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May 12, 2004

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CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 12, 2004

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens, Florida, met in regular session on Wednesday, May 12, 2004, beginning at 7:08 p.m., in Suite 201 of the Administrative Offices, 17801 NW 2nd Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida.

The following members of the City Council were present: Mayor Shirley Gibson, Vice Mayor Aaron Campbell, Jr., and Council members Audrey J. King, Barbara Watson, Melvin L. Bratton, Sharon Pritchett and Oscar Braynon, II.

Also in attendance were: City Manager Dr. Danny O. Crew, Assistant City Manager Horace A. McHugh, City Attorney Sonja K. Knighton, and City Clerk Ronetta Taylor.

2. INVOCATION:

Mr. Oliver Gilbert delivered the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4A) Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting of:

Regular Council Meeting - April 28, 2004

It was moved by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Councilman Bratton to approve the minutes with the following additions/deletions: Page 7, line 30, change the address to read: 17204 NW 49th Place, Miami; instead of 17204 NW 49th Place, Miami Gardens. There being no further discussion, the motion **passed and carried by a 7-0 vote**.

5. AGENDA/ORDER OF BUSINESS (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS):

Councilman Bratton referenced Agenda Item 6. "Special Presentation" and related that the agenda should be amended to read: Item Nos. 6A, 6B and 6C, instead of Item Nos. 6A, 6B and 6B.

Mayor Gibson indicated that Ms. Yolanda Cash Jackson would be making a presentation to the City Council at tonight's meeting, upon her arrival. She requested that the Agenda be amended to include Ms. Cash Jackson's presentation under Item No. 15, entitled Special Presentations.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Campbell, seconded by Councilwoman Watson to amend the official Agenda as requested. There being no further discussion, the motion **passed and carried by a 7-0 vote**.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S):

6A) FDOT – Intelligent Transportation System

Mr. Dan P. Murphy, Vice President of Public Relations for Kelley Swofford Roy, Inc, with offices at 3399 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Coral Gables, Florida, appeared before the City Council, representing the Florida Department Of Transportation. Mr. Murphy presented a brief presentation on FDOT's Transportation Initiative, which will greatly impact this community in 2005.

Mr. Murphy centered his presentation around the Ramp Mover, which is one of the initiatives being implemented by FDOT. The Ramp Mover involves the utilization of a green light as a traffic device, which assist with the flow of traffic onto the entrance ramp. This traffic device will provide consistency and efficiency when merging into main arterial traffic. This system should be functioning as early as October 2004.

Councilwoman King conveyed support of the implementation of such a system.

Councilwoman Watson asked, once this system is implemented, how will the law be enforced to ensure that all motorists stop at the entrance ramp traffic light.

Mr. Murphy said the Highway Patrol will have jurisdiction and is the enforcement authority to ticket violators.

Councilwoman Watson asked how would this information be disseminated to the public so that they can be aware of these changes.

Mr. Murphy said that FDOT would be sending out newsletters. Brochures and flyers will be sent to all municipalities, particularly those along the freeway.

Mr. McHugh, Assistant City informed the Council members that FDOT wanted to make this presentation to the City Council in an effort to advise the Council member of pending and future Florida Department of Transportation projects. Ultimately, the City Council will be getting calls about the little devices already installed, by FDOT, at the entrance ramps.

Councilman Bratton inquired as to whether FDOT was hiring employees to work on this project.

Mr. Carlos Sanchez, a representative of FDOT appeared before the City Council to answer Councilman Bratton's question. He said the Department is in the process of opening a new Transportation Management Center and as part of that effort; FDOT has been hiring operators to manage the Center on a 24/7 day basis.

Ms. Sylvia Daughtrey of 2759 NW 196th Street, Miami Gardens appeared before the City Council to ask where the job announcements for FDOT were being advertised.

Mr. Sanchez said that FDOT is a state agency and as such, any job announcements are placed on the State's website and newspapers. He advised Ms. Daughtrey that he would provide her with

additional information about the job listing.

Mr. Murphy shared that FDOT will come back at a later date to provide an update on this particular project, as well as other pending projects.

Councilwoman Pritchett requested that Mr. Murphy bring printed information to share with everyone at their next appearance before the City Council.

6B) Chris Wallace – City of Miami Gardens Financial Report

Manager Crew put emphasis on the fact that the financial reporting process is not complete as yet; and as such is not going to be 100% accurate. What administration tried to do is provide information on the cash flow situation for the City; that is, what money the City has collected and what money the City has spent. This report will not show the overall expenses because it is missing the biggest part of the City's budget, which is the money that Miami-Dade County collects and spends on behalf of the City. The 22 Million dollars being charged to the City for police services is not listed. He shared that Mr. Wallace and his staff has gone through hundreds of receipts in an effort to place those expenditures under the appropriate line items within departmental budgets. Two documents are being provided to the City Council: 1) an overview of 02/03 budget; and 2) a year-to-date accounting on the 03/04 budget.

Mr. Chris Wallace, a representative of New Community Strategies, with offices at 4801 South University Drive, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, appeared before the City Council to further expound on this process. He related that the City has met several times with Miami-Dade County and voiced assurance that those issues with Miami-Dade County will be resolved. He conveyed anticipation of having all of the City's transactions logged by the end of July. The biggest challenge for the City is with Miami-Dade County's Records Division. Miami-Dade County has basically provided the City with a spread sheet, for each month with three different types of activities. The City is taking this information at face value; however, proper documentation is needed in order to reconcile the activity.

Mr. Wallace referenced the Balance Sheet for FY 02/03 and indicated that based on the City's transactions, there is money left over in both funds. He commented that Miami-Dade County is making a claim against that money, and then some. He related that for FY 02/03, the City had in its General Fund approximately 1.2 Million dollars fund balance; the Transportation fund had a balance of approximately \$332,400.00.

Mr. Wallace said that New Community Strategies is making its best effort to clear the City's financial records up and credited the City's administration with doing an excellent job in maintaining the records. He shared that his partner, Dr. Rosenbaum is of the opinion that the City of Miami Gardens is a very viable City.

Manager Crew related that most of the money the City will be collecting (e.g. Occupational License, Alarm Registration and Commercial Waste Franchise) will be credited to FY 04/05 budget. He said that it is extremely important to get FY 02/03 budget ratified first.

6BC) Miami-Dade County Fire Department

Operating Division Chief Dave Downey, with offices at 2270 NE Miami Gardens Drive, Miami, appeared before the City Council to provide a brief overview on the latest information regarding Fire Rescue Services. One of the areas a lot of attention is being focused on is with response time. The average response time for the City of Miami Gardens for 2003 is 3.99 minutes. The life threatening response time is 6.03 minutes. There are three response stations that exist within the boundaries of Miami Gardens. There are a total of seven stations that provide secondary response into the City of Miami Gardens. An advance life support fire engine to the Bunch Park Station is being planned for this fiscal year.

Councilman Bratton asked what type of trucks were being utilized at Fire Stations 11, 38 54.

Division Chief Downey stated that Station 11 has a three person Advanced Life Support Rescue and a fifty foot fire engine; Station 38 has a three person Advanced Life Support Rescue and four person advanced life support fire engine, in addition is staffed with two paramedics; Station 54 is a three person Advanced Life Support Rescue. In the FY 04/05 budget, a fire engine is proposed for Station 54.

Councilman Bratton asked what formula is being used to determine where a fire engine should go.

Arthur Holmes, Assistant Chief of Operations, with offices at 9300 NW 41st Street, Miami, appeared before the City Council to further expound on this issue. He said there are very specific formulas being used to determine where fire engines are placed. He cited development activity, demands on outside units coming in, proximity of surrounding units, the population density, and travel time, as variables currently in use to determine where a fire engine is needed. He said there are currently 12 different variables being used and all have to be interconnected. Once the computer version comes on line within the next six months there will be approximately 22-24 different variables being used.

Councilman Bratton asked what's the total number of calls for service for Stations 51 and 54.

Assistant Chief Holmes replied that there were a total of 6,142 calls for Station 51 and, a total of 7,022 calls for Station 54. He shared that each time a fire engine is added to a fire station the cost is approximately 1.8 million dollars. He related that currently, Homestead is the area with the most activity.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked how many fires were reported within the City of Miami Gardens for the last three years.

Division Chief Downey related that his figures are reflected from 1997 to 2001 for a total of 153 structure fires; 2002 had 112 structure fires and; in 2003 there were 111 structure fires.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked how many fires for that same time period were reported in Homestead.

Division Chief Downey related that he'd pulled numbers specifically for this area and advised

Councilwoman Pritchett that he would provide this information.

Assistant Chief Holmes indicated that there are three fire stations to cover approximately 30-46 miles from Homestead and points north. There is one fire station to cover Homestead and Florida City. He related that the County has been, for the last four years planning, to purchase land to build an additional fire station. He informed Councilman Bratton that the fire engine (suppression unit) he's (Bratton) been requesting for the past seven years will be in place within the next six months.

Councilwoman King referenced the fire that had gutted Ms. Pratt's home and questioned whether the response time was delayed due to the fact that there were no suppression units in close proximity.

Division Chief Downey shared that he'd personally responded to that fire. He said a fire rescue truck arrived on the scene within three minutes; Engine One from Miami Lakes arrived four minutes later. He said that the fire department had responded within the standard time. He said that he could not explain why there was so much damage to the home. Fires are living entities and sometimes take on a life of their own.

Councilwoman Watson inquired about the age of the equipment currently being utilized by the fire stations servicing the City of Miami Gardens.

Division Chief Downey said that Miami-Dade County has a very proactive replacement program in effect. Every one of the fire trucks has been replaced.

Ms. Faye Davis, residing at 670 NE 195th Street, Miami, Florida, was afforded an opportunity to express her concerns about the number of fires occurring on the west side of Miami Gardens. She provided the City Council with data to affirm her assertion that the west side of Miami Gardens was in dire need of fire service.

Assistant Chief Holmes responded to Ms. Davis' concerns and said that he did not like to set communities against communities but tried to provide the best possible service to all of Miami-Dade County.

Mayor Gibson emphasized that the suppression unit, Assistant Chief Holmes gave mention to, is dependent upon funding to be allocated from Miami-Dade County. She asked, if Miami-Dade County did not allocate the requested funds, but a smaller amount would the fire department determine where to allocate those funds?

Assistant Chief Holmes said that if the funding allocated is less than what was requested, then some things may need to be changed. He said that everything is subject to priorities.

Mr. Carl Latimore, residing at 20520 NW 15th Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida, was afforded an opportunity to voice his concerns about the 911 service and the time in which a call is received and service dispatched.

Division Chief Downey shared that the 911 service, the police and fire departments are all in

the same building. The average call for service is less than one minute. Even while the 911 operator is talking to the person requesting service that request for service is being sent out.

Mayor Gibson thanked Assistant Chief Holmes and Chief Downey for their presentation.

Assistant Chief Holmes and Division Chief Downey both apologized for not attending the last City Council meeting. They both indicated that they were not informed to be here.

Mayor Gibson asked if there were any objections from the Council to allow Ms. Yolanda Cash Jackson to make her presentation now as opposed to the original request, which listed her presentation under Item No. 15.

There were not objections from the Council members to allow Ms. Cash Jackson to make her presentation.

6D) Legislative Update from Tallahassee, Florida – Yolanda Cash Jackson

Ms. Cash Jackson appeared before the City Council and related that the City Council's enthusiasm and commitment, along with Mr. Green's visit to Tallahassee really made a difference and an impact on this Legislative Session. She provided the Council with a summary on those things that were accomplished in Tallahassee. She further gave special acknowledgement to the City's management staff. The State allocated \$200,000.00 to the City of Miami Gardens for water projects. She encouraged the City Council members to stay involved with the Legislative Process.

Ms. Cash Jackson further credited Mr. Green's astuteness in regard to a Bill being introduced in Tallahassee to rename Miami Gardens Drive to Wilkie Ferguson Boulevard. As a result of the City of Miami Gardens adoption of a resolution, this Bill was revised and the street designation was moved to Honey Hill Drive (199th Street from 27th to 47th Avenue).

Mayor Gibson thanked Ms. Cash Jackson and her staff for their lobbying efforts on behalf of the City of Miami Gardens, during the Council's visit in Tallahassee during Dade/Broward Days. She related that Ms. Cash Jackson, Mr. Book and Mr. Pitman all provided pro bono lobbyist services to the City of Miami Gardens. She emphasized the importance of having a paid lobbyist in Tallahassee lobbying on behalf of the City.

6E) Miami Gardens/Carol City District Police Department Monthly Status Report.

Major Marshall appeared before the City Council to report that crime continues to decrease in the City of Miami Gardens and is down 8% across the Board. Sexual battery is down 44%, residential and commercial burglaries are down an average of 21%, auto thefts are down 19%. Robberies decreased from March to April by 15%. Two separate Specialized Police Reports were provided to the City of Miami Gardens. The Alarm user data base was forwarded to the City of Miami Gardens on April 28, 2004, at no cost to the City.

Captain Rifkin appeared before the City Council to report on the police department's participation at citizen community based organizations, private businesses, public and private schools and daycare centers.

Major Marshall announced that on October 1, 2004, the City of Miami Gardens will receive a federal grant for approximately \$30,000.00. A 25% match is required, which the City Manager has indicated will be provided. This means that the police department would have approximately \$40,000.00 for police related activities.

Councilman Braynon asked about the police operation that took place two weeks prior.

Major Marshall related that Miami-Dade County along with the Broward County Sheriff's Office conducted a police operation for the northern portion of Miami Dade County and the Southern portion of Broward County. Miami-Dade County made over 120 arrests, with BSO making approximately 20 arrests. This is a joint venture therefore more operations are anticipated to occur throughout the year.

Vice Mayor Campbell made reference to the school s' summer break and suggested, that in preparations of the summer months, that a city rally be conducted to address black on black crime.

Major Marshall indicated that on June 12, 2004, Miami-Dade County will be providing a free service of etching vehicle VIN numbers on the car's windshield. This event will take place at the Carol Mart on 183rd Street NW 27th Avenue. He related that the police department has set aside \$100,000.00 to assist with the summer break. In addition, a Neighborhood Accountability Board has been started with Jesus People's Ministries and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. This program allows for juveniles that commit certain crimes to go through the Jesus People Ministries Program instead of the Juvenile System. Upon completion of this program the State Attorney's office will not prosecute, therefore, the arrest never shows up in the system.

Vice Mayor Campbell suggested that a representative from the City of Miami Gardens be involved in this process.

Mayor Gibson related that she'd spoken with Major Marshall and Captain Rifkin about recognizing their police officers of the month. She related that she would entertain a motion to have the City of Miami Gardens recognize those officers as well.

Councilman Bratton asked Ms. Cash Jackson to come forward, whereby he officially recognized and announced that she is now an equity owner and partner in her law firm.

Ms. Cash Jackson was congratulated by all.

Mayor Gibson passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Campbell in order to place a motion on the floor. She moved that the City of Miami Gardens Council would recognize police officers from the Miami Gardens/Carol City District Police Department and that it be done on a continuing basis. This motion was seconded by Councilman Braynon. There being no further discussion, the motion **passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.**

Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes

Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes

Councilwoman Watson asked City Manager Crew to provide Major Marshall with the City of Miami Gardens decal so that it can be worn along with the Miami-Dade County decal, by those police officers servicing the City.

Major Marshall indicated that his police department would have no problem with putting this decal on their uniforms.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING:

There were none

7. ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING (PUBLIC HEARINGS):

There were none

9. PUBLIC COMMENT – 10 MINUTES

Mr. Anselm Smith of 721 NW 187th Drive, Miami Gardens, Florida, was afforded an opportunity to showcase the premiere of F.A.C.T Newsletter. He emphasized that the people who make up F.A.C.T are all citizens of Miami-Gardens, with no political agenda.

Mr. Wendell James, residing at 18820 NW 29th Place, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to voice his opinion that Miami Carol City High School needed to be rebuilt. He suggested that the City Council put pressure on the Miami-Dade County School Board to address Miami Carol City High School.

Mayor Gibson concurred with Mr. James comments regarding the rebuilding of Miami Carol City High School. She related that perhaps this District School Board member can be invited to the City Council meeting to address this concern.

10. RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-60-110

10A) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AFFIRMING ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST ("CITT"), AS ADOPTED BY THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON JULY 9, 2002, PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 02-117; FURTHER URGING THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS NOT TO DISBAND THE CITT, OR OTHERWISE TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF SUBSTANTIALLY ALTERING OR DILUTING THE POWERS AND

AUTHORITY OF THE CITT; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY VICE MAYOR CAMPBELL)

Moved by Councilman Bratton, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell to approve this resolution.

Councilman Braynon asked that the memorandum be corrected to indicate that Ms. Wright is a member of CTAC and not the CITT.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the motion **passed and carried by a 7-0 vote.**

Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	Yes
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-61-111

- 10B) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, RATIFYING THE CITY MANAGER'S AWARD AND EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH SOUND PERFORMANCE, INC., FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AUDIO AND VIDEO EQUIPMENT AT CITY HALL, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)**

Mr. McHugh the Assistant City Manager recounted the events leading up to this item being placed on the official agenda.

It was moved by Councilman Braynon, seconded by Councilwoman Watson to approve this item.

Councilman Braynon referenced the video equipment component of the bid award and asked for clarification as to whether there would be a screen and a camera or a projection and a screen.

Mr. McHugh said the equipment would include a pull down screen and a projection.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked that the provision of Ordinance No. 2004-17, allowing for the City Manager to make emergency purchases be read into the record.

Manager Crew read "Purchases arising out of or because of emergencies which shall be defined as a situation, occurrence or matter necessitating immediate or quick action and not permitting adequate time to utilize the competitive bidding process." He explained, in this particular

case the contractor was putting up the walls therefore, the City had to move quickly. He related that the City did go out and get three competitive quotes.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the motion **passed and carried by a 6-1 vote.**

Vice Mayor Campbell:	Yes
Councilwoman King:	Yes
Councilwoman Pritchett:	No
Councilwoman Watson:	Yes
Councilman Bratton:	Yes
Councilman Braynon:	Yes
Mayor Gibson:	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-62-112

10C) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AND ATTEST, RESPECTIVELY, A CONTINUING CONTRACT WITH KEITH AND SCHNARS, P.A. FOR GENERAL CONSULTING ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, PIGGYBACKING ON AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN KEITH AND SCHNARS, P.A. AND THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A"; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)

Manager Crew explained that the City was in the process of undertaking some landscaping projects in FDOT's right-of-ways, including entrance signs to the City. One of the FDOT's requirements is the obtaining of a permit, which is an extremely detailed process and very specific in nature. The City had approached FDOT and inquired about future projects in the City. One of those projects is the repaving of 441. The City asked that before the repaving is done, if the City could address the irrigation system for future City landscaping projects. FDOT put the City in touch with one of their subcontractors for this purpose. Keith and Schnars is the contractor that does FDOT's landscaping design. FDOT is using this same contractor for the 183rd Street Improvement Project. He related that Ft. Lauderdale went through the bid process and Keith and Schnars was the top ranked firm selected to provide consulting services for their landscape design projects. He said there was no money involved with this contract at this particular time.

Councilwoman King inquired as to what firms were other cities using.

Manager Crew related that Post Buckley Shuch and Jernigan was another firm being used by FDOT.

Councilwoman Watson thanked administration for bringing this matter forward in order to have the proper infrastructure in place prior to the re-paving project taking place. She opined that administration has used a great deal of foresight in this endeavor. She related that nothing saddens

her more than seeing a street repaved and then dug up again in order to address another improvement. She referenced page 1, line 19, of the Resolution and indicated that the date should be March 15, 2001 instead of March 15, 2004.

Councilwoman Pritchett asked if the agreement (Ft. Lauderdale's) provided by administration, for a three year time frame, which started in 2001, has been renewed, and if so were there changes.

Attorney Knighton related that the agreement for the City will start from the time it's executed by the City. She conveyed that she did not know if changes were made in the Ft. Lauderdale contract. She said the contract was renewable from year to year.

Mr. Bruce Reed, with offices at 5600 N. Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, representing Keith and Schnars appeared before the City Council to relate that the contract with the City of Ft. Lauderdale was amended in February 2004 for another three year extension, with no revisions in the contract. All the fees and conditions remain the same.

Attorney Knighton related that a provision would be added to the City's contract as to the terms so that there is no question.

Councilman Braynon asked if this was only for FDOT project.

Manager Crew said that this contract could be for any City of Miami Gardens projects.

Mayor Gibson related that there may be other projects going on within the city that could be considered smaller and separate projects, which can be contracted out to smaller companies; this would be more inclusive for all.

Mr. Benjamin S. Essien, with offices at 4715 NW 157th Street, Suite 202, Miami Gardens, Florida appeared before the City Council to express concern with the awarding of this contract to Keith and Schnars. He related that there are other qualified firms under contract with FDOT besides Keith and Schnars. He said that if the City Manager had asked the City of North Miami or Opa-locka about the firms those cities utilizes, the City would have gotten an excellent listing of Engineers and Architects. He expressed concern with giving Keith and Schnars a continuing contract for three years and opined that it is not in the best interest of the City. He suggested having a pool of two or three consultants on board. He suggested moving forward with this contract but not on a continuing basis.

Attorney Knighton related that Mr. Essien is providing the Council with some correct information. She said the City can certainly enter into continuing contract with as many firms as it desires. She related that cities typically have more than one person that they have a continuing contract with, depending on the projects.

Manager Crew concurred with Attorney Knighton's comments.

Mayor Gibson related that she would support doing something like that, so that the City will

be inclusive.

Manager Crew suggested going through this process in October when the Public Works Director is on board.

Mayor Gibson said that she did not have a problem with directing the City Manager to look at other firms to be a part of that list of Engineers/Architects to be selected for continuing contracts with the City of Miami Gardens.

Mr. McHugh related that one of the benefits of contracting with Keith and Schnars is that the City is able to get 2001 prices as opposed to 2004 prices. He opined that financially, this is a great service to the City.

Mayor Gibson put emphasis on the fact that the City can go through the same process that was used to get this firm, to get three more firms that can be smaller firms that will have an opportunity to do work for Miami Gardens.

At the conclusion of this discussion, it was moved by Councilwoman Watson, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell to approve this item. This motion **passed and carried by a 4-3 vote**.

Councilwoman King said that she'd like to see some smaller companies involved. She further related that she took Mr. Essein's comments to heart.

Councilwoman King: No

Councilwoman Pritchett paraphrased comments made by Mr. Essien, "This is the first instance in which a City is just retaining one consultant." Mr. Essien offered a suggestion that said, "Allow Keith and Schnars to go forward with this particular project, but issue a continuing contract a little bit later." She related that having been empowered with that information, which seems very rational, she was voting no.

Councilwoman Pritchett: No

Councilwoman Watson stated that she was voting yes for this item. She said "I know that we are a new city and we need to start with one. This is not a contract that is going to be limited to just this one particular company. All the bids and all the jobs are not going to be directed to one company. It is going to be a number of companies and I do hope a minimum of three will be in that pool. I would love to see some other firms come forward and receive a very like type contract; cause we are going to need more than one firm. We have to start with one. We are not ten years old, where we have zeroed in on one company. We are allowing ourselves to start with one and whatever it takes, if there are other contractors out there that Mr. Essein's company is working with and if he has a contract with anyone else, I would like to see us follow the same procedures and allowing those companies to come forward as well. We have to start with one. Therefore I vote yes.

Councilwoman Watson: Yes

Councilman Bratton asked if there was an escape clause in this contract.

Attorney Knighton replied that there was an escape clause.

Councilman Bratton: Yes

Councilman Braynon opined that this should not be a continuing contract. He said that the City should look at more contractors.

Councilman Braynon: No
Vice Mayor Campbell: Yes

Mayor Gibson reiterated to staff to repeat the same process that was done for this contractor and have some additional Engineers/Architects to be a part of this process in Miami Gardens. This would allow an opportunity for other firms to be on Board.

Mayor Gibson: Yes

11. REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

None

12. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER

Manager Crew reported on the major efforts being made by Code Enforcement to go after illegal street vendors. This is a cohesive effort between the City's Code Enforcement Division and the Miami Gardens/Carol City District Police Department.

Manager Crew reported that the City is starting to work on Graffiti case, with over 200 cases being opened within the last month.

Manager Crew reported on the City's applications with Safe Neighborhood Parks Funding. He related that SNP did not approve three of the City's applications for grant funding. However, SNP did approve \$344,000.00 to complete a second recreation center at Scott Park. Approximately \$600,000.00 was already allocated for this purpose. It is anticipated that this project will go out for bid within the next two months. A brand new recreation facility is being built at Brentwood Park, using a combination of FEMA funds and SNP funds, and Impact Fees.

Manager Crew reported on the bus shelters and indicated that Miami-Dade County has entered into a new contract with an Italian Firm to build bus shelters throughout Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County has agreed to share the revenue from those shelters with the City of Miami Gardens. Ultimately, an Interlocal agreement will be brought back for this Council's approval. The contract with the county is for 350 Million dollars. The City stands to net approximately \$35 Million dollars over a ten year period. The contract also includes trash receptacles, which are to be maintained on a weekly basis.

Manager Crew related that after meeting with Miami-Dade County it was discovered that approximately seven million dollars in Safe Neighborhood Parks Funding, that the County was not able to spend on the City's 16 parks, is now available to the City. He related that he will be

proposing a number of Charretts, in the areas, where these funds are allocated, to find out what the neighbors want to see in those parks.

Manager Crew reported on the Entrance Signs Project and related that designs will be brought before the City Council for its approval. He further related that there are funds in the Transportation Fund for projects that can be undertaken by the City. He related that in next year's budget it is anticipated that Street paving and sidewalk repair programs, as well as major right-of-way landscaping projects will be addressed.

Manager Crew also reported that he is now a homeowner in the City of Miami Gardens.

Manager Crew related that the Clean Up event, which had several hundred volunteers, held on May 8, 2004 was a tremendous success.

13. REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

12A) GENERAL REPORTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Gibson reported on the National Black Mayors Conference she'd attended in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She related that over 500 Black Mayors were in attendance. She encouraged the City Council participation in future events. She further announced that the Mayor's State of the City Address will be held at Florida Memorial College on Thursday, May 13, 2004, beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m., with the Address scheduled for 8:00 p.m.

Manager Crew related that the first City Newsletter will be available for distribution on tomorrow. This Newsletter will also be in the Miami Herald Neighbor's Section (Zones 5 and 6).

Councilman Braynon shared that his sister (who lives in Philadelphia) was very proud to know that her Mayor (Mayor Gibson) was in Philadelphia.

Councilwoman Pritchett shared that on Sunday, May 9, 2004, this City Council awarded Commendations to the Junior members of the (*Panamanian American Association of Florida*) PAAF, of which Mr. Wendell James is a founding member.

Councilman Bratton inquired about the status of the Crime Watch/Neighborhood Watch.

Major Marshall indicated his understanding that Mr. Clausell was working on this through the City and not through the police department.

Vice Mayor Campbell related that this is under the umbrella of the Citizens Corp., which Mr. Clausell chairs. The City adopted a resolution appointing Mr. Clausell as its representative.

Vice Mayor Campbell commented on why he voted "yes" on Item No. 10C. He opined that it is important that the Council is fiscal responsible. However it is also important for the residents to see some tangible things happening within the City. He said if it makes sense, he is always going to vote yes. He further related that the Revenue Enhancement Meeting scheduled for May 24, 2004,

has been cancelled.

Councilwoman Watson related that she wanted to make certain that when the City put its Public Works Department together, that there is cohesiveness about how the street repairs are done. She related that she has a problem with paving a street and then digging it up to make more repairs. She also asked if there was a possibility of acquiring a street sweeper to clean City streets.

Manager Crew indicated that he might know a way to get the funds for a street sweeper and not have it come out of the City's General Fund.

Councilwoman Watson further indicated that the sidewalks along the major corridors needed to be pressure cleaned.

Councilwoman King announced that the American Cancer Society Relay for Life Event will be held Friday and Saturday, May 14-15, 2004. She encouraged every one to come out.

14. REQUESTS, PETITIONS & OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

14A) PUBLIC COMMENTS – 20 MINUTES

Mr. Anselm Smith appeared before the City Council to express his concerns about the street vendors along 27th Avenue and 151st Street. He encouraged the City to find one location for these vendors to operate. He further suggested putting together a Code Enforcement Board for the City of Miami Gardens.

Mr. Benjamin Essein appeared before the City Council to advise that if they have concerns with the work being done by a contractor on the road projects within the City of Miami Gardens to call Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Christopher Steers, Assistant to the City Manager appeared before the City Council to further expound on this subject. He related that at the request of Councilman Bratton, administration did make contact with the Construction Manager that deals with those issues. It is anticipated that within this week, a list of all those projects that are open and the status will be provided to the City.

Mr. Wendell James, residing at 18820 NW 29th Place, Miami Gardens, Florida, appeared before the City Council to express his concern with the installation of the emergency purchase for telephone system and sound and video system being installed at the new City Hall complex. He further suggested the relocation of the trees being removed from 183rd Street. He further recommended utilizing shade trees instead of Royal Palm Trees. He further thanked the City and Mayor Gibson for providing Commendations to the youth members of PAAF. He further emphasized the importance of circulating the money within the City by utilizing those vendors located in Miami Gardens. He further congratulated the City on the success of the Clean up event, held on May 8, 2004.

15. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

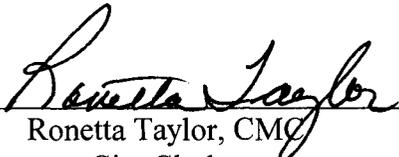
There were none.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

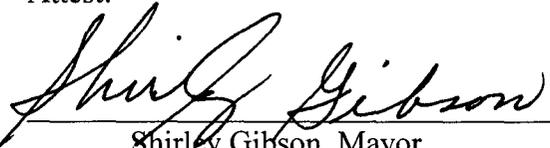
There being no further business to come before this Body, and upon being duly moved by Councilman Bratton, seconded by Vice Mayor Campbell, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Attest:

Attest:



Ronetta Taylor, CMC
City Clerk



Shirley Gibson, Mayor