

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

12:00 PM

Workshop with Florida Power & Light (FPL)

City Commission Conference Room

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

***JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER Mayor - Commissioner
BRUCE G. ROBERTS Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District I
DEAN J. TRANTALIS - Commissioner - District II
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***

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Vice Mayor Bruce G. Roberts, Commissioner Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Rogers and Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler

No e-comments were submitted for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Seiler called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

[17-1533](#)

Discussion - FPL Response to Hurricane Irma

Mayor Seiler recognized Pam Rausch, Vice President of External Affairs and Economic Development, Florida Power & Light (FPL), who explained her responsibilities following Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Trantalis arrived at 12:09 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commissioner Rogers arrived at 12:10 p.m.

Commissioner McKinzie arrived at 12:12 p.m.

Ms. Rausch introduced Juliet Murphy Roulhac, a member of Ms. Rausch's team and FPL Liaison to the City. Ms. Rausch gave a FPL PowerPoint presentation that focused on Hurricane Irma's (Storm) impact on the City and the entire state. She reviewed the year-round FPL hurricane protection endeavors. Ms. Rausch updated the Commission on the challenges and operations in response to the Storm, stating that the majority of power outages were primarily due to winds, downed and uprooted trees, and debris. She also discussed the impact of storm surge. Ms. Rausch reviewed unique aspects of addressing different types of repair efforts, including accessing backyards. She discussed FPL's post-Storm repair process and priorities, i.e., hospitals and grocery stores, confirming their repair crews worked around the clock. New technology implemented over the last few years assisted in identifying outage areas in need of repairs.

A copy of the FPL PowerPoint presentation is attached to these

minutes.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis's question, Ms. Rausch confirmed that the Storm impacted the City as a Category 3 Storm with extended sustained winds. Ninety-five percent of the City lost power during the Storm. Comments and discussions continued on the impact of the Storm and electricity restoration as compared to nearby municipalities.

In response to Commission questions, Ms. Rausch expounded on FPL's distribution equipment improvements and new technology, explaining the details. She also commented on FPL's plan to continue improving equipment throughout the City. For the most part, underground electrical service performed well. Further comments and discussions ensued on undergrounding electrical facilities.

Ms. Rausch discussed the *Right Tree, Right Place Program* collaboration, commenting on the need for a three-way partnership between FPL, the City and residents to ensure proper placement of trees to reduce future storm damage. She also discussed proactive efforts to provide system stability and protection, acknowledging all agencies and FPL employees assisting in post-storm recovery efforts. Ms. Rausch thanked Mayor Seiler, the Commission and Staff for their partnership.

Mayor Seiler gave his viewpoint of FPL's response, noting the improved response to the Storm as compared to Hurricane Wilma. He acknowledged the importance of the *Right Tree, Right Place* collaboration, stating it needs to be coordinated well in advance of hurricane season, in the initial first four months of each year. Mayor Seiler requested Ms. Rausch assign a dedicated FPL employee and drone equipment to identify trees and tree canopies in need of trimming. In turn, the City can advise neighbors and homeowner associations of potential issues. Mayor Seiler also commented on Staff's efforts to assist FPL crews in removing vegetation post-Storm and the importance of addressing vegetation removal in advance of a storm. City teams should focus on their efforts only where power line safety is not a concern.

Vice Mayor Roberts commented on the need for appropriate power line safety training for City crews that work on vegetation removal. He also discussed possible ways to mandate participation in the *Right Tree, Right Place* collaboration. Further discussions ensued on this topic.

City Manager Feldman clarified the Ordinance on this issue and how it relates to existing trees. Commissioner McKinzie commented on efforts to address older trees and commented on the need to clear all power

lines of vegetation in District III. Further comments and discussions ensued on making neighbors aware of the risk involved when vegetation impacting power lines are not addressed.

Commissioner Trantalis commented that this issue is alleviated when power lines are underground. He discussed areas in District II that have taken the initiative to work with FPL to underground power lines but have been delayed by FPL. Ms. Rausch confirmed she would address this issue.

Mayor Seiler discussed the need for FPL to coordinate priorities directly with the City due to it being FPL's largest franchise in the County. It is significantly larger than the County franchise. He emphasized these one-on-one meetings with the City should occur during the first four months of each calendar year. The focus of this meeting will be to identify priority facilities, infrastructure and other important concerns. Ms. Rausch confirmed, committing to this request. Vice Mayor Roberts suggested possibly adding a regional meeting to include adjacent municipalities.

Mayor Seiler commented on communication issues experienced during the Storm and the need for increased FPL staff pre-storm, during and post-storm. Due to the size of the Storm, Ms. Rausch acknowledged FPL staff was spread very thin. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Mayor Seiler raised the importance of the Police Department and Fire Department being informed on an hourly basis of the timeline and schedule for electric power recovery. This critical information will allow proper allocation of Police Department and Fire Department resources to address public safety and security issues. Ms. Rausch confirmed, stating other municipalities have also requested this information. FPL is working towards addressing this need and to provide as much information as possible. Mayor Seiler acknowledged the need for a shade requirement to prevent potential crimes when releasing this information. Addressing concerns regarding crime can be managed via legislation that would make this an exempt public record for a specific length of time.

Commissioner Rogers commented on Duke Energy texting customers on a daily basis concerning power outages. Ms. Rausch confirmed FPL does this during non-storm events. Commissioner Rogers stated this should also be done post-storm. Commissioner Rogers commented on the helpfulness of the FPL 800 number that customers called for updates. Commissioner Rogers suggested crews should notify residents about

ongoing repairs when working in neighborhoods. Ms. Rausch commented this might be able to be done through technology, confirming FPL's work towards keeping customers better informed.

Ms. Rausch confirmed that she emailed members of the Commission a hyperlink to a restricted FPL website post-Storm which listed areas without power. City Manager Feldman commented this information needed to be more granular. Ms. Rausch acknowledged the need to give specific, detailed information to City officials. City Manager Feldman discussed receiving this information on an hourly basis to overlay onto the City's GIS system. Ms. Roulhac confirmed this is a good idea in theory. However, there is a great deal of proprietary FPL information that is not available for release. She commented on FPL's work towards providing this information. Further comments and discussions ensued on the importance of giving this information to City officials.

Commissioner McKinzie discussed the need for an English speaking repair crew member be present to communicate with residents. He said that FPL did a good job overall post-Storm, thanking them for their efforts. Commissioner McKinzie concurred with Commissioner Trantalis's comments that undergrounding of power lines should be a FPL priority.

Commissioner Trantalis reiterated the need for undergrounding of power lines. He also raised the issue of street lights that remain out of service. Ms. Rausch confirmed FPL is the final phase of street light restoration. FPL has tripled its crews to address this need. She discussed the obligation to report street light outages (for those street lights without smart meters). Enrique Sanchez, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, commented on the number of street lights out of service post-storm and currently awaiting restoration. Ms. Roulhac confirmed restoration of the majority of street lights will occur before the end of December 2017. The remaining street lights will be back in service by the end of February 2018.

In response to Commissioner Trantalis's question about installing street lights in neighborhoods that do currently not have them, i.e., Melrose Park, Ms. Rausch confirmed FPL would meet with Staff to address this need. Commissioner McKinzie reinforced this need based on Neighbor Surveys and crime rates. He discussed efforts with Ms. Roulhac to address this issue. Further comments and discussions ensued on this topic. City Manager Feldman discussed details about these costs to the City.

Mayor Seiler asked about the correct contact to report street light outages. Ms. Roulhac confirmed emails should continue to be sent to her. She will forward them to the central location that addresses these repairs. Ms. Roulhac expounded on the reporting of restored street lights.

City Manager Feldman asked FPL to send a list of City street light outages. This will allow reconciliation with the City's list. Commissioner McKinzie requested a list of City's streetlights currently out of service.

Commissioner Trantalis commented on the good job done by FPL, acknowledging customer frustration with lengthy restoration timelines due to uncomfortably high temperatures post-Storm. Ms. Rausch concurred, confirming this existed throughout the State of Florida.

Vice Mayor Roberts concurred with previous comments that FPL did a good job, acknowledging the need to make improvements. He inquired about inaccurate meter readings that occurred post-storm. Ms. Rausch confirmed this is being addressed, giving an explanation as to the reason this occurred. Vice Mayor Roberts said that field communications with FPL management could be improved. He recommended an FPL supervisor be assigned to crews from outside the area, ensuring knowledge about specific area issues and allowing communication with residents. Vice Mayor Roberts also discussed the need for better coordination with power line, tree cutting and debris clearing teams.

Mayor Seiler asked Ms. Rausch for a list of action items Staff needs to address, commenting on the need to calendar these items before hurricane season. Ms. Roulhac confirmed. He suggested the *Right Tree, Right Place* collaboration be a community-wide effort. A workshop could be held at City Hall. Discussions continued on communicating this information to the public, FPL's efforts and the City's history on this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Seiler adjourned the Joint Commission Workshop with Florida Power and Light at 1:15 p.m.