



**CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE
COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES
Tuesday, February 18th, 2014**

Pursuant to due notice the regularly scheduled Commission workshop meeting was held in the Commission Chambers at 360 E. Main St., Pahokee, Palm Beach County, Florida on February 18th, 2014. The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Hill at 6:08 p.m.

Official attendance was recorded as follows:

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Mayor Colin Walkes	Absent
	City Commissioner Keith Babb	Absent
	Commissioner Allie Biggs	Present
	Vice Mayor Felisia Hill	Present
	Commissioner Diane Walker	Present
	City Manager Derrek Moore	Present
	City Attorney Gary Brandenburg	Absent
	Sergeant At Arms Lt. Poston	Absent
	City Clerk Anika Sinclair	Present

Topic

Five Year Strategic Economic Development Plan

City Manager Moore advised the plan was presented and approved May 2013 and the purpose tonight is to discuss and amend as needed. He recommended having another workshop to gain community input.

Accelerate Pahokee’s Economic Business Development and Diversification

City Manager advised partnered with Business Development Board, Implemented an expedited permit process. Seeking businesses that will provide jobs outside of agriculture to local residents. Continues to contact businesses to invite them to consider Pahokee as a possible destination for their business. Developing State Market Road (rest stop/service station). Working closely with Chamber of Commerce & other business focused organizations to attract and retain businesses. Developing a Business Park. Continue to develop and support the Downtown Revitalization Program to improve the environment for business start-up. City will continue to pursue developing the Community Redevelopment Agency, focus on our demolition and rehab programs, work with FDOT to maintain the main roads, repair, develop and maintain the City roads and complete a road survey. City will work with organizations to implement a combination of marketing, product innovation and entrepreneurial development initiatives to help grow firms through apprenticeships and other similarly related training programs.

Commissioner Biggs suggested Old Pahokee Plaza for a business park but the space may not be large enough.

Commissioner Walker believes the land off Rim Canal by the Public Works shop and Waste Water Treatment Plant may be isolated; suggested swapping out some property that is closer to the main thoroughfare.

Develop Homegrown Talent

City Manager advised the City will continue the support of International Baccalaureate Program and continue to support our three local school principals. Staff volunteer (Assist with math, reading, etc.) at the elementary school. City will continue to host Back to School Bash (supplies and computers), hall monitoring and After school Program (computers for home work and research, provide support and assistance to children to complete homework assignments. Summer Camp (reading, math and arts and craft/ plan to include science curriculum and foreign language (Spanish Creole and French) Continue field trips to expose children to a variety of academic related subjects. The Senior Citizen will be going on their annual trip to Wauchula County in April. City will continue to encourage team work between educator, teachers, businesses and other community leader, partner with PBSC to develop training and other programs of interest to the Community (other academic and technical programs). Align workforce development efforts to match the skill needs of targeted industries. Partner with Workforce Alliance to provide training, job placement, on the job training, partner with POPS Program to develop high school students in the Glades, partner with local unions for apprenticeship development (electrical, iron worker, sheet metal, carpentry,

and welder). The City will continue to enforce local preference policy and work with organizations, such as the TED Center, to assist with developing business owners and prospective business owner's entrepreneur skills.

Quality of Life is one of Florida's biggest assets

City Manager advised the City will continue to review Code Enforcement processes to improve the City, repair and replace water and sewer line, maintain a representative on PBCWUD (continue efforts to replace & repair water & sewer infrastructure), demolition and rehab program, work with all entities to maintain Stormwater drainage, working with local civic organization to take responsibility and participate in annual activities and events, working with Housing Authority to further develop and maintain their properties. Seeking avenues that will facilitate the rehabilitation of the Doveland property continue to support the development and expansion of our Marina and projects and avenues that will encourage support and attract tourist to our city. Continue to improve and develop city owned properties, request for proposal and invitation to bid are out for the sale of surplus properties. City will continue to beautify the entryways and main corridors into our City, seeking to attract a national hotel chain to our city, a major grocery chain and a major franchise restaurant to our city.

Vice Mayor Hill asked what action will be taken to rezone the properties throughout the City that are not zoned appropriately.

City Manager advised many buildings throughout the City are improperly zones and as staff locates a property that is properly zones they encourage property owner to apply for a rezoning. The property owner has to pay for the rezoning because in the past it was completed.

Commissioner Biggs shared her concepts to the Five Year Strategic Plan:

- Change the slogan from "Palm Beach County's Other Coast
- Develop a diversified surveys for the Community (what are their visions for the future of Pahokee)
- Community Safety, Economic Competitiveness and Family Well being
- Government accountability
- Civic Engagement
- Neighborhood Growth Management

Commissioner Biggs read a quote "*Safe and cohesive neighborhoods are a critical component of a unified community...*" She advised the community needs to be involved in the planning and then Pahokee will be enhanced.

City Manager Moore announced the projects scheduled to be completed within the next 45 – 90 days:

- Senior Citizen buses \$227,000
- Emergency Equipment - \$271,000
- Landscape Project - \$68,000
- COOP & Evacuation Plan - \$90,000
- Commissioner's Park - \$100,000

Commission proposed having a follow up workshop to allow the Commissioners to have additional input.

Vice Mayor Hill thanked City Manager for presenting the plan. She thinks the City's biggest asset is the Marina and once the Marina is thriving it will attract tourists. Vice Mayor Hill thanked the residents for attending the workshop.

Lisa Adams suggested incorporating the Pahokee sunset when choosing a new slogan.

There being no further business to discuss, Vice Mayor Hill adjourns the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Colin O. Walkes, Mayor

ATTEST: Anika Sinclair, City Clerk