

City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall
100 North Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

6:30 PM

Joint Workshop with Budget Advisory Board

City Commission Conference Room

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

***JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
DEAN J. TRANTALIS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II
BRUCE G. ROBERTS - Commissioner - District I
ROBERT L. McKINZIE - Commissioner - District III
ROMNEY ROGERS - Commissioner - District IV***

***LEE R. FELDMAN, City Manager
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk
CYNTHIA A. EVERETT, City Attorney***

JOINT WORKSHOP WITH BUDGET ADVISORY

Chair Seiler called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler
Vice Mayor Dean J. Trantalis
Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts
Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie
Commissioner Romney Rogers
Chair June D. Page, Budget Advisory Board
Vice Chair Drew Saito, Budget Advisory Board
James McMullen, Budget Advisory Board
Frederick H. Nesbitt, Budget Advisory Board
Bob Oelke, Budget Advisory Board
David Orshefsky, Budget Advisory Board
Johnnie Smith, Budget Advisory Board
Josias Dewey, Budget Advisory Board

Also Present: Lee R. Feldman, City Manager
John Herbst, City Auditor
Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Clerk
Cynthia A. Everett, City Attorney

Quorum Established

Not Present: Bryson Ridgeway, Budget Advisory Board

Mayor Seiler acknowledged and thanked the hard work of the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) and noted City Staff's acknowledgment and appreciation of the BAB's efforts. Mayor Seiler noted in conversations with Chair Page of the BAB the desire to increase its role in vetting the City Manager's policy recommendations. He also stated that City Staff was in agreement. This would make better use of the BAB's expertise by giving the Commission information and documentation to deal with the City's issues.

Chair Page stated it would enable the BAB to vet the City Manager's new policy proposals and give the BAB's opinion to the City Commission. Chair Page said the BAB would remain focused the City's Budget but this new project would be more budget policy driven and oriented.

Commissioner Roberts and Rogers concurred that this was a good recommendation as the City continues to change, grow and mature.

Commissioner McKinzie stated he believes this recommendation moves the City in the right direction as the BAB members are the experts at the table.

Vice Mayor Trantalis noted that it is the Commission who makes the policy decisions for the City. Chair Page stated that they would only be vetting the policy recommendations for the Board.

Mayor Seiler expounded on the responsibility of the BAB to give budget policy advisory recommendations and opinions on budget-related matters, and this should include policy based matters. Mayor Seiler confirmed the BAB would not be making the policy decisions as that this is the task of the Commission. Further discussions, comments, and examples ensued among the BAB members, Fed Nesbitt, David Orshefsky, and James McMullen, and the Commission.

BUSINESS UPDATES - JUNE PAGE, BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

16-0703

1. Aging of City Infrastructure and Investment in Maintenance
2. Improvements to Procurement
 - a. Implementing Efficiencies
 - b. Streamlining and Modernizing the Current Ordinance and Processes

Chair Page stated each year they participate with the City's departments on budget modifications and the items below address the issues listed in item 16-0703.

The BAB had following observations on of the top five requests from each City department as noted below:

Fire Department

Chair Page stated the consensus of the BAB is in support of the need following:

1. to add an extra person to the City's Rescue Units;
2. to keep the City's Fire Stations; and
3. to add a full Rescue Unit to Station Two.

Chair Page stated the reason for supporting these requests was fire apparatus from different stations have to respond to the downtown area of the City due to the requirement to have a certain amount of personnel on each unit. She stated the goal is to keep response times under six minutes. It was confirmed that the staffing factor for rescue units is 4.43 or 13 people for one rescue unit, for one station, over a 24 hour period. Fire Chief Robert Hoechrel confirmed this need is currently being staffed with overtime.

Chair Page stated the BAB recommended equipping the new fire boat which currently has no equipment on it and is not useable as a fire boat.

Chair Page said there had been several revenue generating ideas they have discussed over the years. Those included:

1. Imposing a user fee on the yachting community as they do not currently pay anything for the fire prevention services provided by the City's Fire Department.

City Manager Feldman stated a fee on the yachting community would be similar to the current fire assessment fee for fire prevention of structures within the City. Mayor Seiler requested research from the City Attorney's Office on the first recommendation to access if this is being done in other areas of the country's maritime community to avoid future litigation. Further discussions ensued on these recommendations.

2. Ensuring the City receives full-cost recovery for Fire Department Services outside of the City limits.

Mayor Seiler agreed with the BAB on the second recommendation. Fred Nesbitt, BAB member, noted this should also include the use of the Fire Department's Fire Boat outside of the City limits. Further discussions ensued on this recommendation and ways to assess these costs.

Finance Department

Chair Page stated their largest request from the Finance Department was for software upgrades, and this request is supported by the BAB. She stated most departments were also asking for software upgrades. Chair Page stated the City is very far behind in this area, and these upgrades would be both time saving and cost saving opportunities. An example, Chair Page noted the City's utility billing that is way behind the times. Chair Page said the BAB believes once the new software is purchased, it may allow the reduction of billing clerks and staffing levels should be reviewed.

City Manager Feldman stated City Staff is in agreement with the Finance Department's request for new software, and they are in negotiations with the selected vendor. He stated this new software would upgrade all of the City's financial management systems giving several examples. City Manager Feldman noted that budget savings could be found in the reallocation of staff.

Chair Page and Commissioner Roberts noted the need to continue to assess staffing needs with the implementation of upgraded software in the City's departments.

David Orshefsky, BAB member, stated in a number of other departments the needs are broader than just software upgrades, and there is also a need for basic hardware upgrades such as iPads. These are needed for items such as tracking systems that the Parks Department is trying to use.

Bob Oelke, BAB member, stated the Laserfishe software currently being used in some departments would allow City employees to be more efficient when it is instituted Citywide. He also noted the existence of technology overlaps within the City.

Information Technology (IT) Department

Chair Page stated the IT Department had requested new technology software and hardware, and the BAB is generally in support of this. However, the BAB recommends the need for interoperability and consistent goals across all departments. Chair page said when software is purchased, there should be

communication between departments to make things more efficient and less costly, and smart decisions need to be made when software is purchased.

City Manager Feldman noted an Internal Governance Committee had been established for IT needs that his spearheaded by the IT Director Mike Myer. Comments and discussions ensued.

Department of Sustainable Development (DSD)

Chair Page stated the BAB supports DSD's top five "asks." However, the BAB is very concerned about the DSD due to low morale and very high turnover. Chair Page said, with one exception, those in attendance at their meeting with the BAB were all new hires. She noted delayed projects are a result of constant turnover and change, and this is an important department due the quality of life issues in the City for which the DSD is responsible. Mayor Seiler noted the Commission's meeting last week to address this topic was heavily addressed.

Public Works

Chair Page said the BAB is also very concerned about the Public Works Department due to low morale, and turnover is very high and is very similar to the issues within DSD. Commissioner McKinzie stated both DSD and the Public Works Department issues and challenges have been ongoing for a year and a half and is of grave concern to him and is not new to the Commission. Commissioner Roberts stated that the City needs to change its salary scale and in current crisis situations how Human Resources hires people and how certain people are boxed into certain positions. Chair Page concurred with Commissioner Roberts comments. Further discussions ensued.

Chair Page stated the BAB heard from Public Works regarding their general fund request which was all they requested from the BAB. (She stated Public Works funding request encompasses the need of funding for repairs and maintenance of existing facilities and equipment, and infrastructure repairs and maintenance.) Ms. Page stated though the City is not investing in capital structures, there is a need for the City to maintain what currently exists.

City Manager Feldman commented on addressing these issues. David Orshefsky's recommendation was the oldest capital facilities should be prioritized and replaced as a way to organize the City's approach to this need. Further comments and discussion ensued including the need to address routine maintenance and the need to rollover unused Public Works funds from year to year.

Mayor Seiler requested City Auditor Herbst to analyze and report back to the Commission with an auditor's opinion on Bob Oelke's chart.

Parks and Recreation Department

Chair Page stated the Parks and Recreation Department needed increased funding for facilities and maintenance. Mayor Seiler stated the Commission is in the process of looking at the Parks and Recreation Department's report. Chair Page said Parks and Recreation also requested addition funding for Special Events and the associated marketing, and this was supported by the BAB. City Manager Feldman commented on this, and further discussions ensued.

Transportation and Mobility Department

Chair Page stated the BAB is supportive of the Transportation and Mobility Department's efforts to improve traffic issues and implement Vision Zero. She stated, however, the BAB has a large concern with the increasing rate of pedestrian and bicycle deaths in the City. Chair Page stated although the City has been spending funds to reduce these deaths, the situation is becoming worse. Chair Page recommended the City get to the root of the problem.

Vice Mayor Trantalis stated there is a culture in the City that does not respect the use of crosswalks, and pedestrians often jaywalk across the City's streets. Bob Oelke suggested the possibility of reorganizing intersections to make them more pedestrian friendly such as medians in the middle of intersections for pedestrians and is relatively low cost. Further discussions ensued on options to address this issue and its effect on the City's image.

Police Department

Chair Page stated the BAB was very supportive of adding four police officers that would give the City twelve additional officers over a two-year period.

Vice Mayor Trantalis stated the City should be over hiring not under hiring on the police force to address attrition. He further stated there are fourteen vacancies on the police force. Further discussions ensued on filling the numerous vacancies in the City's Police Officer positions with qualified candidates.

Chair Page noted there was no consensus on the use police body cameras. She stated there was agreement that police body cameras would keep officers safer, and they would limit possible lawsuits against the City's Police Department. However, from an administrative standpoint, it is very expensive. Discussions and comments ensued on the Pilot Program for the use of Police Body Camera, the various options available, and the associated administrative costs.

Infrastructure Surtax Update

Mayor Seiler updated the BAB and Commission on the latest information on the Infrastructure Surtax stating the Broward County Commission continued this item until Wednesday, June 23, 2016, to allow the County and the Cities to prepare and Interlocal Agreement (ILA) that will revolve around the following deal points:

1. The interrelated ballot questions being prepared jointly;
2. The Cities receiving a half cent for infrastructure with the Cities keeping all of their half cent;
3. The County receiving a half cent for transportation with the County keeping all of their half a cent;
4. The Cities willingness to commit no less than thirteen percent (13%) of the Cities infrastructure surtax to transit and transportation mobility projects that supplement or augment the County system;
5. A 30-year sunset;
6. An oversight board as outlined in the County Transportation Ordinance that was passed three weeks ago;
7. An agreement that if one question passes and the other fails, the one that passes will not go forward (they both must pass);

8. The County Commissioners who voted for this were: Marty Kiar, Mark D. Bogen, Lois Wexler, and Barbara Sharief;
9. The ILA language needs to be drafted, and the ballot language needs to be drafted;
10. The Cities need to call for a meeting after next Tuesday's meeting to vote;
11. The Fort Lauderdale City Commission needs to rescind its previously passed Infrastructure Surtax Resolution; and
12. The Fort Lauderdale City Commission needs vote to support the interrelated ILA's and the interrelated ballot questions.

Mayor Seiler stated that the above was the compromise reached between the Cities and the County. Comments and discussions ensued on this topic. Chair Page stated regardless of the outcome of the Infrastructure Surtax outcome on the November ballot; the City must begin to address the City's infrastructure needs.

Fire Assessment Fee

Chair Page stated the Fire Assessment Fee recommendation the of the BAB passed

BUDGET ADVISORY BOARD COMMUNICATION TO CITY COMMISSION

16-0735 Motion I - Fire Assessment Fee (June 6, 2016)

Chair Page reiterated the following communication sent by the BAB to the Commission:

During the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) meeting on June 1, 2016, the Board unanimously passed one (1) motion regarding the Fire Assessment Fee.

Motion I. Fire Assessment Fee

The Board recommends that the City Commission support an increase in the Fire Assessment Fee to allow for 100% cost recovery in FY 2017 subject to the City's re-examination of that fee within the next year to potentially revise its methodology. In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Bob Oelke, the BAB member, explained the arbitrary nature of the Fire Assessment Fee and the possible need to make it more equitable. Further discussions ensued on this topic including the City reviewing different types of assessments for various types of real estate, i.e., residential, commercial, industrial, etc. Mr. Oelke noted that everything except residential is based on a per square footage basis. He questioned whether the City could extend that methodology to residential homes as well and to do an analysis of the City's current methodology. Further discussions ensued on this idea to include a risk factor based analysis to determine a fair Fire Assessment Fee on non-residential properties. Mr. Oelke stated that the City of Pompano Beach already does this on a very broad level as a risk adjustment on the commercial, industrial, non-residential side. Further comments and discussions ensued on this topic.

Motion II - Stormwater Charges (March 21, 2016)

During the regularly scheduled Budget Advisory Board (BAB) meetings on January 11, 2016, February 17, 2016, and March 16, 2016, the Board unanimously passed three (3) motions related to the Infrastructure Sales Tax, the methodology for Stormwater charges, and the Sludge Plant Sale.

Motion I. Infrastructure Sales Tax

The Board recommends that the City Commission proceed with seeking a \$0.01 infrastructure sales tax with maximum 30-year duration, provided that the use of the funds, bonded or unbonded, not to be used to supplant or reduce ad valorem taxes. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion II. Stormwater Charges

The Board recommends that the City Commission consider the concept of a change in methodology for Stormwater charges from using the impervious surface to a trip generation model and using a bifurcated model to allow for tidal event solutions. The Board suggests further investigation of how to determine tidal influence. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Page noted the storm water rate change recommendation by BAB member Fred Nesbitt previously discussed with the Commission. She said from the BAB's point of view, the assessment discussed was for residents east of Federal Highway which was not supported by the BAB, and there was no vote taken on this item. However, she stated the BAB is supportive of changing the City's methodology for storm water rate charges. Discussions ensued on this topic including the use of FEMA's Flood Map methodology, general recommendations of the BAB, and bifurcated methodologies for assessing everyone for rain events with an additional charge for tidal events for those who are in the coastal areas and subject to tidal events.

Motion III. Sludge Plant Sale

The Board recommends that the City Commission support the sale of the subject property with the caveat that the City has vetted the nuisance issue, has a secondary location for debris, and that CBRE Group and the City have conducted a proper evaluation based on the maximum development potential of the site. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Page announced that Bryson Ridgeway would be leaving the Budget Advisory Board following the end of his term. Commissioner McKinzie stated he would work to fill this vacancy on the Budget Advisory Board. Discussions ensued regarding former BAB Board member Ron Goff who worked well on the board some years ago but then became ill but since has recovered. Chair Page noted that Mr. Goff is not from District III. Additional possible candidates were also discussed.

Vice Mayor Trantalis passed out flyers to the attendees and inviting them to attend the Community for Equality Memorial Event being held at the Parker Playhouse on June 17, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in recognition and of the tragedy in Orlando.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Commission and the Budget Advisory Board, Mayor Seiler adjourned the Joint Workshop meeting at 8:00 p.m.