

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

11:30 AM

2024 State Legislative Program Workshop

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

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

PAM BEASLEY-PITTMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

JOHN C. HERBST Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

GREG CHAVARRIA, 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 11:41 a.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

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

OLD/NEW BUSINESS**BUS-1** [23-0969](#)

2024 State Legislative Program Joint Workshop - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis discussed the need for Staff to ensure members of the public receive all Agenda item backup information when the Agenda is published and promptly receive any updated information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Daphnee Sainvil, Public Affairs Manager. Ms. Sainvil reviewed an updated version of the City's 2024 Legislative Program (Legislative Program).

A copy of the updated 2024 Legislative Program has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence confirmed the current State of Florida (State) Statute (Statute) does not allow the Commission to convene closed-door meetings to discuss pre-suit liability claims. Interim City Attorney Spence confirmed amending the Statute has been a priority.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Sainvil explained details of recent State condominium legislation that has been implemented and remarked on related workshops and town halls hosted by Florida State Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo, which are focused on required condominium inspections, and related financial needs are the responsibility of the condominium homeowner. Mayor Trantalis remarked on Commission discussions regarding a Resolution in support of working with the State to provide financial assistance for condominium assessments. He noted

that this is a statewide issue, the need to add language and finalize the Resolution to include support of State financial assistance, allowing municipalities to create subsidy programs. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his opposition to the ability of local government to regulate firearms listed on page six (6) of the Legislative Program. Commissioner Glassman confirmed his opposition to State legislators attempting to preempt local government's regulation of firearms. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred with support of the City's position and explained her support of ensuring safety in public places, including government buildings, schools, and critical infrastructure locations. Commissioner Sturman confirmed support of sensible gun safety regulations.

Ms. Sainvil noted the City's position on regulating firearms is narrowly tailored to government buildings, schools, and critical infrastructure for Public Safety needs. In response to Commissioner Herbst's question, Ms. Sainvil explained critical infrastructure includes Emergency Management Centers, Water Treatment Plants, and Police Headquarters. Commissioner Herbst reiterated his opposition to the City's legislative position.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, explained aspects of a Progressive Design-Build Project is a methodology where the City engages a firm to assist with the design criteria package to determine what would be built and determining a guaranteed maximum price, allowing the City to decide whether to move with the design-build phase or move forward with a bid solicitation. State Statute currently does not allow municipalities to use this methodology. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding, and Mr. Dodd clarified related details and options and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted that should this legislative change move forward, it would be an additional tool for the City. Commissioner Herbst commented that a substantive difference with a Progressive Design-Build is that it evaluates the contractors based on qualifications, not pricing, and pricing is not developed until later in the process.

Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the Legislative Program that included the City's Appropriation Requests (Appropriation Requests).

Mayor Trantalis noted his understanding that there are efforts by Broward County to request the State to modify the Tourist Development Tax

(TDT), allowing its use for affordable housing and other items. He opposes any effort to reallocate funds from TDT and expounded on his viewpoint.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to determine whether Visit Lauderdale would continue to be part of VISIT FLORIDA tourism efforts. He commented on input from Stacy Ritter and discussed details related to Visit Lauderdale marketing efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis requested Ms. Sainvil gather additional information. Ms. Sainvil confirmed. Commissioner Glassman explained his viewpoint regarding support of VISIT FLORIDA's marketing, which is diametrically opposed to Visit Lauderdale's marketing efforts. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the importance of supporting and representing the City and requested she receive that information. City Manager Chavarria confirmed. Ms. Sainvil continued narrating the Legislative Program.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for a significant increase to fund housing needs. Ms. Sainvil confirmed she is awaiting additional in-depth information from Neighbor Support. City Manager Chavarria explained details of efforts to partner with social workers from various agencies. Mayor Trantalis reiterated the need for a significant increase in funding for this effort. Ms. Sainvil confirmed the amount requested would be increased. In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Sainvil explained this appropriation request is not related to the appropriation funding request for Community Court.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need for the City to make the State Legislature aware of its position and the extra effort needed for the Film and Tax Credits Appropriation Request. He explained the need to highlight and emphasize its importance, including the City's investment and economic development of the film and television industry that contains an educational component. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman requested information related to the amount of Film and Tax Credits in previous years.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan. Chief Gollan explained details related to Public Safety Appropriation Requests that include four (4) Fire Rescue Department Ambulances, replacing the Fire-Rescue Department Fire Boat, and the new Fire-Rescue Department Fire Station 13. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Chief Gollan explained efforts to modify Fire-Rescue Department vehicles to replicate Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) vehicles for use during significant flooding events. Ms. Sainvil continued reviewing the

Legislative Program.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding a preliminary design for the Galt Ocean Mile Project (Galt Project), Commissioner Herbst confirmed that \$500,000 was received from the State through the efforts of State Representative Chip LaMarca, which the City would match. Commissioner Herbst noted the need to include an additional appropriation request for the balance. Ms. Sainvil remarked on her understanding from State Representative LaMarca that additional funding for the Galt Project is being swapped for the Breakers Avenue Project in District 2. Commissioner Herbst noted that is problematic. Ms. Sainvil confirmed she would have further discussion with State Representative LaMarca's Office.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective. City Manager Chavarria commented on his understanding. Commissioner Herbst discussed his recollection of discussions with City Manager Chavarria, noting that funding is for Galt Project design costs and the need for a clear understanding of total design costs. City Manager Chavarria confirmed. Commissioner Herbst reiterated the need to include additional design funding for the Galt Project, and it would not fund construction. City Manager Chavarria confirmed.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Commissioner Glassman confirmed the design of the Breakers Avenue Project is complete, and funding relates to construction. Ms. Sainvil said the appropriation request is \$5,000,000 for construction of the Breakers Avenue Project. She explained that State Representative LaMarca has only one (1) appropriation Bill slot remaining and the need to choose between the Galt Project and the Breakers Avenue Project. The Breakers Avenue Project would be the best fit for the appropriation request as it is shovel-ready. Commissioner Herbst requested City Manager Chavarria establish funding in the CIP to fund the design of the Galt Project to ensure the project continues to move forward. Ms. Sainvil continued her review of the Legislative Program.

In response to Ms. Sainvil's question, Mayor Trantalis confirmed last year's holdover Appropriation Request funding for Stormwater Pump Station Redundancy should remain in the Legislative Program.

Mayor Trantalis inquired about Commission Member feedback regarding consideration of a bond issuance to fulfill needs associated with the City's Master Plan. Mr. Dodd explained the details related to sidewalks. Approximately \$1,500,000 in current funding includes Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) funding. Mr. Dodd

explained details of prior sidewalk repair estimates and funding, and confirmed the City is behind in addressing sidewalk repairs and maintenance. There is an ongoing sidewalk gap analysis, a/k/a Sidewalk Master Plan, that will determine areas in need of sidewalks, which will require significant funding.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director. Mr. Rogers provided an update on the Sidewalk Master Plan that began last month and is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2024. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Rogers confirmed the ongoing Sidewalk Master Plan updates the prior 2012-2013 sidewalk study and expounded on related information. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his understanding of a bond issuance, inquired about the Commission's position, and expounded on his perspective.

Commissioner Sturman commented on his viewpoint and support of a bond issuance to address sidewalk needs throughout the City. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding requesting federal funding assistance from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Bill), Ms. Sainvil confirmed she would pursue and advise.

Mayor Trantalis recognized City Lobbyist Rana Brown, Ronald L. Book, P.A. Ms. Brown discussed funding requests and the general rule that the City would fund fifty percent (50%) of the total cost of projects during the fiscal year. She recommended Parks and Recreation Department Projects pursue the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant program entitled Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP). Ms. Brown said not pursuing this avenue was likely the reason for the veto of last year's Appropriation Request for Carter Park. She recommended the City fashion Appropriation Requests for sidewalk with an emphasis on the City's need to meet requirements associated with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk improvements, a calculation of the areas with the most need, and including the City's matching funding.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding bundling sidewalks with roadway improvements, Ms. Brown noted separating a sidewalk project may result in reduced cost and improved opportunities. Commissioner Sturman emphasized the safety needs associated with prioritizing Riverland Road traffic calming measures and crosswalks, acknowledging they are included in the Legislative Program's Appropriation Requests.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the Commission's active role in improving public schools in the City. In response to Commissioner

Glassman's question, Zoie Saunders, Chief Education Officer, noted that the School Board of Broward County (School Board) is reviewing its legislative priorities, and she would present them to the Commission when they are finalized and approved. Ms. Saunders remarked that a fundamental principle of the City is its support of education and the School Board's legislative program.

City Manager Chavarria advised that the Galt Project design award was \$398,762. In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria said the estimated cost for construction is approximately \$5,000,000. Following the project's design, construction would start. Construction funding would consist of roughly \$2,500,000 budgeted in year one (1) and \$2,500,000 budgeted in year (2) in addition to related State Appropriation Requests.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.