

City of Fort Lauderdale

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

1:30 PM

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

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

HEATHER MORAITIS - Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

BEN SORENSEN - Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

DAVID R. SOLOMAN, City Clerk

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commissioner Members Present: Vice Mayor Moraitis, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner McKinzie (arrived at 2:42 p.m.), Commissioner Sorensen and Mayor Trantalis

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

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

Mayor Trantalis welcomed Alan Cohen, Broward County (County) Assistant County Administrator. Mr. Cohen provided an update on the Joint Government Campus (JGC). In collaboration with City Staff and County Staff, a request for proposal (RFP) was developed. Following input from the County's outside counsel, a timeline would be determined for the Broward County Commission and the City Commission to meet and vote on issuing the RFP.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding the timeline thus far, requests from the City to meet with the County and subsequent feedback. Further comment and discussion ensued on the desire for collaboration and regular updates. Mr. Cohen said that the RFP was considerably more complex than initially anticipated.

City Manager Lagerbloom remarked on the collaborative efforts of the City's Finance Department regarding JGC RFP efforts. He noted City Commission expectations to have regularly scheduled Unified Direct Procurement Authority (UDPA) Meetings between the City Commission and County Commission, and the different manner in which each government entity functions. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented his viewpoint and the usefulness of meeting regularly for JGC updates.

Commissioner Glassman concurred with Mayor Trantalis perspective and the need for more collaborative efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective. Mr. Cohen confirmed

efforts to move the JGC RFP process forward.

Mr. Cohen shared the County's confidence regarding the ability to build on the proposed site from an environmental regulatory standpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued on the outside counsel's review of the RFP, the regulatory approval process and JGC RFP approval timeline.

Commissioner Sorensen noted the presence of Jesse Adams, Fleet Week Chair. Mr. Adams provided an update on Fleet Week that included a meeting with City Manager Lagerbloom. He discussed Fleet Week event coordination efforts with the Fort Lauderdale Air Show (Air Show) and shared details. He confirmed the duration of Fleet Week ceremonies and activities as May 1st through May 8th, 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[22-0168](#)

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

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD (SAB)

October 26, 2020

Communication to the City Commission

The SAB received presentations on June 22 and October 26, 2020, from Kimberly Pearson, Sustainability Coordinator in the Public Works Department, on the proposed modifications to the Unified Land Development Regulation (ULDR) Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance.

The SAB recognizes that trees:

- are vital parts of the City of Fort Lauderdale's environment and infrastructure;*
- provide numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits through the provision of natural processes for managing water; and*
- create healthier urban environments that support habitat, provide flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water.*

The ULDR Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance language strengthens tree protection, supporting the Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2024 initiatives:

- *Infrastructure Focus Area: Goal 1: Build a sustainable and resilient community*

Objective: Grow and enhance the urban forest

- *Public Places Focus Area: Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaged community*

Objective: Improve water quality and our natural environment

The SAB believes these proposed changes to the code will promote tree planting and strengthen existing tree protection, with the overall sustainability goals of reducing energy use, removing pollution, and providing valuable green infrastructure to manage stormwater. We strongly support them and urge the City Commission to adopt the proposed modifications to the ULDR Section 47-21 Landscape and Tree Preservation Ordinance.

Motion

A motion was made by Ms. Adler and seconded by Ms. Wood to advance the above Communication the City Commission with the condition that staff submit the Communication for the same date that the ordinance revisions reach the Commission for the first reading. Motion passed unanimously.

Glen Hadwen, Public Works Department Sustainability Manager, explained the SAB communication. The SAB is voicing their support for the tree ordinance and concepts embodied in strengthening tree protection and promoting tree planting.

NOISE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NCAC)

January 25, 2022

Communication to the City Commission

Motion *was made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Pilgram, recommending that the City of Fort Lauderdale hire a noise consultant to assist the City in updating and qualifying any proposed changes or amendments to the City's existing Noise Ordinance, paying special attention to advising on various possible methodologies, while also providing a holistic approach. The advisory committee advised that the noise consultant hired have expertise in modern, large city, downtown,*

and beach environments, that consist of a mix of residential, business/commercial, and special entertainment districts that have experienced a robust growth of the business sector and residential sector. The consultant's report should include a recommendation of appropriate dBC levels, for each area in question, rather than a primary focus on dBA levels. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously (9-0).

City Attorney Boileau explained his attendance at the NCAC Meeting, which is comprised of representatives from the business and residential communities. It resulted in a recommendation to contract a consultant to address noise complaints. He explained details associated with the science of validating and regulating noise for enforcement purposes and the primary noise concern related to bass levels. Further comment and discussion ensued on technical aspects of noise levels and related measurements, new technology and methodologies.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding Code Enforcement efforts, noise measurements and hiring a consultant.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his viewpoint and the request for a comparative analysis of what other cities have done to establish standards and parameters of realistic expectations and acceptable noise levels in an urban environment. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his support of contracting a consultant and explained his reasoning. He remarked that the last noise consultant hired by the City was in 2006, and benchmarks of acceptable noise levels have changed.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained procurement efforts would focus on a sound engineer to address technical aspects and details.

City Attorney Boileau commented on new mitigation technology and changes to the Las Olas Boulevard area since 2006.

Anthony Fajardo, Development Services Department Director, explained details of the Master Plan associated with Regional Activity Centers (RACs). The Master Plan did not address noise. It is handled through the Code of Ordinances that set current noise measurement limitations based on criteria.

Vice Mayor Moraitis noted the NCAC's unanimous vote and said she would defer to its recommendation to hire a consultant.

Commissioner McKinzie commented on his perspective regarding the expenditure for a consultant and the small percentage of residents impacted by noise compared to the population of the City. Further comment and discussion ensued.

FIRE-RESCUE FACILITIES BOND ISSUE (FRFB Blue Ribbon Committee)
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022
Communication to City Commission

Chair Meade indicated that the Committee expressed interest to extend their peer review and responsibility in addition to oversight of the Bond. A rough draft was sent to Committee members, and he questioned if there were any comments and if this was something they wanted to send to the Commission for their review. Mr. Tatelbaum mentioned a typo, the second word in the first paragraph, "had", does not belong there. Mr. Vratsinas stated there was a typo in the last sentence of the last paragraph of Page 2, should read "City Commission". Ms. Tokar clarified that the last paragraph should say, "City Commission". Chair Meade commented that his copy says, "The Committee strongly urges the City Commission...". Motion made by Mr. Tatelbaum, seconded by Mr. Vratsinas, to approve the rough draft. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, explained the FRFB Blue Ribbon Committee communication. FRFB Blue Ribbon Committee is currently limited to oversight of the ten (10) fire-rescue stations and would like to provide input on other aspects of fire safety, including an Emergency Medical Station (EMS) facility that is outside of the bond.

Mayor Trantalis explained that a prior Commission enacted the FRFB Blue Ribbon Committee to ensure appropriate spending of bond funding for the City's ten (10) fire-rescue stations. City Manager Lagerbloom commented on his perspective and noted the need for careful consideration and review of the FRFB Blue Ribbon Committee request.

INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Chair Mammano, to recommend that we believe it is in the City's best interests to create an RFP to design and build its own water treatment plant. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-1 (Mr. Partington dissenting).

Marilyn Mammano, Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFAC) Chair, provided a review of the ITFAC's report to the Commission regarding its request to review the *Ernst & Young (EY)* comparative analysis of the four (4) unsolicited proposals (*Report*) to design, build, operate and maintain a new water treatment plant (Facility), associated wells, pumping stations, the distribution center and storage facilities. *EY* participated virtually in the ITFAC meeting and summarized its *Report*. ITFAC requested *EY* focus on three (3) concerns, loss of control over City water, quality of the water and rate structure.

A copy of Ms. Mammano's comments has been made part of the backup to this Agenda item.

In response to Commission Sorensen's questions, City Manager Lagerbloom provided his perspective and remarked on critical aspects of balancing risk transfer and timing, setting aggressive goals to replace the Facility and the timeline of using the RFP process. Should the City undertake replacing the Facility, the estimated timeline for it to come online is approximately seven (7) to eight (8) years, about two (2) to two and one-half (2 1/2) years longer than a private entity that is ready to begin.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding cost, City Manager Lagerbloom referenced *EY*'s discussion in its presentation regarding guaranteed cost versus risk, and cost versus margin of error. City Manager Lagerbloom remarked on the cost of the City building the Facility.

Ms. Mammano explained her viewpoint about not experiencing a substantial additional amount of time with the RFP process and the availability of technical expertise. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Moraitis commented on her viewpoint and the need for the City to control its own water utility, a vital function of City government. She

remarked on similar timeframes for negotiating a P3 comprehensive agreement and the RFP process.

Commissioner Glassman commented that the same four (4) P3s would respond to the RFP. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, said the City would be able to construct the Facility with the assistance of Hazen and Sawyer and concurred with City Manager Lagerbloom's comments regarding an increased timeline. Mr. Dodd commented on concerns related to escalating prices and related details.

Ms. Mammano discussed the importance of the City controlling the process, the Facility and water rates. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen emphasized the City is not giving up control of the water system.

Ms. Mammano explained the ITFAC review is a broad overview of its perspective regarding moving forward with a P3 unsolicited for Facility replacement and said the risk of moving forward with a P3 is greater than the time saved. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on rising construction costs and inflation and noted a guaranteed price associated with one (1) of the P3 unsolicited proposals. Ms. Mammano pointed out variable aspects and related concerns. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Juliet Roulhac, 7201 Cypress Road, Plantation, on behalf of *Next Spring Water*. Ms. Roulhac remarked on clarifying an aspect of *Next Spring Water's* proposal. City Attorney Boileau explained this forum was a *Communication to the Commission*. A discussion on the proposals was not noticed to the public and related clarifications are inappropriate at this time. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Boyd Corbin, 12 NE 26th Street, Wilton Manors. Mr. Corbin commented on increased water rates should a P3 be utilized. He discussed his viewpoint that the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant should be refurbished.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding aspects of the P3 model, City Manager Lagerbloom provided a high level

overview. The City would own the Facility and would be operated by a P3 for a negotiated period of time. The P3 proposals address employees in different ways. Initially, Facility employees would remain employed by the City and later become eligible to be employees of the water provider.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained operations and control of the Facility would be addressed in the comprehensive agreement. He noted the return on investment (ROI) concept would likely be replaced due to a different type of structured agreement that would include a guaranteed maximum price. City Manager Lagerbloom commented on the complexity of an RFP for the Facility and the process. With the assistance of Hazen and Sawyer, RFP development would start immediately. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Moraitis commented on her understanding of the rate of return on the investment to P3 equity partners and said she would ask questions at the Commission Regular Meeting. She commented on similar timelines of an RFP process and P3 comprehensive agreement negotiations due to the complexity of Facility operations.

Mayor Trantalis remarked on the ability to draw from other municipal water treatment plant models to shorten the P3 time and provide a guidepost towards developing a comprehensive agreement. Vice Mayor Moraitis expounded on her viewpoint. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his viewpoint regarding the Commission's decision to pursue the P3 process.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained the next step in the P3 process, to direct City Attorney Boileau to bring forward a Resolution ranking the four (4) unsolicited proposals at a Commission Regular Meeting followed by commencement of comprehensive agreement negotiations.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the Commission request to bring forth a Resolution ranking the four (4) unsolicited P3 proposals for Facility replacement.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

BUS-1 [22-0159](#)

Broward County Transportation Surtax Project Eligibility -
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Mayor Trantalis recognized Gretchen Cassini, Assistant Broward County

Administrator, Broward County Mobility Advancement Program (MAP)
Administrator and Independent Transportation Surtax Oversight Board
Coordinator.

Ms. Cassini confirmed the attendance of Angela Wallace, Esq., Deputy
County Attorney and Broward County Transportation Surtax General
Counsel, to answer Surtax project eligibility questions.

Ms. Cassini narrated a slide presentation entitled *MAP Broward Surtax
Projects in, and for, the City of Fort Lauderdale*.

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

Mayor Trantalis explained how Surtax funding is shared. Ninety percent
(90%) of Surtax funds are under the jurisdiction of the County, and ten
percent (10%) is allocated among the Broward County municipalities.

Ms. Cassini explained that the County, its municipalities and the
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) signed Interlocal Agreements
(ILA) providing a Surtax revenue minimum annual guarantee (MAG) for
municipal projects, which includes coverage of costs for community
shuttles. In Cycle 1, the County funded significantly more than the MAG,
and forty percent (40%) of annual Surtax revenue went to municipal
projects, and there are similar plans through 2026.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Ms. Cassini said that
Countywide Surtax funding projects are funded from the County's portion,
primarily for County public works projects.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Cassini
reiterated that Cycle 1 MAG municipal project funding exceeded forty
percent (40%). The County Commission will be requested to fund
additional municipal capital projects in the five (5) year plan.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding one-way pairings, Ms.
Cassini explained that pairings submitted for Andrews Avenue were
specific to Andrews Avenue safety improvements as a coordinated effort
with Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue.

Mayor Trantalis discussed the proposed commuter railway tunnel for the
New River crossing (Tunnel) and its goals to create connectivity, improve
transit service, assist with traffic system management, enhance
multimodal options, ensure economic benefits and development. He
inquired about using a portion of the Surtax funding to finance the Tunnel.

Angela Wallace, Transportation Surtax General Counsel, said that the Tunnel would be part of a railway system. The Surtax statute allows for funding of rail systems, known as fixed guideway systems. The outcome of selecting the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the New River crossing is still under review. The County complies with the Florida Transit Authority's (FTA) award management system in order to compete in the federal grant funding process for a capital improvements.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding whether the County is prepared to participate in a funding match that may be required with a federal government grant to move the Tunnel project forward, Ms. Wallace said the County Commission had not decided.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding Tunnel eligibility for Surtax funding, Ms. Wallace confirmed a tunnel was eligible.

In response to City Attorney Boileau's question regarding Tunnel eligibility under the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the County and the City, Ms. Wallace explained that ILA criteria only relate to municipal capital roadway project improvements. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding how the City can work collaboratively, Ms. Wallace said submitting the checklist and supporting documentation to move forward with the preparation of funding agreements.

Vice Mayor Moraitis remarked on her understanding that the County was in the process of preparing a County Transit Master Plan (Study).

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question, Ms. Wallace explained plans for the County's ninety percent (90%) portion of Surtax funding. The County is studying and reviewing its corridors to recommend the locally preferred alternative for bus rapid transit (BRT) in addition to going through the federal process to determine eligibility for federal capital improvement grant funding. Ms. Wallace commented on the process, required public outreach and the timeline. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding aspects of the Study.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Wallace confirmed she and Ms. Cassini would return to provide periodic updates to the Commission.

Ms. Cassini commented on City Commission Members participating in the Surtax Oversight Board Meetings and said a municipal agenda item would be scheduled at its next meeting. Commission Members could participate to learn more about Surtax projects for County municipalities and large County Projects. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CF-1 [22-0180](#)

Procurement of Sexual Assault Treatment Kits from the FY 2018 National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant Audit - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Megan Gaillard, Assistant City Auditor III, explained the reason for this audit review and discussed related details.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding what is needed, Ms. Gaillard explained that the Commission would need to ratify the original grant agreement to avoid repayment of grant funds. Additionally, the Commission should provide guidance to City Management regarding standard operating practices for expediting the procurement process. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom said Staff disagreed with audit findings and explained details.

City Attorney Boileau said that reducing procurement item amounts to expedite the approval process should not become the usual operating practice.

Vice Mayor Moraitis remarked on her perspective and the need to move forward.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question, City Manager Lagerbloom explained that this audit was a piggyback item, not bid splitting. He remarked on a similar recent item below the \$100,000 Commission approval threshold, which came before the Commission.

Mayor Trantalis recommended that the Commission ratify the expenditure in order to move forward.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding City Management's response and disagreement with audit findings, Susan Grant, Finance Department Director, confirmed this was a valid piggyback. She explained bid splitting is reducing the bid threshold to avoid competition. When Staff reached the \$100,000 threshold, it went

before the Commission.

City Auditor Herbst explained the definition of bid splitting as the purchase of equipment or supplies into segments to avoid approval thresholds, not competition. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Ms. Grant said, in an abundance of caution, a willingness to bring the item back before the Commission for ratification. Further comment and discussion ensued.

CF-2 [22-0102](#)

City Habitat Conservation Plan Discussion - (Commission District 1, 2, and 4)

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, City Manager Lagerbloom explained this Agenda item discussion relates to an Agenda item at tonight's Commission Regular Meeting. As a result of state notices associated with the City's significant, large beach events, Staff is requesting Commission authorization to apply for an *Incidental Take Permit (ITP)* that includes a *Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)* for Special Events.

Angela Salmon, Assistant to the City Manager, provided an overview of *Fort Lauderdale's Habitat Conservation Plan for Special Events (HCP)*. Ms. Salmon introduced Niki Desjardin, *Ecological Associates Director of Operations*, the City's *HCP consultant*.

Ms. Desjardin narrated a summary presentation of the City's *HCP Comprehensive Report*.

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

The *HCP* protects threatened and endangered sea turtles in their habitat. The City embarked on this project to obtain legal coverage for Special Events on or immediately adjacent to City beaches impacting sea turtles. The *HCP* outlines specific measures that applicants must follow to minimize impacts on sea turtles, the beach, specific habitat rehabilitation and educational programs to mitigate unavoidable effects. The fees collected from Special Event applicants will assist with financing mitigation efforts required under the *HCP*.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the comprehensiveness of the *HCP Report*, which will assist with managing beach events.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions, Ms. Desjardin said that in addition to addressing lighting on the beach, sea turtle population

habitats on the coast would be identified and cordoned off.

CF-3 [22-0175](#)

2022 Legislative Update - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Daphnee Sainvil, Government & Economic Development Manager, provided an overview of state legislative items in Tallahassee. The Florida Senate passed their General Appropriations Act, and the Florida House will vote later today on its appropriations proposals. There are significant differences to be reconciled.

The five (5) City projects requested in the budget include:

- \$100,000 - Community Court Program
- \$100,000 - Tarpon River Environmental Maintenance Dredging Project
- \$500,000 - Fort Lauderdale Melrose Manor Stormwater Project
- \$200,000 - Summer Enrichment Program
- \$200,000 - Rapid Rehousing Homeless Collaborative Program

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' question, Ms. Sainvil confirmed Governor Ron DeSantis' recommended budget includes approximately \$340,000 that fully funds the Sadowski Trust for Affordable Housing. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed concerns related to housing affordability and the need for state and federal funding to address.

Ms. Sainvil confirmed the ability to facilitate a Commission meeting with the *Florida Housing Corporation (FHC)* to obtain affordable housing grants and work with developers to lower housing costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Moraitis' questions regarding the distribution of *FHC* funds and matching grant funds, Ms. Sainvil confirmed she would research and advise.

Commissioner McKinzie expounded on his understanding and experience regarding grant funding to offset housing costs and cited an example. Further comment and discussion ensued on the impact of vacation rentals on affordable housing.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding entertainment industry legislation, Ms. Sainvil explained two (2) related preemption bills.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, Ms. Sainvil discussed House Bill 569, Senate Bill 280 and Senate Bill 620.

Ms. Sainvil commented on updates to the sovereign immunity bill that raises caps to \$1,000,000 per person and \$3,000,000 per incident, which the City opposes.

Ms. Sainvil discussed additional legislation as outlined in the Agenda item backup.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on conversations with City Attorney Boileau regarding proposed resolutions stating the Commission's position on certain state legislation. Commissioner Glassman reviewed those Walk-On Resolutions that would be on tonight's Commission Regular Meeting Agenda.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

Members of the Commission announced recent and upcoming events and matters of interest.

Vice Mayor Moraitis shared a video of flooding on *Sheltair* leased property at *Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE)* following recent rainfall.

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

Alan Dodd, Public Works Department Director, explained details associated with this location, which is not a public right of way. The solution involves increasing the swales and underground infrastructure. Due to the *FXE* airport location, funding from the stormwater program is not an option.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding when the flooding began, Mr. Dodd said it started with construction on the *Inter Miami Stadium* site that included removing the swale areas and reducing areas where water would drain. Discussion ensued on addressing this issue and making it part of the stormwater plan.

Commissioner McKinzie noted a similar situation in Melrose Park and the need to address consequences from another project during the permitting process.

Rufus James, *Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE)* Director, explained that *Sheltair* is doing as much as possible to address flooding concerns. Mr. James confirmed the need for additional work to alleviate

flooding. He described details regarding *Inter Miami Stadium* water drainage and flooding *Sheltair* roadway property. He discussed details related to construction, current challenges and building a swale to remedy the flooding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mr. Dodd reiterated that the area might require underground pipe infrastructure and a swale to alleviate flooding. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on attending several *Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG)* Meetings.

Commissioner Glassman remarked on an upcoming meeting with *Artspace* to discuss its plans for taking over the *Historic West Side School* in *Sailboat Bend*.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed conversations took place between Fire-Rescue Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr and Bill Brown, Central Beach Alliance (CBA) President, regarding an Emergency Medical Station (EMS) Advisory Board.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on the unacceptable eighteen (18) day boil-water notice in a downtown area. Further comment and discussion ensued on efforts to remedy and related details.

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed related bacteria testing and aspects of the closed water distribution system in that area versus an open-loop system. Further comment and discussion ensued about moving to an open-loop system and challenges related to water system flushing.

Commissioner Sorensen requested City Manager Lagerbloom to investigate options for the City moving to an open-loop water distribution system. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding keeping impacted residents informed about emergency water supplies and infrastructure issues.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding who would represent the City in response to media calls during this type of emergency, City Manager Lagerbloom explained that when a situation rises to an emergency level, calls from the media and residents should be forwarded to him.

Mayor Trantalis said according to the City Charter, the Mayor is the City spokesman and would include a Staff member if necessary. Further comment and discussion ensued on communications and responses to residents and the media, and early intervention when addressing water quality levels following a waterline break.

RECESS

Mayor Trantalis recessed the Conference Meeting at 5:14 p.m. to call the Community Redevelopment Agency Board Meeting to order.

RECONVENE

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Commission Conference Meeting at 9:39 p.m.

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS (cont.)

Mayor Trantalis discussed resuming *WOW Awards* presentations at Commission Regular Meetings. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff had sent a communication to the *Community Appearance Board* Chair.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the *Florida East Coast Railroad* (FEC) raising the cost of the City's leased land along the railroad rights-of-way to \$20,000 per year, Ben Rogers explained related details. The total area of the *FEC* rights-of-way is about five (5) miles, and the City provides landscaping. Mr. Rogers remarked that multiple businesses desire to obtain individual leases from FEC to utilize these areas for employee parking. He confirmed ongoing Staff efforts to secure a long-term development agreement of *FEC* property for *LauderTrail*. City Manager Lagerbloom noted his desire for those areas not to become parking.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, City Attorney Boileau discussed *Neighbor Support Night* being focused on Staff efforts and remaining free of political components. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau confirmed Staff would review the policy. Further comment and discussion ensued on elected officials having a booth at *Neighborhood Support Night* during non-election years.

Mayor Trantalis discussed and recommended having Strategic Communications Staff attend and record City events for posting on the City website. Commissioner McKinzie commented on past efforts by Strategic Communications Staff. Further comment and discussion

ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding having adequate Strategic Communications Staff, City Manager Lagerbloom noted simultaneous City events and confirmed he would review and advise.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' questions regarding an ongoing audit of the Fort Lauderdale Police Chief, City Auditor John Herbst confirmed and said this discussion is usually reserved until audit reports are finalized. The audit resulted from an anonymous complaint that the Police Chief was engaged in secondary employment when on duty, and there was an obligation to investigate.

Commissioner Glassman noted that the state requires a name when reporting and registering Code Enforcement complaints.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on his perspective. Further comment and discussion ensued. City Auditor Herbst explained his obligation as City Auditor to investigate and remarked on related details. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the role of the City Auditor under the City Charter.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the role of the City Auditor, City Attorney Boileau commented on his understanding of the Charter and requested an opportunity for a thorough review of the Charter and would advise the Commission. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding investigating complaints and the role of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS).

Comment and discussion ensued regarding the continuation of the investigation. City Auditor Herbst noted should the Commission request the complaint not be investigated, he would drop the audit investigation. He commented on what has been reviewed and expounded on his viewpoint regarding the internal audit profession. Further comment and discussion ensued regarding the status of the investigation and reviewing the Charter.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed his perspective and suggested reviewing the Charter with the assistance of the Charter Review Board. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his perspective on the performance of the City Auditor. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his viewpoint of the investigation and recommended establishing a *Whistleblower Hotline* to report fraud, waste, and abuse.

City Attorney Boileau commented on the need to set up protocols regarding how complaints are investigated. He remarked on items that would be under the purview of the state Inspector General.

City Auditor Herbst explained audit efforts to date, audit report procedures and measures to ensure the integrity of the audit report regarding the status of the investigation.

City Auditor Herbst discussed his openness to the Commission or the Audit Advisory Board reviewing and approving the Office of the City Auditor's Annual Work Plan in advance and expounded on related details.

City Attorney Boileau commented on aspects related to the report and when it becomes public record. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the audit investigation should continue and be completed. He commented on procedures going forward and discussed details of City Auditor Herbst's contract.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his viewpoint and recommended City Auditor Herbst receive the full sixty (60) days notice, appropriate severance and his termination not be for a finding of cause. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Motion to Extend Meeting to 10:30 p.m.

Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

Not Present: 1 - Vice Mayor Moraitis

Motion to Extend Meeting to 11:00 p.m.

Commissioner McKinzie made a motion to extend the meeting until 11:00 p.m. and was seconded by Commissioner Glassman.

APPROVED

Yea: 4 - Commissioner McKinzie, Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

Not Present: 1 - Vice Mayor Moraitis

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

See February 15, 2022 Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 10:45 p.m.