

# City of Fort Lauderdale

City Hall  
100 N. Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)



## Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Thursday, March 14, 2013

7:00 PM

Joint Workshop with Budget Advisory Board

City Commission Conference Room

## CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

*FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION*

*JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner*  
*BRUCE G. ROBERTS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I*  
*BOBBY B. DuBOSE Commissioner - District III*  
*ROMNEY ROGERS Commissioner - District IV*

*LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager*  
*JOHN HERBST, City Auditor*  
*JONDA K. JOSEPH, City Clerk*  
*HARRY A. STEWART, City Attorney*

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Seiler.

## ROLL CALL

**Present** 4 - Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler, Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose, Commissioner Romney Rogers

**Also Present:**4 – City Manager, Lee R. Feldman; City Auditor, John Herbst; City Clerk, Jonda K. Joseph; City Attorney, Harry A. Stewart

**Also Present: Budget Advisory Board:** Chairperson, June D. Page; Members: Nadine Hankerson, Drew Saito, Bryson Michael Ridgway and Josias N. Dewey

**Absent: Budget Advisory Board:** Members: Brady Cobb and Fred Nesbitt

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### Remarks by Budget Advisory Board Chair

Chairperson June Page read a prepared statement that is attached to these minutes.

### Need for Audit of Franchise Fees Received from Florida Power and Light Company and Payroll – Timekeeping Request for Proposals

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Manager explained there is a provision in the FPL franchise not permitting a contingency basis. Also, the City would need to give a 180-day notice. Therefore, the Commission approved the staff's recommendation of an audit on the utility tax side which is the same data base. If something is found, there would be enough rationale to move forward on the franchise fee audit not on a contingent basis. In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Attorney offered to provide a status report on the contract for the utility tax audit. The City Auditor explained that the questions have to do with specific language on how they are paid. The City would not want to pay based on what they identify and then have FPL reject it, leaving the City out-of-pocket. Staff would like payment to be after the City has cash in hand from FPL. There were other questions about who would be responsible for collection efforts and who would handle any potential litigation. He believed the issues have all been resolved. Mayor Seiler was concerned about the amount of time that has lapsed since it was approved by the Commission.

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Manager advised that a primary part of payroll is its automation. An agreement with Kronos was completed. Once automated payroll is in place, the City can then look at outsourcing the collection. The real savings is on the timekeeping side. The City Auditor explained a condition of bringing in a new vendor was automating the actual time entry piece. There needs to be one consistent platform. The City Manager explained if too much is put into the hands of a provider and the provider goes away, the City is absent a system. He wanted the City itself to keep track of time; the issue is what to do afterward. The City Auditor added that it is quite possible to purchase this frontend component. Assistant City Manager Stanley Hawthorne indicated that ADP Payroll Services has met with staff and the Board. Kronos was undertaken as the first phase. Staff wanted to get the timekeeping portion addressed first. ADP uses Kronos for most of their systems. There have been legal issues since Commission approval, but he believed they have now been resolved.

Mayor Seiler was concerned about the lapse of time on this item and the previous one, despite the Commission having made policy decisions. In general, he was concerned about timeliness. The City Auditor explained in dealing with a national firm such as Kronos, there is a standard contract. However, there were provisions that were not in the City's best interests. It is difficult to convince a nationwide firm to modify their boiler plate contract. He knew there was a lot of back and forth between attorneys. The City Attorney added that some of the provisions are illegal in Florida. Kronos refused to make the changes in the City's markup. Mayor Seiler suggested the matter should then be brought to the Commission so they are aware of why there is a delay.

Mayor Seiler requested an update on both items be scheduled on the April 2 agenda.

#### Revenue Estimating Conference Committee

With respect to expenses, Commissioner Rogers wanted to see on paper what has been accomplished over the past four years. With respect to revenue, he urged the Board to dig as deep as possible. He wanted to know how the sequester will impact the City. He referred to the payroll system and third-party vendors and urged the Board to come forward with anything else they feel the City should be looking at. Mayor Seiler agreed. Chairperson Page noted that there are uncertainties in the revenue trends. There is a gap. Both Commissioner Rogers and Mayor Seiler noted the Commission's commitment to a defined reserve. Commissioner Rogers wanted some numbers in order to help show the gap size.

Vice Mayor Roberts reasoned that the City is facing the issue of services versus cuts. He asked the Board to identify more revenue sources. Along with Commissioner Rogers, he wanted to see numbers of where shortfalls may be. Perhaps services that are borderline or have to be cut versus revenue that might be available to sustain those services. Chairperson Page indicated that the Burton model will clearly show the City's status with revenues and expenses. She explained the contemplated process for the Revenue Estimating Conference Committee. The City Manager noted that it will provide a five-year picture. With respect to potential funding from the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Vice Mayor Roberts indicated that it would be helpful to have the Board's input on infrastructure needs. It was noted that the Neighbor Survey will be presented to the Board.

Commissioner DuBose wanted to make sure that technology infrastructure is a consideration of the Board.

### **13-0470 CITY FACILITIES - INFRASTRUCTURE**

Mr. Saito indicated after he toured the police headquarters with Mr. Ridgway, there was agreement that the building is in disrepair and concern that it may not withstand a storm direct hit that could impact services. They recommend a study be commissioned of professionals in the industry to determine if the building can be rehabilitated. The Police Chief and his representatives should be part of this focus group. Mr. Ridgway indicated without such a study, it is not possible to have a proper maintenance plan. In essence the City needs to know the status of its capital items so that a maintenance plan can be developed and costly repairs avoided. Vice Mayor Roberts agreed about the condition of the police headquarters. He went on to provide some historical perspective. An assessment needs to also be conducted to compare costs associated with the existing buildings citywide and new building.

Mayor Seiler recognized newly elected District II Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis.

In response to Mayor Seiler, Mr. Ridgway indicated that he felt there is potential for a significant renovation in lieu of a complete tear-down, but a portion would need to be torn down. Mayor Seiler stressed his focus is functional versus aesthetics. The City Manager advised that there is about \$400,000 of unspent grant funds, therefore the City is inquiring whether these funds can be applied to hardening the roof. In response to Vice Mayor Roberts, the City Manager advised that a facilities assessment study was funded in the current fiscal year and the RFP is being drafted. The idea would be to primarily look at City facilities that are not enterprise supported. Discussion ensued about renovation and hurricane preparedness. The City Manager noted that the building lies in the historic district.

As to City Hall, Mr. Saito explained their main focus was the police headquarters, but the same thinking would apply to City Hall. Hopefully the assessment study will provide a prioritization. Chairperson Page indicated that the Board only looked at these two buildings, but they are aware that bridges and roads need attention. Mayor Seiler asked the City Manager to provide the timeline on the assessment study. The City Manager indicated he is trying to bring City buildings to the same standards as commercial buildings within the current budget allocations.

Mayor Seiler raised the idea and a discussion ensued of the pro's and con's of police substations, issues that would need to be addressed if the City adopted such a concept and how the concept would impact the current facility on Broward Boulevard. Before a recommendation comes forward to the Commission, Mayor Seiler requested the City Manager involve Vice Mayor Roberts. He requested an analysis of the substation concept. Vice Mayor Roberts called attention to the City's partnership with IBM on the resource optimization study for the Police Department.

**13-0466 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGETING CYCLE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Hawthorne introduced this item including some history and reviewed slides on it that are included in Commission Memorandum 13-0466. A copy of the slides are attached to these minutes.

With respect to fulltime equivalents, Commissioner Rogers wanted information about budgeted, but unfilled positions. The City Manager advised that this information is being reviewed monthly. There is a clear message in a vacant position where there is not active recruitment. There would have to be extenuating circumstances for a position to be unfilled for a period of time. Commissioner Rogers stressed the importance of such information.

Commissioner DuBose suggested the presentation documentation be made available on the City's website and that it be very prominent so that people who visit the website become aware that the City is going on the budget. He wanted assurance that the City is mindful of anything that could occur at the State level that would impact municipalities. Mr. Hawthorne noted this is addressed in the financial environmental scan (Box 15). As to timing, he advised that revenues will be updated through the summer. Commissioner DuBose did not think this is adequately reflected in the cycle flow, perhaps in the areas of Boxes 21-22. The City Manager advised that the budget will be adjusted for any legislative action at that point. While a preliminary budget is to be delivered in May, it is not considered final until the legislature is out of session.

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Chairperson Page believed the Commission's priorities have remained the same for the past three years. She asked for the Commission's feedback. Commissioner Roberts wanted to avoid the Commission making a decision until after having received input from the Budget Advisory Board. Chairperson Page indicated that the Board would like to see some flexibility with the Commission's

priorities. She drew attention to the E911 Dispatch and Call Taking matter. Commissioner DuBose commented that what is being proposed with respect to school resource officers may ultimately be a net gain for Fort Lauderdale. Generally he wanted the legislative session to reach a point where there is assurance that there will not be any unfunded mandate come forward before considering priorities. Commissioner Rogers wanted to have all of the facts. He also wanted the Commission to continue to address expenses and to be comfortable that they have cut to the nub. At that point, the Commission will have to decide whether to impact services. He felt the proposed process will help everyone in decision-making. Mayor Seiler agreed with the comments. He did not envision the Commission raising the millage rate. He did not disagree with Commissioner Roberts as it relates to non-millage rate revenue. Core services are covered by the millage rate. He wanted more detail about other services that can be used by non-residents to consider whether the cost of those services should be borne by fees. He believed in the cost recovery approach as well as additional sources of revenue and to focus property taxes on core services. He was hopeful for steady growth, property values to increase and the millage rate be maintained where it is. He elaborated upon the need to expand the tax base and the need for more density in the downtown. He was interested in the Burton study approach. Chairperson Page pointed out that thought needs to be given to how to plug the budgetary gap. She did not think there will be much more in cuts. She agreed with cost recovery. Mayor Seiler pointed out that there are services that some property taxpayers may never use. Fort Lauderdale pays the most in taxes to Broward County and the School Board, but he did not think commensurate value is received. For example, the City does not use the Broward Sheriff's Office. He elaborated upon the number of children from other cities attending Fort Lauderdale schools where there are school resource officers provided with Fort Lauderdale funding. Commissioner DuBose pointed out that the School Board has not paid the City for owed stormwater fees amounting to millions. The City Manager indicated that there is a question of whether it is an assessment or a fee.

Chairperson Page asked for appointments to be made to fill vacancies that exist on the Board. She stressed that qualifications be considered. Mayor Seiler encouraged the Commission to review resumes provided by the Chairperson and make appointments by April 2.

- 13-0476**      **FUTURE QUARTERLY JOINT WORKSHOPS: APRIL 30, 2013 and AUGUST 26, 2013**
- a. April 30, 2013
  - b. August 26, 2013

Old Business - None

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.