

**COMMISSION CONFERENCE**  
**November 16, 2004**

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**Item**

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**COMMISSION CONFERENCE**

**1:34 P.M.**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2004**

Present: Mayor Naugle  
Commissioners Hutchinson, Teel, Moore and Vice Mayor Trantalis

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas  
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart  
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph  
Sergeant At Arms – Sergeant Dave Wheeler

**I-A – Parking Enforcement and Parking Revenues - Sundays**

The City Manager said that Vice Mayor Trantalis asked to have this item placed on the agenda. He said that John Hoelzle, Parking and Fleet Services, is present to answer questions.

Mayor Naugle asked if any of the Commissioners had strong feelings about any of the options presented.

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked if anyone in the audience wanted to comment regarding the recommendations.

Larry Wald, Las Olas businessman and representative of the Las Olas Business Association, said that he feels free parking on Sundays is a wonderful thing for the City to provide to its residents.

Scott Belding, local Las Olas business owner, said that there is a market decline due to the parking situation. He felt that anything that could be done to lift the burden would be a big help.

Kitty Ryan supported the free parking concept and felt it would encourage individuals to come to the downtown area.

Mayor Naugle asked how this would work and would it apply throughout the City.

Vice Mayor Trantalis said that he wanted to reiterate the motivation and concept. The motivation is to recognize the fact that there is required paid parking in areas where he felt the business community is suffering due to severe penalties imposed on overtime parking. He felt people stay away from the downtown because of the parking problems. During the summer months, restaurants slash prices in an attempt to draw individuals to the area. The City should take pro-active steps to make the area more user friendly, especially in regard to tourists. The most help is needed along the riverfront and up Las Olas Boulevard. As a start, he felt this should be done on a temporary basis to see the response. He thought this should be done for all parking, but if only street parking is targeted to begin with, that could be a first step in drawing people to the area. He did not think the cut in the budget would be that significant. He said that once word got out the business community could be enhanced.

Mayor Naugle said that the challenge he sees is that if free parking is offered along Las Olas on Sundays, employees and owners would occupy the spaces. He was willing to give it a try.

Vice Mayor Trantalis felt the business owners would keep the parking spaces available for their customers. If the owners defeat the goal of this program, then he would agree that it would not work.

Mayor Naugle said the business owners would not be able to necessarily control who parks in the available spaces. Vice Mayor Trantalis said that is where the Las Olas Business Association would step in.

Mr. Wald said that his employees are instructed not to park within a certain radius of his business or they would be fired. He continued to state that there is a parking problem in the area, and any parking made available would be a benefit to the area.

Commissioner Moore said that free parking should not be provided. He felt that there should be a price on the parking, and that it would be better for business. However warnings could be issued so as to be more sensitive to the problem.

Commissioner Teel said that District I also has areas with parking problems. The consensus at her pre-agenda meeting was to keep the parking as it exists, but she did not see any reason why they could not be more customer friendly and issue warnings. She said that the 10-minute warning would not work. In looking at the cost, this could be a big impact on the budget. Employees are using spaces in the area. She felt the parking arrangement should remain unchanged. Merchants need to be more pro-active in helping their customers.

Commissioner Moore was willing to compromise and go with Option 2 if there is a consensus among the Commission to do so.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that this item was not discussed at her meeting last night, but she feared if the free parking is only offered on the streets, individuals would say the parking lots are City-owned and that the parking should also be free at those locations. Likewise, Himmarshee Village would want free parking on their streets. She felt this would cause a problem if not done for all areas.

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked and it was confirmed that there was consensus for warnings to be issued.

Mayor Naugle favored a grace period. Commissioner Hutchinson agreed.

Vice Mayor Trantalis believed a grace period would be more costly. Commissioner Teel felt that it would make individuals angry. Mayor Naugle clarified that it would be a one-time warning. Commissioner Hutchinson asked how the warning system would work.

John Hoelzle, Parking and Fleet Services, said that if the meter expires, the individual would get a warning for that day only.

The City Manager asked what 'first time' entails.

Darlene Pfeiffer, Financial Administrator, said that the auto-sites would track if a tag has received a one-time warning. The auto-sites would have to be re-programmed. She said the problem is that if an individual changes vehicles.

Vice Mayor Trantalis did not think they should do the one-time warning. He feared the system would be abused. Mr. Hoelzle agreed.

Commissioner Moore agreed with staff's recommendations regarding implementation.

Mr. Hoelzle said there would have to be some programming time. Ms. Pfeiffer said that it would probably take about 3-4 months for implementation. Vice Mayor Trantalis asked if, in the meantime, warnings would be issued and no overtime tickets would be issued on Sundays. Commissioner Moore said that if he was a merchant on Las Olas, he would want to see cars turning over. He felt that the system should be implemented as recommended.

Mr. Wald said that as a business owner on Las Olas, he wanted to see people in the area. He reminded everyone that there is more revenue from the lots than what there used to be. He said that revenue is down for the businesses in the area due to the parking problem. Commissioner Moore reminded everyone of the new Riverside garage which is less expensive than the hourly rates. He felt merchants could purchase spaces. Mr. Wald said the parking is not enough. He reminded everyone that enforcement used to end at 9 p.m.; now there is 24-hour enforcement. He said that they are losing the younger people because they are on a budget, and when younger people are lost, a place gets old and tired very fast.

Mayor Naugle referred to the tenants at the Galleria, who pay for parking in their lease. He said that the merchants on Las Olas have parking provided by the City. He said it becomes a matter of equity, and if parking is subsidized for one, then it would have to be subsidized for everyone. He felt this all has come about due to the parking rate being increased too much at one time. He would have preferred a graduated increase over a period of time.

Commissioner Teel said that minimal amounts of money could be put in the meters, and then the individuals could stay as long as they want. In that manner the cars would not be turned over for the businesses.

Vice Mayor Trantalis said that in any matter, there would always be egregious violators. He said that his office is on Wilton Drive and there are no meters there, but cars do not stay in one place for a long time. The opportunity for abuse is always available, but this is the chance to experiment. He felt the City should implement this program and see what happens.

Commissioner Teel agreed, but she felt they would be hurt if the turnover does not happen. She pointed out there is a huge parking lot on Wilton Manors Drive.

Vice Mayor Trantalis said that Wilton Manors Drive could use at least 5,000 additional spaces to accommodate the area's needs.

Mayor Naugle concluded that the Commission is agreeing to one Sunday morning per year. Vice Mayor Trantalis also wanted to implement the warning system. He asked

what is going to take place in the interim until the meters are re-programmed. Mayor Naugle suggested January 1, 2005 as the implementation date.

Mr. Hoezle asked if the program is going to only be implemented on Las Olas Boulevard. Vice Mayor Trantalis said the program is to encompass the entire downtown area, south of Broward and east of the Performing Arts Center. Mr. Hoelzle said it was his understanding it would encompass the area from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue past the Performing Arts Center down Second, and on Las Olas Boulevard to 17<sup>th</sup> Street. He reminded the Commission they are speaking of on-street parking.

Mr. Wald said that this program is not worth the effort being put into it because he did not think the warnings would mean anything. One free day of parking would mean more to the merchants and customers than the warning system. It would mean more to implement small increases in parking costs and change hours of enforcement. He asked if one free day of parking could be implemented instead.

Commissioner Moore suggested that they leave things as they presently exist. Commissioner Teel agreed.

Vice Mayor Trantalis suggested that the Commission approve Option 2 because it would affect tourists.

Mr. Wald asked why only on a Sunday and why not implement this for any day of the week. Vice Mayor Trantalis said that this is a first step in the right direction.

Mayor Naugle agreed to Option 2 also.

**Action:** There was consensus to implement Option 2, outlined in the Commission Memorandum 04-1546 beginning January, 2005.

## **II-A – Monthly Financial Report for September, 2004**

No discussion.

**Action:** None Taken.

## **III-B Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies**

### Aviation Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred

### Citizens Board of Recognition

Commissioner Hutchinson said that Genia Ellis should be reappointed to the Citizens Board of Recognition.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked if the City is going to continue reappointment of past honorees. She felt they need to move forward on this and suggested that Birch Willey remain on the board.

**Action:** Formal Action to be taken at Regular Meeting.

Code Advisory Committee

**Action:** Deferred

Community Appearance Board

**Action:** Deferred

Community Services Board

**Action:** Deferred

Education Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred

Insurance Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred

Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board

**Action:** Deferred

Unsafe Structures and Housing Appeals Board

**Action:** Deferred

Utility Advisory Committee

**Action:** Deferred

**Commission Reports**

Uptown Development Group

Commissioner Teel said that the Uptown Development Group met at the Airport recently, and she found this to be interesting since it involves various municipalities.

Commissioner Hutchinson said that it is fun and interesting to work outside of her district. Mayor Naugle said that he has participated in two of the institutes and felt they are excellent.

Imperial Pointe Fall Festival

Commissioner Teel said that Imperial Pointe has a great Fall Festival. She said the park at the hospital is a great success, and the merchants in the area served over 400 full course meals at the event.

Commission Assistants; Charter Amendment Referendum

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked about the implementation of the recently approved referendum question regarding Commission Assistants. Commissioner Moore suggested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Commission Conference Meeting.

Temporary Road Closures – South Middle River

Vice Mayor Trantalis said that in Lake Ridge, the City has closed off access to certain streets using terra cotta pots. Since then, some were made more permanent with curb closures, and he asked if the pots could be used in areas that do not have permanent closures. The pots have basically been abandoned where the permanent closures were installed. South Middle River is requesting such temporary closures.

Mayor Naugle suggested that the communities contact the City Manager. Vice Mayor Trantalis said that he was informed that calls were made to the Parks and Recreation Department, but it appeared that no one knew who was in charge of such things. Mayor Naugle said that the City would work with the communities in this regard.

Davie Boulevard Master Plan

Commissioner Hutchinson said that the Davie Boulevard Master Plan Committee and Steering Committee met recently, and a tour was taken. Out of the 14 neighborhoods, only about 8 participated. No one represented the north side of Davie Boulevard. It was her understanding that the public hearing was well attended.

South Side School

Commissioner Hutchinson said that demolition of the two non-historical structures at the South Side School has taken place.

Right-of-Way Administration

Commissioner Hutchinson said that she is requesting that Agenda Item O-3, Right of Way Administration, conversion of landscaped medians to parking areas or travel lanes, be deferred at tonight's meeting. Judge Ireland sent a letter raising various questions. She preferred to bring the item before the Commission at the first meeting in December.

Armed Robberies; Home Invasions

Commissioner Moore said that an armed robbery occurred in his district recently, and he was concerned that the individual has not yet been apprehended. He said that two individuals who volunteered at a day care facility were held up behind the Mizell Center. Last night he was informed about a home invasion that occurred and guns had also been used. He asked if something is going to be done about these matters. Telephones were stolen, and no police officers or detectives have contacted the victims as of this time. He is not seeing pro-active policing taking place to make the community feel safe.

The City Manager said there is a plan to revamp the Police Department and fill the present vacancies. He asked for the opportunity to investigate the occurrences mentioned, and provide a report to the Commission.

Commissioner Moore further said that individuals are being more brazen in their crimes and he felt something more needs to be done.

The City Manager said that the "broken window" concept has been discussed with the Commission previously and has the support of the Police Department. Over the years there has been cutbacks on community policing and the quality of life issues, and slowly they are beginning to see crime numbers creep up. The Police Department is committed to refocusing their efforts and developing strategies to address such issues. The Police Department is energized and improvements would be made.

Commissioner Moore said the individuals need to be immediately apprehended because guns were pointed at the victims. He was disappointed that citizens called the police with additional information that would assist in apprehending the criminals and were ignored. He felt the police need to focus on such brazen criminals. He said that citizens do not mind paying overtime for police officers, if results are seen.

#### Affordable Housing

Commissioner Moore thanked staff regarding the Affordable Housing Roundtable held at the African-American Research Library. A Steering Committee comprised of Pamela Adams, Genia Ellis, Alan Hooper, Robert Lochrie, Gale Butler, Clare Vickery, Peter Feldman, Jim Cassidy, Stan Brown, Courtney Callahan Crush, David Oshefsky, Marc LaFerrier, and Margarete Hayes did an excellent job with over 170 individuals attending. He thanked the sponsors, such as the Downtown Development Authority and local restaurants. The package of materials distributed to the Commission explains work accomplished at the meeting, along with the breakout of the committees and their facilitators, and the issues that were raised.

Commissioner Moore said that another meeting is going to be held, and they are still pushing forward with the \$75,000 contribution given by the DDA for the study to create an ordinance regarding affordable housing. He said that additional funds would be sought for the study, and reports would be provided to the Commission. Before the next meeting is held a "white paper" would be put together regarding information gathered at the original meeting, and then recommendations would be made. He said that Pam Brown and the staff did an extraordinary job.

Mayor Naugle said that the \$75,000 is to develop a strategy which could be an ordinance or whatever is needed. Commissioner Moore disagreed and said that the DDA contributed \$75,000 to assist in underwriting the study needed to bring affordable housing to Fort Lauderdale. This is to deal with an ordinance that would provide affordable housing for the City.

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked if an ordinance is necessary for the implementation. Commissioner Moore confirmed yes, but stated the item is up for discussion. He advocates an ordinance; not a voluntary situation. He wanted the Commission to continue the discussion of the City contributing to such a study. He said that he would prefer to have this item placed on a conference meeting agenda so additional discussion could take place. He added that there is consensus in the community for such a program.



City Auditor; Charter Amendment

Mayor Naugle said that the City is going to need a procedure for the auditor (approved Charter amendment).

Fire Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Referendum; Ad Hoc Committee Creation

Mayor Naugle asked if there is any interest in creating an oversight committee regarding the bond issue for fire stations. There is some controversy in the communities regarding the fire stations and their designs and location. He felt that such a committee would be good to monitor the situation. He suggested that everyone contribute five names for such a committee. Perhaps, membership could include construction and engineering backgrounds. He was pleased that the bond issue passed in all the districts of the City.

Vice Mayor Trantalis thought five members could present problems with attendance and quorums at the meetings. It was decided that each commissioner would nominate two individuals.

Mayor Naugle said that this committee should be an ad hoc one, but probably would be in effect for about 5 years.

Vice Mayor Trantalis asked if a construction manager has been budgeted for this project. The City Manager said this would be a good introduction for his Manager's Report.

**V – City Manager Report**Director of Public Works

The City Manager introduced Albert Carbon, the new Director of Public Works. He said that he would be part of the orchestration for getting the fire stations completed. Staff will be looking at developing strategies for better overseeing construction projects as a whole. They hope to present a plan to the Commission within the next 60-90 days. Additionally, he thanked Peter Partington who would serve as the City Engineer. He added that Mr. Partington "stepped up to the plate" when the department was in complete disarray and worked very hard, accepting a lot of responsibility.

**IV – City Commission Reports**Fire Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Referendum; Ad Hoc Committee Creation

Mayor Naugle thanked the Fire Chief and employees of the Fire Department for their hard work regarding the bond issue. The City Manager thanked the Office of Public Information also for their hard work regarding the bond issue.

**CLOSED DOOR SESSION AT 2:35 P.M.**

**MEETING RECONVENED AT 4:27 P.M.**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.