

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

1:30 PM

**Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Mary N. Porter Riverview
Ballroom - 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312**

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

SUSAN GRANT, Acting City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

D'WAYNE M. SPENCE, Interim City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner John C. Herbst, Vice Mayor Steven Glassman, Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: Acting City Manager Susan Grant, City Clerk David R. Soloman, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne M. Spence, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Trantalis announced Agenda item BUS-2 would be rescheduled to the January 22, 2025, Commission Conference Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[25-0039](#)

Communications to the City Commission - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

***Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC)
December 9, 2024***

Communication to the City Commission

A copy of the Communication is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Acting City Manager Susan Grant confirmed a Commission Joint Workshop with the AHAC would be scheduled for an upcoming Commission Conference Meeting.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed she is a member of the AHAC.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-1198](#)

International Swimming Hall of Fame Phase One Update -
(Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Rogers narrated a presentation entitled *INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING HALL OF FAME - PHASE ONE UPDATE* (ISHOF)(Phase One). Mr. Rogers explained that Phase One focuses on constructing the new seawall, the Ocean Rescue Headquarters (ORH), and the demolition of the ISHOF East Building. Mr. Rogers remarked on future phases.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers said the height of the ORH from the pool deck is approximately thirty feet (30'). Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman questioned the ability to relocate the ORH and remarked that the issue relates to covering the top of the ORH, which would be beneficial due to climate conditions. He requested input from stakeholders utilizing the ORH. Mr. Rogers remarked on input that indicated a need for a shade canopy on the top level of the ORH. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis recommended a slanted roof to enhance spectator views from the pool deck.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Rogers explained that the top level of the ORH was initially intended for event space and cited examples of spectator viewing of swimming and diving events.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question regarding the cost difference between Option One-Open Rooftop and Option Two-Closed Rooftop, Acting City Manager Susan Grant confirmed that Option Two-Closed Rooftop would fit into the budget.

Mr. Rogers continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Mr. Rogers provided an overview of Phase One's impact on the Boat Show, commented on considerations during the Phase One timeframe, and confirmed that Staff would provide the Commission with a granular update of Boat Show accommodations as the timeline nears.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Burns, 1 Las Olas Circle, Venetian Condominium (Venetian) President. Mr. Burns commented on concerns regarding the impact of pile driving on the Venetian

Condominium and its residents and discussed options to address those concerns.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the significance of Mr. Burns' concerns. In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Greg Jennings, Project Manager, Hensel Phelps, confirmed pile driving would occur over several months beginning in mid to late March 2025. Mr. Jennings said there would be vibration monitoring efforts by a subcontractor and remarked on related information.

Mayor Trantalis remarked that the pile driving will be happening during the height of the season. Mr. Jennings commented on information related to the timeline included in the contract. Mr. Burns discussed monitoring efforts in place during the Suntex Marina project for the Venetian and other buildings along Birch Road. Mr. Rogers confirmed his involvement with those efforts and confirmed that Staff would coordinate similar efforts with the Venetian for Phase One. Mr. Burns commended Suntex for its communication efforts with the Venetian, surrounding buildings, and neighbors and requested that Hensel Phelps replicate those efforts.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mario Caprini, Capital Group. Mr. Caprini confirmed that they would consult with the subcontractor to address concerns discussed and to expedite pile-driving work. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Caprini said the anticipated completion date for all phases of the ISHOF project is 2028.

BUS-2 [24-1202](#)

Parks Bond Update - Signature Parks Follow-up Discussion -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Rescheduled to the January 22, 2025, Commission Conference Meeting.

BUS-3 [24-1178](#)

City Hall Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager. Mr. Rogers provided an overview of City Hall demolition efforts and commented on related details. Mr. Rogers narrated a presentation entitled *CITY HALL UPDATE*.

A copy of the presentation is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that during the upcoming Commission Goal Setting Session, Commission Members bring forward ideas and recommendations regarding site selection and development of a new City Hall in coordination with the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory

Committee's (ITFAC) feedback and community input.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed that Commission Members received an ITFAC Report and requested that Staff provide a copy to Commissioner Sorensen.

Mr. Rogers continued narrating the presentation.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Rogers confirmed the 8.94 acreage (available acreage) listed in the presentation is all the acreage outside of the new Police Department Headquarters and expounded on related details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers confirmed that the existing radio tower at Police Department Headquarters would be relocated and become part of the parcel's available acreage.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question about whether discussions during the Commission Goal Setting Session for a new City Hall would include unsolicited proposals, solicited proposals, or a public/private partnership, Mayor Trantalis confirmed and remarked on scheduling adequate time to discuss.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Rogers explained information regarding two (2) land swap options and commented on related information.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers explained that a land swap must include a declaration of a municipal purpose for the swapped property. Mr. Rogers requested Commission Member feedback regarding various concepts and ideas regarding how the Commission envisions Staffing in a new City Hall and cited numerous options that will impact the building's design and assist in developing a cost estimate.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Acting City Manager Grant said a previous needs assessment was done before COVID-19 and remarked on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis discussed the importance of the Commission receiving input from Department Heads on needs, noted possible scenarios, and said several hundred additional employees have been hired since the previous needs assessment. Mr. Rogers explained additional items for consideration, discussed feedback received from other municipalities who had built new municipal headquarters, and cited

examples.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman inquired about analyzing current rental costs for Staff space against estimated costs for Staff space at a new City Hall. Mr. Rogers confirmed that Staff would provide a summary.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested Randal Perkins, Founder of AshBritt, Inc., be remembered during tonight's Moment of Silence.

Vice Mayor Glassman acknowledged the assistance of Staff to residents of the Springbrook Gardens Condominium and remarked on the possible sale of the building due to the inability to fund required building repairs.

Vice Mayor Glassman acknowledged that entrances and exits to the City from Interstate 95 are not the City's responsibility but confirmed the need to improve the quality of those areas. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff has been working with the entity responsible, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), to address those concerns, and those efforts will continue.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his work with the Marine Advisory Board to address several action items, including waterway cleanliness. He confirmed that a related update would be provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on a recent public safety emergency incident in the City of New Orleans and requested a public safety update from Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan and Police Department Chief William Schultz.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan. Chief Gollan confirmed a robust structure is in place to address public safety, cited examples, and expounded on related information.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Chief Gollan discussed future Fire-Rescue assets coming online, Fire Station 88 and Fire Station 117. Chief Gollan noted ongoing conversations with developers of the former Searstown site for an additional Fire-Rescue Station. Chief Gollan provided an update on the process and

preparations to address responses to emerging public safety threats.

Mayor Trantalis concurred with Commissioner Sorensen's perspective and remarked on concerns related to a situation similar to the recent incident in New Orleans. He expounded on his viewpoint and confirmed the need to be prepared. Chief Gollan confirmed plans in place to address similar incidents and remarked on the need to be discreet. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on using an area of Holiday Park as a possible site for a future Fire-Rescue Station. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed and commented on Staff efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding available areas in Holiday Park. Chief Gollan remarked that there are ongoing conversations to determine a path forward.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Police Department Chief William Schultz. Chief Schultz concurred with Fire Chief Gollan's high-level overview of public safety planning efforts, discussed the process and related information. Chief Schultz confirmed there will always be ongoing opportunities for improvement that will be pursued.

Commissioner Sorensen inquired about the genesis of Commission Member seating on the dais. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen requested an update on the City's Locally Preferred Alternative for a tunnel under the New River Crossing (LPA). City Clerk David Soloman confirmed that the recently adopted Commission Resolution and the Commission's request for a joint meeting with the Broward County Board of County Commissioners (BCBOCC) will be sent to them today.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Ben Rogers, Acting Assistant City Manager, provided an update on Staff efforts in coordination with the City's consultant BDO to determine baseline design costs for a tunnel in order to apply for federal grant funding and remarked on the related timeline. Mr. Rogers explained information regarding assessing the level of review and analysis of Broward County's (County) recommendation for a bridge. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on receiving information regarding BDO's analysis of the County's bridge concept for the New River Crossing and recommended the entire Commission, BCBOCC, and members of the public receive a similar update. Mr. Rogers confirmed and remarked on

available funding, the process, and information that the BDO update would include. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective and the need to have the presentation from BDO as soon as possible.

Mayor Trantalis noted individual upcoming meetings with Daryl Campbell, Florida House Representative (District 99), and Rosalind Osgood, Florida Senate Representative (District 32), to discuss State legislative priorities.

Mayor Trantalis said that he will present the City's LPA as well as the City's efforts related to homelessness at the upcoming Broward League of Cities Meeting.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his attendance at the upcoming U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, DC, and would provide a subsequent update.

Mayor Trantalis requested a discussion on NE 13th Street rezoning and commented on a perceived misunderstanding.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Chris Cooper, Acting Assistant City Manager, explained zoning for the NE 13th Street area and details related to the Central City Redevelopment Advisory Board's (CCRAB) rezoning efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Cooper confirmed the allowed height along NE 13th Street is one hundred-fifty feet (150').

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed the area's past incremental rezoning efforts over numerous years, cited examples, and remarked on the slow process. Mayor Trantalis commented on the receipt of emails from concerned residents. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the transparency during rezoning efforts, noted the numerous civic association stakeholders, discussed his perspective, and commented that misinformation would be addressed at the upcoming CCRAB Meeting. Mr. Cooper explained the process prior to Commission approval of rezoning. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) discussions to address NE 15th Avenue and the related timeline. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the purchase of homes and redevelopment efforts by those homeowners along NE 15th Avenue. He cited aesthetic concerns along NE 15th Avenue from Sunrise Boulevard to NE 13th Street and requested Staff to address.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 [24-1084](#)

City Commission Follow up Action Items - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

There was no report from the Acting City Manager.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Interim City Attorney Spence provided an update on the Public Camping Ordinance and the related stance of the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO). BSO General Counsel indicated that BSO will not accept violators of City Ordinances. Interim City Attorney Spence noted that the BSO is required to accept violators of Broward County Ordinances.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed that following discussions with Legal Counsel for the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and City prosecutors, violators of the Public Camping Ordinance will be cited under the related Broward County Ordinance.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, Interim City Attorney Spence explained the differences between the City and County Ordinances.

Interim City Attorney Spence commented on Commissioner Sorensen's previous comments related to Interim City Attorney Spence receiving appropriate compensation and benefits as Interim City Attorney. Mayor Trantalis suggested Interim City Attorney Spence circulate a proposal to Commission Members for discussion at a future Conference Meeting.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on ongoing search efforts for a new City Manager and City Attorney and suggested respective candidates for each position contact the Acting City Manager and Interim City Attorney to inquire about those positions. Mayor Trantalis concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the Acting City Manager and the Interim City Attorney providing feedback to Staff on the respective candidates. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen said he would request input from Acting City Manager Grant and Interim City Attorney Spence on the respective candidates. Interim City Attorney Spence noted that he is a candidate for

the position and remarked on his perspective.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Acting City Manager Grant explained the process for the City Manager position going forward. Jerome Post, Human Resources Department Director, explained the process for hiring a City Attorney.

Commissioner Sorensen remarked on his understanding of the processes, which Mr. Post confirmed. In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Post explained that the City Attorney Search Committee will evaluate all applicants and decide on those to be recommended for Commission interviews and remarked on the timeline.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Mr. Post confirmed aspects of the process and discussed the recommendation that Commission Members interview candidates vetted by the City Manager Search Committee and noted that the Commission could broaden the candidate pool at its discretion. Further comment and discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.