

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

**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 1:05 p.m.

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS

### BUS-1 [20-0058](#)

Sewer Force Main Failures during December 2019 - (Commission Districts 2 and 4)

City Manager Chris Lagerbloom updated the Commission on the sanitary sewer force main infrastructure pipe (Sewer Main) failures and breaks in adjacent sewer pipes occurring in December 2019. He explained details regarding Sewer Main routing traveling approximately seven and one-half miles (7 1/2) miles from the Coral Ridge Country Club repump station to the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (Treatment Plant). Shutting down the Sewer Main was not an option due to it being the only line.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained details regarding the installation of line stops and a bypass to address two (2) repairs to the 54-inch diameter ductile iron pipe section of the Sewer Main located in the Rio Vista neighborhood. Repairs included setting up a new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) above ground bypass pipe from Virginia Young Park to Hector Park. After inspection of both Rio Vista area pipe breaks, the determination was made that the entire length of this portion of the Sewer Main is necessary.

Environmental cleanup crews have been working to address the homes and properties impacted in the Rio Vista neighborhood. Hector Park and Virginia Young Park will be returned to better than original condition following the completion of the new portion of the permanent Sewer Main.

In response to Mayor Trantalis, City Manager Lagerbloom explained efforts to remediate and sanitize impacted water bodies. Cliff Barry, Inc. (CBI) was contracted to address environmental concerns. These efforts included aerating and air lancing the New River, Tarpon River and

Himmarshee Canal waterways to raise oxygen levels. City Manager Lagerbloom explained related details, including daily test sampling required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Further comment ensued on the current condition of the waterways and efforts to mitigate conditions.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained details regarding the break of another portion of the Sewer Main's 48-inch portion crossing the Himmarshee Canal located north of the Rio Vista neighborhood. He noted a similar 2016 break coinciding with a break in George English Park and explained details related to resolving the current break. A specially-fabricated clamping seal and fittings were utilized as a temporary repair. Permanent repair materials were ordered, and the repair was subsequently completed.

City Manager reviewed details involving repairs to two (2) breaks in an ancillary 16-inch diameter cast iron sewer pipe located in Victoria Park neighborhood near 1630 NE 5th Street. Due to the location of each break and having replacement pipes in the inventory, repairs were done quickly. The pressure in this pipe will be reduced to decrease the chance of additional breaks. Should there be an additional break, other methods of removal would be used until the entire pipe is replaced. Further discussion ensued on the causes of pipe failure, including deterioration from environmental factors.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained details involving the break of the 12-inch diameter cast iron sewer pipe along NE 36th Street that impacted a cul-de-sac in the Coral Ridge neighborhood. The break was quickly repaired.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained the need to address all of the existing 4,800 linear feet of pipes in the Victoria Park neighborhood, expounding on related details. Further comment ensued on having a redundant system and the ability to turn off sections of the system.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the pipe breaks are a result of an aging infrastructure system and the deterioration of wall thickness. Further comment and discussion ensued on previous sewer pipes breaks included in the Consent Order between the State of Florida and the City (Consent Order) that are being addressed by Hazen and Sawyer.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the need to address all needs quickly. He explained the plan to address the existing 54-inch Sewer

Line. An emergency contract in the estimated amount of \$3,500,000 was awarded to David Mancini & Sons (DMSI) for the design and construction of a new underground 48-inch diameter pipe (48-inch pipe). This 48-inch pipe will extend from Pump Station A-15 located at the corner of SE 9th Avenue and SE 7th Street (north of the Rio Vista neighborhood) to the edge of SE 12th Street and SE 10th Avenue near Evergreen Cemetery (south of the Rio Vista neighborhood). Completion of this is anticipated in approximately twelve (12) weeks. Once completed, the current above ground HDPE bypass pipe extending from Virginia Young Park to Hector Park would be removed. The underground sewer pipe running near Virginia Young and Hector Parks will be deactivated until its future rehabilitation/relining.

City Manager Lagerbloom gave an update on the December 23, 2019 Staff meeting with pipe contractors. The goal was to ensure a competitive solicitation to address the connection of the repump station at Coral Ridge Country Club to the George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant (Plant) located on SE 17th Street. After meetings with Hazen and Sawyer, the City entered into two contracts with separate contractors. One contractor will address the work north of Sunrise Boulevard, and the other contractor will address work south of Sunrise Boulevard. A budget amendment is on tonight's Commission Regular Agenda to appropriate the required funds on a go-forward basis to address a permanent solution.

The estimated cost for the 7.5 miles of Sewer Main pipework is expected to be approximately \$60,000,000. The expected duration of this work is 16-18 months. The path of the Sewer Main will be determined as engineering work is done. Once the current pipe is out of service and dry, it would be rehabilitated/relined and will provide redundancy to the Sewer Main system. He explained the reasoning for decisions made regarding the management of recent sewer line breaks and cleanup efforts.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that directional boring would be used where appropriate. Further comment and discussion ensued. The length of pipe from north of Rio Vista to Evergreen Cemetery is approximately 2,500 linear feet. Discussion ensued on the type of pipe materials and the lifespan of the new 42-inch pipe. State-of-the-art materials would be used that have a projected life span of 75 years.

City Manager Lagerbloom said he would return to the Commission with a total cost of services to address all recent infrastructure emergency

needs at a future Commission Conference Meeting.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on expenditures from the current \$200,000,000 infrastructure bond (Bond). City Manager Lagerbloom explained details associated with Bond expenditures to date. The amount of remaining Bond funds is approximately \$140,000,000 to be used on identified future infrastructure projects in compliance with the Consent Order. The Sewer Main portion from Sunrise Boulevard to the Plant was identified in the Consent Order and required completion by 2026. Further comment ensued on costs to address recent aging infrastructure needs and the lifespan of infrastructure materials.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed funding for these emergency infrastructure projects is coming from the Bond, previously identified Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) and the Central Region Fund. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, Steve Roberts, Utilities Distribution and Collections Manager, Department of Public Works, explained there would be redundancy for the main trunk line but not for the entire pressurized system, explaining details. Redundancy is planned at single-point failures and is contained in Hazen and Sawyer's Phase One Condition Assessment Risk Analysis (Risk Analysis).

Mayor Trantalis recognized Patricia Carney, Vice President, Hazen and Sawyer. Ms. Carney confirmed the Risk Analysis is expected to be completed in March 2020. Ms. Carney explained details regarding the capacity model relating to the entire system. Recommendations in the Risk Analysis would make the whole system resilient.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Ms. Carney explained details regarding the total length of the system. There are approximately 13 miles of 24-inch diameter or larger pipes, 40 or more years old, and includes the 7.5 miles of Sewer Line from the Coral Ridge Country Club pump station to the Plant.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's request, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed that going forward he would provide the Commission with an Executive Summary of the ongoing infrastructure analysis and related work. The Commission would also receive an Executive Summary of the Carolla Report.

Commissioner Moraitis requested input about how residents would receive communications regarding ongoing infrastructure work. City

Manager Lagerbloom explained ongoing communications efforts with neighbors who have signed up for City emails. Further comment and discussion ensued on the need to keep neighbors informed regarding infrastructure work.

Mayor Trantalis and the Commission acknowledged the patience and understanding of neighbors impacted by recent infrastructure incidents, thanking City Staff and Fire and Rescue personnel who immediately addressed infrastructure needs remediation efforts.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details regarding qualified vendor negotiations and procurement. Emergency aspects of the Procurement Code were used to quickly purchase items to address and mitigate infrastructure needs. Two (2) vendors were selected. Comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Glassman commented on other State-wide environmental concerns and the opportunity to discuss and advocate for assistance with State and federal representatives. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed outreach efforts to State officials, confirming the responses indicated it is a local issue. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Moraitis noted discussions with District I residents to inform them that utility rates would increase five percent (5%) annually to address future infrastructure improvements. City Manager Lagerbloom discussed funding and the return on investment (ROI) used to address infrastructure needs. Comment and discussion ensued on future updates to the utility rate structure to allow for expedited infrastructure work and the issuance of future bonds.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on information received from the January 6, 2020 Infrastructure Task Force Committee (ITFC) Meeting. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the ITFC Meeting information would be available on the website. Comment and discussion ensued on addressing and refining the initial mandate of the ITFC. Mayor Trantalis recommended a joint meeting with the ITFC. Commissioner Moraitis recommended increasing the number of engineering experts on the ITFC. Further comment ensued on the initial mandate of the ITFC.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, on behalf of *Lauderdale Tomorrow*. Ms. Fertig commented on the efforts of the Commission, Staff and others to address recent infrastructure incidents. She discussed 2016 efforts by neighbors to communicate resident

concerns to the previous Commission, expounding on details. Ms. Fertig requested the current Commission have a conversation with residents. Ms. Fertig read into the record her correspondence to Mayor Trantalis regarding residents' infrastructure concerns.

***A copy of Ms. Fertig's correspondence is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Trantalis recognized Bill Brown, 112 Birch Road. Mr. Brown concurred with Ms. Fertig's comments, commenting on the aging infrastructure and the need to proactively address infrastructure needs.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Donna Mergenhagen, President of Palm Aire Village. Ms. Mergenhagen commented on a recent communication received regarding an upcoming survey study, expounding on details and requesting additional information. Commissioner Moraitis confirmed the information requested would be provided. Further comment ensued.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Alan Hooper, 2719 NE 37th Drive. Mr. Hooper commented on the aging infrastructure, system capacity and his support of smart growth development and associated impact fees.

Mayor Trantalis recognized John Rogers, 1299 N. Rio Vista Boulevard. Mr. Rogers concurred with Mr. Hooper's comments regarding continued growth. He commented on infrastructure needs, the outstanding efforts of Staff and others to address recent infrastructure concerns and the need to dredge the Tarpon River. Mayor Trantalis commented on concerns related to dredging.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Charles King, 105 N. Victoria Park Road. Mr. King commented on his perspective regarding infrastructure needs and funding of other initiatives. He urged the Commission to focus on funding infrastructure.

Mayor Trantalis left the meeting at 2:47 p.m. and passed the gavel to Vice Mayor McKinzie.

Vice Mayor McKinzie recognized Jenni Morejon, Downtown Development Authority. Ms. Morejon commended those addressing recent infrastructure concerns, confirming the ability to address continued growth and simultaneously address infrastructure needs.

Vice Mayor McKinzie recognized Marilyn Mammano, 1819 SE 17th Street, Chair of the Infrastructure Task Force Committee (ITFC). Ms.

Mammano confirmed her support of Ms. Fertig's comments and the request for a widened Commission conversation with residents in a different forum.

Vice Mayor McKinzie recognized Stan Eichelbaum, *Fort Lauderdale on Public Safety*. Mr. Eichelbaum commented on his perspective and the need for follow-up meetings with residents. He discussed his support of pragmatic development, the need to adhere to objective input from consultants and advise residents on the plan and direction of infrastructure going forward.

Mayor Trantalis returned to the meeting at 2:53 p.m. Vice Mayor McKinzie passed the gavel back to Mayor Trantalis.

Mayor Trantalis recognized Jaquelyn Scott, Planning and Zoning Board Member and Infrastructure Task Force Committee Member. Ms. Scott concurred with Ms. Fertig and Mr. Hooper's comments, discussing opportunities to improve the City's website and waterways.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's question, Dr. Nancy Gassman, Assistant Public Works Director - Sustainability, explained details regarding contracting entities to address waterway testing, expounding on related details and information.

Mayor Trantalis noted the upcoming *Infrastructure Town Hall Meeting* at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2020 in City Hall Commission Chambers.

Vice Mayor McKinzie acknowledged the Commission consensus on infrastructure. He noted the importance maintaining this consensus when communicating to the public.

## COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CITY COMMISSION

[20-0028](#)

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

**Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z Board)**  
**Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

***A copy of this communication is attached to these minutes.***

Mayor Trantalis recognized Mary Fertig, 511 Poinciana Drive, and Planning and Zoning Board Member. Ms. Fertig explained this communication is a request for a Staff presentation regarding plans for

the Central City Community Redevelopment Agency (Central City CRA). A presentation would provide an understanding of the context and goals of the Central City CRA area. Comment and discussion ensued on procedural details.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the P&Z Board's quasi-judicial role and related details. City Attorney Boileau confirmed, citing an example and commenting on appropriate procedures. Ms. Fertig noted items before the P&Z Board, commenting on the previous direction given by Staff attorneys present at P&Z Board Meetings.

City Attorney Boileau recommended Ms. Fertig inform a City Attorney or a member of Staff regarding the need for a presentation on the Central City CRA prior to a P&Z Board meeting. Comment and discussion ensued on appropriate procedures regarding the presentation of information before the P&Z Board.

In response to Vice Mayor McKinzie's comments and questions regarding adhering to procedures, guidelines and parameters of Boards and Committees, City Attorney Boileau provided his legal perspective in a quasi-judicial setting. Further comment ensued.

### **CITY COMMISSION REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Moraitis confirmed the City is hosting a League of Cities Luncheon on Thursday, January 9, 2020, inviting all members of the Commission to attend.

Commissioner Glassman commented on his attendance at the December 13, 2019 Bonnet House Board of Directors Meeting, noting it was informative and anticipation of forthcoming positive news.

Commissioner Glassman discussed his attendance at the Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling System Working/Technical Group meeting on January 6, 2020, expounding on details. He will keep the Commission updated as things move forward.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's inquiry regarding having a quick and easy way to access all infrastructure-related information on the City's website, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed and explained the availability of infrastructure information on the website. Additional infrastructure information will be provided on the webpage as it becomes

available.

Vice Mayor McKinzie discussed concerns regarding the Salvation Army Respite Center (Center) in District III, expounding on specific concerns impacting a nearby child daycare center and surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Center has the responsibility to ensure individuals using the Center stay within the facility. Comment ensued on circumstances related to the current situation and addressing the needs of the homeless. City Attorney Boileau commented on current Ordinance updates needed to address this concern.

Mayor Trantalis voiced his concern regarding need to improve the current system in place to address homelessness. Further discussion ensued on what could be done, how to proceed and the Center taking responsibility for those using its facility.

In response to Mayor Trantalis' request, Commissioner Sorensen, former board member of the Broward County Salvation Army, confirmed he would reach out to Center management to address concerns.

Vice Mayor McKinzie discussed concerns related to loitering in front of convenience stores in District III, expounding on details regarding behavior and recent incidents at these locations.

Vice Mayor McKinzie emphasized the need to address a building owned by the City located at 521 NW 13th Avenue, harboring individuals with nefarious behavior.

Vice Mayor McKinzie commented on the need to maintain empty City-owned properties, confirming Code Enforcement efforts and related details. He requested Staff assistance to address these concerns.

Commissioner Sorensen acknowledged and thanked all involved with community efforts to address recent infrastructure matters in District IV.

Mayor Trantalis and the Commission commented on the success of the Annual New Year's Eve Event, acknowledging and thanking Staff, Police and Fire Rescue for their efforts.

Mayor Trantalis commented on Spirit Airline's additional expansion serving two (2) additional cities in Columbia.

Mayor Trantalis reconfirmed his hosting of an *Infrastructure Town Hall* on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall Commission Chambers.

## **CITY MANAGER REPORTS**

See item BUS-1.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.