

City of Fort Lauderdale



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

6:00 PM

City Hall is closed to the public.

Meeting can be accessed via:

<https://fortlauderdale.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv

Cable Television - Comcast Channel 78 and ATT Uverse Channel 99

City Commission Regular Meeting

FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION

DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor

STEVEN GLASSMAN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District II

HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I

ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III

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 6:02 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis made the following announcement. In an effort to encourage people to stay at home, limit public gatherings, and slow the spread of the coronavirus, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis waived state requirements for local governments to have in-person quorums for public meetings as part of Executive Order 20-69.

The City of Fort Lauderdale will be hosting virtual Commission Meetings using audio/video conferencing software until further notice.

The public will be able to listen to and view the virtual meeting at www.fortlauderdale.gov/fltv, as well as Comcast Channel 78 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99.

To speak on an agenda item, please click on the link below:

bit.ly/virtualccmeetings

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner Heather Moraitis (participating telephonically), Vice Mayor Steven Glassman (participating telephonically), Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (participating telephonically), Commissioner Ben Sorensen (participating telephonically), and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Also Present: City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, City Attorney Alain E. Boileau, City Auditor John Herbst (participated telephonically)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Trantalis made the following announcements:

Removed from Agenda:

Agenda Item CR-1

Revision to Agenda Item:

Agenda Item CM-2 - revised property address in the Commission
Agenda Memo (CAM)

Approval of MINUTES and Agenda[20-0340](#)

Minutes for the April 1, 2020 Commission COVID-19 Special Workshop and April 7, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Vice Mayor Glassman made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

APPROVED

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

CONSENT AGENDA**CONSENT AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Trantalis recognized Commission Staff Celia Gisleson who signed up to speak on Agenda item CM-1. Ms. Gisleson explained the purpose of signing up to speak was to verify virtual public participation functions correctly. Ms. Gisleson's comments were heard clearly, confirming the ability of the public to participate in this meeting and provide input.

CONSENT MOTION**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Vice Mayor Glassman made a motion to approve this item and was seconded by Commissioner Sorensen.

Approve the Consent Agenda

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

CM-1 [20-0342](#)

Motion Approving Agreement for Municipal Elections with Broward County Supervisor of Elections for November 3, 2020 Regular Municipal Election - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CM-2 [20-0341](#)

Motion Approving Termination of Lease Agreement with Nova Southeastern University, Inc. for City Owned Property Located at 3100 SW 8 Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 - (Commission District 4)

APPROVED

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

CR-1 [20-0336](#)

Resolution Approving Lease Agreement Between the City of Fort Lauderdale and Lifeline Christian Fellowship, Inc. for City-Owned Property Located at 2941 NW 19 Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33311, Pursuant to Section 8.09 of the City Charter - (Commission District 3)

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

CR-2 [20-0354](#)

Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Amendments to Lease Agreements with Lessees at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) to Defer Rent Payments - (Commission District 1)

ADOPTED

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

CR-3 [20-0264](#)

Resolution Approving the Submittal of a Grant Application for \$400,000 to the Florida Inland Navigation District for George English Park Boat Ramp Renovations Phase II Construction - (Commission District 1)

ADOPTED

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

CONSENT PURCHASE

CP-1 [20-0219](#)

Motion Approving Contract for George T. Lohmeyer Wastewater Treatment Plant Motor Control Centers Rehabilitation Project - Cardinal Contractors, Inc. - \$4,951,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CP-2 [20-0240](#)

Motion Approving Increase in Funds to Contracts for Turf Grass Maintenance, SE, SW, NE, NW Quadrants and Fire Stations - C&M Landscaping, Inc. and VisualScape, Inc. - \$101,562 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

CP-3 [20-0284](#)

Motion Approving Increase in Funds to Contract for Electrical Engineering, Instrumentation and Telemetry Consulting Services - Smith Engineering Consultants, Inc. - \$548,000 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

APPROVED

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

RESOLUTIONS**R-1** [20-0337](#)

Appointment of Board and Committee Members - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

City Clerk Jeffrey Modarelli read the names of the Board and Committee nominees for appointment and/or reappointment at the upcoming May 5, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting,

City Clerk Modarelli read into the record the names of Board and Committee appointments and/or reappointments for Agenda item R-1. He noted the following amendment: Commissioner Moraitis' nomination of Daniel O'Flaherty to the Historic Preservation Board.

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

ADOPTED AS AMENDED

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

R-2 [20-0329](#)

Resolution Calling 2020 Regular Municipal Election on November 3, 2020 - (Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Commissioner Sorensen introduced this Resolution which was read by

title only.

ADOPTED

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

At 6:12 p.m., Mayor Trantalis announced a short recess, stating the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board would convene at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Trantalis reconvened the Commission Regular Meeting at 6:21 p.m.

[20-0367](#)

WALK-ON - Interpretation of Governor and Miami Dade Order

Commissioner Sorensen commented on his understanding of the Governor's *Executive Order* relating to recreational watercraft and refueling, noting his perspective and the need for uniformity with adjacent municipalities. Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective, explaining concerns related to individuals congregating. Comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner Sorensen discussed his support of allowing recreational watercraft refueling.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the ability to refuel recreational watercrafts in adjacent municipalities, explaining her perspective and support of allowing recreational watercrafts to refuel.

City Attorney Boileau discussed his interpretation of the *Executive Order*, explaining related details. Further comment and discussion ensued. Commissioner McKinzie commented on his viewpoint. City Attorney Boileau confirmed the Commission's interpretation would prevail.

Commissioner McKinzie confirmed his support to amend the prior Commission position allowing residents to refuel recreational watercraft. Mayor Trantalis commented on his concerns. Comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his concerns regarding holding a vote on this item, including the need to provide adequate notice. He

recommended further discussion on this topic at next week's Commission Workshop, and as an Agenda item at the May 5, 2020 Commission Regular Meeting. Further comment ensued.

City Attorney Boileau discussed his interpretation of the Governor's *Executive Order* on recreational watercraft refueling. Commissioner Moraitis discussed the need for the Commission to move expeditiously on these types of items. Mayor Trantalis reiterated his concerns. Vice Mayor Glassman discussed his perspective, confirming he could not support a motion to move forward on this item. Further discussion ensued on policy and procedures moving forward.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Attorney Boileau explained details of this motion.

Commissioner Moraitis clarified her position, stating this motion only allows refueling recreational watercrafts at locations currently open and those serving the commercial fishing/boating industry. She noted surrounding municipalities are allowing recreational watercraft refueling. Further comment ensued.

City Attorney Boileau confirmed this action would take effect immediately.

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

APPROVED - City Interpretation of Orders of Governor and Miami Dade to Include Recreational Fueling as an Essential Activity

Aye: 3 - Commissioner Moraitis, Commissioner McKinzie and Commissioner Sorensen

Nay: 2 - Vice Mayor Glassman and Mayor Trantalis

CITY COMMISSION REPORTS

City Manager Lagerbloom gave an overview of City operations, stating normal levels of services are being provided and explained related details. He confirmed success of the first drive-thru food give-away distribution event on Friday, April 17, 2020 at Mills Pond Park. Going forward for the foreseeable future, this food distribution event will be reoccurring on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at Mills Pond Park, serving the first 1,000 vehicles.

City Manager Lagerbloom reviewed aspects of a Homelessness Outreach Initiative (Initiative) overseen by Deputy City Manager Rob

Hernandez. This Initiative includes ongoing work with a hotel and homeless individuals interested in hotel vouchers.

Mayor Trantalis expounded on this Initiative and related details. The goal is to address neighbor concerns and homelessness needs during the COVID-19 Emergency (COVID-19). City Manager Lagerbloom commented on anticipated funding from Broward County (County) to address homelessness and would be discussed with County Administrator Bertha Henry.

City Manager Lagerbloom provided an update on a COVID-19 testing site in the City, explaining related details. Discussions are ongoing with a medical provider for a turn-key solution. Work is continuing to determine an appropriate testing site. The State of Florida has committed the resources of the National Guard and test kits.

City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed a complete review and analysis of expenses and revenues. The Commission was provided a high-level overview of the General Fund anticipated to perform through the end of the current fiscal year. Other funds are being closely monitored, reviewed and analyzed. This information will be provided to the Commission. There are ongoing efforts to budget accordingly through the COVID-19 response.

City Attorney Boileau confirmed operations are continuing under *Executive Orders*, Miami-Dade and Broward County *Emergency Orders* and the City's *Emergency Declaration*, expounding on related details.

City Manager Lagerbloom discussed efforts to potentially prepare for a dual emergency response to a simultaneous hurricane and COVID-19. Work is taking place internally County-wide and includes efforts and planning at the State level. Planning efforts will be put into a Commission memo by the end of the week.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the recent update from Governor DeSantis' Office on COVID-19, confirming the continuation of operations under State *Executive Orders*, County *Emergency Orders* and the City *Declaration*. He discussed outreach to local businesses and the community regarding being more functional. These efforts would be coordinated by a Working Group functioning as a fact-finding entity to determine community expectations. Mayor Trantalis urged Commission members mirror this effort prior to the Commission making decisions regarding future plans.

In response to Commission Moraitis' question regarding COVID-19

antibody testing, City Manager Lagerbloom commented on his understanding. Fire-Rescue Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr provided additional information. Fire-Rescue has done extensive research and would provide a written update to the Commission. Chief Kerr explained the test referenced by Commissioner Moraitis is known as *Fifteen (15) Minute Testing* and includes the need to follow-up to determine accuracy. The best test is the *Swab Test*.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding the anticipated COVID-19 downward trajectory, City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Health in Broward County provides data on this topic and briefs cities three (3) times per week. The Florida Department of Health offers a dashboard and is accessible for timely updates. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his office would forward information to access this dashboard to Commission Members.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on her perspective regarding a non-elected Broward County official making decisions during this time. City Manager Lagerbloom explained Governor DeSantis granted authority to the Broward County Administrator to make decisions and issue County *Emergency Orders*. He said Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry conducts regular outreach to Broward County municipalities, confirming the County Administrator's desire to make informed decisions.

Mayor Trantalis discussed his perspective and procedures going forward. The Commission should make decisions regarding re-openings in the City with full disclosure. The Working Group would provide community input regarding reopening to Commission members. Further comment ensued.

City Manager Lagerbloom said he would keep members of the Commission informed regarding COVID-19 trends and related updates from the Florida Department of Health. Their guidance to begin Phase One of reopening is a fourteen (14) day downward trend in COVID-19 cases.

In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question regarding opening boat ramps, parks and golf courses before a Phase One opening, Mayor Trantalis commented on his perspective regarding the need to begin a conversation regarding public activity. Further comment ensued on distancing requirements.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on small business loans, asking for

input from other Commission members. Mayor Trantalis commented on the Federal Government's Payroll Protection Program and related details. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Vice Mayor Glassman's question about conflicting policy and emergency orders from the State, County and City, City Attorney Boileau explained City policy could be more restrictive but not less stringent. Under Florida Statute 252, counties are in control of Emergency Management. Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his understanding of a recent Broward County Commission Conference Call on this topic. The County will rely on municipal enforcement of its *Emergency Orders*. Further comment ensued. City Attorney Boileau confirmed.

Vice Mayor Glassman asked about the Commission having a voice in County decisions going forward. City Manager Lagerbloom explained his perspective, stating the City has a voice. He confirmed regular communications with Broward County Administrator Henry. Vice Mayor Glassman expounded on his view, noting policy decisions impacting the City should be independent of those made for adjacent counties due to different demographics and circumstances.

Vice Mayor Glassman inquired about opening up areas to accommodate social distancing while residents walk or ride bikes, i.e., travel lanes on State Road A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed Staff is studying this topic, and discussions have taken place. He noted concerns regarding hindering Emergency Medical Service (EMS) response time, explaining details. Vice Mayor Glassman suggested a review of how other municipalities are addressing this topic. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Glassman commented on his perspective regarding the use of private outdoor recreational amenities. He discussed the ability of multi-family dwellings and condominiums to manage private amenities responsibly and safely.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen's questions regarding Community Court, City Attorney Boileau confirmed Chief Judge Jack Tuter had closed the Broward County Courthouse until the end of May 2020. This also governs Community Court held in City Hall Chambers as it is managed by the Broward County Clerk of the Court.

Commissioner Sorensen commented on vacation rentals in District IV. City Manager Lagerbloom explained how vacation rentals are currently functioning under *Executive Orders*, citing examples. Anthony Fajardo,

Director of Department of Sustainable Development, explained the last update on the property located on Nassau Lane advertises bookings for more than thirty (30) days, which moves it out the classification as a vacation rental.

Commissioner Sorensen noted resident complaints regarding a cigar store on Las Olas Boulevard. City Manager Lagerbloom confirmed he would address this concern with Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Sorensen confirmed the imminent removal of the sanitary sewer bypass pipe in the Rio Vista neighborhood. Raj Verma, Public Works Director, provided a detailed update on this project.

Commissioner Sorensen suggested the Commission hold weekly meetings during the Emergency Response to COVID-19, requesting Commission feedback. Commissioner Moraitis and Commissioner McKinzie concurred. Further comment ensued. Mayor Trantalis confirmed a Commission Workshop could be scheduled next week and input would from the Working Group would be shared to formulate plans going forward. There was Commission consensus to hold a Commission Workshop on April 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Sorensen, City Attorney Boileau provided an update on Advisory Board and Committee virtual meetings. Per the latest City *Declaration*, critical Advisory Boards and Committees would meet virtually to ensure Commission and City functions move forward. Non-critical Advisory Boards and Committees have been requested not to convene.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jeffrey A. Modarelli

City Clerk