

City of Fort Lauderdale

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

1:30 PM

City Commission Conference Room

City Commission Conference Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District III

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II

BEN SORENSEN Commissioner - District IV

CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager

JOHN HERBST, City Auditor

JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk

ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Trantalis called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Commission Members Present: Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Robert L. McKinzie, Commissioner Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst, and Sergeant at Arms Luan Malushi

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

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

Mayor Trantalis announced Agenda item BUS-5 had been removed from the Agenda.

Commission Moraitis discussed a neighborhood proposal for a monument marker or sign and a proclamation for an Imperial Point resident. Discussion ensued on related details.

Commissioner Moraitis gave a brief review of meetings with the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC, while attending the Washington Summit. She suggested a meeting with Superintendent Robert W. Runcie to move forward with Phase One of the education efforts. Commissioner Moraitis commented on Federal grant opportunities flowing through the State of Florida and coordination with stakeholders.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on efforts with the Broward County School Board (School Board). Mayor Trantalis confirmed support of Commissioner Moraitis moving forward with the coordination of education efforts with Superintendent Runcie and School Board Chair Heather Brinkworth. Commissioner Moraitis noted satisfaction with the Education Advisory Board and Staff efforts in partnership with the School Board, commenting on a letter of support from Superintendent Runcie.

Commissioner Glassman commented on the recent Artist Reception in City Hall recognizing the artwork of April Kirk.

Commissioner Glassman discussed the impact of King Tides in District II and the need for improved communications allowing a comfort level for residents.

Mayor Trantalis requested a Staff update at a future Conference Meeting regarding the seven (7) flood-prone areas in the City. City Manager Lagerbloom noted an update would be presented during BUS-3. Commissioner Glassman pointed out the need to do an improved job communicating these plans to all residents. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman discussed challenges resulting from construction at Las Olas Boulevard and State Road A1A. He requested Staff find solutions and improve communications with residents and area businesses by the end of October 2019. It was noted that substantial completion is anticipated by the end of October 28, 2019.

Commissioner Glassman requested input regarding the ability to take immediate action to lower scooter speeds. City Attorney Boileau commented on the need for an ordinance to address this topic. Comment and discussion ensued on related details. City Manager Lagerbloom said the anticipated timeline for a scooter ordinance is early 2020. Discussion of this topic is scheduled for the October 15, 2019 Commission Conference Meeting. City Manager Lagerbloom said he would look into voluntary speed reduction.

Commissioner Glassman requested a formal presentation of the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He discussed concerns related to Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department Staff, requesting an update. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed a presentation on the ILA with the MPO is scheduled at the October 15, 2019 Commission Conference Meeting. Further comment and discussion ensued. Vice Mayor McKinzie requested an update regarding levels of service. City Attorney Boileau confirmed a delay on the legal side, expounding on details.

Commissioner Glassman requested a Staff update on the viability of a 13th check option for Other Post-Employee Benefits retirees.

Commissioner Glassman commented on points raised in the memo from City Auditor John Herbst regarding the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System. City Manager Lagerbloom gave an update on the

anticipated ERP timeline, expounding on details. ERP backup systems are in place. He confirmed the Commission would receive an updated memo by the end of the week.

Vice Mayor McKinzie noted his concerns with the ERP and the timeline, expounding on details. Comment ensued on the cost of backup systems, including annual maintenance costs for existing software. The ERP is a fixed price Capital Improvement Project (CIP).

Commissioner Glassman commented on an Office of Inspector General (OIG) ruling regarding non-permitted work and the need to address capturing related fees. City Manager Lagerbloom explained the genesis of the OIG ruling, stating the Building Official has latitude for fee calculation and commenting on details related to the process. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed consistency is key. He noted the need to address extenuating circumstances and the high level of funding of the Building Code Fund. Further comment ensued.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on District III public works efforts.

Commissioner Sorensen discussed a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with community centers to offer training, expounding on details.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on significant flooding in the area of Cordova Road and 12th Street. Discussion ensued on addressing this topic in the near term.

Dr. Nancy Gassman explained details related to the catch basin, expounding on raising of seawalls and Stormwater Master Plans that would happen simultaneously. The work is intended to reduce the frequency and impact of flooding. Further comment and discussion ensued on details involved in addressing severely impacted neighborhoods.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding having proper signage and a public safety officer on-site during flooding events, City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on efforts. Further comment and discussion ensued on Staff efforts and ways to address these concerns.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on details related to the Tree Ordinance and efforts by Staff to make improvements. He noted the need for a full tree inventory and additional items to be included in the Tree Ordinance.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom updated the Commission on details related to the Police Station. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been issued. City Manager Lagerbloom explained the next steps in the process. Bonds should be issued next month. Bond financing and tax details were discussed.

Laura Reece, Budget Director, confirmed the first tax bill was issued this year to allow for bond funding, expounding on details. Mayor Trantalis commented on the process. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed details moving forward, confirming a Commission update would be forthcoming.

Vice Mayor McKinzie provided his perspective regarding permit fees for the new Police Station.

[19-0975](#)

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

Beach Redevelopment Board (BRB)
Monday August 19, 2019

A copy of this correspondence is attached to these minutes.

Commissioner Glassman confirmed the State Road A1A (SRA1A) Streetscape Project (Project) is the next step following the Las Olas Boulevard Streetscape Project. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the Project area along SRA1A, noting there would be intermittent street closures. The work will begin at the north end and move south. This project will be coordinated around Season.

Historic Preservation Board (HPB)
Monday, September 4, 2019

A copy of this correspondence is attached to these minutes.

Trisha Logan, Urban Design and Planning - Department of Sustainable Development, explained the HPB correspondence. It gives prospective purchasers a property identifier tool illustrating a property is located in a Historic District or is designated as an Historic Landmark.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Logan confirmed other municipalities in Broward County do not do this, explaining related details. The City of St. Augustine, Florida, does this type of identification. There was Commission consensus concurring with the HPB recommendation. Anthony Fajardo, Director - Department of Sustainable Development, explained the process involved.

Ms. Logan explained the details regarding the HPB's updated survey recommendation, referencing a memorandum to the Commission in late August 2019. It includes a reduction in the boundaries of the Sailboat Bend Historic District (District) and taking out the commercial properties along Broward Boulevard and portions of the Planned Unit Development (PUD) with the exception of the West Side Grade School and the surrounding park. One option was to assign contributing and non-contributing status within the District which currently does not exist, triggering an update to the current Ordinance. The HPB requested further review of properties in these areas should there be future development. There is a review and comment process which is part of the Comprehensive Plan in addition to neighborhood compatibility requirements.

Mr. Fajardo confirmed the goals and details related to the HPB's recommendations. Commissioner Glassman commented on his understanding of the HBP recommendation. Ms. Logan confirmed the next step is a community outreach meeting with residents of the Sailboat Bend Civic Association.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding Phase III coming to the Commission, Ms. Logan explained it would be in two parts, an adjustment to the boundary and assigning contributing and non-contributing, taking a more holistic view of the Ordinance update. It is anticipated that Staff would go before the HPB for review in December 2019 followed by presentation to the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the Police Station Headquarters building being a contributing structure in the District, Mr. Fajardo noted its modification over the years, stating it is not in its original condition.

***Education Advisory Board Meeting (EAB)
Thursday, September 19, 2019***

A copy of this correspondence is attached to these minutes.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the EAB communication, City Attorney Alain Boileau explained the Commission would need to authorize anything that deviates from the enabling Board legislation. He expounded on policy discussions and details related to this proposal to hold meetings at venues other than City Hall. Comment and discussion ensued. City Attorney Boileau recommended maintaining current practices.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Clerk Jeffrey Modarelli explained logistical and recording challenges related to the EAB proposal. Commission comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed her position for Board Meetings to remain at City Hall.

Allen Zeman, EAB Chair, explained his position regarding the EAB recommendation. He commented on current challenges to meeting participants and enhancements provided by holding EAB meetings at non-City Hall locations.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Mr. Zeman confirmed a previous fact-gathering meeting with school principals, expounding on related details. Further comment ensued on logistical and legal challenges.

Vice Mayor McKinzie noted the need for consistency. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his perspective. Commissioner Moraitis commented on the ability of Board members to attend District pre-Agenda Meetings. She discussed the annual Commission Goal Setting Session, commenting on details related to Boards meeting outside of City Hall.

Commissioner Glassman said he did not have a serious objection to this EAB request. City Attorney Boileau confirmed the need to ensure EAB Board Meetings held on school properties are authorized by the Broward County School Board due to liability concerns, expounding on additional details. Mayor Trantalis commented on concerns, noting the recommendation was well-intended but not practical.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor McKinzie announced the International Firefighter Gala and Expo (Gala) recognizing Fire Fighters from around the world. Vice Mayor McKinzie and Mayor Trantalis confirmed their attendance at the Gala. He expounded on firefighter training in the area and other event details. Vice Mayor McKinzie discussed October Breast Cancer Awareness Month events, commenting on related details.

BUS-2 [19-0955](#)

Galt Ocean Mile Improvements Discussion - (Commission District 1)

City Manager Lagerbloom explained this item addresses Galt Ocean Mile sidewalk improvements (Improvements) and a neighborhood assessment to fund the Improvements. City Attorney Boileau noted this is a request from Galt Ocean Mile residents for Improvements in the area. It is lengthy eleven (11) step statutory process under Chapter 170, last done in 1995. This Commission discussion is the first step in that process, explaining details related to the next steps to address the requested Improvements.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Attorney Boileau explained this would be an assessment unlike the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Taxing District.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Pio Ieraci, 3800 Galt Ocean Drive, President and Chairman of Galt Mile Community Association. Mr. Ieraci gave a brief historic overview of previous improvements in the Galt Mile area, expounding on assessment funding details. The objective is to repair and replace what currently exists and fund with an assessment.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Fred Nesbitt, 3900 Galt Ocean Drive and representative of the Galt Mile Community Association. Mr. Nesbitt explained these Improvements are upgrades to the improvements done 25 years ago due to subsequent damage by contractors and County buses, citing details and examples. He thanked Commissioner Moraitis for her efforts, urging the Commission to support this initiative.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed his support, noting opportunities to enhance existing landscaping in the Galt Mile area with additional greenery, expounding on details. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Moraitis discussed specific items in need of attention along the Galt Mile. She confirmed receipt of a resolution in support of these Improvements from the Galt Mile Community Association Board of Directors, noting no opposition. Further comment and discussion ensued on the next steps in this process.

BUS-1 [19-0807](#)

City of Fort Lauderdale - Water and Sewer Independent Review

Results - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom gave a brief overview of this item. It is a study addressing irregular water bills having no explanation. KPMG LLP (KPMG) was contracted to provide an objective review of water bills to determine causation. City Staff has thoroughly reviewed the Water and Sewer Independent Review Results (Report) and has recommended actions which would be forwarded to the Commission tomorrow.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Matt Berry, Director - State and Local Government Advisory Practice, KPMG. Mr. Berry gave a high-level overview of KPMG's Executive Summary focusing on key observations and recommendations. He recommended the Commission read the entire Report for a full understanding.

The Report did not identify systemic issues resulting in widespread billing inaccuracies. The findings include opportunities to improve processes and operational controls, efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Berry said items listed in the Executive Summary are listed in the order of the Report's structure. They are not listed in order of importance. The observations and recommendations are listed on pages 5 through 14 of the Executive Summary.

A copy of the KPMG Executive Summary is attached to these minutes.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, a discussion ensued on the exact cost of the KPMG Report.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question, Mr. Berry reiterated the need for consideration of organizational alignment and installing a single position or organizational unit to oversee and manage end-to-end water metering and billing processes for the City.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, Mr. Berry confirmed there was no indication of intentional false meter readings, expounding on related details and citing examples. The meter reader staff is subcontracted to a third-party contractor. City Staff is responsible for meter maintenance, replacement and similar customer service.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the installation of the new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) a/k/a *Smart Meter* water metering system is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2020. Mr. Berry noted the need to educate customers on aspects of the new water

meters.

Commissioner Moraitis pointed out setting up a high-usage water alert system that would communicate to a customer's cell phone. Mr. Berry expounded on points related to the new meters, noting that no data entry is required. Discussion ensued on properties with irrigation meters and the City amortizing a portion of the cost for residents installing irrigation water meters.

Commissioner Moraitis noted an aspect not captured in the Report, properties that have wells. Comment and discussion ensued on this topic.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding unexplainable spikes in water bills, Mr. Berry noted numerous variables. Comment and discussion ensued on this topic. Mr. Berry recommended going through the process the City provides when this occurs, expounding on current details and citing examples.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the Cayenta system producing a summary bill illustrating a high-billing anomaly, Mr. Berry confirmed one instance of a customer with repeated inaccurate estimates, citing related details. He noted resolution after all information was available to establish an accurate reading. Cayenta's summary billing estimates were close to accurate readings.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Boulevard. Mr. King commented on his perspective regarding the water billing system and the installation of a water meter irrigation system. He recommended that at a certain level, the associated sewer charge from irrigation system bills be removed. Vice Mayor McKinzie, Commissioner Moraitis, and Mayor Trantalis concurred. Further comment and discussion ensued on the tiered water-rate system and the impact of removing the cap on irrigation water usage that resulted in a sewer charge. Vice Mayor McKinzie and Commissioner Moraitis noted their recent votes in opposition to water rates.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding other municipalities having a cap on water consumption as it relates to sewer charges, Mr. Berry said he would forward this question to the KPMG subcontractor who worked on this Report. Mayor Trantalis requested a future presentation from the KPMG subcontractor. Further comment and discussion ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom commented on requesting Stantec to model this request within the recent rate study. He noted costs to provide clean drinking water to consumers and the long-term impact of a rate cap on non-sewer charges. Discussion ensued on removing non-water charges from a utility bill and including them on tax bills.

City Manager Lagerbloom suggested better communication and clarification of items included in the utility bills that include fees for items in addition to water usage. Commissioner Moraitis noted the need to inform residents about the inclusion of debt service charges for water/sewer infrastructure improvements that are included with water rate charges. Discussion ensued on separating these costs. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would address and report back to the Commission.

BUS-3 [19-1003](#)

Presentation of Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Initiative - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom gave a brief overview of this item. He requested Commission direction moving forward following the presentation.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Paul Berg, Director of Public Works Department. Mr. Berg gave a report on the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Initiative. He expounded on details and information listed in the presentation.

A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the percentage of the current system having redundant valves and pipes, Mr. Berg explained all critical valves need to be redundant to isolate system sections when they are down for maintenance to ensure service will not be impacted. It is a small percentage.

City Manager Lagerbloom expounded on the ability to reroute water service delivery. Mr. Berg expounded on additional details, citing examples.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the percentage of redundant systems that have been tested and are operational, Talal Abi-Karam, Assistant Public Works Director-Utilities, explained details regarding the hydrant program to ensure Fire Certification. He noted most of the underground valves are older, discussing details and efforts related to limiting the number of residents

impacted during a break in the system. Due to a resource issue, there is no program to assess these valves systematically.

Commissioner Sorensen noted the need to identify and map all systems, ensuring they are operational. Mr. Abi-Karam confirmed the hydrant management program maintains hydrants annually.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding consideration of desalinization, Mr. Berg explained that the consultant is looking at three types of water treatment processes to best match water sources, expounding on related details. Mr. Abi-Karam explained details of the possible technical treatment options and associated costs to be considered when making a decision.

Mayor Trantalis confirmed the need to expedite this project, requesting Staff accelerate this process. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed. Mayor Trantalis noted a decision needs to be based on the impact of rising sea levels and the infiltration of saltwater on water sources. Further comment and discussion ensued on the capacity to meet current water needs and future water sources.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding the capacity of the current water system going forward, Mr. Berg confirmed capacity exists, expounding on details. Component parts need to be updated and replaced. The expansion would require another injection well to add future capacity for additional growth.

City Manager Lagerbloom noted that capacity is driven by the City's consumptive use permit that is formula-based, expounding on details.

Mayor Trantalis requested input on capacity based upon current growth rates. Mr. Abi-Karam said the available water at the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (Lohmeyer) is controlled by the amount of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) water put into the four wells, explaining details related to what drives the system. He noted the Reiss Engineering (Reiss) Report projection that a large percentage of capacity is I&I, explaining Staff efforts and costs addressing an I&I Program (Program). Successfully reducing the amount of I&I reaching the Lohmeyer would restore some capacity. Following the benchmarking of the Program, there may be consideration and a decision regarding installing a sixth injection well.

With regard to the Program, Mayor Trantalis asked if there is sufficient funding in place to repair or replace lines, Mr. Abi-Karam said "no",

explaining Staff is addressing critical basins in need of repair and those with development growth, citing examples. These efforts include ongoing work to address items listed in the Consent Order between the City and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The timeline anticipated for completion of the Program is September 2020.

Mayor Trantalis commented on his understanding that the successful completion of the Program is a temporary fix, noting the need for a future sixth injection well. Mr. Abi-Karam expounded on gauging the efficacy of the Program leading to a decision point to determine what is being received for the investment and if a sixth injection well is necessary. He noted the increased difficulty in permitting for an injection well. The process takes approximately five years. Mayor Trantalis asked if the process should begin now based on anticipated future growth, Mr. Abi-Karam confirmed. He noted a caveat related to permitting that requires the high-level disinfection of the water that would require additional treatment processes at Lohmeyer, commenting on its limitations.

Mayor Trantalis discussed properly planning for future needs, requesting a recommendation from Staff. There was Commissioner consensus on this request. Further comment and discussion ensued on the Reiss Report's estimate to reduce I&I by twenty-five percent (25%).

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the implementation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) a/k/a *Smart Meters*, Mr. Berg confirmed the first quarter of 2020. It will take two years to install 62,000 *Smart Meters* which would be installed by routes.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' question regarding utilizing a granular activated charcoal (GAC) system to remove the yellow color in the water, Mr. Berg said incorporating a GAC system would not achieve desired results, expounding on details.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street, Chair of Infrastructure Task Force (ITF). Ms. Mammano spoke about the next steps and what is needed from the Commission, including approval of the Stormwater Rate Study. She reiterated the ITF's support of the hybrid method, acknowledging possible controversy and noting its equity. Ms. Mammano noted the ITF's support of I&I investment.

BUS-4 [19-0986](#)

Presentation of Press Play Fort Lauderdale: Our City, Our Strategic Plan 2024 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Due to time constraints, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff would

return to a future Commission Conference Meeting for a presentation.

BUS-5 [19-0481](#)

Fort Lauderdale Beach Mobility Plan - (Commission District 2)

Commissioner Glassman requested this item be deferred until presentation to the neighborhood association. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed this would be presented to the Central Beach Alliance (CBA) prior to the Commission presentation.

DEFERRED

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

City Manager Lagerbloom gave a report on the Aquatic Complex Project (Project). Hensel-Phelps has been contracted for the Project's reconstruction of the competitive swimming pools and rebuilding the dive tower. The demolition is occurring and bleachers have been removed. He noted Commission input on facility locker rooms, a 27 foot dive tower and an observation area above the building located on the north side of the property. The locker room update was not included in the competitive bid. With regard to construction phasing, City Manager Lagerbloom explained challenges involved and the need to address the locker room before full construction begins, expounding on details.

City Manager Lagerbloom proposed bringing a resolution to the Commission to lay aside the Procurement Code's Competitive Bid Process for the purposes of this project along with a proposal to use Park Bond Funds and Park Impact Fees to complete the Project. Vice Mayor McKinzie confirmed Commission discussion on these items, waiving of Procurement Code in other instances and the need for Project completion. There was consensus to move forward with City Manager Lagerbloom's proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.