

# City of Fort Lauderdale

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Friday, March 20, 2020**

**12:00 PM**

**City Commission Chambers**

## **CITY COMMISSION - SPECIAL 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 12:05 p.m.

**Present** 5 - Commissioner Ben Sorensen, Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Vice Mayor Robert L. McKinzie, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

## QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau and Sergeant at Arms Robert Borowski

## MOTIONS

**M-1**     [20-0318](#)     Motion to Confirm Declarations of Emergency Regulations Regarding COVID-19 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding mandates instituted by Governor DeSantis (Governor) impacting Commission actions around the *Coronavirus Disease 2019* (COVID-19), City Manager Lagerbloom explained an Executive Order from the Governor (Executive Order) is anticipated today and would address uniformity in Broward County and Palm Beach County, expounding on details. City Attorney Alain Boileau explained Executive Orders from the Governor would supersede Commission actions. The State is in charge of Emergency Management. The City could also pass more restrictive legislation.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding essential businesses staying open, City Attorney Boileau explained the approach taken by the City mirrors previous actions implemented during the last Declaration of Emergency. The identification of essential businesses is dependent on how they are defined by the Governor. Further comment ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom said businesses should adhere to current requirements, i.e., social distancing requirements and prohibiting groups of more than ten (10) people gathering. City Attorney Boileau said residents could direct calls on this topic to the Office of the City Attorney.

Further comment and discussion ensued on the oversight of municipalities by Broward County and the need for uniformity.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' concerns regarding the ability of residents to pay utility bills during the Declaration of Emergency, City Manager Lagerbloom said a utility would not be turned off for residents who could not pay a utility bill. He commented on efforts to address service industry workers impacted by closures, confirming ongoing work with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce to assemble information for service industry businesses.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding allowing the Commission to participate telephonically at future Commission Meetings, City Attorney Boileau said this is not permissible unless included in an Executive Order from the Governor. Further comment ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed receipt of the Governor's Executive Order suspending any Florida Statute requiring a quorum be present in person or requiring a public body to meet in a public space for government meetings, expounding on details, i.e., allowing the use of technology to facilitate these meetings.

Commissioner Glassman recommended improved technology to facilitate Commission meetings, expounding on details. Further comment ensued.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding First Responders, City Manager Lagerbloom provided an update, explaining the protocol in place for self-isolation, quarantine and related details. COVID-19 cases relate to recent travel and the early-on response. The Fire Department has a total in the low twenties currently in self-isolation. The Police Department had one individual in self-isolation. With the mandate of personal protective equipment (PPE), it is anticipated these numbers would be reduced going forward. Currently there is an adequate supply of PPE with a focus on continued receipt of PPE throughout the duration of the Declaration of Emergency.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' additional questions, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details regarding transports. Test results take four (4) to five (5) days. The Florida Department of Health in Broward County has not notified the City of any test results. He explained outreach efforts to the State Department of Emergency Management, confirming the setup of a temporary 250 person hospital facility at Fort

Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). Further comment ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the public is invited to attend this Commission Special Meeting. There was no one outside the Commission Chambers wishing to attend. Should there be attendees, the number of people in the room would be adjusted accordingly to meet current requirements.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed anticipated PPE needs for hospitals and health care facilities. Additional PPE equipment has been requested, confirming efforts to accommodate needs and would keep the Commission informed.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained the status of Staff and details regarding essential and nonessential employees. He noted the ongoing evolving nature of circumstances.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) is working towards an appointment system for permitting. He confirmed there was a DSD employee with flu-like symptoms, explaining efforts to notify DSD employees. Efforts are ongoing to hire on-call contractors to fill related gaps. Further comment ensued.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Information Technology Staff is working towards improved high-level video teleconferencing at Commission Meetings, expounding on related details. Commissioner Sorensen recommended Commission members have neighborhood meetings via a high-level video teleconferencing platform, i.e., *Zoom*. Commissioner Moraitis concurred. Further comment ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on action taken to date to address the COVID-19 and additional measures, citing examples in New York and California. Mayor Trantalis commented on the Governor's recommendations which are consistent with what the City has implemented, allowing uniformity for Broward County municipalities. He commented on the need to weigh the merits of taking additional measures. Commissioner Moraitis, Commissioner Glassman and Vice Mayor McKinzie concurred with Mayor Trantalis' comments.

Commissioner Sorensen made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Moraitis.

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis, Commissioner Glassman, Vice Mayor McKinzie and Mayor Trantalis

**RESOLUTIONS**

**R-1**     [20-0319](#)

Resolution Delegating Certain Authority to the City Manager -  
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Glassman inquired about the duration of this Resolution or tying it to future actions by the Governor. He requested input from City Manager Lagerbloom and City Attorney Boileau regarding item *H in Section 1*.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the duration of this Resolution and the ability of the Commission to meet and put a termination date in place. He noted the need to keep it open-ended due to the nature of the current situation. Regarding item *H in Section 1*, Mayor Trantalis recommended including the advice and consent of the Mayor, to provide a check and balance going forward. Ultimately, the Mayor and City Manager would come before the Commission to validate items. Commissioner Glassman concurred with Mayor Trantalis' recommendation, noting his concerns.

City Attorney Alain Boileau explained the reason this Resolution is being broadly worded, commenting on related details and citing examples. He confirmed the Governor's Executive Order allows the Commission to meet and conduct business telephonically.

City Manager Lagerbloom explained that this Resolution was based upon the Commission not holding Commission Meetings, expounding on details. Based upon the Governor's Executive Order, he anticipates the Commission would meeting telephonically on April 7, 2020.

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution as amended which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis, Commissioner Glassman, Vice Mayor McKinzie and Mayor Trantalis

**R-2**     [20-0268](#)

Resolution Approving the Consolidated Budget Amendment to Fiscal Year 2020 - Appropriation - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Manager Lagerbloom gave a high-level overview of this Resolution, originally intended to be brought forth at the March 17, 2020 Commission

Regular Meeting. He said it is narrowly focused.

This Budget Amendment eliminates any future transfer of funds from the Water and Sewer Utility Fund [termed Return on Investment (ROI)] to the General Fund and allows use of ROI funds and other funding sources to fund emergency responses necessary for infrastructure wastewater pipe breaks that began on December 10, 2019. The backup paperwork identifies how the Wastewater Fund and the Central Region Fund revenues and expenses were identified in Fiscal Year 2020. The Fiscal Year 2021 Budget will address the elimination of the transfer of ROI from the Utility Fund to the General Fund.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the delay of the Beach Re-Nourishment Project (Project) payment until Fiscal Year 2021-2022 noted in the backup paperwork, City Manager Lagerbloom explained details. The amount noted in the backup paperwork is the third payment of multiple payments for the Project. Broward County notified the City that the first two payments for the Project had not been expended and the third payment would not be expended. In response to Commissioner Glassman's question, City Manager Lagerbloom said the Project would not be delayed.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding an update on the \$1,800,000 State fine, City Manager Lagerbloom explained it was included to identify the source of funding. Active negotiations are ongoing and extensions have been requested. Should negotiations be successful, this funding would be appropriated to another project.

Commissioner Glassman introduced this Resolution which was read by title only.

**ADOPTED**

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Sorensen, Commissioner Moraitis, Commissioner Glassman, Vice Mayor McKinzie and Mayor Trantalis

Commissioner Sorensen acknowledged the efforts of First Responders and Staff, thanking them for their dedication. He requested the Commission be kept informed of any needs of First Responders and their family members. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed, noting inclusion of mandatory Staff members.

City Attorney Boileau said he forwarded the Governor's Executive Order to each Commission member. Mayor Trantalis said it is consistent with

Commission policy. City Attorney Boileau noted the Executive Order mirrors what the Commission has put in place. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his position to be more restrictive. Mayor Trantalis commented on current restrictions in place and the impact of additional restrictive measures. He recommended City Manager Lagerbloom meet with each Commission member separately to discuss this topic. Comment and discussion ensued on details included in the Executive Order.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed tentatively holding April 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for Commission Regular Meeting. City Manager Lagerbloom said an effort would be made to only include straightforward Agenda items. All other meetings would remain suspended.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question regarding the process for implementing additional restrictions, City Manager Lagerbloom explained Mayor Trantalis could make a Declaration of Additional Restrictions, subject to Commission action. City Attorney Boileau confirmed, explaining details related to the ability of the Commission to act as a whole to implement a Declaration of Additional Restrictions or a Reduction of Restrictions. Should the Commission act as a whole, by Statute it must be renewed every seven (7) days.

Further comment and discussion ensued on the need for public participation at the tentatively scheduled April 7, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the Department of Information Technology Services is in contact with the video conferencing platform vendor to allow Commission Members and members of the public have the ability to participate in the Commission Meeting offsite.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's question, Deputy City Clerk David Soloman confirmed that no members of the public were outside of Commission Chambers desiring to attend this meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

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Dean J. Trantalis  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jeffrey A. Modarelli  
City Clerk