

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2012

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CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING

1:58 P.M.

October 2, 2012

Present: Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler
Commissioners Bruce G. Roberts, Charlotte E. Rodstrom, Bobby B. DuBose and Romney Rogers

Also Present: City Manager Lee R. Feldman
City Auditor John Herbst
City Clerk Jonda K. Joseph
City Attorney Harry A. Stewart
Sergeant At Arms Sergeant Joel Winfrey

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION WAS HELD AT 1:58 P.M.

The City Commission shall meet privately pursuant to Florida Statutes 768.28(16), regarding the following:

Kimberly Van Sant (Case WC-07-12987)

CLOSED DOOR SESSION ENDED AT 2:05 P.M.

City Commission Reports

Events and Matters of Interest

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

South Middle River unimproved roads

Vice Mayor Rodstrom raised this matter again, noting this area may be the only one in the city with unpaved roads. She is looking for assistance from the City Manager and Commission to move forward on this matter.

Flooding, El Mar Drive

Vice Mayor Rodstrom indicated this street is still in bad shape with respect to flooding. It is a seasonal high tide issue. She wanted to keep this street on the list of an area in need of improvements.

Crime

Vice Mayor Rodstrom indicated that people believe that the crime rate has risen. She requested an update as to whether this is accurate.

Resolution for Florida Military Family & Community Covenant Day; April 17, 2013

Commissioner DuBose indicated this is a statewide initiative. He elaborated on some of the features and indicated that the City is being asked to adopt a resolution in support. There was no objection.

Resolution for Purple Heart Day, August 7, 2013

Commissioner DuBose asked for consensus on bringing forward a resolution designating August 7, 2013 as Purple Heart Day which was initiated by Tallahassee. There was no objection.

Florida Constitutional Amendment 4 and Other Amendments on the November 6, 2012 Ballot

Commissioner DuBose brought attention to the Florida League of Cities' request for resolutions from cities on this matter. It would be helpful for the benefit of the public to have an educational discussion. He would also like to discuss other amendments that impact cities. Mayor Seiler asked this item be scheduled on the October 16, 2012 conference agenda.

Marina Lofts

Commissioner Rogers indicated the citizens' main concern was that there was no notice of the Development Review Committee process. He felt for developments of this magnitude, 1,000 units, there should be notice similar to that provided for rezonings.

Bicycle Group; Downtown to A-1-A

Commissioner Rogers indicated there is a group of some two hundred bicyclists who want to cycle from Las Olas Boulevard and downtown to A-1-A. He felt there should be guidelines for such groups other than a formal event agreement. He asked the City Manager to develop a proposal.

City Manager Reports

Commissioner Rogers indicated that he has received a complaint that there is no backup for the City Manager Reports agenda item. The City Manager advised that for at least the last three meetings there has been backup.

Broward County Courthouse Construction; Designated Crosswalk across 6 Street on 1 Avenue

Although not on the street-side, Commissioner Rogers suggested a designated crosswalk on 1 Avenue across 6 Street be required for safety. The City Manager explained that this would have to go through Broward County and it will likely take several months.

Doctor Nathan Davis Awards for Outstanding Government Service

Mayor Seiler noted criteria for the award. He asked that the City nominate Doctor Nabil El Sanadi and asked the City Manager to followup.

City Manager Reports**MGR-1 – Discussion and Update on Various Matters****Dissolution of the Group City Fire Rescue Coalition and Distribution of Assets**

The City Manager reviewed information on this topic in Commission Agenda Memorandum 12-2265. Once the coalition is dissolved, the City will receive about \$4,000 of remaining funds. There was no objection

Countywide Consolidation of E911 Communications – Funding

The City Manager reviewed information on this topic in Commission Agenda Memorandum 12-2265. Weston adopted a resolution, indicating that this is a regional activity that should be funded by the County. It was presented to the Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory Board that voted to adopt a similar resolution (Coral Springs and Broward County members were opposed). There were about twenty cities represented. The Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory Board has asked each city to consider adopting a similar resolution in October. There was consensus approval for a resolution to be presented on October 16. In response to Commissioner DuBose, the City Manager did not think that Plantation was present for this vote. Pompano Beach was present. Commissioner Roberts explained that Plantation has expressed a desire to only be an observer. Vice Mayor Rodstrom wanted to be informed of any legal implications such a resolution would pose before it is placed on an agenda. The City Manager saw the issue being that cities have not bought into how a consolidated approach will be funded. The last official action of the Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory Board was to endorse a model where one-third of the cities contribution would be from Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) and the remainder based on population and calls for service. At every meeting, a city objects to this funding source. Weston is now advocating a county ad valorem tax. The Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory Board is trying to get this issue before the County Commission to determine whether it is supported. Commissioner Roberts explained that it becomes a political football because of the ad valorem tax increase. The City Manager explained to Vice Mayor Rodstrom why it cannot be a fee similar to the fire assessment fee. Discussion ensued about a funding model and public acceptance. The City Manager explained that the fee is for fire-rescue and emergency medical service (EMS). In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Attorney provided the history on the impetus for establishing the fire assessment fee. It evolved from litigation. The determining factor was that fire suppression was a benefit to property however EMS is not a benefit to the property therefore a fee cannot be assessed for it. Commissioner Rogers contended that police protection is a benefit to the property, however, the City Attorney explained it is protection of the person. Commissioner Rogers thought it could be a matter of vandalizing a house. He wondered if this consolidation should go toward defining a benefit by cost recovery and relationship to the properties. The City Manager was doubtful such an approach could be accomplished by 2014.

The City Manager indicated there was a concern about who would pay if one city chose not to pay their share. With one entity levying, this is no longer a concern.

There was consensus approval to schedule consideration of a resolution on October 16 similar to the resolution adopted by Weston.

CF-1 – Emergency Repairs to Environmental Control and Air Conditioning System – Police Department Gun Range Facility - \$43,592

There was no objection.

BUS-1 – Broward Boulevard Gateway Implementation Project Update Presentation

Renee Cross, of Transportation and Mobility, indicated this is an update of the progress thus far. She mentioned public outreach that has occurred.

Dana Little, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, reviewed slides on this topic. A copy of the slides is attached to these minutes. Discussion ensued about the tri-rail/Broward Boulevard Shelter. Commissioner DuBose, Vice Mayor Rodstrom and Mayor Seiler were opposed to the elevated shelter location. Greg Stuart of Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization commented that the concerns raised are valid when viewing the issue in isolation. The time saved of the bus making the loop over a twenty-year period far exceeds the capital cost. Moreover there will also be need for a trolley stop at this location. In other words, this is infrastructure that will be needed for future expansions. He mentioned that this also ties into All Aboard Fort Lauderdale and elaborated upon the transit linkages. They are trying to create a synergy of use and facilitate people being able save time. Commissioner DuBose felt the location should be further west near a new shopping plaza. Vice Mayor Rodstrom suggested an indoor sidewalk, coordinated roof treatment and moving the shelter further away from the roadway. Mr. Stuart elaborated upon funding sources for certain aspects. Mr. Little noted that this is still conceptual. A cost has not yet been determined. Mr. Little offered to look into the Vice Mayor's idea that may require more property. Commissioner Rogers thought it should be kept in mind that this is the gateway to the city. Mr. Little explained that it is a key link to the convergence of other transportation systems that are already underway.

Mr. Little continued review of the slides. With respect to children crossing Broward Boulevard (in the vicinity of the North Fork of the New River Bridge), Commissioner DuBose emphasized that children who live on the north side of Broward Boulevard attend Stranahan High School have to constantly cross over and there is a safety concern.

Continuing review of the slides, Mr. Little noted that they intend to identify areas where shade trees could be planted on private property. The City could then pursue cooperative relationships with private property owners. By re-stripping lanes from 11 ½ to 11 feet, there would be enough space for a bonafide bike lane. Concerning a lane reduction and roundabout idea (Slide 31), Discussion ensued as a result of Mayor Seiler's concern about traffic impact for vehicles attempting to get into the downtown. Commissioner DuBose raised the idea that it may be intended for a time when there are less vehicles. Mr. Stuart likened this to what occurred in West Palm Beach when there were lane reductions which ultimately worked out. In Fort Lauderdale, there will be a streetcar that will be helpful. He felt the urbanism and street experiences of downtown West Palm Beach is something to strive for. He believed that lanes can be reduced and it will not be as big of an issue as one would think. Mayor Seiler did not think that West Palm Beach has the daytime population increase, however, Mr. Stuart believed that it is around 350,000. He went on to comment that there are multiple entry points. Not everything is entering via Broward Boulevard. Mayor Seiler liked the roundabout idea. Commissioner Rogers thought that there are other options to get downtown and people will start to use them. Mr. Little indicated that the traffic engineers, Kimley-Horn, did not object to reducing the lanes from six to four. He reiterated that these ideas are being put on paper so they can be tested. Commissioner Roberts liked the idea. Mayor Seiler continued to have a

concern about traffic flow. Commissioner Rogers was hopeful that people will begin to choose other modes of transportation.

Mr. Little concluded his review of slides.

Commissioner DuBose indicated that a lot of people at his district meeting were not aware of this. He encouraged outreach to neighborhoods on both sides of Broward Boulevard toward the north. Some discussion followed concerning community outreach. Both Commissioners DuBose and Rogers requested presentations at their district meetings. Mr. Little advised that a schedule will be posted on the web shortly; the website is being developed. The first draft of the recommendations is targeted for early to mid-November.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, Mr. Little advised that the goal is to align the projects with various funding sources. Ms. Cross noted as it is a Florida Department of Transportation road, they may contribute. Mayor Seiler commented on adjustment of perhaps 45 feet he felt would be possible with respect to the tunnel and Las Olas Plaza idea.

Mayor Seiler requested information on the traffic count difference between 7th and 3rd and Andrews Avenue and Federal Highway.

Mayor Seiler opened the floor for public comment.

Jim Moyer indicated that he is an employee of Salvation Army and felt there should be consideration of traffic flow from Interstate 95 and Broward Boulevard. He pointed out the increased traffic that will result when the Walmart Plaza at Interstate 95 and Broward Boulevard is completed as well as natural population increase. He felt that Interstate 95 and Broward Boulevard from a traffic standpoint should be addressed first. It would then be more feasible to consider a roundabout en-route to the downtown.

Mayor Seiler commented on the enormous number of complaints he receives about the backup at the Dunkin Donuts on Broward Boulevard.

BUS-2 – Election Updates – 2012 – Broward County Supervisor of Elections Office

This item will be rescheduled at the request of the Supervisor.

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Clerk advised that the most recent update on cost for the District II special primary and general election is \$226,000, including City costs. The City Attorney advised that he will be providing a memorandum for the next meeting (October 16), indicating that the election timeframe will probably be mid-January which is when the Supervisor has advised she can accommodate the City. Early voting is not anticipated because it is an additional cost. Vice Mayor Rodstrom commented that the Supervisor indicated to her the actual cost is general half of the estimate.

BD-1 – Communications to City Commission and Minutes circulated for period ending September 27, 2012

Economic Development Advisory Board

**Motion by Alfred Calloway and seconded by Ralph Riehl that
the City Manager come before the Economic Development**

Advisory Board to address the issue of his budget concerns of not having staff or a paid service that can provide minutes to the Board that would include the discussion of every member because it is very important they have a more comprehensive public record of discussions.

The majority of the members are of the agreement that an outline of the minutes are not sufficient in order to conduct an intelligent advisory meeting where no complete written record is available. Motion passed 6 - 1. George Mihaiu abstained.

In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Clerk advised that the minutes are available online. She believed that staff is responsible for preparation of minutes for this board. This is the only board expressing a concern about the minutes. The vendor cost for minutes preparation was \$100 per meeting hour or about \$25 per hour as it takes 2-4 hours to summarize a meeting hour. There is a cost associated with staff doing the work. In response to Vice Mayor Rodstrom, the City Clerk advised that there is a digital audio recording of the meetings maintained on the computer network. In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Clerk indicated that a copy of the audio may be obtained in CD format; it is not available online. She went on to explain and the City Attorney confirmed that written minutes are required for all governmental agencies. The cost savings for elimination of minutes preparation by contract of all of the designated boards was approximately \$27,000. The City Attorney advised that the City meets the basic requirement for minutes. In response to Commissioner Rogers, the City Clerk indicated that the staff liaisons prepare the minutes. There are thirty plus boards.

BD-2 - Board and Committee Vacancies

Citizens Committee of Recognition

In response to Mayor Seiler, the City Clerk provided membership information for the Citizens Committee of Recognition. Mayor Seiler suggested expanding the membership by two, perhaps former commission member and an additional former honoree, both by consensus. He asked this be scheduled on the October 16 conference.

Note: Please also see regular meeting item R-1.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.