

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

11:30 AM

Joint Workshop with Infrastructure Task Force Advisory
Committee
The Parker

707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

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 11:39 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC) Members Present: Chair Marilyn Mammano, Vice Chair Peter Partington, Gerry Angeli, Shane Grabski, James LaBrie, Mike Lambrechts, Michael Marshall, Roosevelt Walters and Ralph Zeltman

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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 [23-0746](#) Guiding Values/Principles for Future City Hall

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

City Manager Chavarria narrated a presentation entitled *City Hall - Defining Guiding Values/Principles for Future City Hall*, and remarked on the need to begin the process, including Commission guidance and recommendations. Mayor Trantalis commented on partnering with the ITFAC to find the best path forward.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Manager Chavarria explained details regarding the items remaining in City Hall and the relocation of Staff. Staff will make a presentation to the Commission regarding the current status of City Hall and recommendations regarding discontinuing current efforts to preserve the structure.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request, ITFAC Chair Marilyn Mammano remarked on previous ITFAC efforts to engage the public on infrastructure needs. She discussed the ITFAC's recommended criteria for the new water treatment plant, including staying in control of the asset, water quality, and the rate structure. Chair Mammano confirmed the

ITFAC's ability for similar efforts to engage the public on a new City Hall and commented on related discussions at their recent meeting, including using a professional firm to facilitate meetings and public workshops.

ITFAC Member Roosevelt Walters remarked on the duration of the ITFAC and the need for a long-term vision for a functional City Hall well into the future. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Glassman confirmed the Commission extended the ITFAC sunset date to February 18, 2025.

In response to ITFAC Member James LaBrie's question, City Manager Chavarria explained a previous needs assessment was performed by Zyscovich when the City was considering a Joint Government Center Campus with Broward County, which would be shared with the ITFAC. Further comment and discussion ensued.

ITFAC Member James LaBrie remarked on his experience as a healthcare management consultant and the need for a current data-driven assessment. He requested City Manager Chavarria provide similar data regarding the number of employees and departments, including job positions, Staff interaction with department leadership, etc. City Manager Chavarria confirmed and explained related information.

Commissioner Herbst remarked that past practices for the work environment are no longer applicable and discussed fundamental changes, including remote work and hybrid work assignments. He commented on commercial office space vacancies in major cities nationwide, updated work practices, and the advent of artificial intelligence (AI) that will radically change the future of the workforce. Mayor Trantalis concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst confirmed support for public workshops, including input from the business community and all stakeholders. He recommended engaging Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University for information regarding how technology will impact the future workforce.

ITFAC Member Peter Partington questioned if researching remote work is within the purview of the ITFAC. Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint and the ability of the ITFAC to research and return to the Commission with recommendations to create a City Hall that is operational and functional to meet community needs.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his perspective regarding a remote workforce and commented on the low vacancy rate of

commercial office space in the City. Commissioner Herbst noted the City's sixteen percent (16%) vacancy rate. Further comment and discussion ensued.

ITFAC Member Gerry Angeli commented on his viewpoint regarding remote work and related challenges regarding meeting residents' customer service needs. He agreed on the future impact of AI on the workforce and remarked on aspects of public interaction when visiting City Hall. Mr. Angeli commented on the positive aspects of current Customer Service efforts, which would be one of the values included in ITFAC recommendations. Further comment and discussion ensued.

ITFAC Member Mike Lambrechts agreed on the importance of holding public workshops. He cited examples of the human nature experience involved when residents visit City Hall. Mr. Lambrechts requested data trends related to the number of residents visiting City Hall and the progression of the community's use of technology, which the ITFAC would evaluate.

Chair Mammano remarked on discussions with City Manager Chavarria regarding educational information needed for community workshops. ITFAC Members and Staff will focus on collecting that information prior to engaging the community. Chair Mammano noted the previous needs assessment was done three (3) years ago and the need for updated data and information.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the importance of data collection, including understanding why residents visit City Hall and cited examples. He commented on using technology for online utility bill payment services. Commissioner Herbst remarked on locating customer utility payment services in neighborhood storefronts for residents without internet service. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding pursuing related opportunities.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on the importance of planning for the future and cited examples of technology trends. She emphasized the importance of community involvement, including all stakeholders in the workshops, and remarked on the need to communicate creatively to the community to ensure participation.

In response to Mr. LaBrie's question regarding determining a timeline for ITFAC's efforts, City Manager Chavarria expounded on details of Staff efforts going forward in coordination with the ITFAC to determine a timeline. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding engaging the public for input.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Chair Mammano explained details of the ITFAC's role and involvement with the new Police Department Headquarters. She cited the efforts of ITFAC Member Ralph Zeltman to move the project forward and explained related information. Mr. Zeltman remarked on his work and his determination that a new Police Department Headquarters was necessary.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on public engagement regarding a new Police Department Headquarters and noted the previous Commission's decision to defer to Police Department Staff due to law enforcement needs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding a timeline goal for the ITFAC's recommendation to the Commission, City Manager Chavarria confirmed a six to twelve-month goal, depending on scheduling opportunities. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to understand how the City will work as an organization in the future, both internally and externally, to determine City Hall requirements. He requested City Manager Chavarria provide this information and related details. Mayor Trantalis concurred.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman reiterated the importance of reaching out and engaging the community to ensure their involvement.

Commissioner Herbst remarked on the large number of seasonal residents in District One and encouraged Staff to bring government to the people and hold charrettes in each district. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed the City received one (1) unsolicited public/private partnership (P3) proposal, which has yet to be discussed. Chair Mammano said the P3 proposal was presented to the ITFAC at its last meeting. The ITFAC recommended it be returned to the P3 entity with the associated \$25,000 fee because it was based on the previous needs assessment. Chair Mammano explained consideration of this P3 proposal was premature and recommended beginning anew with a clean slate as a show of good faith to the citizens. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.