

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

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

WARREN STURMAN Commissioner - District IV

SUSAN GRANT, Acting City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

THOMAS J. ANSBRO, City Attorney

PATRICK REILLY, City Auditor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m.

COMMISSION QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

Also Present: Acting City Manager Susan Grant, City Clerk David R. Soloman, City Attorney Thomas J. Ansbro, and City Auditor Patrick Reilly

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[24-0945](#)

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

Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z Board)
August 21, 2024

A copy of the P&Z Board Communication to the Commission is part of the backup to this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alfred Battle, Development Services Department Acting Director. Mr. Battle explained details of the P&Z Board Communication, noting that the related Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance is on tonight's Regular Meeting Agenda.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Battle remarked on additional tree preservation incentives, which Staff will consider.

Education Advisory Board (EAB)
September 19, 2024

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

Mayor Trantalis recognized Deborah Rosenbaum, Education Advisory Board (EAB) Vice Chair. Vice Chair Rosenbaum reviewed the EAB Communication and expounded on related details.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on an important upcoming School

Board of Broward County (School Board) Meeting to discuss issues included in the EAB Communication. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Susan Grant confirmed that there will be a Walk-On Resolution on tonight's Regular Meeting Agenda stating the Commission's position on items included in the EAB Communication along with an attachment containing specific items that Staff will advocate for.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's request, Ms. Rosenbaum expounded on the three (3) EAB recommendations included in the Communication.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman confirmed her support of the EAB's recommendations and confirmed the EAB's concerns are applicable in District 3, expounded on her perspective, and cited examples.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his involvement and experience with the School Board, cited examples of changing demographics, and noted that existing underutilized school facilities would be needed again in the future. He confirmed his support of the EAB's recommendations, expounded on his viewpoint, and cited examples.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint regarding the importance of neighborhood schools and noted the importance of the School Board recognizing that dynamic. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective, noted the City's investment in Bennett Elementary and Sunrise Middle School's shared park space, confirmed the importance of repurposing existing under-enrolled schools for additional educational opportunities, and cited examples.

Commissioner Sturman concurred with comments of Commission Members and expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson discussed his perspective regarding the School Board and expounded on related information. He confirmed support of the Commission's position to not close existing City schools.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [24-0842](#)

Emergency Purchases - Repairs to a Collapsed 10-inch Gravity Sanitary Sewer Main on Bayview Drive (between NE 12 Street and NE 12 Court) and the Repair of an 18-inch Wastewater Forcemain at

2901 Vistamar Street - (Commission Districts 1 and 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director. Mr. Dodd explained details related to the emergency purchases for infrastructure repairs.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [24-0788](#)

Fortify Lauderdale Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director. Mr. Dodd provided an overview of this Agenda item and said that Hazen and Sawyer, the City's consultant for resiliency efforts related to stormwater infrastructure, would present to the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Robert Taylor, Hazen and Sawyer Regional Manager. Mr. Taylor narrated a presentation entitled *Fortify Lauderdale Building a Resilient Future in Fort Lauderdale - Tranche 2 Neighborhoods Stormwater Management Improvements (Tranche 2)*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding the resiliency projects in the Edgewood and River Oaks neighborhoods, Mr. Taylor said that the substantial completion date is anticipated on December 13, 2024. The pump stations in River Oaks, which address the needs of both neighborhoods, will be operable at that time and will move stormwater into the South Fork of the New River. Commissioner Sturman remarked on concerns regarding the cresting of the South Fork of the New River and drainage capacity. Mr. Taylor concurred and pointed out the recommendation in Tranche 2 to install additional pumps to address tidal conditions impacting gravitational drainage into both the South and North Forks of the New River.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Taylor explained that a portion of the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport (FLL), and the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Interstate 95, and the western portion of Edgewood are part of a shared drainage system that flows into Osceola Creek.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on considering underground water storage for drainage at Floyd Hull Park. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Taylor said that underground water storage for

drainage is not an aspect of Tranche 2 and that option would be an opportunity to address needs in other areas of the City in the future.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on his viewpoint regarding rainfall drainage from FLL, FDOT roadways and the western portion of Edgewood into Osceola Creek that exceeds capacity during heavy rainfalls. He noted that dredging Osceola Creek did not adequately increase its capacity and expounded on his perspective.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Taylor explained information regarding a portion of Osceola Creek that has been upgraded in the Edgewood neighborhood area and confirmed the need for similar upgrading in other areas of Osceola Creek. Mr. Taylor explained the need for dredging and hardening Osceola Creek's slopes in different areas of the City. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said that a repeat of Osceola Creek's overflow into neighborhoods is not an option and questioned the sufficiency of resiliency plans to address related concerns should the City experience a continuous heavy rainfall event.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor explained details related to permitted drainage into Osceola Creek, including infrastructure to mitigate stormwater overflow. Mr. Taylor cited examples, commented on related remediation recommendations, and discussed the need for a cooperative effort by all permitted parties towards upgrading Osceola Creek to ensure the reliable conveyance of stormwater during a major storm event.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Public Works Department Deputy Director. Dr. Gassman remarked on stakeholder discussions regarding the Osceola Creek restoration project in the area north of State Road 84. She explained details of the City's restoration of Osceola Creek to the area south of State Road 84, which has substantially increased capacity under the stewardship of the City, noting that only a small portion of the Edgewood neighborhood contributes stormwater flow into this area of Osceola Creek. Dr. Gassman explained that a more significant challenge is in the area north of State Road 84 due to the large portion of the Edgewood neighborhood contributing to stormwater flow and its private ownership.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Dr. Gassman explained information related to the location of Osceola Creek to the area north of State Road 84, Staff's efforts to determine drainage easements and work with other stakeholders to fund needed

improvements to this area. She confirmed an anticipated six (6) month timeline to determine related information and move forward with remediation efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Gassman reiterated the anticipated six (6) month timeline to clarify and understand the position of stakeholders in the area of Osceola Creek north of State Road 84. Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective regarding the importance of implementing Osceola Creek drainage improvements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor estimated that when all stormwater infrastructure remediation efforts are completed, approximately eight (8) to ten (10) inches of rainwater could be absorbed during a twenty-four (24) hour period and explained related information and efforts.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor discussed challenges related to changing the existing gravity system of Osceola Creek and converting it to a pumped system, accelerating the outflow of water. Mr. Taylor confirmed it would be a large undertaking and explained information that would require the cooperation of Broward County. Dr. Gassman confirmed and explained related challenges. Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Taylor reiterated that FLL and FDOT have permitted drainage into Osceola Creek.

Mr. Taylor continued narrating the presentation.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on stormwater infrastructure challenges related to overlapping jurisdictions. Mr. Taylor said that this is not applicable in areas listed in the presentation's Project A slide.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Taylor explained drainage information in the Melrose Park presentation illustration.

Commissioner Herbst noted the need to discuss water ponding along NE 15th Avenue in the Poinsettia Heights neighborhood and along Bayview Drive. He discussed recurring roadway issues along Bayview Drive since the installation of the underground redundant sewer gravity main. Mr. Taylor confirmed and remarked on related information.

Mayor Trantalis recognized James LaBrie, 1514 NE 20th Street, and Poinsettia Heights Civic Association Board Vice President. Mr. LaBrie spoke about flooding concerns in the neighborhood, Staff efforts to meet with neighbors, and the need to address tidal valves in the area.

Commissioner Herbst discussed additional areas in District 1 experiencing flooding concerns and the need for Hazen and Sawyer to include them in its resiliency efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Dodd explained information associated with an infrastructure project along NE 15th Avenue that involves the City of Wilton Manors connecting to the City's wastewater system.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on areas of flooding concerns in Poinsettia Heights, commented on the importance of maintaining stormwater drains, and concurred on the need to address flooding along Bayview Drive. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman discussed feedback from District 4 neighbors regarding tidal valves that need to be repaired. In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Dr. Gassman confirmed plans and locations for future installation of additional tidal valves. Dr. Gassman explained the purpose of tidal valves is to prevent saltwater from using the stormwater infrastructure system to flood roadways. Dr. Gassman commented on feedback from neighbors regarding tidal valves preventing neighborhood flooding and explained that a tidal valve is a passive device that will not pump water. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman concurred with Mayor Trantalis' earlier remarks regarding the importance of maintaining stormwater drains and reiterated her previous request that Staff provide her with the stormwater drain maintenance schedule in District 3 to include locations and timelines. She discussed stormwater drainage maintenance needs in District 3, cited examples along Sistrunk Boulevard, including debris from construction, and requested weekly maintenance.

Dr. Gassman explained Staff's maintenance schedule for stormwater catch basins and stormwater drains. She discussed the requirement of a filter cloth covering stormwater drains at construction sites and the design and purpose of the existing stormwater infrastructure system. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Dr. Gassman confirmed the responsibility of construction companies to clear storm drains and remarked on aspects of construction that could temporarily prevent drainage and cited an example. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street, River Oaks Civic Association President. Mr. Inserra discussed concerns related to the activation of pump stations. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding the adequacy of improvements made to Osceola Creek in the area south of State Road 84 and the ownership of the area north of State Road 84.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding pump station delays, Mr. Dodd said that Staff placed the pump station order when the contract was awarded and explained the lengthy lead time required due to the manufacturing specifications necessary for its components. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Chris Nelson, 520 SE 5th Avenue. Mr. Nelson spoke in support of efforts regarding this Agenda item and expounded on additional efforts that could be taken to address flooding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

BUS-2 [24-0801](#)

Melrose Manors Neighborhood Stormwater Project Update -
(Commission District 3)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, explained that this Agenda item focuses on stormwater infrastructure improvements in the Melrose Park neighborhood.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Juan Carlos Samuel, Public Works Department Project Manager II. Mr. Samuel narrated a presentation entitled *Stormwater Improvements Melrose Manors and Riverland*.

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

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Mr. Samuel explained plans for installing hundreds of stormwater drains in the Melrose Manors and Riverland neighborhoods. He confirmed that Staff would research and provide the exact number to Commission Members.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Samuel discussed the timeline and anticipated 2028 project completion date. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman remarked on the need for continued efforts to reduce the project timeline and expounded on her perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, it was confirmed that Melrose Manors was always part of the City, and Melrose Park was annexed. Mayor Trantalis remarked on his perspective regarding development in these areas, which did not include stormwater infrastructure when constructed.

BUS-3 [24-0967](#)

2024 King Tides Presentation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Dr. Nancy Gassman, Public Works Department Deputy Director. Dr. Gassman showed the Commission a tidal valve, demonstrated how it functions, and passed it to the dais for Commission Member to review.

Dr. Gassman narrated a presentation entitled *King Tide Update*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Dr. Gassman said that the duration of King Tide water levels average three (3) to seven (7) days and noted the additional impact of strong westbound winds.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Dr. Gassman confirmed there was no King Tide flooding in Merle Fogg Park, which has a new seawall. The Cordova Road area experienced some flooding despite the City's new seawall. She explained that this was due to the combination of high tide, strong winds, and the area's topography. Dr. Gassman confirmed that Staff is working to mitigate those concerns.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding flooding on SE 11th Court in the Cordova Road area, Dr. Glassman noted that those mitigation efforts will be complex due to the combination of public and private seawalls in this area. She explained Code enforcement efforts to assist private property owners on the path to raising their seawalls. Dr. Gassman noted Staff investigations of tidal valves in this area that may be failing.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the City's proactive measures to reduce King Tide flooding, Dr. Gassman

discussed ongoing efforts that include case-by-case adjustments to swales and upgrades to existing catch basins.

BUS-4 [24-0966](#)

Process for Establishing an Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") Special District - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Laura Reece, Acting Assistant City Manager. Ms. Reece narrated a presentation entitled *Emergency Medical Services ("EMS") Special Taxing District Presentation*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Reece confirmed that Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance are only billed for an individual's EMS transportation cost to a medical facility, not for medical services administered at the emergency location.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fire-Rescue Department Chief Stephen Gollan. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Chief Gollan confirmed the thoroughness of the presentation, which illustrates the benefits of an EMS Special Taxing District.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Ms. Reece confirmed that EMS Special Taxing District revenue could only be used to fund EMS budget items and could not be combined with other City revenue. She confirmed that the EMS Special Taxing District management would mirror the Other Post-Employee Benefits (OPEB) Board management and expounded on details.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his understanding of the Fire Assessment Fee and the proposed EMS Special Taxing District. Ms. Reece discussed how the EMS Special Taxing District differs from the Fire Assessment Fee. The Fire Assessment Fee is a flat fee per property. An EMS Special Taxing District would be similar to the millage rate based upon taxable property values set by the Broward County Property Appraiser.

Commissioner Sturman noted EMS Special Taxing District revenue would fund items previously paid from the General Fund. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Ms. Reece explained that the Commission could earmark EMS Special Taxing District revenue for General Fund items when adopted.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Reece confirmed that

creating an EMS Special Taxing District would increase tax revenue, allowing the use of General Fund revenue for other needs. Acting City Manager Susan Grant confirmed that EMS Special Taxing District revenue would free up General Fund revenue for needed infrastructure program projects and expounded on related information.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the ability to bond infrastructure program projects, expounded on his perspective, and cited examples. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that option and discussed the related timeline.

Commissioner Herbst noted the positive aspects of implementing an EMS Special Taxing District. He remarked on the unsuccessful efforts of Broward County to fund its new Courthouse with a general obligation bond, and the possible unwillingness of residents to fund a general obligation bond for a new City Hall. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Acting City Manager Grant explained the timeline for Commission direction to Staff would be the end of October or the beginning of November 2024. She said that in the meantime, Staff would proceed with a related low-cost study for presentation to the Commission. Commissioner Sturman commented that Commission consideration of a proposed EMS Special Taxing District would be worthwhile.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Reece explained the average \$426 EMS Special Taxing District cost per property is based upon the \$580,000 average value of a home in the City. Acting City Manager Grant remarked on information related to the ability to gradually implement this cost over four (4) years and commented on different scenarios.

Ms. Reece noted future unfunded budget needs, discussed related information, and cited examples.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Acting City Manager Grant explained the required next steps to implement an EMS Special Taxing District, which would include bringing forth an ordinance for Commission consideration, and remarked on related options and scenarios. Mayor Trantalis commented on this perspective regarding implementing an EMS Special Taxing District. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding ways to fund future infrastructure projects.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Reece

explained the differences between an EMS Special Taxing District versus an increase in the City's millage rate and referenced a comparison chart illustrated in the presentation. Ms. Reece said that EMS Special Taxing District revenue allows for greater transparency and accountability. It could be set up as a revenue fund with financial statements and website posting requirements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on feedback received from residents regarding the need to ensure public safety while not raising taxes that are incompatible. Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support for an EMS Special Taxing District, which would provide transparency and accountability.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the need for clarity and discussed his perspective that implementing an EMS Special Taxing District would raise taxes. Commissioner Herbst remarked on the ability to lower the City's millage rate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his viewpoint regarding funding future budget needs and noted that the millage rate had not been increased in a number of years.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Chief Gollan explained information related to Emergency Services assets available throughout the City. Chief Gollan confirmed current EMS staffing and future EMS staffing goals. Commissioner Sturman remarked on the related funding gap. Chief Gollan noted additional Fire-Rescue Department staffing will be necessary when the Fire Station located on the barrier island becomes operational. Commissioner Sturman remarked on the need to fund these public safety needs.

BUS-5 [24-0973](#)

18 NW 1st Avenue Acquisition Presentation - (Commission District 2)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Assistant City Manager Anthony Fajardo. Mr. Fajardo narrated a presentation entitled *18 NW 1 AVENUE - POTENTIAL ACQUISITION*.

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

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Fajardo confirmed that the property at 18 NW 1 Avenue (Property) is located west of the City Hall property.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Fajardo explained the leasing options should the City acquire the Property, noted that it would include the Community Court, and explained related information.

In response to Commissioner Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Fajardo confirmed the overall support of the Northwest-Progressive-Flagler Heights (NWPFH) Redevelopment Advisory Board for purchasing the property and remarked on related information. The NWPFH Redevelopment Advisory Board vote was four (4) in support and two (2) opposed to purchasing the Property.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman reiterated her opposition to utilizing NWPFH Community Redevelopment Agency (NWPFH CRA) funds to purchase the Property. She confirmed she could support the purchase of the Property if funded from the General Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding rental revenue from the property that would go to the NWPFH CRA.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Commissioner Beasley-Pittman explained why she opposes using NWPFH CRA funds to purchase the Property. She confirmed that NWPFH CRA funds should be used for projects along the Sistrunk Corridor. Commissioner Beasley-Pittman expounded on her viewpoint and reasoning and cited examples. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the opposing viewpoints regarding funding the Property purchase. He confirmed the need for the City to continue addressing homelessness and said that the Property is a prime location for Community Court and will include adequate space for associated social services.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his support for purchasing the Property. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that Staff would present other funding sources for purchase of the Property.

Commissioner Herbst recommended that Staff explore the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to purchase the Property and cited an example. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the opportunity to use CDBG funds for the build-out of the Property after the City's purchase.

Commissioner Sturman remarked that the primary purpose for purchasing the Property is to address homelessness and related social service needs and confirmed his support. Mayor Trantalis confirmed.

Further comment and discussion ensued. Acting City Manager Grant confirmed Commission direction for Staff to move forward with purchasing the Property.

Vice Mayor Glassman noted that the Commission, sitting as the NWPFH CRA Board, had not denied NWPFH CRA projects, and that this property is within the boundaries of the NWPFH CRA. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed his position that NWPFH CRA funding should be used to purchase the Property, and expounded on his perspective.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested that Staff provide Commission Members with the NWPFH CRA available funding balances, a list of projects that remain in the pipeline, and their related timelines. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Acting City Manager Grant explained that following the sunset of the NWPFH CRA, its remaining funds could not be transferred to the *Invest Fort Lauderdale 501c(3) entity (Invest Fort Lauderdale)*, which is designed to continue redevelopment in the NWPFH area. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding future revenue efforts related to *Invest Fort Lauderdale*.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Clarence Woods, NWPFH CRA Area Manager, provided an update on efforts to establish *Invest Fort Lauderdale*. Mr. Woods explained that approximately \$18,000,000 of incentive funding remains in the NWPFH CRA in Fiscal Year 2025; there are approximately \$45,000,000 worth of projects in the pipeline; and, when the NWPFH CRA sunsets, projects that have been approved and allocated for funding will be completed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on the need for feedback from Flagler Village residents regarding the purchase and use of the Property. He discussed concerns related to the Property's location adjacent to the Brightline Station, which impacts visitors to the City. Vice Mayor Glassman confirmed the need to improve control of the property to include proper management of the Property and individuals utilizing Community Court and social services.

Commissioner Herbst concurred with Vice Mayor Glassman's recommendation that this area be cleaned up, properly maintained, and managed to create a positive image for visitors to the City.

Mayor Trantalis recessed the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on his understanding that the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Blue-Ribbon Committee (FRFBBC) would sunset in December 2024. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the purpose of the FRFBBC.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fire-Rescue Chief (Chief) Stephen Gollan. Chief Gollan explained that the FRFBBC would sunset once the Fire Bond is closed, which will require completion of Fire-Rescue Station 13. Chief Gollan explained that a separate Fire-Rescue Advisory Committee (FRAC) was formed approximately two (2) years ago to serve in an advisory role to the Fire-Rescue Department, which is scheduled to sunset in December 2024.

Commissioner Herbst acknowledged the clarification and requested that Staff return to the Commission with recommendations regarding the continuation of the FRAC.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on concerns from District 1 residents related to a District 1 development project and the Unified Land Development Regulations (ULDR). Commissioner Herbst commented that Commission modifications to the ULDR have been done ad hoc and requested that Staff make recommendations to the Commission regarding a comprehensive City-wide review of the ULDR for Commission discussion.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman noted the passing of lifelong community member Jessie Adderley and discussed Ms. Adderley's contributions to the City.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman commented on the collaboration between the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center and the African American Research Library for hosting a water safety and education event for community members and expounded on related information.

Commissioner Beasley-Pittman discussed her participation in a webinar sponsored by the Florida League of Cities regarding available grant

assistance to its member cities, which she would share with Staff.

Vice Mayor Glassman requested that community members Jean Drake and Brian Yukna be recognized during tonight's Moment of Silence at the Regular Commission Meeting and expounded on their civic contributions. Vice Mayor Glassman acknowledged the efforts of Staff to address District 2 flooding concerns.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on information City Clerk David Soloman distributed to Commission Members regarding reimagining ways to address flooding in City Parks. Commissioner Sturman discussed the opportunity to incorporate climate-smart playground design in the renovation of Floyd Hull Stadium, similar to what was done at a park in Hoboken, New Jersey. He expounded on details related to this opportunity and requested Acting City Manager Grant research related options. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman commented on District 4 constituent requests for additional boat pump stations in marinas. Mayor Trantalis concurred and remarked that discharges from boats located in marinas are a major contributor to pollution in the City's waterways.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, provided an update on an effluent spill into the Intracoastal Waterway near the Broward County Convention Center caused by a subcontractor who bored into a fifty-four-inch (54") sewer main pipe (Pipe).

Mayor Trantalis commented on a similar situation several years ago in the City and remarked on his perspective.

Mr. Dodd explained information regarding the damaged Pipe, noted that the subcontractor did not follow protocol and proper procedures, and discussed Staff efforts to mitigate and repair the Pipe. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Dodd explained the location of spillage onto streets in District 4 and expounded on related circumstances and information. Mr. Dodd confirmed that currently, there is no redundancy pipe, but a current ongoing project will provide a redundancy pipe when completed. Mr. Dodd said the estimated timeline to repair the broken Pipe is twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36) hours.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that there would be fines from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (EPA). Acting City Manager Grant confirmed that an email was sent to the contractor putting them on notice and informing them they were responsible for repairs, cleanup, and fines. Mr. Dodd said that in a meeting with the contractor, the contractor agreed it was responsible for the problem and have been cooperative. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Dodd explained that the City does not have input regarding a contractor's selection of its subcontractors.

Vice Mayor Glassman remarked on a similar situation several years ago in the City referenced earlier by Mayor Trantalis and commented that the City did not have accurate mapping of underground infrastructure in all areas. In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question, Mr. Dodd said that the contractors knew the location of the Pipe. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on recent Ordinances addressing Codes of Conduct for Board and Committee Members and Members of the Commission (Ordinances). In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Attorney Thomas Ansbro explained language included in the Ordinances. Commissioner Sturman discussed the meaning of the term disparaging. City Attorney Ansbro remarked on his interpretation of the term disparaging, cited examples and commented on related information. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Attorney Ansbro said the Code of Conduct for Board and Committee Members applies to Board and Committee Meetings and other forums.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on related concerns, cited a specific example related to comments of a candidate's staff, and requested this be addressed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis commented on attending a Sister Cities Event at the Tower Club where he met the Counsel General of the City of Duisburg, Germany. Mayor Trantalis remarked on attending the kick-off event for the Reimagining of Huizinga Park under the stewardship of the Downtown Development Authority and expounded on related information. Mayor Trantalis commented on the importance of the growing Hispanic community and his attendance at a Hispanic Heritage Chamber of

Commerce event. Mayor Trantalis noted the upcoming State of the City Address at The Parker Playhouse and commented on related information and details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

MGR-1 [24-0960](#)

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

Acting City Manager Grant announced two (2) Walk-On Agenda items at tonight's Regular Commission Meeting, explained related information, and expounded on details.

In response to Acting City Manager Grant's question regarding rescheduling the November 7, 2024, Commission Meeting to November 6, 2024, to accommodate the Light Up Riverwalk Event, there was a consensus that the schedule remains as is.

Acting City Manager Grant confirmed the Stanley Cup visit to the City Hall Garage on September 25, 2024, and commented on related information.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.