

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

5:00 PM

City Hall - City Commission Chambers
100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL MEETING

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis (participated via communications technology)

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk David R. Soloman, and City Attorney Alain E. Boileau

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0377](#)

Consideration of Options - Appointment of Interim City Auditor - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an overview of this Agenda item. City Staff reached out to firms familiar with the industry and will provide an update on options. One firm that responded was Marcum, LLP (Marcum), and its representative is in attendance to answer Commission questions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom remarked on two (2) models the Commission could consider for the Interim Auditor position.

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed outreach efforts with the President of *Strategic Government Resources (SGR)* to conduct a national search for recruiting a permanent City Auditor. City Manager Lagerbloom said he would follow up with that individual based upon Commission feedback. *SGR* recommendations associated with a national search for a permanent City Auditor will be forthcoming.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the role of the City Auditor defined in the Charter and remarked on the two (2) proposed models. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the role of an Interim City Auditor, including attending Commission Meetings and overseeing operations in the Office of the City Auditor. City Manager Lagerbloom said that either of the two (2) models could work.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her perspective regarding the two (2) models, Patrick Reilly's qualifications and experience, and noted that using this model would reduce the cost to the City. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed and noted that this model includes an individual versus a team.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained that Mr. Reilly was unable to attend this meeting.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Brandon Lopez, Marcum, LLP (Marcum). Mr. Lopez explained Marcum's proposed work plan would include an individual being in the office two (2) days per week, attending Commission Meetings and other meetings as needed.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her perspective regarding the need for Charter Officers to return to work full-time in person and expounded on related benefits. Mr. Lopez noted the ability to meet that need and expounded on Marcum's experience and qualifications. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Moraitis discussed her viewpoint and favoring Mr. Reilly for the position.

Commissioner McKinzie echoed the comments of Commissioner Moraitis and commented on his perspective.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his mixed feelings and expounded on related details. He expressed a comfort level utilizing an outside accounting firm.

Vice Mayor Sorensen reviewed his understanding of the two (2) models, and City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed related details. Should Mr. Reilly be selected as Interim City Auditor, it would include an hourly rate of \$100 per hour for a forty (40) hour week. Tarlesha Smith, Assistant City Manager - Human Resources Director, would provide human resource support. The role of the Interim City Auditor would not include hiring or firing Staff.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on the need to speak with the individuals under consideration. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed and said Commission feedback on this topic will provide direction and be brought forward at the April 19, 2022, Commission Meetings.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Susan Grant, Finance Department Director. Ms. Grant explained efforts based on Commission feedback and the two

(2) models presented to fill the Interim Auditor position. Staff received a response from the audit firm Marcum, LLP. She also reached out to Patrick Reilly, whom she knew from her five (5) year tenure serving on the Broward County School Board's Audit Committee, to inquire about Mr. Reilly's interest in the Interim Auditor position.

In response to Vice Mayor Sorensen's questions, Mr. Lopez explained details of Marcum's proposal, including Scott Montgomery serving as Interim City Auditor at an hourly rate of \$225. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that Mr. Montgomery would not be able to hire or fire Audit Staff. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen recommended that Mr. Reilly and Mr. Montgomery attend the next Commission Meeting to allow interaction with the Commission and a subsequent decision. Mayor Trantalis concurred and also requested Marcum return with other options for billing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis discussed her viewpoint regarding the need for Audit Staff to work in office as a team. She noted the need for consistency and said the Interim Auditor should be present to manage the office's day-to-day operations. Commissioner Moraitis commented on costs included in Marcum's proposal and concurred on the need for the Commission to discuss the position with both Mr. Reilly and Mr. Montgomery. Further comment and discussion ensued. There was a consensus to request Mr. Reilly and Mr. Montgomery to attend the April 19, 2022, Commission Conference Meeting.

City Attorney Boileau discussed a letter from City Auditor Herbst's counsel regarding a proposed offer (Offer), which he forwarded to Commission Members individually on April 4, 2022. He recommended the Commission reject the Offer. Further comment and discussion ensued. It was unanimous that the Commission would reject the Offer.

DISCUSSED

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 [22-0378](#)

Public Hearing - First Reading of an Ordinance Establishing Geographical Boundaries of the Four City Commission Districts - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an overview of this Agenda item.

Mayor Trantalis commented on Commission input during the last meeting to redraw a fifth map option to keep neighborhoods together. He

remarked on concerns related to the recommendation from the *Florida Atlantic University (FAU)* consultants to use the January 2023 projected population and its impact on redrawing District map boundary lines. He expounded on his perspective and discomfort with using population counts based on January 2023 projected planned development versus use of *2020 Census* population data for redrawing District maps.

City Attorney Boileau explained Charter requirements for redrawing District maps. The Charter requires a new district map following the *2020 Census*. Use of anticipated population amounts, or *2020 Census* data is at the discretion of the Commission, provided *2020 Census* data is used as the basis.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her perspective and recommended using *2020 Census* data.

Commissioner McKinzie concurred with Commissioner Moraitis and expounded on his viewpoint regarding variables when using January 2023 population projections.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on his comments at the last Commission Meeting regarding projected population totals for a planned building on Las Olas Boulevard, which was removed from the redistricting population data. He noted that numerous approved residential projects do not always come to fruition, which could create uncertainty about the population and cited examples. Commissioner Glassman concurred with using *2020 Census* data for the redrawing of District maps.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred with Commission comments and the use of *2020 Census* data for redrawing District Maps.

James Gammack-Clark, *Florida Atlantic University (FAU)*, commented on its role as a consultant and explained that it had been over two (2) years since the *2020 Census*. *FAU's* population projections include a large amount of construction that is already occurring. Based on the *FAU* analysis, only using *2020 Census* data for redrawing District maps would result in misalignment upon adoption of the District maps based upon the growth that has happened or will occur by January 2023. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed a Commission consensus to use *2020 Census* data for redrawing District maps.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding the ability of *FAU* to update the redistricting maps based on *2020 Census* data for presentation at the April 19, 2022, Commission Meeting, Mr. Gammack-Clark confirmed the ability to provide one (1) or two (2) redistricting map alternatives by that date. He remarked on the importance of *FAU* maintaining its independent status and commented on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed the necessity of *FAU* to maintain its independence and objectivity and commented on related details.

Commissioner Moraitis requested clarification about the process, and City Manager Lagerbloom explained no redistricting maps had been selected and noted the need for a First and Second Reading of the Ordinance. Further comment and discussion ensued on a deferral of this Agenda item and rescheduling the First and Second Readings of the Ordinance.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Attorney Boileau said the Charter supports the Commission's decision to use *2020 Census* data and explained the City's legal position should redistricting maps be challenged. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau noted the Charter does not prevent the Commission from moving forward with projected population numbers. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner McKinzie's question regarding the *2020 Census* population numbers, Mr. Gammack-Clark confirmed one hundred eighty-two thousand seven hundred and sixty (182,760). The population projection for January 2023 is one hundred ninety-four thousand seven hundred and fifteen (194,715), a difference of approximately 12,000 people.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his viewpoint regarding the impacts of redistricting efforts to date and concerns related to perceptions and a possible legal challenge. He commented on his satisfaction with the first four (4) redistricting maps.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Attorney Boileau commented on having a *Second Reading* on May 3, 2022. City Clerk David Soloman explained conversations with the *Broward County Supervisor of Elections (Supervisor of Elections)* and would advise about deferral of the *First Reading* to April 19, 2022, the possible need for a *Special Meeting* or the *Second Reading* at the May 3, 2022,

Commission Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis noted that City Clerk Soloman would communicate with the *Supervisor of Elections* tomorrow to advise that this Agenda item would be deferred until the *April 19, 2022, Commission Meeting* and would update the Commission on the need for a *Special Meeting* prior to the *May 3, 2022, Commission Meeting*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed moving forward with redistricting maps based upon the *2020 Census* data and Commission consideration at the *April 19, 2022, Commission Meeting*. Further comment and discussion ensued.

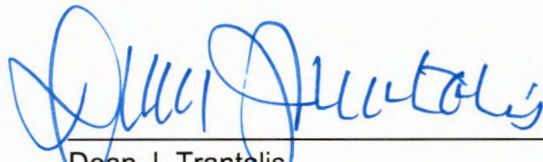
Commissioner Glassman made a motion to defer this Agenda item to the *April 19, 2022 Commission Meeting* and was seconded by Vice Mayor Sorensen.

DEFERRED to April 19, 2022

Yea: 5 - Commissioner Moraitis, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie, Vice Mayor Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis


ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.



Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:



David R. Soloman
City Clerk