



## **MINUTES OF THE CITY OF MIRAMAR COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

**October 2, 2019**

**5:00 P.M.**

A Workshop of the Miramar City Commission to discuss Commission Special Events was called to order by Mayor Messam at 5:14 p.m. in the Commission Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Town Center, 2300 Civic Center Place, Miramar, Florida.

Upon call of the roll, the following members of the City Commission were present:

Mayor Wayne M. Messam  
Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis  
Commissioner Winston F. Barnes  
Commissioner Maxwell B. Chambers  
Commissioner Yvette Colbourne

The following members of staff were present:

City Manager Vernon E. Hargray  
City Attorney Burnadette Norris-Weeks  
City Attorney Norman Powell  
City Clerk Denise A. Gibbs

City Manager Hargray reminded the Commission of the discussion of the City's special events and policies that took place at the budget public hearing on September 25, 2019, and that discussion was deferred by the approval of a motion to continue that discussion to the present workshop. Several matters were being discussed, and one was Mayor Messam requested a special events expenditures; since that meeting, Vice Mayor Davis asked for staff to provide information on 2017 and 2018 expenditures. He noted copies of the documents were provided to each member of the Commission for the present meeting. The third segment of the meeting would be a discussion on approving the policy, as previously presented and discussed.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Thank you very much. It's only been a week since we approved the budget. Last week this conversation did come up after the budget, and I thought, at that point, we needed to move on and have a separate discussion. So we're here today. On a broad scale, my opinion on this is that we just approved the budget. I

think during this budget, we have been given an opportunity by the City Manager to host two events a piece. We've been given an opportunity by the City Manager to host one of the events at MCC. To me that's meaningful, and I truly appreciate the Manager allowing us to do that. It's not something he had to do, but he's looked at the entire situation and thought that was good. We have an increased budget for initiatives; it's an amount that we did not have in the past. I mean I think the Manager has truly made some attempts to work with us and to give us the tools that we need, so that we can provide initiatives, and we can ensure that if there's any area that's in the community that we feel that's lacking, that we have the opportunity to fill that gap based on those initiatives and the allocations that he has provided to us. I really do think he has been very gracious in doing so, and I think that I would like to see us give it a try as to what he has proposed. See how it works this year, and if there is any tweaking that's needed, then by the time we blink our eyes, we'll be back to another budget season, and we can address it there. We have now. We have between now and then, so that we can make recommendations, we can formulate our ideas and thoughts. This is how I feel about it, as far as the Commission. And my feeling as far as staff and the rest of the budget is the same. We just approved the budget. Let's try as much as possible to live within those means. There's always going to be some circumstances here and there, but I do think that we need to give honor and respect to the budget that we approved, and try to live within those means, and provide the services that the residents need, and in that which we believe is necessary to improve the quality of life to our residents. So that's my thoughts on this.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Are we going by --

MAYOR MESSAM: Go ahead.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: And thanks, Commissioner Colbourne, for your input. This was brought to my attention, the policy, very recently. In fact, when I started in March, certain things were brought to my attention; this was not one of them, and so I was operating without a policy. I have reviewed the policy itself, made recommendations, and I'm grateful to staff that they've incorporated the recommendations in the policy, as I pointed out to them, and there's been some changes to the original document that the Manager did put out. My only concern at the time when we were discussing it at the Commission meeting was the unfunded initiatives. And it was at this point that I know the Mayor had pointed out some expenditures and went into more details, pointing out some expenditures that were not in the, I don't know if you had ten or 20 items before I got here, that was special events. And so I honed on the unfunded only because some of the items that were done, for example, there's only really one, which was the Reggae Girls, would have come under the unfunded initiatives. And, at the time of this policy, it looks like all that was under unfunded initiatives was, quote me if I'm wrong, Shaun, you gave the policy, and you added in the underlined, the new things you added, correct? So, for example, under unfunded initiatives, all it originally said, according to this, was a definition: unanticipated events and/or programs initiated by an individual, elected official, for the benefit of the Miramar community. Am I correct?

MS. GAYLE: Right.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: That's all you had on the unfunded. You didn't have anything about going to the Commission; you didn't have anything about all this other stuff that's added on. I just want to make sure I have the original document that was approved back in January 26, 2015.

MS. GAYLE: Let me get the original policy. I think it is under the fee structure. It said: Unfunded events, once approved by the Commission, and that's where that would have been provided for.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: On the pricing structure?

MS. GAYLE: Yeah.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Not under unfunded initiatives?

MS. GAYLE: Right.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: I just want to make sure I'm clear. So if this document is the original document, it just said a blanket definition of what unfunded initiatives were. So even though I didn't have the policy, for example, when I brought up the Reggae Girls situation, I spoke with the Manager, his executive team, and it was agreed upon to do the event. And under that policy at the time, it wouldn't have been something that had to be brought to the Commission, if I'm looking at this correctly.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: Shaun, would you please pull original, because that is not true.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Well, I'm just looking at what was given to me. That's all I can go by.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: The original.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: The original.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: No, pull the original, because it says in there I would have to go to the Commission.

MS. GAYLE: Yeah.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: And it's on there.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: I just want to make sure it's here.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: But I want to comment. It's a lot of information to digest for a commissioner to come in in the second half. I'm not trying to make no excuses, but it's a lot of information. And that was a concern that I had, because then when you come in the second quarter, and if you go back to take a look, the Commission, you will see that you probably have three volumes of letters and memos that have come to you. I remember you saying we're moving too fast; it's a lot of stuff. So you can imagine from October to April the amount of information that has come to the Commission, and then you get a new Commissioner. And, yes, it was provided in the package, but there was not enough time to go through, and everything start moving fast. So, yes, Shaun provided it, but orientation can't take one day or one week and try to catch up for a whole year. I want to lay that out.

MS. GAYLE: So for the original policy under user fees, it said: Unfunded events, once approved by Commission, will not incur user fees. So it said once approved by the Commission, which means the Commission would have to approve an unfunded event for us to --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: What number is that?

MS. GAYLE: Number four under user fees.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: User fees for City facilities are anticipated and absorbed for budgeted City events and department core/community events. Fees that are assessed for the use of City facilities for Commission initiatives, both internal and external, book under the rates established and contained in this policy. There's more?

MS. GAYLE: There's another sentence that says: Unfunded events, once approved by Commission, will not incur user fees.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Okay. So I don't have this in the document that you gave me, which is date issued January 26, 2015. So this is part of the problem, is that we're not getting out the information, and this document doesn't have that. Suffice it to say, that was an addition that you put in under unfunded, now, in the new policy. Under unfunded, you now have it spelled out and underlined under here.

MS. GAYLE: Right. So it would say the same thing, it's just we're putting it under that category where it actually belongs.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Right. So I just wanted to make that clear. When mention was made of using, not following the policy, number one, I didn't have the policy. Number two, the people that were in the room, which I spoke to the Manager and the Assistant City Managers, and they weren't aware of the policy or didn't use the policy to move forward with that particular event, which was the Reggae Girls. Since that event, there have been others based on no policy whatsoever that was handed down to me or followed by staff; there's been several other events. Right now, we're looking at Guns for Funds,

we're looking at commUNITY & COPS, we're currently doing Biz Fit. Those things are not outlined on your -- they were not approved last budget year, so they would come under unfunded initiatives. But then working with staff, we've been doing them with the go ahead of the executive. So, at some point, once we finalize this policy, and we're actually all clear on what it says and are following it, then I can come back to the Commission on those items that have been going on for at least, maybe three months now, prior to this.

MAYOR MESSAM: Here are my thoughts. Here are my thoughts. We've had a policy for special events since the previous city manager.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: But I wasn't here.

MAYOR MESSAM: That does not --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: I know, but I'm just saying --

MAYOR MESSAM: I'm speaking. I should be allowed to speak, Vice Mayor.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: -- I wasn't here. I understand, but I wasn't quite finished when you came in. But that's fine.

MAYOR MESSAM: We've always had a policy since the prior, previous manager. Not having knowledge of a policy does not exempt the fact that a policy existed. We have a process on how we do our initiatives and our events. We each get an allocation for Commission initiatives, in this case, \$20,000.00, that we have free reign to program, utilize those funds however we want to use them. We have City events that is approved by the Commission, and we have sponsorship opportunities. But if there's a decision to provide funding for an event by the Commission, either by vote or consent, it's a City event. So if it's not coming out of your initiative, are we saying that it has always been standard practice, according to our policies, that we take an event and put it as our own? That has never taken place before. If departments have activities and programming that they're doing, we go to those departments and then put our names on those programming with free reign for department-led and created programs? That hasn't been standard practice. The things we put our face on are through our initiatives, through our \$20,000.00. If it's a City event, usually the advertisement it will have, either just the City's logo, or it will have all of our faces and names on them as the City Commission. But what's been happening is that there's efforts to go into, whether it's Police Department, Parks & Recs or whatever, to put these initiatives as if it's a Commission initiative, and it's not. It's City. We approved it as a Commission; City of Miramar, not Mayor Messam, not Vice Mayor Davis, not Commissioner Colbourne, not Commissioner Barnes, not Commissioner Chambers. It's a City event or City initiative that has been created, programmed, organized, planned, put together by staff. And now, on top of that, these initiatives are put out, promoted as the elected official's event using City dollars to buy banners, advertisements in newspapers, radio ads, and whatever else we're promoting

these things. It's just outside of policy, for one, that does exist, and, in my opinion, I think is a waste of taxpayer dollars, and just not courtesy to the Commission. And when you look at these spreadsheets, and there's a lot of blame to go around, because I still don't understand how we have budgeted line items for initiatives, whether it's City events, and it's just blown out of the water. I've asked staff where the \$20,000.00 worth of OMPR went on certain events. I have yet to see them. Were these TV ads? Were these radio ads? Were these newspaper ads? This is the kind of dollars that's being spent. Now, again, if these were Commission initiatives, you go out and raise money from sponsorship, that's one thing. But to take a City program, promote it as your own, and then demand staff to advertise it, when it hasn't been budgeted to do so, I don't think that is right. And it hasn't come for discussion in the Commission. For example, let's take the Reggae Girls. Was that a City event? Because I didn't vote on it. I didn't have any discussion on it. It was promoted, not as a City event, it was promoted as an elected officials event. That was not a City event. But City dollars paid for it. In fact, the term started in the middle of the year, so let's say if the Manager says, "Well, it's a new elected official. We'll just start from fresh. The prior Commissioner utilized some dollars, but I'll fund your \$20,000.00 to finish off the year." There's been more than \$20,000.00 that have been spent for Commission initiatives. So what I'm saying is that, despite everything that took place leading up to now, my discussion with the City Manager was that we have a solid procedure put in place. Whatever the allocations are for our initiatives are what they are. City events are City events. Department programming is department programming. That's a City event, not an elected official event. And all these expenditures on advertisements and ads on City events has to stay within the allocated budget that has been put for the respective event, and that didn't take place when you look at this spreadsheet that was sent to all of us. So I encourage each of us to stay within the policy. That goes for all of us on the Commission down to City staff. And if there's a desire to go beyond the funding for the event, let it come to the Commission for discussion, because if it's not funded, the money has to come from somewhere.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Can I respond?

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes, ma'am.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Okay, good. All right. So, as we are talking about unfunded initiatives, and this is where the Reggae Girls came in. Clearly, it was unfunded; it was an initiative I brought before the Manager; it doesn't say to bring it before the board here, and I didn't have the policy. So it was brought before the Manager. This is water under the bridge at this point, but it was brought before the Manager and his staff, and they agreed to fund it. It doesn't say that it has to be a City initiative, it just says unfunded initiatives. So the fact that I brought it to the Manager, and it was produced by myself, along with staff, is why it had my name on it. And, again, it doesn't say anything about unfunded initiatives must be City initiatives. Because nowhere in that it says that. So, based on that policy, it was unfunded; you're right. But I went before the Manager and got it funded. So that event, by the way, was a great event. In fact, that event brought over five to 6,000 people in the Ansin Sports Complex. I've never seen such crowds in

that location. And the Manager, within his purview, has brought other events there that have been much lower in capacity that haven't come before the board. So, in that regard, I certainly appreciate him funding that, and looking at it as a win/win for the City. In terms of departmental, for example, right now I'm doing the Biz Fit event. That was not part of that department's initiative. They didn't fund that. That's something that I brought to them. I brought in the Miramar/Pembroke Pines Chamber. That's not part of their everyday -- what they were going to do, but I needed their help to take it on the road, as I do with Parks when I'm doing, for example, the Reggae Girls or anything else. Again, it is unfunded, I agree, but it was an initiative that I brought before them. The commUNITY & COPS initiative.

MAYOR MESSAM: But you can fund that with your initiatives. I'm not saying you can't.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: The commUNITY & COPS, that program, I have several guests coming. So you have the Chief Judge, you have the Assistant State Attorney, we're talking about various items. And most of you who have been to the Black Elected Officials event, most of this concerns the voters' rights restoration, it concerns marijuana versus - - this is not part of a budget that the Police Department had planned. Again, it comes under unfunded initiatives, but it's something that I need their support in, because we have Dexter as a speaker. He doesn't have to be a speaker, because I have so many other people. I have the BSO; I have so many different people that could speak to the topics, that I really didn't need the police on that one. But, because it's an item that involves the community, I asked the Police Department to get involved. Guns for Funds. I've always done a gun buyback, I think here before. We get funding through Crime Stoppers to give gift certificates. I mean I think all of these are worthy events that I took before the Manager and his staff, and they approved to do. Moving forward though, because we can look back, you know, years before the policy, and we can look back since the policy has been in session, seeing there's been overrides and overruns. We can dig deep if we need to, but moving forward, as I said, I'm okay with the policy as it stands, with some -- I made some recommendations, which are already in here. I'm okay with it, moving forward, now that we're all on the same page, including all the ACMs, including the Manager. You didn't have a document. Right now, this document wasn't even -- didn't even include hosting City events. It didn't include that, but you were doing it. But the document was never updated to include that. The document was not clear on several issues. And so moving forward, let's use this document, or we can go back all we want to and start nitpicking and digging deep and saying: why did the Manager do this; why did the Manager do that. Because, at the end of the day, I don't do anything. I don't supervise his staff. Every meeting that I have, an ACM is involved. Again, I mentioned, under unfunded initiatives, it's very broad, and that was what, I'm assuming, the Manager and his staff were going on. They didn't knowingly violate the policy. Nobody knowingly violated any policy.

MAYOR MESSAM: Well, I'm going to provide staff, again, an opportunity, to explain why certain things took place, and I'll just bring out one distinction. Every example that you just mentioned, the debate is not if these are not worthy initiatives for the community. If

it was conceived by yourself, me, or anyone of us, it is a Commission initiative. We can't just blanketly say that an idea that I come up with and call it unfunded. No, we have \$20,000.00 that we each use to fund these ideas. I have an Aviation Expo, Aviation Academy, Technology Boot Camp, so now I can just say these are unfunded initiatives that I go to the City Manager and say, "I need you to fund my expo that costs me \$30,000.00 to put on every year, and I want you to fund it, because it's unfunded."? No, that's an initiative that I came up with, so I am charged now to use my allotted funds to fund it or go out and get sponsors for the event. So let's make that distinction. So, for example, if you're having a buyback, and you're working with the Police Department using trust fund dollars to give or Crime Stoppers or whoever, you're partnering with Crime Stoppers, you're partnering with external parties that are helping you bring that initiative to life. That's not an unfunded initiative, per our definition.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Well, what's the definition.

MAYOR MESSAM: A Commission initiative is --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Unfunded initiatives --

MAYOR MESSAM: It's an unfunded Commission initiative, because it's your idea. Because it's your idea.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Under unfunded definition, it just gives a blanket definition. It doesn't say that it has to be a City.

MAYOR MESSAM: All right, so I'm just making that distinction. Because if that's the case, I can come to City staff and say I want all my initiatives, I'm deeming them as unfunded, so City pay for it.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: What if you don't have the funds?

MAYOR MESSAM: If you don't have the funds, you go get your sponsorship.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Again, we need to clear the policy and the definitions. You can't just be your interpretation of the definition, they have to be spelled out.

MAYOR MESSAM: All I'm saying is if it's unfunded, it should come before the Commission for us to discuss it.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: That's what we're doing now, now that the language has been changed to show that. It didn't have that before.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: If I may. I hear a lot of stuff, and it's a lot of undercurrent, and it's mixing up. For the Reggae Girls, I think that provide a very -- it was a very unique opportunity at the time when that came along, and I think it's something that shined a



spotlight on Miramar. Staff, the City Manager, everybody looked at it and think this was a great opportunity, so from what I see, let's do it. No one was excluded. I participate in it, I think it was good. It was a once in a, maybe -- I'm not going to say lifetime, but it might be, but maybe blue moon or whatever for us to jump on that, and staff. In my estimation, I think staff find it necessary to support that event, and I think it was a great, wonderful thing to do. Now we have other stuff that local that we come up with. That was, if you ask me, more of an international partnership event that we brought here in Miramar. Now we have our little stuff that, from time to time, we go out in our community and we find things that would seem like we need it, and if we have partnership, great; if we don't, you expect to come back your staff and have them support. I mean I had the Rock the Block just to support businesses over in Mirabella Plaza. Tried to get some support from staff; I don't remember if I did, I might. But it's something that should have been supported, because here's a group of businesses here who, in Miramar, has support doing business here that need a little support, and they pay their business taxes, they pay their taxes, and if they go down, everyone get hurt. So you're going to have things from time to time that's really beneficial to the community, and if there's support for it, I think we should, because it's necessary. Now what I see here is, looking at this list of things, there's things here that the Mayor have done that's not here, and even with the previous administration, let me just finish, you have a leg up on us, and find ways to get things done behind the scene without being out the opening.

MAYOR MESSAM: I don't have a leg up on anyone.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: And I think now that Vice Mayor got in, and there might be a little competition, so it's create an issue here. People find ways to get things done. You might have staff working that assist you that's not directly working for you, but working for the City to help get things done. That's another way of getting your stuff out.

MAYOR MESSAM: No one's doing that. You're making a lot of insinuations.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Yeah, I am.

MAYOR MESSAM: You're making a lot of false insinuations. That's not true. That is not true. You can talk to any staff in here, it's just myself, Edna and our partners, external partners that does it, everything --

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Maybe you have more support from the previous City Manager. I'm just saying.

MAYOR MESSAM: We're talking about this. I'm talking about this year. Don't say things that -- don't accuse me of doing anything that you can't backup by fact. If you have a point to make about the procedures or questioning the dollars, keep the comments to that. Don't talk about -- speak specific to what your issue is.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: I'm speaking of reality.

MAYOR MESSAM: Don't make insinuations on how I get things done.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: I'm speaking of reality here. It is what it is. I mean if someone come with an idea, if staff look at it: oh, yeah, I think this is great; going to benefit our community, I think we should do it. If the money is there, fine. If it's not there, it's not there.

MAYOR MESSAM: This is the fundamental problem. An idea was brought out. Staff was contacted to do an event, and said, "Do it." I don't care the cost, it's not budgeted, get it done. That is what happened. That is what happened. I want staff to -- at the end of the day --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: In which event?

MAYOR MESSAM: I want staff --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Don't make insinuations --

MAYOR MESSAM: Okay, okay. This is what I'm saying. I want to know how we --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: It's not a tribunal here.

MAYOR MESSAM: No, no, I want to know how we passed a budget, staff passes -- for each City event has a budget to say that, okay, Fourth of July cost X number of dollars, Halloween cost X number of dollars. They had a budget to come up with that number. So when you're working with elected officials, I want to know, and I've been asking, how did these line items and these budget items get busted the way that they did? How the expenditures took place the way that they did? That's what I want to know. When staff knows that it was going over budget.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: May I speak, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MESSAM: I asked staff a question. As soon as staff, I'll allow everyone to have the floor. I just want to know how did that happen.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: We don't have unlimited time.

MAYOR MESSAM: I asked staff a question. Mr. Manager.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: You all set the tone in this here. Based on my going back and looking at what took place a couple days ago or a week ago, I realize that what was not clear is that the City has a marketing division for business, economics. They have purchase order. So when it's requested to seek radio and TV and all this, what was happening is that staff was taking expenditures out of a program that had another specific

purpose. We have, since then, had a meeting to help the staff in terms of the finding. What I'm saying is that Why Miramar, working with the business retention, that is economic marketing that we put in place. What has happened is a cross into events. So when you try to track down the monies in the event, you have to know that it's being taken off of a purchase order, and that's why we found it very difficult to try to track it. So we have corrected that. We're now putting in procedures and policies all the way through this, but the real culprit in this here, when you start talking about marketing, is that you've got a marketing plan, and then you have economic marketing. Why Miramar with businesses. What was happening is one was crossing into the other, and it was paying for it.

MAYOR MESSAM: And all I'm saying is that if there is a scenario where there is an elected official that's trying to get something done for an event for the community, whatever the case may be, and if it's not budgeted, that it just comes before the Commission for discussion. As simple as that, because the money has to come from somewhere. So now the intended purposes of economic development, business marketing is not there, because it went to another purpose that it wasn't originally budgeted for that we all approved. So all I'm saying is that we follow the procedure, and that we cannot allow this type of expenditure to take place. We cannot, because we passed a budget. And if the budget needs to be changed for an event that comes before the Commission.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: May I, please?

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes, you may. You're recognized.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Thank you very much. Thank you. First, I'm going to say the City budget is how much, Mr. Manager?

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: I can't even think right now. \$315 million.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: \$315 million. If it's a million dollars we're talking about, if it's even \$2 million we're talking about, I won't say we're wasting, but we're spending a lot of time on a very small amount of the City budget. I like the idea that we can sit here as adults and have an open discussion on events, and everybody can air this out and during a workshop and move forward. I haven't seen an initiative from any Commissioner, from any member of the Commission, Commissioner, Mayor, Vice Mayor that wasn't worthy, didn't address some issue in the City. So I'm pleased with the initiatives. Again, I'm grateful that we've been allocated additional dollars to do our initiatives. At this point in time, where we are today, a week outside of the budget, I don't think any initiatives are unfunded, because we have brand new dollars. So I don't even know why the big deal as far as unfunded at this point in time, because everybody has their dollars. Anything that you wish to do with those dollars within legal and policy, you should go ahead and feel free to do so, because that's why you were issued a budget, just like any other department in the City. I do want to take this a little further, because there is something

that I do want to discuss that's on the agenda today, and since it is an event, I think we need to discuss it as well. I may have the wrong agenda, because it keeps changing.

COMMISSIONER BARNES: Before we do something that is not in the agenda.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: This is directly --

COMMISSIONER BARNES: I will probably want to make a contribution here as well.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: You could, but I -- this is directly related to what we're doing. There is an item on the agenda for us to fund a benefit, and it's being -- and it's put on the agenda by Vice Mayor Davis. So am I to assume that the mere fact that a member of this Commission is putting this item on here that it's an initiative? I would think if you're putting something on the agenda as an initiative.

MAYOR MESSAM: No, no. I think that it's appropriate that the Vice Mayor request something on the agenda for us to discuss as a Commission. But when things are done in meetings behind closed doors, expenditures are made, then I think that is inappropriate. But I think for something -- we have to make a decision.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: I'm not saying it's in appropriate for it to be on the agenda. Since we are discussing events, I wanted to discuss this. Is this considered an event? Is this an initiative of a Commissioner? A Commissioner is asking for something to place here.

MAYOR MESSAM: Whether it be a Commission directive to ask to fund or to support whatever is being requested.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Right. It's going to be asking for support for the City to fund it. I'm bringing it before you, because it's something I'm working on.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: But this is not considered an initiative of yours?

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: No.

MAYOR MESSAM: It will be a City-sponsored or City supported --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Because I can't -- based on this new rules --

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Ok, bear with me here. The City Manager has just came up with a list of events for the year. That was done last week, and here is another event. Is this event --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Unfunded.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Is this event supposed to be part of -- are we substituting one of the events that's already been approved? We're all saying let's stay within our budget.

MAYOR MESSAM: No, no, no, no, no.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: One week outside of the budget --

MAYOR MESSAM: Let me ask you a question, okay.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Okay.

MAYOR MESSAM: We approve the budget with examination of what was being proposed, so whatever we adopted as a budget, even the ones that have City events with us individually hosting certain events, we are all adopting them, and we are approving them. Because this is something that is not funded, has not been examined, it's being brought before the Commission for examination, for consideration to support whatever is being requested. And I think that is appropriate; that is how it should come forward.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: But this is the unfunded.

MAYOR MESSAM: Yes.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: So this is coming before for the City to adopt as an event. This is not for additional funding for an initiative of yours.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Um-mmm. I'm bringing it so that you know I'm asking for support of it, but I have other ones that I'm asking to support too, but they didn't make it here. I'll do that under comments. But this is a tiny one.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: I guess this is where my confusion is. Again, I'm glad that we have this opportunity to discuss this. I hope it's not going to tear us apart, but this is what. You have a budget, you have an idea, that's my definition of an initiative. If you put that idea in place, that's an idea of -- if you have an idea, this is a great idea, run with it. You have a budget, run with it. The part I don't understand is, I have a budget; I'm not spending it on this. I would like the City Manager, I would like the City staff, I would like this to be budgeted somewhere else. Let's call it unfunded, because I don't have the money.

MAYOR MESSAM: But then it becomes a City event at that point.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: But it's unfunded from the City.

MAYOR MESSAM: But it won't be your event at that point. Because now you're using all of the City dollars that's not specifically allocated for you. Now if you want to keep it --

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: But I just approved a budget. I just approved a budget. I spent months going over this budget with staff.

MAYOR MESSAM: Come on, let's not (unintelligible) this now.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: It's a plan for the year. This is what we're doing for the year. My thing is like, why are we going -- why are we coming out with this a week after we just approved the budget. Why wasn't it included in the budget.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Okay. Let me explain, because not everything -- we can't forecast everything.

MAYOR MESSAM: Exactly.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: So that's why this policy is important. That's why this part, bringing stuff to the Commission is necessary in the policy. I'm good with it. But allow somebody to bring it, because you can't envision everything. So this particular item, the way it has blown up, it really is out of my hands. I could fund it, but I think, on the broader scale, like with the Haitian earthquake relief, this is of that category. And so if you really want to do it right -- with the Haitian earthquake, it was part of everything that you had discussed at the time, and maybe the earthquake occurred earlier in the year. This was just one month ago.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Well, certainly we can continue this, but since it was events, I brought it up. But I do think, in terms of having benefits, I don't know that that's a City activity. I really don't. I don't know that.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: The Haitian earthquake was.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: The City of Miramar has really not been great with paid events, in terms of the cost of the events. When these things come before us for approval, I would like to know the cost of it. I don't want to go back and see next year. You see this? I'm not opening it up. I don't want to know what happened next year. But I certainly want to know, going forward, if you bring something for us to approve, --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: You're going to have all the documents.

MAYOR MESSAM: You got to have what the --

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: The City of Miramar --

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: You're going to have everything out tonight.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: The City has a budget of \$50,000.00 to put on an event, so at 25, is that what it's going to cost us for a benefit? Do we write a check to the Bahamas for \$50,000.00.

VICE MAYOR DAVIS: Actually, it's a paid benefit, so people are paying to come there. It's not a free benefit, like the Haitian earthquake --

MAYOR MESSAM: We'll allow the Vice Mayor, when the event comes, to talk about that.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: That's fine. That's fine. Now I get a better understanding.

MAYOR MESSAM: But, yeah, on principle, if something comes before us to decide, we're deciding collectively as a group, therefore, it's a City-supporting event, or a City-supported initiative, and it becomes a City initiative.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: Mayor, may I say this here. We're going through this with the Haitian for three years. How much money did we spend, Shaun?

MS. GAYLE: \$76,000.00.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: We spent \$76,000.00. Now you want to ask me how much money did we raise? About \$10,000.00.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: How much of that \$10,000.00 went to the victims in paid.

MS. GAYLE: Probably none.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: Probably none.

MAYOR MESSAM: That's all part of our discussion.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: Absolutely. I'm truly cautious about this, and that's why I really wanted to understand, since we were discussing events, rather than waiting then to go ahead and figure out is this an initiative of the Commission? Because if it's something -- an initiative of one of us, and we want to go out there and do it, it's one thing. For the City to take on a benefit event, charge folks to come to the event, pay whatever it is, whatever third party it is, I certainly need more information on it, but I don't know if it's the place of the City to do benefits.

MAYOR MESSAM: But that's why we have discussion. And what I said before, that did not take place, so what I'm saying is that let's have the discussion, and make sure that we have that. All right. So that's the purpose. Commissioner Barnes.

COMMISSIONER BARNES: Okay. If you look at the spreadsheet, you'll get a very good idea of where I stand on this. I do not spend a lot of money, and I'm not planning on spending a lot of money. It should be reminded, and attorneys are in the room, they can confirm, the ignorance of the law is no excuse. Ignorance of a policy is no excuse. Oh, and by the way, I think we should create clarification as to the specifics of promotional material, when an event moves from a single Commissioner to a City event. Part of what has happened, and let's be frank, let's be honest. This current Commission has personalized events in an unprecedented manner, especially over the last year. In my opinion, that should also attract personalized spending. If this is my event, my budget ought to cover it. I think that is only logical. It is only fair. As I said in our budget meeting last week, I'm never going to join this contest of flyers. As I said then as well, there are certain specific events that I have mounted that I will continue to do as long as they can be facilitated by the people who volunteer to do them, specifically the citizenship drive. This past August, for example, there were there, maybe four separate Jamaica Independence celebrations. Counterproductive, in my opinion, in my considered and informed opinion, also with the potential to alienate other across our community. I think it is unnecessary for us to keep going around in circles about the procedure manual that has been created by the City Manager. I asked the City Manager in a meeting a couple months ago, "Listen, we need to streamline this." For example, this past year I was asked to host the Tree Lighting Ceremony. I was asked to host the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Parade. Not my initiative. I was asked by staff to do these. It is a City event, not a Commissioner's initiative. And I think we need to just be very, very frank with each other and say, yes, this whole thing of personalizing events done got out of control. And now that the manual has been created. I really don't know that there is any kind of contention behind that. It has been spelt out. Even if there wasn't a du jour understanding, there is a de facto understanding that, hey, this is the way that things have been done, hey, this is how we do them. Well, it has now become du jour. It's been spelt out. Okay. And, you know, I have been very, very wary of how I spent. And I said, again, look at the money I've spent; it's on this. Or, better yet, look at the money I've not spent. I have always been convinced that if I'm going to mount an event, as is my understanding, it must benefit the residents of the City of Miramar. It must not be a popularity vehicle for myself as an individual Commissioner. And I want to think I've acted accordingly. There are a number of 501(c) organizations that I assist. There's Rhonda Eyes; I help with that organization in putting on their fundraiser. There is a Gambian event that I sponsor. Those are the things that I think matter to our community. There is obviously a fundamental disagreement on that, if only we were to go by things that have transpired in the recent past. But, no, the reality is I've been very uncomfortable to have to explain to people. My church has, on average, 500 people on any Sunday morning. And there are times when there's a line of five or six people that have questions for me. That shouldn't be necessary. I mean I don't have a problem. Frankly, if I can't explain, I'll refer to staff. But this plethora of events that just keep going and just never seem to end. Policy is now in place, and not only is policy in place, not only is policy understood, but policy has been articulated in a document. I don't know what happens here after, but no. When we find it necessary to transform what has, essentially, been a City event into a personal, individual Commission event, I'm submitting that our priorities are not right.



MAYOR MESSAM: Commissioner Chambers.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: If I may. It's two event just allocated for the upcoming budget year that I disagree with, which is the Fourth of July and MLK Day, which, supposedly, I'm hosting. But those should be City events, as far as I'm concerned, where they should be a specific professional hosting. But it's here, it's what it is.

COMMISSIONER BARNES: There is a difference, though, between hosting, and being an initiative.

MAYOR MESSAM: Yeah. The history is this. The City Manager was unaware of -- we've always had a policy. This is an amendment to an existing policy. All right. There's always been a policy. It's not that far off of what's been presented here. The City Manager was unaware of the policy. And last budget proposed the hosting of City events that we approved as a Commission in last year's budget. That's the history. So it didn't just. I agree with you.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: But I'm just saying for certain events, I think that should be --

MAYOR MESSAM: I think all the City events should just be City events.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: And those are the two that I'm not in favor that I see here. Those should be City events.

MAYOR MESSAM: Well, if it's funded by the City, it's a City event.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: But it's attached to one of us. A Fourth of July is yours, MLK Day is mine. Those should be City events, period. We don't have nothing to do with it. The City put it on, we show up. I give you an example of what's happening here.

MAYOR MESSAM: We have Halloween, you have -- there's a host of City events that --

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: The City had a few events that we're doing, and anyone free to show up. I was the only Commissioner showing up to these events, and then it was kind of shut down, because my picture get taken, people get upset. Don't post the picture. So they make changes. And I wasn't doing anything. I'm just think I'm showing up for a City event, and I'm an elected official to be there. When I'm there, I'm the only one. Okay, Commissioner Chambers, you the only one here, so you're going to have represent. No big deal. And that create a problem. But we're here now, and we're going to work with this for the coming year, and then if it doesn't work, let's go back to the drawing board and make some more changes.

MAYOR MESSAM: Each of us choose to serve how we choose to serve. I just implore everyone to abide by the policies and the budgets we have in place. If you have an initiative, and there's plenty partners out there that's willing to partner with us. So if you have an initiative, and you're short on funding, you can always contact me, and if I know anybody who can help you out, I'll refer you to them. But I just think that we just have to be the examples, regardless of the amount. What we're talking about, in terms of the grand scheme of the budget, I just think that we have to be the stewards of the allotments that we've been given, and we adhere to them.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: But I think we have an opportunity. Colleagues, we, from time to time, help each other out. I've done it with Commissioner Riggs, and Commissioner Barnes is not using all of his funds, so that's an opportunity for whoever needs extra funds, maybe reach out.

COMMISSIONER BARNES: It's all for the students. That's what it really comes down to though. That comes down to personal responsibility. Some people's budgets are done pretty quickly. Mine is never, ever used up.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: Let me just comment, Mayor. What I enjoyed going through this last 16 months is watching the City employees and everyone focusing on where we're going in the future. What bothers me more than anything is when we spend so much time on special events that the core staff can't focus on the mission of the City. I didn't come back here to waste time. And many times I feel that we're missing the opportunity. We're competing with 31 municipalities, and we are on the top of the game. We've got more Fortune 500 companies. If anything I would love to see happen is when the Commission change gears and get into the game of the real business, because now we've got to operate like a business. That's the leadership of the City. Where were going at, the demographics change. My son change in terms of the type of music he listens to. Everything changed. But we have an opportunity to take this city to the next level. We got all the elements. And I can't, and the staff can't do it my themselves. I heard Commissioner Colbourne one time say, "I don't know if you've got enough staff to do what you all talk about in visioning." I will have if all the Commissioners are working along with me, and taking some leadership on some of the things that we have challenges with. That would help me, and it would help the staff to know that we got an anchor with us. What's happening is we're not feeling like we have the anchor. And all I'm saying is to you all in here is that we can take this city to another level, and it don't have to be the way we're going now. \$315 million and we're talking about -- I told staff, I am not going to waste my time about \$1 million, and I got \$315 million budget. And the real story is, we've got billions dollars that's coming towards the City. Billions of dollars. But we can't even turn the corner. So I need all of us to get on one accord, because time is short. Marlo wants to see me.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Mr. City Manager, with that said, I brought an initiative here to the City that really wouldn't cost the City any money, just something to help our residents, which was my water initiative, Community First Plus One. We were going to

implement a program where our resident would donate \$1.00 or more that would go into a special fund that would assist resident who have their water shut off and need a help. And staff refused to implement it, because they want to punish me. Right. I brought \$10,000.00 from National League of City. They refuse to use the money.

MAYOR MESSAM: But you're talking about the past. You're not talking about current --

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: Right. I'm just saying that stuff that went on here before you got here, which is nonsense. Because it's me.

MAYOR MESSAM: But don't penalize us for what they did.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: I'm just saying stuff like that need support, we need to support things like that.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: You got two right now. Sometimes it's good for the Commission that the City Manager can -- "Can you look into this here? Can you look into this and check." Not for you to go out there and fix driveways and all of that stuff. Tell us there's a problem there, and we've got staff, and we've got divisions. We've got 15 departments. We just came up with an economic plan to make sure we take care of our residents.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: But the culture before you got here -- Don't do anything for Chambers.

CITY MANAGER HARGRAY: So you're taking me back to the woods in Georgia.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: I'm just saying what was happening here.

COMMISSIONER COLBOURNE: So what does Commissioner Chambers have to do to forward with this initiative on the water, because I've been hearing about this for a while.

MAYOR MESSAM: That's not in place? That's not in place?

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: It have no support. I don't know what to say about it, really.

MS. GAYLE: I think it was started, but I don't know the status, so I have to follow up on it.

MAYOR MESSAM: I thought we approved that.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: We did. A long, long time.

MAYOR MESSAM: I thought this was already in --

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: The people that were here were trying to shut it down.

MS. GAYLE: I'll follow up with it.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: I'll follow up with you.

MAYOR MESSAM: All right. So in bringing this workshop to conclusion, the City Manager's administrative policies are evident procedures for special events that has been presented, and this is what we will abide by, the Commission as well as the staff in putting on special events. So are there any additional comments regarding specific to the policy itself? So I take it that we all are in agreement with the policy. On that note, it is 6:20.

COMMISSIONER CHAMBERS: I think for sure, if this is good, I think the other one is amazing. I really do.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MAYOR MESSAM: On that note, the workshop is adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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Denise A. Gibbs, CMC  
City Clerk  
DG/cp