recently entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the School Board, and she believes that item is also coming before the City Commissioners as well, to improve the existing facility at Dan McCarty. The first phase of that would be to add a paved parking area. It is highly utilized, a lot of people go there in the evenings. Eventually as funding becomes available, they want to make improvements to the interior inside the track and actually get a nice soccer field in there and do some additional improvements. But the School Board is very excited about the opportunity of partnering with the County and doing some major improvements at Dan McCarty.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said they are looking forward to that. They are using that open field now for soccer.

Ms. Brisson said yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said he thought this came up before them last year that the City would be willing to have that done.

Ms. Brisson said she thinks initially the first phase of it, the School Board was interested in addressing the parking and the lighting. Actually the School Board is taking the lead on that. Once they complete that project, then they will move into the second phase. They need to do some irrigation improvements to really be able to grow the grass the way they need to.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked are they doing anything, the School Board? Have they initiated anything?

Ms. Brisson said the County has executed the Interlocal Agreement with them; and she understands that is under review currently with the City.

County Commissioner Coward said he is pleased to see that they are moving forward with this project. One of the things he has been hearing from folks in north and northwest Fort Pierce is the desire to have additional soccer fields in that area. So he is pleased they are putting soccer fields here. But he just wonders if there has been any discussion by the City of Fort Pierce in terms of trying to provide some additional soccer fields anywhere in the western or northwestern Fort Pierce.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said that is a good concept.

Mr. Jon Ward, Director of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, said at the Human Development & Resources Centre there will be game fields.

County Commissioner Coward asked those are regulation size soccer fields?

Mr. Ward said yes.

Ms. Brisson said Mr. Hoeffner is here. She is not sure if they had an opportunity to look at the additional land at Ilous Ellis Park? Maybe he could maybe just brief them at little bit, if anything is occurring.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said she did have a picture, if she can go back to it.

Mr. Bill Hoeffner, Director of Grants for St. Lucie County, said the parcel immediately north of the football field is currently for sale. It is approximately 13 acres. It extends east from the baseball field all the way to U.S. #1. The purchase price is approximately \$4 million. They are trying to put together a grant project for that parcel.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked if he was to just square that area off just north of that, is that what he is speaking of?

Mr. Hoeffner said it is the forested area immediately north of the football field, and then going east from that following Avenue O, it goes all the way to U.S. #1.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander asked isn't that separate ownership there? If they were to just square it off right there as a rectangle, not going all the way to U.S. #1.

Mr. Hoeffner said there are two parcels, but those are both under the same ownership. They tried to acquire the parcel Commissioner Alexander is talking about four years ago, but they lost out on the deal because of the timing.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said \$60,000 or \$70,000. Now they are talking about millions of dollars.

Mr. Hoeffner said he knows, they tried.

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The next items considered on the Agenda were **Annexation Issues with Future Service Boundaries, Paradise Park, and Sheraton Plaza.**

City Manager Beach said the City has recently annexed a huge number of individual parcels. (Mr. Beach displayed a map.) What they have done is annexed a bunch of parcels in Paradise Park. Their annexation process is that they annex one lot at a time. So they annexed a huge number in there. Commissioner Alexander has expressed an interest on a number of occasions and other members of the Commission have expressed an interest in going west of there to include the Sheraton Plaza area. He believes that was the purpose for this agenda item, with a question as to whether or not the County Commission would agree to let them square off some of those boundaries in that northern part of the community. Is he stating that accurately?

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said yes.

City Manager Beach said that is what this discussion is about.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said the discussion came up through the County via some of the City Commissioners who had concerns about the City snaking that area through there to get to the airport. So instead of eliminating the airport from any conversation today, they will just speak about the area that is much needed just to box it off over there in that area.

That was just something he needed to discuss on the Juanita Avenue area from U.S. #1 to...

County Commissioner Coward said for clarification, in their Interlocal Agreement that dealt with utilities, they made an attempt to identify the broader annexation area. It was his understanding that the area they are talking about is within that zone, is it not?

City Manager Beach said that is correct.

County Commissioner Coward said the issue is not about whether the County objects to the City annexing, but rather the way in which it may be done. He believes what Mr. Beach is saying without saying it is, the City may be considering going back to the State Legislature asking them to assist with forced annexation. He doesn't want to put words in his mouth, but is that what they are proposing here? He is asking that the County not object to that, is that specifically what he is saying?

City Manager Beach said he believes that is the question.

County Commissioner Coward said he has no objection to the City annexing voluntarily. But he personally is going to be straight up and consistent, he is not a supporter of forced annexation. That has been his position and he continues to feel that way.

County Commissioner Lewis said just a quick question to verify this area. She would imagine it does not have annexation agreements?

City Commissioner Coke said correct.

City Manager Beach said the Sheraton Plaza area was developed somehow independent of annexation agreements. They do have City water and sewer services, but he is assuming it was some type of special project that was put through the process and there were no annexation agreements required for that development.

County Commissioner Smith said they have had this conversation before and he has had moments of discomfort regarding it. But in speaking to some of the residents in that area, because they have City utilities, they also have City surcharges. Is that correct?

City Manager Beach said yes. They pay 25% extra on their utility service.

County Commissioner Smith said that is one of the things they haven't heard about in recent months, but the whole question about surcharges and how high some utility bills are, particularly for residents in that area. It got him to thinking a little more about this issue. Depending on where and how they look at this, one of the big issues he has always had regarding annexation particularly on the east side of Paradise Park, was looking at ways to partnership with the City regarding some road projects and making sure they could do some things together that way. The County has begun that process for some of their underground infrastructure projects, the drainage projects, and they actually have roads out in Paradise Park that are now paved and they have more on the way. So he would like to at least look at this from a different position where he was initially, particularly because of that surcharge of 25% that some people are charged. Is it separate or is it total? Is it 25% on water and 25% on electricity?

City Manager Beach said it is 25% on each one - water, electric, and wastewater.

County Commissioner Smith said so essentially if they live outside the City limits 50% of their bill are surcharges.

City Manager Beach said no. Actually it is 25% of whatever the normal amount is. If the normal amount is \$100 for electric, it just goes to \$125.

County Commissioner Smith said so that is an issue they may be able to help some of these residents find other ways to lower some of those costs. They also would receive representation within the City limits on issues of the City Commission and some other perks, police protection he believes as well, and additional service. He knows Chief Baldwin is excited to hear more officers would have more work to do.

City Commissioner Becht said and less money.

County Commissioner Smith said yes indeed, let's not forget that, doing more with less. But at least it is something he is open to discussing now more than he was two years ago.

County Commissioner Coward said just to follow up on the scenario Commissioner Smith is laying out. If one of those land owners now who has that surcharge wishes to be annexed into the City, they have identified the broader area where the County would not contest any annexations. Wouldn't they simply have the ability to go to the City and voluntarily say they would like to be annexed? Is there some reason why that couldn't happen in a voluntary fashion?

City Commissioner Coke said first of all, they would have to be contiguous. If they were not contiguous, even if they volunteered, the City couldn't annex them. Number two, she thinks a large part of the problem there is that they are looking at rental units. So there is a landlord saving money, but there are citizens that are paying a huge 25% surcharge that they can't afford to pay. If they could afford to pay it, they could afford to buy homes. She thinks that is what the problem, is that the burden of this expense is going to the people who can least afford it.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said he won't beg the difference out there, but those are homeowners pretty much. The only rental properties is the Housing Authority that runs along the corridor of Juanita Avenue. Pretty much most of those homes out there are homeowners as he understands. But going back to support what Commissioner Smith was saying about the 25% surcharge. If they save just \$25 a month, just 10 months out of the year, that is \$250 just for the electric. Now when they speak of additional taxes for City limits, he has asked for it in the past to give him a breakdown on what the average cost would be, whether the taxes would go up. Because that is the first thing they say is their taxes are going to go up if they are in the City limits. When they actually break the money down, they wouldn't be spending that for the City. They get all the amenities of the City, the garbage and all that. He just thinks that is something they need to look at because of the area it is adjacent to, right across the street from Paradise Park. But when they speak of the northwest section, that is truly the northwest section of the City of Fort Pierce; not Avenue D and 13th Street, that is not northwest at all. Again, he just brings it before the Commissioners as a whole as the City and the County that they need to look into that. Why haven't the people been asked? Why haven't they been given the opportunity to make that choice of choosing that for themselves?

Chairman Craft asked is it the City's intention in this area, if they do get the Legislative annexation, to annex the roads as well?

City Manager Beach said if they drew a boundary around it and annexed that entire boundary, then the City would be annexing the roads. This is kind of a technical argument that their lawyers like to deal in.

City Commissioner Becht said so let's not get into it. He is going to rescue Mr. Beach. He answered his question. The other issue is that they have talked to the residents, they created a brochure and they sent it out to the residents. And in the brochure they mentioned to them that they would try to expand the FPRA boundaries to encompass this property. The County obviously is going to be involved in any attempt by them to expand

the FPRA boundaries. But right now with everything that is going on in Tallahassee and not going on in Tallahassee, the FPRA is probably the only entity who might be represented here today that has any cash with which to perform capital improvements like streetscape, swales, and that. So the only way they are going to be able to get money to these people is if they annex them and if they are able to - with the County's permission - expand the FPRA's boundaries up to encompass this area.

County Commissioner Lewis said she realizes to some extent it may have been a semantic political distinction, but she distinctly remembers that when they voted on the agreement for the service area, they were very careful to call it a service area and not an annexation area.

She personally had some issues with it then and she still would if they were going to call it that. Once again, she too has had historically and continues to have a problem with annexing people who are not willing. Obviously if they want to voluntarily annex, that is fine. But she has talked to some folks who have been annexed in other areas. And she guesses depending upon the evaluation of their home, the surcharge is less than the taxes are. She has had discussions with Mr. Beach and Commissioner Becht and some other folks. If City amenities are desired by the resident to the extent that they feel that the charges are something they want to undertake, that is fine, she doesn't have a problem with it. But she would still be extremely uncomfortable if they were to proceed legislatively in that area.

County Commissioner Coward said Commissioner Becht was talking about the FPRA improvements and so forth. He would much prefer the County try to work with the City in that regard whereby they are actually creating additional improvements and services to make it more desirable for someone to voluntarily want to be annexed. That then helps with the contiguity issue that Commissioner Coke talked about. Because if they have scattered lots and if it is desirable to be annexed, they are going to see a number of people coming in and therefore the properties are contiguous. It is just the fundamental question. He tries to put himself in the shoes of the people he is affecting with his votes. If a governmental entity told him he was going to be forced to be annexed into a city, he would be irate. He would like that choice as a property owner. And he thinks these land owners deserve that same right.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said absolutely. He as a Commissioner of District #1, when he looks at the boundaries of District #1 versus District #2, he thinks if they don't pay attention to that, it is going to be like a big apple and a little orange. That is what he has the problem with. He doesn't know how many homes they have there and how many voters they have in there, but they have multiple families. That is his concern is District #1 versus District #2. Are they going to look at realigning the Districts? Maybe that is a different outlook on it. But as long as they continue to annex to White City and Midway Road and nothing to the north, then he thinks there is a disproportion there.

Chairman Craft said he thinks he was the lone vote against sending a letter to Tallahassee the last time and he thinks his position is pretty much the same. He thinks that is between the City and Tallahassee. If Tallahassee has the wisdom to do that and work with the City, and he sees some added benefit in this, he would be open to it.

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The next item considered on the Agenda was New Community Center at Indian River Veteran's Memorial Park.

Mr. Jon Ward, Director of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, said so that the Commissioners can be aware of the direction they are moving on that project. Everyone is familiar with Veterans Park. The FPRA is in the process now at the direction of their Board of master planning or at least examining the potential future for Veterans Park. In looking at this in a comprehensive method, there are a number of assets that are in the park that are jointly used by the City and the County. (Mr. Ward displayed a drawing.) This is a

master plan that has been proposed by RMPK, their consultants. They can see where the present Community Center is, there is a large lawn. What they have proposed on this is the creation of a new Community Center. The noteworthy element of this is that they are truly accenting the role of the veterans in this community. It is Veterans Memorial Park. What is happening here are a series of assets that celebrate the roles of those veterans. They are talking about a triumphal arch that has everyone who served. It addresses a whole series of displays in here that talk about the veterans and the role of veterans. It comes under this beautiful lawn. They are going to take down potentially the Amphitheater that is over there and put a staged area here, which is a much smaller imprint, that they can utilize. They have completely recreated the walkways and fountains. This is in conjunction with other assets that are in the park. They have had a whole series of public meetings on this; and everyone who is a stakeholder here, including the County, has been invited to come in and discuss and comment on this. Part of that has been the role of the Backus Gallery, one of their stalwart cultural foundations, and they are in the process of looking at enlarging their museum as well. In fact, they are going to be meeting in about two weeks with their architects. They have a concept for greatly enlarging that. So part of this discussion is just to kind of give them an overview of the fact that they are looking at how to better utilize Veterans Park. Along with that, they all recognize that Community Center there is heavily utilized. When he was with the County, his office was there. And every day there is an exercise program going on and there is a lot of activity there. Their thought was that they would like to see a larger and more robust Community Center in that park, possibly a two-story center with a lot more activity going on there. Of course, part of the conversation is that they need to let the County know that they are scratching their heads about this and would love to have them partner in the development of that facility. He just wanted to get everybody up to speed on this. The property is owned by the City, but the County has a long-term lease on the property with the City. And then all of the recipients who are the park, like the Backus Gallery, have a sub-lease with the County. The County has the master lease.

Chairman Craft said he thought they gave up that lease a few years ago when the Amphitheater was taken over by the City.

Mr. Ward said no. What they did was exchanged some assets, some maintenance. But the long-term lease is still as it has been.

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The next item considered was Funding Source for Development along Jenkins Road.

City Manager asked will anybody from the City admit to putting that on the Agenda? He doesn't know the source of that Agenda Item.

Chairman Craft asked does anyone want to discuss funding for Jenkins Road?

City Commissioner Becht said he is going to suggest that the Mayor may have put it on here. They all know his personal tragedy and why he is not here. He is not able to talk intelligently about what he was trying to accomplish.

Mr. Matthew Margotta, City Director of Planning, said the City and the County has seen some development along Jenkins Road. He thinks the issue here is maybe a coordinated effort on some of that improvement. Particularly they are seeing it in the form of the intersection of Okeechobee Road. FDOT has some stutter steps towards making some improvements, or funding or not funding some projects in that area. Jenkins Road south of Okeechobee Road there are other projects that need to come along. He doesn't know much more other than the improvements need to come. And if they are all dealing with concurrency management, they probably need to make sure their CIP's match. That is his stab at trying to recall what the issues were.

County Administrator Anderson said they are working with the developers in the area to fund the project. He and Don West (St. Lucie County Public Works Director) have been meeting with the developers - planning on what is going to be constructed, in what phase, and how the funding is going to occur. So the City staff is more than welcome to sit down with them and they will bring them up to speed.

Chairman Craft said along those same lines, Kings Highway is an important part of the Jenkins Road area where they have concurrency issues in that whole segment and every node in that segment. The costs that FDOT is throwing out, depending on whether or not they are going to require them to go to four lanes or six lanes on that road, is between \$100 million and \$300 million. So they start to try to digest those numbers and pay attention to what the State is doing to them. It is a State road they are going to have to fund.

Mr. Margotta said also maintain.

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The next item on the Agenda was Orange Avenue Post Office Museum.

County Administrator Anderson said he has an attachment to their agenda package (Tab #13). He did a memo to the Board on May 18th. They have \$1,284,422 budgeted toward 50% of the share of construction cost. They are ready to go out to bid. At this point on the actual operating cost of the museum, they do not have it included in the 2007-2008 budget that they are going to be recommending to the Board of County Commissioners for two reasons. The first reason is, they don't know if they are going to have any funding available for any new services. At this point, they have done a budget with no new services. Secondly, the museum would not be completed until late Summer of 2008, which means they would not be opening it until at least October 1, 2008. So if they do have money to budget for operating cost, they will be budgeting it in 2008-2009 budget. There is a question right now, should they proceed with going out to bid since the bid documents are ready, not knowing if they will have funding available to actually operate it.

Chairman Craft asked what is the \$2.5 million for? What are they going to do with that? If he is understanding this correctly, the County has put forward nearly \$1.3 million. The City is going to match that \$1.3 million through FPRA or some other funding mechanism. What is the \$2.6 million going to be used for?

Mr. Jon Ward, Director of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, said that is hard construction of the facility, it is to completely renovate the facility, capital cost.

Chairman Craft said at any rate the facility needs to be renovated. They need to get that done. And if at the end of the day they find out that the Legislature says they are going to cut 40% of their ad valorem taxes, they would have a renovated building that could potentially be leased out and be used as an income generating facility.

Mr. Ward said the design of the facility is such that it has been designed as a very open, very flexible space. So it would lend itself to that sort of activity very well.

Chairman Craft said so spending and continuing ahead with those fund allocations would not, in his mind, be a waste of funds at this time. He thinks it would be a very worthwhile investment in the community.

County Administrator Anderson said then they will proceed to go out to bid.

County Commissioner Coward said this item ties back with some discussions that have been occurring on the Tourist Development Council and he thinks it is timely to put it out just for their knowledge and potential input. The money that is being put toward this in part, is it not coming from the bed tax, their one-fifth cent they approved?

County Administrator Anderson said yes.

Ms. Jody Bonet, County Cultural Affairs Director, said \$249,000.

County Commissioner Coward asked is that just a one year allocation or total?

Ms. Bonet said that is all they have given them so far.

County Commissioner Coward said the point being if - and he thinks only Commissioner Lewis might have been on board when they actually approved that one-fifth cent - it was part of the discussion about their 15 year agreement with the Mets and their desire to make over \$10 million of improvements at Tradition field. One of their former Commissioners wanted to make sure that they tried to have a more equitable distribution of those bed tax dollars and there was a requirement for a super majority vote on this item. That Commissioner made a suggestion that they earmark one-third of those proceeds toward the general category that they call North County Projects.

County Administrator Anderson said north of Midway Road.

County Commissioner Coward said right. The idea being they needed to invest in various capital projects that would help them boost tourism. That agreement was approved either unanimously or with a super majority. But there is movement afoot now by the Chamber of Commerce and others to have the Tourist Development Council and the Board of County Commission revisit that agreement and to look at this one-third and to reallocate it from North County Projects to a broader category of advertising. He has some concerns about that proposal and he wanted to make sure they were aware that is occurring at this time. He thinks with the money they got from the State, the \$7.8 million to reimburse their investment at the stadium, there is some opportunity for them in years out to be able to boost the dollars that would be available for advertising, and he thinks that is the direction they should look. But he is concerned at this one-third that goes directly toward various projects in the City limits could be eliminated if they were to follow that route and he is not supportive of that.

Chairman Craft asked what form of advertising? What are they advertising?

County Commissioner Coward said tourist dollars that are spent by the TDC and the County to promote tourism. They are advertising in magazines, web sites, and so forth.

Chairman Craft said they are advertising the region or the County, but not specific businesses.

County Commissioner Coward said correct.

County Commissioner Lewis said it has occurred to her that they are probably going to have to revisit the whole tourist tax issue fairly soon. She is sitting for the County currently on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce. They had a meeting this morning. And every month that again comes up, the tourist tax issue, and the allocation of it has become a real hot topic. So she thinks it might be time for them to go back. She too is concerned about the move that is afoot to remove that from North County Projects, so they need to talk about that pretty soon at their level she thinks.

City Commissioner Coke said she doesn't know if Commissioner Coward thinks it would help, but he would ask Mr. Beach to please schedule a discussion on this at their next Commission meeting. She doesn't know why the Chamber of Commerce would feel it appropriate not to allocate funds for north of Midway Road. The City of Fort Pierce has hotels here. They put on fishing tournaments. They certainly bring their share of revenue to the TDC from Heads on Beds. She sits on that Board, so she actively participates in the

TDC. She has actively participated with the SKA Fishing Tournament and several other things here. She thinks it is - just a blunt way of saying it - just a slap in the face for the City of Fort Pierce. She understands the Mets do a lot, she understands there are a lot of things going on at South County; but Fort Pierce is not the red-headed stepchild here. And to look to completely cut them off, she thinks is a deplorable action for the Chamber to be taking.

County Administrator Anderson said let him try to clarify, because he didn't mean to demonize the Chamber. He thinks the Chamber's goal is to increase dollars that are allocated toward advertising. What is happening is, he doesn't think it is a specific attempt to hurt Fort Pierce, it is more of an attempt to find available funding sources. And because those dollars from the bed tax have already been committed long term for Tradition Field, whereas the one-third for the North County has only been committed for he thinks a two year time frame, there is an availability to try to redirect that funding source. He just wants to make it clear. He doesn't think there is an effort on their part to try to shortchange the City. He thinks they are simply looking at available dollars.

County Commissioner Lewis said exactly, she doesn't think there is any intent there to dispossess the North County. It is simply the intent is to find more dollars available for advertising per se. There seems to be just kind of a philosophical bent there whether the money should be spent purely on advertising or whether it actually should be spent on construction and renovation. Given the fact that this is moving along in an other area, the TDC and the Chamber, she thinks maybe they need to bring it to the Board levels and discuss it.

City Commissioner Coke said the other thing to remember, while that might not have been the intent, certainly the Chamber is comprised of professional people who should have had enough foresight to recognize, first they moved out of the City of Fort Pierce and now they are looking to cut off funding from the TDC for projects in Fort Pierce. The last time the Chamber moved to Port St. Lucie, suddenly they had a City of Fort Pierce Chamber. If all of a sudden they are going to be continually slapped in the face, she thinks they will find that will happen again.

Chairman Craft said it doesn't sound to him like they have the support for that on this Board, so he doesn't really see any further deliberations on this particular matter.

County Commissioner Smith said he thinks as they move forward which ever way they end up going, he thinks one of the important ideas too is in looking at tourism and what brings tourists to this community, whether it is for overnight or whether it is for an evening. He remembers being on TDC and wondering who are the tourists? Are the tourists the ones who come for events at Sunrise Theatre or are tourists the ones who come for four days for the SKA Fishing Tournament? He would like to at least look at some point at the issue of being able to provide some sort of assistance to the Sunrise Theatre because that is a large tourist draw and for other theaters as they come on line throughout the community. He thinks their cultural life is a vital one. And as they look at tourism and how it relates to the culture in this community, they really need to focus on all the aspects of tourism, not just heads on beds as they move forward.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Taylor Creek Project**.

County Administrator Anderson said they already talked about that earlier. He just wants them all to know that Tab #14 attachment is a report that he had done on May 21st to the Florida Ports Council. He is required as the Port Director to provide them with status reports prior. There is one next week and that status report is in here.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Questions and Comments**.

Chairman Craft said he kind of opened this meeting up talking about what is going on in Tallahassee right now - the challenges the County is facing, that the City is facing, that the public is facing. They have kind of brushed on several opportunities today to work with one another. He thinks they are in a time where they have to change the way they do business and they need to find any opportunity whatsoever that they can streamline what they are doing here. He knows in the past there were some talks about combining their **Public Works Departments**, at least utilizing the same lands and some other equipment and whatnot. He would really like for them to leave here today giving staff the direction to work on different projects such as that. If they want to identify some off the top, he is comfortable with that as well. But he wants to make sure that staff has the direction from them to find some ways to consolidate efforts that their local government is trying to accomplish for the business of the people.

Mayor Pro Tem Alexander said that is an excellent idea.

City Commissioner Becht said the idea for getting the City and County together was before they knew that Tallahassee was going to play with their respective budgets. He thinks they have accomplished a lot more than just talking about their budgets together. But there are two things he would ask be addressed in the City's budget as it is being put together. A possible charrette for development of a **Governmental Services Complex** at 7th Street. He would like to see if they could put a little money in there in cooperation with the County to have a charrette for what might be accomplished up there. He understands the County has some issues that it needs to work through. But if they are going to be decommissioning some of the buildings up there, it would be nice to know what they could do up there, rather than having a vacant building or a vacant piece of property once they all make a move.

City Commissioner Becht said the other thing he would like to do is update the **Master Plan for the Lawnwood Recreational area**. They have 93 acres there that is being developed. He is not saying it is not being developed well, that is not what he is saying; but it is being developed without a view toward the maximum potential for 93 acres in the heart of Fort Pierce. There are other things that can be done there to maximize what is going on. The School Board is probably one of the biggest users of that facility, they will need to be involved in that. He thinks Commissioner Smith brought up the idea of trying to create some inter-connectivity with the Dan McCarty track. The public uses the track across the street, they do not use the track that is in the middle, he thinks there are some security concerns with that. But he would ask that the City consider funding. Maybe the FPRA could fund the 7th Street Governmental Complex and the City could fund the Master Planning Charrette with the Lawnwood Recreational area, so they get the most bang for their buck on 93 acres. That is what he would ask.

County Commissioner Smith said the other issue he would like to discuss the next time they get together, the idea of **Green Building** and sustainable growth practices. The County passed an ordinance a few months ago and now they are beginning to talk about some of the things they are doing with their Special Needs Shelter, with their Emergency Operations Center, as they look towards green building. And hopefully moving toward LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified green building in the future. But he thinks that is something that governments should take a look at together. And he would like for the County staff begin to work with the City staff and see what type of projects they can look at and do together.

County Commissioner Smith said also the issue of **bio-diesel**. He thinks that the School Board has shown themselves to be leaders on that issue with their school buses this year. And he knows they have a lot of trucks and heavy equipment vehicles on the road between their two organizations. His idea is that if they can do some things north of Midway Road, that as soon as they can kind of work through the process, they can share it with their

neighbors down south. So he thinks they have an opportunity here to really be leaders on this sustainable growth and sustainable development.

County Commissioner Lewis said in line with the consolidation, funny that should be mentioned. Last night, pretty much toward the end of the meeting, that was something one of the citizens brought up. Actually there were some pretty right-on comments about the difficulties involved in having County parks in the middle of Port St. Lucie, the logistics of moving people up and down the County, and what have you. So while she realizes they are not represented here, she would like the consolidation issue to include some discussions with the City of Port St. Lucie. If they are going to talk about consolidating their efforts, she thinks they need to be included, because there are some issues that she is sure would benefit them all.

County Commissioner Coward said he liked the discussion on green building technologies. He is very interested in clean-energy issues. He thinks there will be some interesting projects moving forward in the near future. Because of the enthusiasm of the County Commission, they are starting to see some interest from the private sector in that regard. So if there are ways the County can work with the City, he is excited about that. He wanted to bring up a lesser topic. He has always been a real keen fan of the **St. Anastasia** building. He knows due to age and hurricanes that the building has gotten worse and worse. But he was really excited to hear that the City of Fort Pierce was able to acquire the building and the adjacent property recently. There has been a lot of discussion in the past kind of dreaming about what they could possibly do with that building at some point. Is it possible that they could give them a quick update on where they are with that property and what they may be considering? Has it moved along far enough that they have some ideas?

Mr. Jon Ward, Director of Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, said this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock they had bids that came in on the stabilization of the building itself. Of course they lost about one-third of the north end of the roof several years ago in the hurricanes and they have been taking water substantially since then. Although having said that, the building is still in pretty good shape. So they are going to dry it in, put the new roof on, and get the building secured in the next six months. They will let that contract within probably the next 30 to 45 days. Then going beyond that, they have already - through the Planning Department - been having a series of planning exercises, not only for the building itself, but also... When they bought the building, they bought several acres around it. So they own a substantial piece of property there and it gives them an opportunity to develop literally St. Anastasia Square, for a lack of a better term. So they are looking at housing opportunities, townhouses, and that sort of thing in the area. For the building itself, they envision that truly as a Community Center. They have an opportunity, with a very diverse community especially located in that area, to focus on assets that may serve better specifically their Haitian and Hispanic communities. The third floor of that building is a gymnasium, so it is a great open space - it is wonderful for public meetings and gallery spaces and that sort of thing. He has a meeting next week with a series of Hispanic organizations. They go into their libraries and they have a shelf of Spanish books. He would like to see a 10,000 volume library that is all Spanish books and perhaps an equally or proportionately sized library facility that was available in Creole books for that community, to really give them a sense of getting ahead of that multicultural issue they are faced with. They have the opportunity of housing that there, as well as offices potentially for other service organizations. So in every sense of the word, it will be a Community Center. And they have a great opportunity on that block to develop an inner City park. Again, they have some good space in and around that, some housing and better retail opportunities.

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The next item on the Agenda was **Public Comment**.

**Ms. Arden Peck** said she is a Fort Pierce resident and Chair of South Beach Association Beach & Parks Committee. She is also a member of the Public Works team that is planning their Linear Parks and Jaycee Park. She thought at one point she might have to

waive the \$19.95 yellowing conceptual drawing of **Causeway Park**, but she feels somewhat excited now that there will be some joint effort. Along with this, she does have a copy of the conceptual plan for Causeway Park. She did meet with Bob Hood and Nick Mimms and just recently with Paul Bertram, the City Parks & Grounds Supervisor, concerning taking that conceptual drawing, minimizing it, but prioritizing it - just exactly what they were saying. Their first priority would be two restrooms. She has heard some horror stories from Debra Brisson concerning what happens and doesn't happen with the only restroom that is over there, it is pretty ugly. So that would be one of their first priorities. To address the knee-wall issue and the erosion issue, she just spoke to Paul Bertram and his idea is an intermediate step. That would be to remove those pavilions and move them back; and then take lots of landscaping, palm trees, whatever, with little cuts in them so people could get to the water, but not back their trucks in and dangle their feet in the water. For the City to maybe look into that and propose that. She has no idea what it would cost. But as Mr. Bertram says, they are used to doing a lot with a little. And certainly landscaping would be a much quicker solution and cheaper solution than building a pathway, although it would be lovely, with a knee-wall, etc. Those are just the two things that they have come up with she just thought she would share with them.

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**Mr. Edwin Fry, Jr.**, Clerk of the Circuit Court, said he wanted to address the comment Commissioner Coke made on the development of the Governmental Services Complex. She had mentioned her concern about moving the **Juvenile Court System** down to the Sam's Club area and then would it come back into that area. There is a dictate essentially by the Court that eventually they have a unified family court system which would consist of family court, injunctions, child support, and juvenile. He thinks the concept is, all of those courts could be in one location, which would be the existing courthouse in downtown Fort Pierce. What the concept had been was to provide courts that had additional secure facilities over and above what they have downtown right now. The issue that the judiciary is concerned about is that they have four courtrooms that have access to holding cells. They currently have six courtrooms that they conduct criminal trials in. So the problem they are running into is that they are transporting inmates through the public corridors. So he thinks one of the needs that the judiciary has expressed is that they have courtrooms that have more secure cells off of those. That is really what the courts are looking for. And they are looking to go ahead and bring the juvenile...

City Commissioner Coke said she is going to respond to that briefly, because she understands, she has met with the Judges. Number one, it would make way more sense not only to her but to several of the Judges that why would they go out of their way to bring juveniles and expose them to hardened criminals in the regular courthouse? It should be a separate facility, if it is all family; and 7th Street is a perfect place for that. The second thing she is going to bring up - which she has brought up to every Judge who came and told her about the need for more space - is the problem as she views it with their court system is they do not utilize the space they have properly. They have people who need to come to court for small infractions and they have to miss a day's worth of work, people who can't afford it, to go to court because court is from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If they go in the court system, she guarantees there is not a Judge there who is sitting in their courtroom for eight hours a day. It would be much smarter if they could devise a way to bring in a court system that would start at 7:00 a.m. so people could go to court and then go to work. Have those types of things from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Bring the criminals in from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They could bring another Judge to work from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They are expanding minimally their personnel expenditures by extending the hours. But she would put to them that they are going to be able to use twice as much of the judges time. They can bring in visiting judges, which has been suggested by the judges who are working there now; that the reason they need a bit more space is to bring in visiting judges. If they went to a split shift, they would have a Judge sharing a courtroom, they could bring a visiting Judge in. And she would guarantee that what they could pay the officers and the clerical people who work in the courthouse for a lot of years for what it would cost them to build a \$14 million judicial complex out west of town.

Chairman Craft said they are no longer talking about anything west of town. He will just make that perfectly clear.

City Commissioner Becht said if he also may weigh in here. He has heard several people talk about this mandatory combination. Can Mr. Fry get him the authority? Who is telling them...?

Mr. Fry said the Supreme Court.

City Commissioner Becht said there has to be something in print, so if he could get him a copy.

Mr. Fry said the Supreme Court has been discussing this for some period of time. They have not at this point issued an administrative order. It is one of these things they can see coming down the pike. No, there is nothing mandatory at this point; but it is something that the Supreme Court has talked about, and it is something they would like to see put in place, but they have not issued an administrative order. There is nothing in writing.

City Commissioner Becht said he is glad to get that clarified. There is no mandate.

Mr. Fry said no, not at this point.

City Commissioner Becht said he heard the Chief Judge raising the alarm about mixing the criminal population with the general public two or three years ago; and he raised it in quite a dramatic fashion and talked about the criminals breaking loose and harming someone in the public. This was two or three years ago. He wrote to the Chief Judge and said he has contacted the original architects for that part of the courthouse, Stebbins and Scott. Both of them offered to meet with him or whomever is trying to solve this emergency problem about mixing criminal defendants and the public. The Chief Judge hasn't contacted him about setting up a meeting, nor has he contacted either one of the architects. If there is a real problem - as distinguished from a problem that is generated so he can get himself a big complex west of town - please have the Chief Judge contact him and he will contact Stebbins and Scott and see if they will come in and try to put some partitions up or rework the courtrooms or whatever can be done so this emergency problem can be addressed.

Chairman Craft said he would like to put everyone's mind at ease as far as a complex west of town. That discussion is off the table. They have had lots of conversations at the Public Safety Coordinating Council to deal with that. He thinks he stressed the interest of the County to make sure the court system belongs in an urban environment. They are now saying fine, they just need the space. Wherever that space is, is up to the elected bodies. So it is his intention to make sure that remains in the City limits of Fort Pierce and to make sure they can use it as a redevelopment project.

City Commissioner Becht said he wants to thank Mr. Fry for his efforts in getting the Clerk of Court's building in downtown. It is a beautiful building and it is quite an asset to downtown. The FPRA did spend \$1 million of the \$4 million that the County contributes to their FPRA on that Clerk of Court's building. He voted for it and would vote for it again today.

Chairman Craft said \$4.9 million, isn't it?

City Commissioner Becht said \$4 million, plus or minus. Wasn't that the year they committed the \$1 million? It is a beautiful building. It is not Mr. Fry so much as it has been the Chief Judge and some of the comments he has made. He just wants the facts out to the public, and not the alarm and the drama.

County Commissioner Smith said he just wanted to finish up that conversation that Commissioner Becht brought up. He shares his concern regarding the architects, making sure that they facilitate that meeting with the Chief Judge. Is there a way or is there some sort of sense of their combined boards to create an encouraging phone call to the Chief Judge to get in touch with them? Because he thinks at some point the County Commissioners will have to look at funding any type of additions or expansions at that facility. So if there are certain types of changes that could be made architecturally to help protect those citizens, maybe they should just give the Judge the go ahead. Or maybe the Board should make the contact themselves with Stebbins and Scott to get that ball rolling.

City Commissioner Becht said Stebbins and Scott does not exist as a firm any more. But he spoke with both Jack Scott and Dick Stebbins, and both of them said they will dig the plans out and they will take a look at the problem, how the building is being utilized, how they want to utilize it, and see if they can come up with any simple solutions, not multi-million dollar solutions, but simple solutions. And nothing happened.

County Commissioner Smith asked would Chairman Craft be interested in writing a letter to the Chief Judge along with the Mayor or Commissioner Becht?

Chairman Craft said he would be inclined to have this discussion at the Public Safety Coordinating Council and he thinks they can deal with it there.

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**Mr. Edwin Fry** said he is a resident of St. Lucie County. Switching gears over to the **Lawnwood Recreational area**, it is a place he frequently plays tennis, he is still young enough to get out there on the tennis courts. But when Commissioner Becht was talking about having some type of walking path out there, as he recollects there was a fitness trail that was there at the Lawnwood Complex many years ago. He thinks that would be good to have that back in place again.

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There being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Alexander declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Adjournment.

ATTEST:

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CITY CLERK

MAYOR PRO TEM