

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

1:30 PM

The Parker  
707 Northeast 8th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

## City Commission Conference Meeting

*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 1:42 p.m.

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

**Commission Members Present:** Commissioner John C. Herbst, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Pamela Beasley-Pittman, Commissioner 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

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[23-0556](#)

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

***Budget Advisory Board (BAB)  
May 17, 2023***

***A copy of the BAB Communication to the City Commission is part of backup to this Agenda item.***

BAB Chair Brian Donaldson discussed the City absorbing credit card fees (fees) when residents pay City bills by credit card versus payment by debit card, check, or cash. He provided a breakdown of the fees, expounded on related details, and cited examples related to the Parking Fund and nonresidents.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Interim City Attorney D'Wayne Spence commented that the Commission should provide direction to the City Manager regarding how to proceed. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman inquired about other forms of payment. Chair Donaldson noted it is BAB's understanding that forms of payment such as Cash App and Zelle do not have fees. Linda Short, Finance Director, confirmed only payments to the City made by credit card would be impacted.

Commissioner Sturman remarked on his viewpoint. In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Chair Donaldson explained his

understanding that parking fee payments made by nonresidents incur a service fee.

Chair Donaldson expounded on the BAB's viewpoint, the savings that would be realized by the City, and recommended this change be implemented by the start of Fiscal Year 2024. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus.

### CONFERENCE REPORTS

**CF-1**    [23-0466](#)    Quarterly Investment Report for Period Ending March 31, 2023 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Linda Short, Finance Department Director, discussed the Quarterly Investment Report for the Period ending March 31, 2023, and details included in the backup information.

### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

**BUS-1**    [23-0250](#)    Update - George T. Lohmeyer Capacity - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Greg Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Christopher Bennett, Assistant Public Works Director - Engineering, provided an update on the capacity of the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plan. He narrated a presentation entitled *George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Update*.

***A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.***

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the per unit amount of effluent discharge, Mr. Bennett said he would research and update the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis noted Wilton Manors' monthly capacity allocation and their monthly maximum allocation listed in the presentation. He said the population of Wilton Manors is one quarter (1/4) of the size of Oakland Park, yet Wilton Manors uses half (1/2) the allocation. Mr. Bennett noted that Oakland Park splits its flow to the Broward County system and the City of Fort Lauderdale system. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding the consequences of flow overages, Mr. Bennett said that in the large user agreements, the City has the ability to charge a twenty-five percent (25%) surcharge for monthly or annual flow overages and commented on related details, and noted related discussions with Interim City Attorney Spence.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Mr. Bennett explained the fully treated effluent from the plant is normally injected into the wells. When the capacity of the plant is exceeded, there is a grandfathered permit for emergency outflow, and fully treated effluent is discharged into the intracoastal near Port Everglades. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Bennett explained the reason there are usage increases in the fourth quarter of the year is due to King Tides that cause elevated water tables and water getting into the system.

**BUS-2** [23-0478](#)

Budgeted City Sponsored Events for 3rd Quarter 2023 -  
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item. There were no questions from the Commission.

**BUS-3** [23-0283](#)

Microtransit Pilot Program Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Ben Rogers, Transportation and Mobility Department Director, provided an overview of this Agenda item and requested Commission feedback.

Milos Majstorovic, Transportation and Mobility Department Deputy Director, narrated the presentation entitled *Microtransit Pilot Program Update*.

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

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to correct the reference to District 2 on page five (5), bullet A4 of the presentation that should be corrected to District 1. Mr. Majstorovic confirmed.

Jason Bagley, Circuit, narrated the presentation entitled *Circuit Shuttle Service Update August 2022 - May 2023*.

***A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.***

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on feedback regarding Circuit from District 3 residents and her experience. Mr. Bagley confirmed he could provide related trip request cancellation data. She confirmed her support to move forward with Circuit transportation.

Commissioner Sturman inquired about the status of the scooters and the BCycle Program. Mr. Rogers explained Staff efforts previous challenges and potential Ordinance revisions but has not moved forward.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to correct the reference to District 2 on page five (5), bullet B4 of the presentation that should reflect District 1. Mr. Majstorovic confirmed.

Mayor Trantalis discussed feedback from Galt Ocean Mile residents that Circuit routes include transportation west to the intersection of Oakland Park Boulevard and Federal Highway. Mr. Bagley confirmed the ability to adjust routes and noted the need for a different type of vehicle for that route.

Mr. Rogers discussed the need for Commission direction regarding building out the Pilot Program, remarked on details related to expenses for increased coverage, efforts to use Surtax funding, and related challenges.

Commissioner Glassman noted traffic issues along major east/west travel corridors and inquired about goals and benchmarks to address those corridors. Mr. Rogers explained the initial goal of the Pilot Program was to focus on the peak business hours, cited examples and explained results of the Pilot Program.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding if the Pilot Program's parameters, program expansion, criteria, and benchmarks fit within Surtax criteria for funding, Mr. Rogers said he does not think the City would receive a lump sum to cover costs needed to continue to operating the Pilot Program within its parameters of operation. He said Broward County (County) created a Circuit pilot program targeted in areas that did not have fixed route service and expounded on details.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to advocate for funding for the City's Circuit Program as it is a large donor to the County Surtax. He recommended City Manager Chavarria emphasize

the importance of this topic during conversations with the County Administrator and expounded on his viewpoint. City Manager Chavarria confirmed he would send correspondence to the County Administrator on this topic.

Commissioner Herbst confirmed his support, inquired about adoption of a related Resolution, and expounded on his viewpoint. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a consensus for Staff to prepare a letter to the County for his signature.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Ted Inserra, 912 SW 19th Street. Mr. Inserra discussed his viewpoint regarding this Agenda item. Mr. Majstorovic replied to Mr. Inserra's concerns and discussed the County's Microtransit Program planned for implementation prior to the end of 2024. Further comment and discussion ensued.

**BUS-4** [23-0581](#)

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

City Manager Chavarria provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Matthew Cobb, Human Resources Department Assistant Risk Manager, narrated a presentation entitled *City Hall Status Update*.

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

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, explained costs associated with maintaining City Hall and expounded on details. Mr. Dodd discussed the short-term, medium-term, and long-term options going forward. He said Staff could not inhabit City Hall and noted the \$30,000 to \$35,000 daily cost to maintain its temporary HVAC and electrical systems.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Dodd explained the items remaining in City Hall. City Manager Chavarria noted an item on tonight's Agenda relates to beginning the liquidation process of those items.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the cost to maintain City Hall and the need to vacate the building. Mr. Dodd discussed the twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36) month timeline for a long-term solution.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's questions, Mr. Cobb explained insurance policy limits for City Hall and the amount for additional expenses which are costs currently being incurred for

maintaining the electrical and HVAC systems at City Hall, expenses for moving and temporary office space rental. Melissa Doyle, Public Works Department Program Manager, explained details regarding the invoicing received for efforts during the first month following the flooding, which were lower than anticipated, and procurement efforts regarding storage.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Mr. Cobb explained details related to insurance reimbursement and depreciation. The extra expenses policy is a supplement under the main insurance policy. FEMA would come into play following exhaustion of the City insurance policies. Ms. Doyle explained details regarding the process moving forward. Staff has secured an independent engineering consultant to prepare an insurance claim report, which will be used to negotiate with the insurance policy. When complete, Staff will develop a project worksheet related to the flooding and emergency protective measures and expounded on related details. She noted the opportunity to provide a separate project requesting additional funding to look at subsidizing or assisting with other expenses.

Commissioner Sturman discussed the ability to bypass the short-term option and move directly into temporary space. City Manager Chavarria explained details regarding Commission approval on June 20, 2023, for temporary office space. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, Mr. Dodd explained Staff efforts to evaluate the condition of furniture at City Hall. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question regarding anticipated costs for the mid-term plan, City Manager Chavarria explained Staff is negotiating temporary office space and is reviewing two (2) models, including a hybrid model, and will present details at the June 20, 2023, Conference Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman remarked on her support and the cost savings associated with implementing a mid-term hybrid model.

Commissioner Herbst concurred, recommended pursuing the lowest cost option, which meets employee needs, and expounded on his perspective.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question, City Manager Chavarria clarified the term hybrid relates to work in the office and

remote work at home and cited examples.

Evan Gross, 1515 W Cypress Creek Road, narrated a presentation entitled *1515 West Cypress Creek, Fort Lauderdale* and his support of the Commission selecting the Kaplan University location as a temporary City Hall location.

***A copy of the presentation has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.***

Sheldon Gross, 1515 W Cypress Creek Road, continued narration of the presentation entitled *1515 West Cypress Creek, Fort Lauderdale*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

**BUS-5** [23-0585](#)

Update - Miami Beckham Mediation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Interim City Attorney Spence provided an overview of this Agenda item and an update of mediation efforts, which have resulted in an impasse. Mayor Trantalis remarked on the opportunity for Miami Beckham to come to a Commission Meeting and discuss this matter. He noted the July 18, 2023, deadline in the Comprehensive Agreement for Miami Beckham to build the community site (Park).

Commissioner Herbst explained his position following the mediation. He recommended after the July 18, 2023, deadline, the City execute its option to move forward with AECOM designing the Park and construct the Park, which is the remedy included in the Comprehensive Agreement between Miami Beckham and the City (Comprehensive Agreement).

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Rhonda M. Hasan, Assistant City Attorney III, provided an update on her participation in mediation and explained related details that resulted in an impasse. The mediator indicated Miami Beckham wanted a global resolution of all issues. As the Commission directed, the mediator requested Miami Beckham place their Building Permit Fees (Fees) in escrow with the mediator to allow continued good faith negotiations.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his understanding of this matter at the last Commission Meeting. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Hasan confirmed Miami Beckham declined to put any amount related to Fees in an escrow account with the mediator and expounded on related details.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his recollection. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Herbst confirmed his talks with the



mediator regarding the City being amenable to a good faith deposit for a portion of the total Fees in the amount of \$500,000 into a mediator escrow as a condition of extending the parking agreement with Miami Beckham for Inter Miami games.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Hasan explained the global agreement included payment of the Fees, demolition costs, and construction of the Park.

Mayor Trantalis inquired about previous discussions related to Miami Beckham enhancing some of the facilities previously built. Ms. Hasan said this was not part of the mediation discussions.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's questions, Commissioner Herbst confirmed the July 18, 2022, deadline for construction of the Park, which the Commission extended for one (1) year to July 18, 2023. After the deadline, remedy for the City is to move forward with the construction of the Park on its own, and Miami Beckham would pay for those improvements as delineated in the Comprehensive Agreement. Commissioner Herbst explained related information.

Interim City Attorney Spence explained that the increased costs associated with the City building the Park are not addressed in the Comprehensive Agreement. The Comprehensive Agreement provides for mutual agreement regarding the design of the Park. Ms. Hasan read the First Amendment to the Comprehensive Agreement that states that if Miami Beckham cannot complete the work within the four (4) year period, the City's sole remedy shall be to undertake the work on their behalf at their sole cost and expense and seek reimbursement from Miami Beckham. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding a remedy to enforce the Comprehensive Agreement, Interim City Attorney Spence discussed the self-help measure in the Comprehensive Agreement following the July 18, 2023, deadline. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis reiterated his recommendation to invite Miami Beckham representatives to a Commission Meeting prior to the July 18, 2023, deadline. Commissioner Glassman concurred and expounded on his viewpoint.

In response to Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman's question, Ms. Hasan explained her experience in other mediations and noted that participants negotiate in person and remotely. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Herbst provided an overview of this mediation effort, timeline, and details related to scheduling. He confirmed the position of his District 1 constituents that the Commission move forward with the AECOM site plan for the Park. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Manager Chavarria confirmed the previous Commission direction to begin the process, and Staff has issued a task order for a preliminary design of the Park.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding the extension of the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO), Chris Cooper, Development Services Department Director, said the TCO expires on June 7, 2023, and Miami Beckham will need to reach out to the Building Official for an extension. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on the need to receive competitive bids for the Park's pickleball courts.

## RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the Conference Meeting at 4:07 p.m.

## RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Conference Meeting at 4:43 p.m.

## EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION - 4:30 P.M. OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

Mayor Trantalis announced the upcoming Executive Closed-Door Session, including the matter and attendees listed below.

[23-0583](#)

The City Commission will meet privately pursuant to Florida Statute, Section 286.011(8) concerning the following matters:

LaToya Ratlieff v. City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, et al.  
Case No.: 22-cv-61029-RAR

Kimberly Maus, et al. v. City of Fort Lauderdale  
Case No.: 22-cv-61889-RKA

## RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the Conference Meeting following the Executive Closed-Door Session.

## RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Conference Meeting at 12:29 a.m.

## CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

### ***Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events.***

Commissioner Herbst requested Commission consideration of updating and extending the terms of Boards and Committee appointees, particularly the Planning and Zoning Board. He explained his reasoning, recommended several options, and expounded on details. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis said this recommendation would be taken up at a future Commission Meeting.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman requested a Commission Workshop with the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and the Healthy Housing Foundation to address homeless needs. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the requested Workshop would be scheduled.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the opportunity for residents to properly dispose of their expired or unused medications through the *Drug Enforcement Agency's National Take Back Program (Program)* event in October 2023, which is coordinated through Broward Health and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman discussed the need to prioritize and ensure Melrose Manors residents receive regular updates regarding the HDR contract for the Melrose Manors stormwater drainage project (Project). She discussed questions and details regarding delays and confirmed the need for transparency that includes providing updates to neighbors on a regular, ongoing basis. Mayor Trantalis discussed his recommendation regarding the timeline for neighborhood updates. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman explained her perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, confirmed Staff and HDR would be presenting to the Melrose Manors neighborhood on June 26, 2023, that will include a review of the HDR development model and an opportunity to receive neighbor input. Vice Mayor

Beasley-Pittman reiterated her request for regular updates to Melrose Manors residents.

Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman noted the start of hurricane season, the importance of the City being proactive, and expounded on her viewpoint regarding the impact of severe weather events on residents. She commented on the importance of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force (EPTF) and requested City Manager Chavarria schedule a related Commission Workshop. Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman recommended Staff assist neighbors in preparing for severe weather events by providing sand bags proactively.

In response to Commissioner Sturman's question regarding his ability to work with Vice Mayor Beasley-Pittman to create an emergency response plan, Interim City Attorney Spence explained Sunshine Law restrictions.

City Manager Chavarria confirmed an Emergency Management training is scheduled for June 23, 2023, and explained what would be included in the training. Fire-Rescue Chief Stephen Gollan explained specific details associated with the training to be held at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), including the role that the Commission Members would play and how the information would be disseminated to residents. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis summarized his recent attendance at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Meeting.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

City Manager Chavarria commented on the anticipated groundbreaking date for the new Police Headquarters on June 16, 2023.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:54 a.m.