

**INDEX OF A SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING
FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 26, 2003**

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**CITY COMMISSION SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2003 – 1:30 P.M.

Mayor Naugle called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Present: Chairman Naugle
 Commissioner Teel
 Commissioner Trantalis
 Commissioner Hutchinson
 Commissioner Moore

Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant City Manager, Bud Bentley
 City Attorney
 City Clerk
 Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Bill Lumm

1. Resignation of City Manager

Mayor Naugle announced that this was a special meeting to consider the resignation of the City Manager.

Commissioner Trantalis stated that he was not sure if this was the appropriate time to bring up this matter or not, but at the last meeting he had stepped out of the room and had not been able to vote on the budget. He reiterated that he wanted to register his vote. He stated further that due to how the motion had been stated and how the budget had been presented, he wanted to vote against the budget as presented.

Mayor Naugle asked if the record could just reflect the Commissioner's vote.

The City Attorney stated that when the minutes came up for approval that would be the time to correct the minutes.

Commissioner Trantalis stated that this special meeting also would deal with the budget, and he wanted individuals to be aware of his vote. He stated that he had not realized that he had the ability once the agenda had moved on to have his vote registered.

Mayor Naugle advised the Commission that if a break was needed during a meeting, one could be requested.

Commissioner Moore stated that he had conflicting comments regarding who had called this meeting. Mayor Naugle stated he had called for this special meeting. Commissioner Moore stated that the Mayor had lied to the NAACP when he had stated that he had not requested such meeting. Commissioner Moore stated that he wanted everyone to know that the Mayor had called this meeting to discuss two important matters. Last night, he had denied calling such meeting. Mayor Naugle replied that he had a tape of slanderous statements which had been made. He explained that both Assistant City Managers had met with him, and he had assumed they had met with other Commissioners, and requested that a workshop was needed to discuss the budget implementation. He stated that he had followed their recommendation and contacted the City Clerk to find out when the Commissioners were available.

The City Clerk confirmed that a poll was taken of the Commissioners' schedules and it was determined that everyone was available for a meeting on Friday, September 26, 2003. She added that she had chosen the time for the meeting.

Mayor Naugle added that he had given the City Clerk various dates that he was available for such meeting and would be open to whatever date was chosen by everyone involved. He added that he had a Resource Recovery Board Meeting yesterday, but was willing to miss it based on the date that would be available for the Commission to meet.

The City Clerk confirmed and stated that the Mayor had stated he would keep his schedule flexible.

Mayor Naugle stated the first time he heard of the date for the meeting was when the City Clerk had called and stated the dates the Commission would be available to meet. The City Clerk confirmed.

Due to the large number of individuals who came for today's meeting, the meeting was moved to the First Floor Commission Chambers.

MEETING RECESSED AT 1:35 P.M.

MEETING RECONVENED AT 1:46 P.M.

Commissioner Moore stated that he had been in the process of asking some questions, when the meeting had been moved and he wished to continue.

Mayor Naugle stated that the first thing he was going to do was ask for an apology from Commissioner Moore to imply that he had been lying.

Commissioner Moore stated he wanted to deal with his point of order. Mayor Naugle stated he believed they were following the agenda which had been set. Commissioner Moore asked if the meeting was being televised. The City Clerk confirmed. Commissioner Moore stated he wanted the public hearing to continue.

Commissioner Moore asked who had called this meeting. Mayor Naugle reiterated that he had explained how the meeting came about. Commissioner Moore reiterated that Mayor Naugle had stated he had not chosen the date for the meeting, nor the time. Mayor Naugle confirmed. Commissioner Moore asked who had selected the date and time for the meeting. Mayor Naugle reiterated that issue had been explained upstairs in the Conference Room and offered to have the tape replayed. Commissioner Moore stated he wanted the matter explained to the individuals who were present at the meeting now, who might not have been present earlier. Mayor Naugle reiterated that the City Clerk had contacted the Commissioners and determined what date and time the Commission would be available to meet. He stated that he had told the City Clerk that he would be available on any date and at any time for such meeting. This was the date and time that had been determined after polling the Commission.

Commissioner Moore asked if the City Clerk had been aware of the fact that the City Manager would be out of town when his resignation, termination, or firing was to be discussed.

The City Clerk stated that at the time she had set the meeting, she had not been aware that the City Manager would be out of town. Commissioner Moore confirmed that she was, therefore, unable to inform the individuals when polling them for the date of the meeting that the City Manager would not be present. The City Clerk confirmed.

Commissioner Moore stated that since the Commission had planned on discussing the City Manager's contract obligations with the City, did they still wish to proceed being that he was unable to be present. He stated that he wished not to proceed with such a meeting considering the circumstances. He felt it would not be appropriate to discuss the City Manager's relationship with his contract since he was absent. He felt if the Commission had known that the City Manager was out-of-town, they might not have suggested this meeting.

Commissioner Moore asked the Commission to reconsider this special meeting since the topic of the discussion was absent.

Mayor Naugle stated that it was his belief that the City Manager had been aware of the time and date of this meeting before he had made his plans to be out-of-town this week and also next week. He felt if the City Manager had wanted to attend this meeting, he would have made himself available, or if he wanted the meeting delayed he would have made such a request. He reiterated that he felt the Commission should proceed with the scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that he was requesting a reconsideration.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that when she discovered that the City Manager was to be out-of-town, she had gone directly to the City Attorney, and it was her impression that the City Manager did not want to be present at this meeting.

Commissioner Teel stated that she understood that the City Attorney had numerous conversations with the City Manager, and the City Manager had signed the documents they had both agreed upon Wednesday evening. Therefore, the City Manager had full knowledge of what was to be taking place at this meeting, and if he wanted to be here, he had the opportunity to do so.

Motion made by Commissioner Hutchinson and seconded by Commissioner Teel to accept the resignation of the City Manager and that the Separation Agreement also be approved.

The City Attorney stated that the resignation had been offered with a condition attached which was the approval of the Separation Agreement.

Commissioner Moore asked if a City Manager had ever been terminated previously in the City's history. The City Clerk stated that she would have to research that matter.

Mayor Naugle called a point of order and stated this was not a termination, but was a meeting to accept a Letter of Resignation.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that there had been a vote of no confidence by the majority of the Commission at their last public hearing, and he felt the motion stated that he was either to resign or be fired. He stated that someone resigning was one matter, but someone being forced to resign was another matter. Therefore, he asked whether a City Manager had ever been fired in the past.

Mayor Naugle stated he had researched records and several City Managers had resigned as in this case, but reiterated the Commission was not here today to fire a City Manager, but to accept his resignation. He stated the previous circumstances may or may not have been similar, but the matter would have to be researched.

Commissioner Moore asked that by accepting this resignation letter which had been urged by the majority of the Commission had any evaluation process been made available to him, or had any policymakers met with the City Manager and explaining that this matter was to be raised publicly, and supplying a different method for his resignation.

Mayor Naugle stated he had not spoken to him because he had no idea this would be proposed. He further stated that due to the Sunshine Law, they were not permitted to discuss matters outside of a meeting.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that she had spoken to the City Manager on numerous occasions regarding his performance in regard to matters she had not been happy about.

Commissioner Trantalis clarified that the motion was to accept the Separation Agreement and the resignation of the City Manager, and asked if a monetary calculation had been made with regard to the verbage contained in the Separation Agreement. He asked if there was a number the City was going to pay out in order to effectuate the Separation Agreement.

The City Attorney stated there would be cash payment to the City Manager of \$308,875.03.

Commissioner Trantalis stated he understood that Commissioner Moore was uncomfortable with the process, and he stated he also was not in favor of how this matter was being handled. He stated that he would have preferred the City Manager to be present at today's meeting. He asked if this was an agreement he had entered into and was comfortable with the terms.

The City Attorney confirmed and stated that he had reviewed the terms of the agreement with the City Manager, and had asked the Human Resources Department to calculate the amounts based upon such contract regarding vacation, sick leave, and 26 months of benefits. He reiterated that the City Manager had accepted such amount.

Commissioner Trantalis stated it was his understanding that if the City Manager resigned according to his agreement, he would forfeit certain benefits, but it appeared with such resignation that he was being given the full benefit package as if he had stayed the full 60 days. He asked if the City Manager was being asked to leave immediately, rather than wait the 60 days.

The City Attorney confirmed and stated that the City Manager had approached him and indicated it was his interest to allow the City to move forward and appoint an Acting City Manager that they would have confidence in. He wanted to protect his own economic benefit, and being the consummate professional that he always had been, he resigned subject to the fact that the resignation could forfeit monies due him, and offered to enter into a Separation Agreement and resign immediately.

Commissioner Trantalis stated the only concern he had regarding the Separation Agreement was that it was costly to the City due to the action taken by the Commission. Secondly, he felt it left the City hanging because by accepting the

resignation of the City Manager, they had not yet decided on an Acting City Manager.

The City Attorney explained there was an Acting City Manager because one had been appointed by the City Manager before he left town. He announced that the Acting Manager was Bud Bentley. He further explained that at any time the City Manager left town, he had appointed someone in charge and identify such person in a letter to staff. He stated that the City Commission also received such letter indicating which City Manager would be the Acting City Manager in his absence.

Commissioner Trantalis remarked that he had never received such letter.

Commissioner Moore asked what budget was the \$308,000 figure coming from.

Terry Sharp, Director of Finance, explained it depended if the payout was in a lump sum or would be spread out over a period of time. He added that if the monies were to be paid out between now and September 30, 2003, it would come from this fiscal year's budget.

Commissioner Moore asked for further clarification regarding the payout figure.

The City Attorney explained that the paragraph in the agreement he had proposed and had been sent to the Commission was entitled:

“1(f) – Any cash payment required under this agreement would be paid out in cooperation with employee and his tax planning consultant.”

The City Attorney stated there would be severe tax consequences regarding a lump sum payment, and they anticipated that the City Manager would obtain a tax consultant and the monies would be paid over a period of time, and most likely over the next two calendar years.

Commissioner Moore asked what would happen if after consulting with his tax consultant, the City Manager chose to accept a lump sum payment.

The City Attorney explained that there would probably be contingencies, and stated that since the City was in such dire financial straits, the City Manager would not accept the money in a lump sum.

Commissioner Moore stated that they were voting on this “in the blind” because they were not fully aware of the terms of the payment.

The City Attorney stated that he did not anticipate that these monies would go over two budget years, but expected it to go over two calendar years. He further

stated that he believed the City Manager was on a calendar year tax basis, and the City was on a fiscal year basis.

Commissioner Moore clarified that they did not know when the monies would be paid out and were only assuming at this point in time. The City Attorney felt they could assume correctly that the funds would be paid out between now and next October.

Mayor Naugle stated that they had budgeted as of October 1, 2003, \$250,000 for the compensation of the City Manager, and the vacation and sick days were obligations that would have been paid out eventually. He explained they were a pending liability for the City and had been accruing.

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Trantalis, Hutchinson, Teel, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: Commissioner Moore.

2. Appointment of Interim City Manager

Commissioner Teel suggested that Bud Bentley be appointed the interim City Manager for a period of approximately 2 weeks, and during that time the City Commission could receive resumes from individuals interested in serving as the Acting City Manager for approximately 6 months while a search would be conducted for a permanent City Manager. She also suggested that the resumes be submitted by Wednesday, October 1, 2003, and at the Commission's next meeting on October 7, 2003, the Commission make their selection. She felt this should not necessarily be restricted to present employees, but should be open to individuals from the community.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that while perusing the Internet with the Florida City and County Management Association, there was a group entitled "Members in Transition," which were retired City Managers who had the ability to come in for not longer than 120 days. She suggested that they look at the FCCMA group. She added there was also another group entitled "Range Riders" with the same organization that helped cities on a neutral level look for a new City Manager, and urged the Commission to review both organizations and look for guidance.

Commissioner Moore stated that both of Commissioner Hutchinson's recommendations were very interesting because part of the reason he surmised they were going through this selection process was due to budgetary issues. He felt either of the recommendations would have an impact on the City's budget. He stated that having someone from the outside might not perform free of charge.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the Range Riders did perform free of charge, and the FCCMA paid for their services, but if the members in transition were used they would have to pay.

Commissioner Moore stated he did not want to do anything that would cause further impacts on the City's budget. He suggested that they consider someone in-house not only due to the fact regarding the budget, but because they would be familiar with the problems they were currently facing. He stated they needed to "hit the ground running."

Commissioner Trantalis stated that Commissioner Teel had suggested a two-step process. One to have a two-week interim Acting City Manager, and then choose a six-month Acting City Manager. He asked if Commissioner Moore's suggestion was being made in regard to the two-week or six-month person.

Commissioner Moore stated he felt they needed a six-month person, but that they should state they were not interested in the position permanently. He felt the person needed to keep the ship balanced and should not have desires of being the new City Manager. He stated that he did not feel that a two-step process would be desirable. He felt they needed to show the citizens and employees that they had a stable ship.

Commissioner Trantalis stated that he saw the merit to what Commissioner Moore was suggesting, but he was concerned that they needed to give themselves a couple of weeks to see if any employees were interested in the position. Commissioner Moore stated he did not have a problem with such a suggestion. Commissioner Trantalis stated he felt that would be appropriate. He felt it should be announced that the City was seeking a new City Manager, and therefore, not limit themselves. He felt accepting resumes within 5 days would give them enough opportunity.

Commissioner Teel explained that she was referring to the Interim City Manager in regard to the 6-month person. She agreed that Bud Bentley should serve as the Acting City Manager for the two-week interval. She further stated that the search for someone to accept the position for six months would not exclude anyone working for the City, and she felt there was a rich pool of knowledgeable people living within the City that might be available to step-in and help the City during this time. She stated that possibly some individuals would even volunteer their services due to the circumstances. She felt it would take less than 6 months to find a new City Manager. She agreed that the person serving during the interim should not be the one seeking the permanent position. She then stated that possibly if someone did come in and do a great job, then possibly the Commission should consider that individual.

Motion made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis that Bud Bentley remain as the Acting City Manager until the November 4, 2003 Commission Meeting, and then at that time employees could state whether they were interested in being the Interim City Manager for a 6-month period of time. He also moved that the Commission agree that a head-hunting firm should be

engaged to solicit a nation-wide search for a new City Manager to be named within or at the end of that 6-month period.

Mary Halper, Lauderhill resident, stated that she had been under the impression that before any votes had been taken that the public would have a chance to speak. She stated that the Commission had voted on an important matter already, and the public had not yet been heard. She asked if the previous vote could be called back and the public be heard.

Mayor Naugle stated that no one from the public had asked to be recognized during that discussion.

Ms. Halper suggested that the Commission consider someone's livelihood and she felt if they wanted to be rid of someone, they should make sure that individual was present at the meeting. She stated that the public wanted to hear the City Manager state that he did not wish to attend today's meeting before he was removed from his chair. She stated if the Commission could not provide that information, then possibly they needed to work somewhere else.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that in light of a meeting she had last Friday with the two Assistant City Managers, in which she had been upfront with both of them and did not feel she was betraying any confidences, matters had been discussed regarding the operating budget which she had not had privy to previously. She added that meeting had been held Friday and she had voted on Tuesday. She stated she did not understand why she had not received such information prior to the budget approval. She stated she would not support the motion unless they were only to serve until October 21, 2003. She further stated she was disappointed in the fact that they were loyal to the organization and had not come to her regarding the anticipated, assumed and projected salary savings in excess of \$7 Million to \$8 Million that this budget had been balanced on. She felt that was a direct hit to her and quite frankly she could not support the motion.

Commissioner Moore asked if Commissioner Hutchinson was suggesting that Mr. Bentley remain as the Acting Manager until October 21, 2003 versus the November date given in the motion. Commissioner Hutchinson confirmed and stated they could then select an interim manager. Mayor Naugle stated that at the same time the Acting City Manager could bring forward companies that would help in the search for a permanent City Manager.

Commissioner Hutchinson reiterated she had been disappointed in what she had heard because she had been asked to vote 3 days earlier on a budget she had not had privy information on. She stated she was upfront with the Assistant City Managers, and in light of that conversation would not support them being in such a position any longer than October 21, 2003.

Bud Bentley, Acting City Manager, stated that he was hearing that Commissioner Moore was proposing that the pool of applicants basically to be internal, and Commissioner Hutchinson was stating that it should be opened. He asked for further clarification.

Commissioner Moore asked if a person was acting as the temporary City Manager until October 21, 2003, would the Commission be selecting from the internal pool for the six-month interim. Commissioner Hutchinson stated it was her understanding from that meeting last Friday that neither of the Assistant City Managers wanted the permanent job of City Manager. Commissioner Moore stated he was concerned about placing employees in the front of a train publicly, and he felt it was going to be difficult to get a manager when managers were placed in front of train publicly. He stated he had no problem with the Assistant Manager acting in the capacity of City Manager until October 21, 2003, with the understanding that the interim manager would be selected from the in-house pool and would operate for a six-month period while a head-hunting firm was hired to do a national search.

Commissioner Hutchinson clarified that 6-month interim person would not be chosen from an in-house pool, and applications had to be accepted from the outside. Commissioner Moore stated he would return back to his November 4th date in that case.

Commissioner Trantalis asked for further clarification of the motion, and asked if Commissioner Moore was intending to exclude the possibility of non-in-house individuals to be considered for the 6-month interim position. Commissioner Moore stated the reason he was excluding non-in-house individuals was because a cost might be involved, and wanted someone in the position who understood what had occurred over the last two budget years, and what the new Commission was advocating in their position.

Commissioner Trantalis asked what would happen if someone stepped forward that was better qualified than someone from the in-house pool. He felt they should leave their options opened until the second meeting in October. Commissioner Moore stated that if a person was chosen from the outside, they would need to step in at no cost, and he would then support that individual. Commissioner Trantalis reiterated that the nature of Commissioner Moore's motion was precluding that fact. Commissioner Moore stated he would add to the motion that if the outsider came in at no cost, he would be in favor of such a person.

Commissioner Teel stated that she was a believer that the process should be open, and that it would benefit the City to have outside individuals included in such a process. She felt there might be someone out there willing to work as a volunteer or for a small amount of money. She did not feel they were going to get any individual who was looking for \$125,000 or \$250,000 for the six months. She

felt individuals were interested in what was occurring in this City, and would be willing to help. She felt they might be pleasantly surprised at the outcome and encouraged the Commission to let everyone interested to participate.

Commissioner Moore stated he would agree as long as there would be no impact on the City's budget.

Mayor Naugle asked Commissioner Moore if he was referring to October 7th or October 21st. Commissioner Moore stated he would use the October 7th day so they could find out if there were any internal candidates or outside ones willing to do the job at no cost.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the City Clerk could re-read the motion made by Commissioner Moore.

Motion made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Trantalis that Bud Bentley would be the Interim City Manager until October 7, 2003, and then the Commission would review whether there were any in-house candidates or any outside individuals interested in the position, as long as there was no impact to the budget. A head-hunting firm would also be selected to do a national search for a permanent City Manager within a 6-month period.

Pamela Collins, psychologist, stated that she strongly urged the Commission to seek the head-hunting firm in this matter because there was definite anger among the Commission, and she was concerned that these individuals would be selecting the individual to run the City. She stated she loved this City and had lived all over the United States since her father was a General in the Air Force, and encouraged the Commission to have a head-hunting firm with an industrial organizational psychologist as a part of their firm to help deal with all the issues involved. She reiterated that she was seriously concerned for the future of the City. She believed something needed to be done now.

The Acting City Manager stated that staff needed a clarification regarding the motion. He stated they were not going to offer compensation to any outside candidate, but understood the City would offer expenses that would be presented to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Moore asked when such things had been said. He asked for the City Clerk to once again repeat the motion.

The City Clerk stated the motion.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if Mr. Bentley served as the Acting City Manager would he get paid at his usual salary or at the City Manager's pay scale. Mayor Naugle stated he thought it was at the Assistant City Manager's pay scale, but

felt expenses should be provided. He stated that the groups mentioned by Commissioner Hutchinson did get paid expenses.

The Acting City Manager stated that he had not been involved in a situation where the Range Riders had been used, but it was his understanding that they would be reimbursed expenses. Mayor Naugle suggested that either the motion be changed or voted down to include the option for expenses.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that this Commission was to vote on something that staff was incapable of giving the impact of the cost, such as was done with the City Manager's resignation. Commissioner Hutchinson stated that the Range Riders did not come in until the City decided to do a national search, and remained a neutral party during such proceedings.

Roosevelt Walters, 1509 NW 4 Street, asked when Commissioner Moore stated at no additional expense, what if the Interim City Manager laid off, cut back, or did something for a period of time that could save the City money. Therefore, those savings could be given to the Interim City Manager and there would be no further impact on the budget. He asked if Commissioner Moore was considering anything of this nature in his motion.

Commissioner Moore stated he did not want someone to come in and lay off employees so they could be paid for the next 6 months. Mr. Walters stated he wanted it clarified that the things put in place by the former City Manager would remain in place, and the interim manager would not collect any funds.

Commissioner Moore reiterated that if they looked at the present department heads, along with the Assistant City Managers, and utilized those individuals for a 6-month period who were presently compensated through their normal salaries, it would not have an impact on the City's budget for anyone of those individuals to navigate for 6-months while a national search was being conducted. He stated there were members of the Commission who had wanted the opportunity to entertain individuals who might want to volunteer their time and expertise, and therefore, he did not want to negate that.

Rev. Roberson, 634 NE 5 Avenue, stated he had lived in this City for over 50 years, and asked if the City had a surplus of money that they wanted to get rid of because it appeared they did not, so therefore, what was wrong with the proposal that an in-house individual be used who was qualified to deal with the existing circumstances. He added that would eliminate the spending of additional monies.

Mayor Naugle stated that his feeling was that some of the Commission wanted the option of being able to look outside the City. He added that he was comfortable with some of the individuals in-house, but wanted the Commission to have the options that were available. He stated that someone could potentially

save the City \$20 Million to \$30 Million in the first year, and if there was some expense involved, there would still be a net gain.

Rev. Roberson stated that if the Commission did not want to hire from within, then they were saying there was no one capable to handle the job from in-house. Mayor Naugle added that no one was saying that, but they only wanted the option to get the best.

Commissioner Teel reiterated that she felt the position needed to be opened to the outside, and believed they would be surprised with the outcome of individuals willing to assist the City in their time of need. She felt if there were individuals willing to volunteer their time, they should not be asked to spend monies out of their pocket especially if from out of town. She further stated that one of the concerns she had regarding using an existing employee was that they were very busy in their jobs, and then a vacancy would be created. She stated that she could not support the motion in the manner in which it was presently phrased.

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Trantalis and Moore. NAYS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Teel and Mayor Naugle.

Motion made by Commissioner Teel and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to appoint the Assistant City Manager, Bud Bentley, as the Acting City Manager for a period of approximately two weeks during which time the Commission would accept resumes of individuals interested in serving as the Interim City Manager which could be up to 6 months. During that time a national search would be conducted for a permanent City Manager. Resumes would be due by Wednesday, October 1, 2003 from the individuals expressing their desire to serve for the 6-month interval. The City would review the resumes and make their selection at the October 7, 2003 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Moore stated if they were going to utilize the recommendation of this motion that a cap be put at \$1,000 a month for expenses. Commissioners Teel and Hutchinson agreed to the amendment.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if they were providing enough time to review the resumes. The City Attorney stated they would do it.

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Trantalis, Moore, Hutchinson, Teel and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: None.

3. Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Budget Issues

Mayor Naugle stated there would be a discussion regarding the clarification of the approved budget.

Commissioner Moore requested that since this was a budget issue and in accordance with the State Statute and that public hearings held regarding the budget, the meetings were normally held at 5:00 p.m. or later so individuals who would be impacted by such decisions could have the opportunity to be present to voice any comments they had in reference to such budget. He urged the Commission to continue this meeting on another date after 5:00 p.m. so the public could have such opportunity to give input. He agreed that this matter could be workshopped and comments could be offered during this meeting. He reiterated that the media had stressed over the last few weeks the City's dire financial straits, and he felt any discussions regarding the budget should be done when the public could be present. He hoped this dialogue could be continued at a 5:01 p.m. meeting, and the date would be announced which he felt could be October 7, 2003.

Motion made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson that a meeting be held after 5:01 p.m. so the public could be present to give input regarding the budget issues.

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that a CRA meeting was to be held on Tuesday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and she suggested that this matter be recessed, and the Commission meet after 5:00 next Tuesday. Commissioner Moore stated he would be in favor of such a meeting being held at that time. An amendment was offered to the motion that the meeting be held on September 30, 2003 at 5:01 p.m.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if there was a legal timeframe in which a meeting had to be noticed, and would that provide sufficient time.

Commissioner Moore stated that this meeting was to be continued, and therefore, was properly noticed.

The City Attorney explained that notice had to be provided of meetings, and the meeting to be held on September 30, 2003 had already been noticed. He added they would simply amend the agenda. He stated that it was his understanding that the City Manager could call for a special meeting, which had been done, of this Commission to follow the CRA meeting to take action on issues by the Commission sitting as the CRA.

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Trantalis, Moore, Hutchinson, Teel and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: None.

Moody's Rating

Commissioner Hutchinson stated that Mr. Sharp had distributed the Moody's Rating Agency and asked if he could further explain what it meant for the City to be placed on the "watch list" in regard to their bond rating.

Terry Sharp, Finance Director, stated that Moody's Investor Service in following the City's budget deliberations and receiving financial information about the City had placed the City on their "watch list." He further explained that meant they would be watching the City's activities over the next 3 months. It was not a bond rating adjustment at this time. He stated that he had explained to them that the City had an adopted budget that would replenish some of the working capital reserve, and would bring in about \$10 Million more in property taxes. He reiterated that everyone agreed there needed to be a strategic planning process and the first part of that plan would be presented to the Commission no later than the beginning of the calendar year, and that they were still involved in negotiations with the City's 3 bargaining units. He stated they were concerned, but were not going to make any changes in the City's rating until they saw what would happen during the next 3 months.

Commissioner Hutchinson introduced the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-147

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY
OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, APPOINTING AN ACTING
CITY MANAGER.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Trantalis, Moore, Hutchinson, Teel and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: None.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Commissioner Hutchinson stated she needed to resign from the Metropolitan Planning Organization because her plate was too full at this time, and it interfered with her position with the DDA. She stated that the next meeting of the MPO was immediately following the next Commission meeting, and therefore, whoever was interested in serving on that Board would have to get up to "speed" as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Teel announced that she would be happy to serve on that Board. Commissioner Moore nominated Commissioner Teel to serve on the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mayor Naugle asked if a motion or resolution was needed for such an appointment. The City Clerk advised if one was necessary it would be presented at the September 30, 2003 meeting.

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:43 p.m.

Jim Naugle
Mayor

ATTEST:

Lucy Kisela
City Clerk