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COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:32 P.M. JULY 6, 2005

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

Absent: Commissioner Moore

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

Mayor Naugle said that Commissioner Moore would not be in attendance at today's meeting. The Commission had agreed to delay certain items until July 19, 2005.

I-A – Uptown District Improvements – Contribution by Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport to Uptown Development Improvement Group of Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce (BUS070101-4207)

There was no discussion on this item.

I-B – Air and Sea Show – Future Agreement

Vice Mayor Teel said there is nothing regarding the contract in the material distributed, and asked if they are working with the original contract.

Phil Thornburg, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the original contract has expired, and a new agreement is being worked on. Staff would like the Commission's direction.

Vice Mayor Teel believed the former agreement was generated by the promoter.

Tom Tapp said he along with Dennis Lyles and Joel Gustafson worked with the promoter at that time on the agreement and it was a combined effort.

Vice Mayor Teel said if there is a problem regarding income to the promoter, and a change regarding funding of the event, there are concerns about the City being left exposed regarding costs. There appears to be a clause in the agreement, stating that the City can cancel the event within 90 days Mr. Thornburg indicated that it is 90 days or by the end of July whichever is shorter.

Vice Mayor Teel said they would then be running into the August vacation for the Commission. The feeling is that there should be another 30-45 days added into the contract as a safety valve. She said it would be helpful to give the City the extra leeway in case changes are desired.

Mr. Thornburg said the Commission could add whatever they desire into the contract. They have the figures for last year's show and the estimate for the next year's event. There may be a concern on the part of the promoter with September, as they need to begin selling sponsorships and booths for next year's event.

Vice Mayor Teel said that in the past there was a problem obtaining the figures. Mr. Thornburg said they could supply cost figures for the event by the second meeting in July.

The City Manager thanked staff for negotiating the deal. He said that negotiations take time, and some individuals were concerned. He thanked the Commission for their support.

Vice Mayor Teel said that she is hearing from individuals on the beach and in her district regarding the number of days that A1A would be closed.

Commissioner Trantalis said they are attempting to obtain more control over the roadways during and after the event, and the narrowing of the time frame needed for the set up of the event. As staff continues to negotiate the deal, he hoped they would discuss minimization of the number of days for set up and tear down after the event.

Mr. Thornburg said normally the roadway is opened by 6 p.m. on Monday. They will work with the promoter and attempt to shorten the time frame.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if the cost analysis is a cap. Mr. Thornburg said it is not a cap, but an estimate. For the 2006 show, they are estimating to be \$362,598. The parking is an estimated average over the last five years. The \$300,000 will stay stagnant with the promoter, except for the wage increases and CPI increases in accordance with the past agreement. Increasing staff would be under the City's control. The City Manager said staff is paid for already; additional monies are not being added. Mr. Thornburg said that parking is also under the City's control; those revenues come to the City.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if normal parking rates are to be enforced. Mr. Thornburg said Holiday Park has special rates. John Hoelzle, Director of Parking and Fleet Services, said that there is a flat rate of \$10.

Action: At the suggestion of Commissioner Trantalis, there was consensus to pursue more control over the roadways before and after the event and to reduce the set-up and breakdown time frames. There was no objection to the proposal concept, and as such, Staff will prepare an agreement to present to the Commission at a future date.

I-C – Prelude to 2006 Budget

The City Manager said the 2006 Budget would be presented on July 19, 2005. He felt it is important to look back where the City was one year ago. He learned a lot about hurricanes since he arrived in Fort Lauderdale, but shortly after the storm, the sun comes out and it is beautiful. This is where the City has been governmentally. The calm is coming and good times are ahead.

The City Manager said that during last year's discussion of the budget, there were some management challenges that had to be focused on. One of those challenges was the organization which was unclear of its priorities. There was a certain amount of disharmony, along with quality control issues. The absence of harmony created morale issues. The organization had to restore accountability and bring forth coordination. If everyone is rowing in the same direction, the destination is arrived at more quickly. He

also said that part of that was the reorganization plan which got information flowing as it should. It is important for the Commission to have all the necessary information available in order to make decisions. Ultimately, everyone will be on the same page. It is important for everyone to understand where the City is going and why it needs to proceed in such a path, and also to see what progress has been made.

The City Manager further said that part of the restructuring was implementing performance based management. Holding people accountable makes them aware of expectations and part of the process. People should work together and collaborate towards a final product. He said goals and objectives, along with expectations, have been set and they then judge everything based on performance. This is where the two-year contracts come into play, and doing away with the longevity system. The team is in place.

The City Manager said the team is a group of talented and interesting people. He said management meets every Monday for 2-3 hours and everyone challenges things and provides input. The City is blessed with such a team.

The City Manager said the final move is to focus on priorities. The first move was to restore the City's financial position. Last year they discussed the fund balance, along with the national standard, and what reserves should be established. Part of bringing the City into alignment between the 2004 and 2005 budgets is new spending controls made possible by the reorganization plan creating a checks and balance system. There is roughly a 15% vacancy regarding City positions, and this creates some savings which eventually get spent, but should not be squandered. The savings needs to assist in building up the fund balance. Staff meets frequently regarding such vacancies and the spending of those funds. The Budget Department requires proof of salary savings by each department. A tracking mechanism is now in place, and the monthly trend analysis keeps things in focus. Capital items greater than \$1,000 require budget approval.

The City Manager said the organization has changed significantly, and there is less flexibility in departments, but centralization is the key in restoring the City's financial position.

The City Manager said that in regard to the financial policy, the City adopted the national standard. The target is a minimum of 7%. This is important to the bond rating agencies. They prefer a 10% to 15% level that the City needs to attempt to attain, along with not using reserves for recurring expenses. In 2003 the City was at \$875,000; 2004 closing with \$9 Million; and in 2005 they are estimating between \$15-\$17 Million. It probably will be more, but if they reach the \$17 Million mark, they would reach the 7% minimum two years ahead of schedule. Moody believes officials have taken appropriate steps to maintain financial stability, and the economic activity of the City will be a positive factor, and they will continue to recover. He said Moody sees the philosophy and commitment.

The City Manager also said that another priority in 2005 is to address some quality of life issues. Vice Mayor Teel led a group regarding the motorcycle issue. Such issues are being addressed one at a time. The homeless, prostitutes, abandoned vehicles, and other Code violations are bread and butter issues for the City. The Police Department is making arrests and they are reaching the level they need to be at, especially regarding noise issues.

The City Manager continued, that the NEAT Program is essential to quality of life issues. Staff drove through troubled areas so problems could be addressed and resolved. He said that 1,300 properties were cited, 92% of those properties were brought into compliance, and 85% of the properties were non-homesteaded. Many problems had to do with landlords not maintaining their properties.

The City Manager said they also looked to improving the Building Department. Moves took place and few complaints were received. They are not where they should be, but progress is being made. In September, a proposal will be presented for an expedited review plan process, giving the public two new options. One option will be substantially quicker and not cost the City any additional monies.

The City Manager said Construction Management has a lot of projects. The objective through restructuring and management changes is to improve things. Projects need to be done on time and within budget while still obtaining the value expected. Part of that was to create the Construction Management Division and have a manager on board. The City has excellent engineers who have stepped in to assist in other duties, but they need to return to their original assignments. The way contracts are awarded needs to be changed so that there are higher quality contractors. A new pre-qualification process is being created. They will be making sure the contracts are strong enough and provide stronger remedies, if the contractor does not meet expectations.

Finally, the City Manager said they are working on the SWAT team concept whereby a group of four construction workers on staff could step in for rapid results. He said they would assist in meeting deadlines if a snag is incurred on a project and work on small neighborhood projects.

The City Manager said Albert Carbon is doing a great job with the help of Peter Partington. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

The City Manager that in regard to the development process, a new Director of Planning and Zoning was brought in, and they are now in sync with dealing with the future, and how the City will deal with developers and future challenges. They cannot stop development, but the question is what kind of City are they building. They are building a skyline, and the point is if they do not have discipline and a coordinated effort regarding development, they will end up with a hodge-podge. The new process internally is to get the developers in early, understand what they want to accomplish, and make sure what hits the streets is not half-baked. Sometimes developers come in with projects not in the best interests of the City and its residents. Their job is to make it the best proposal as possible before a presentation is made. Part of that is to demand better architecture. Buildings should create conversation and be respectful. Another point is to hold developers accountable. There needs to be give and take, and elimination of red tape. He said it is up to the City to make sure the developers have a good experience with the government because they are customers also, and need to be treated with respect and good service.

The City Manager continued, another key priority for 2005 is money saving. The sanitation privatization saved the City \$900,000, and is an example where government saved substantial dollars, while receiving the same service with very few complaints. Employees were folded into the organization. With the centralizing of the grants

operation, the City maximized all opportunities. Also, Bruce Larkin and Business Enterprises is a perfect example of successful reorganization.

Regarding communication, the City Manager said it means more not less; everyone needs to be on the same page. The office of Public Information has some changes; the public has more access to information. Expansion will continue because there should be no secrets in the government.

The City Manager said there was low employee morale due to settlements and unresolved contracts. The Police, Fire and Captain contracts were settled quickly. Good negotiations take place when both sides are dissatisfied. It is a good contract overall, and they are working with the new Teamster leaders. Issues are still being worked on and a presentation will be made shortly.

The City Manager continued, this is more philosophy than budget, but the ethics code is important. There is basically zero tolerance. They need to encourage civil public discourse because no one agrees all the time. It applies to the Commission meetings, advisory board meetings, and neighborhood meetings because everyone needs to treat each other with respect. Staff has been very respectful and such things need to be encouraged.

The City Manager said team work is the key to success. Comments are made that government needs to be more like the private sector, and there are a lot of things they do that are more efficient. The private sector sometimes loses sight of the fact that people are an important resource to an organization. How people are treated is crucial to the success of an organization. He does not want to work in an environment where people are not treated properly. They need to keep focus on the human element and be concerned about what is occurring in people's lives. If the organization loses their soul, they will have nothing.

The City Manager said the 2006 budget will be presented on July 19, 2005. Four pillars are needed for a building to stand. The City needs to restore the fund balance and pay down the insurance deficit which is expected to be paid by the end of 2006. They need to restore services, and in that regard the Police Department study will be reviewed, along with other issues. They also need to stabilize property taxes. They need to continue with the 2005 priorities because the sun is beginning to appear, and they need to reach the finish line on such issues.

The City Manager said during spring break lifeguards, Public Works employees, Parks and Recreation employees, and Police work on the beach, yet the trash containers overflow without attention. The organization needs to address such issues. Traffic management is not coordinated. Although dialogue has taken place with the County, an expert is needed. They need to see how to move traffic during peak season especially. Issues can be resolved through coordination.

The City Manager further said they need to continue reducing crime. The City has a magnificent jewel which is the beach, but they need to maintain it, and it can be done through exploring a business improvement district concept, and getting CRA projects completed. He said Al Battle, Director of Community Redevelopment, is working primarily in the northwest area. Other issues are resolving the police headquarters' problems, taking a more active role in transportation, working on the City Hall project,

building firehouses within budget and with quality development, and creating economic development programs. It is a competitive world and the City has to decide where they want to be. He recognized those employees who died in the past year: Greg Thornburgh, Utilities Distribution and Collection Systems Manager, who was killed in a car accident from visiting his family; Arthur Robertson, Carpenter I; Levon Dowling, Parking Lot Attendant; Silas Brock, Parking Enforcement Specialist; Jason Good who was killed on an airboat trip in the Everglades; Mark Turner, Building Inspector; and Bob Clapp. He said in one of his first staff meetings, they talked how short life is.

The City Manager presented a montage of the City's successes. He thanked everyone for taking a chance one year ago on him, and thanked everyone for their support.

II-A – Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport – Emergency Purchase of Damaged Critical Runway Taxiway Lighting Systems Components

No Discussion.

II-B – May 2005 Financial Report.

No Discussion.

III-B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Audit Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Aviation Advisory Board

Commissioner Hutchinson appointed William J. Aston, and reappointed Bernie Petreccia to the Aviation Advisory Board.

Mayor Naugle reappointed Chris Pollock and Steve Stella to the Aviation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Trantalis reappointed Bunney Brenneman, and appointed Robert Iverson to the Aviation Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Board of Adjustment

Action: Deferred.

Charter Revision Board

Action: Deferred.

Citizen Review Board

Commissioner Hutchinson appointed Ronald Wright to the Citizen Review Board.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Community Appearance Board

Action: Deferred.

Community Services Board

Action: Deferred.

Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon

Commissioner Trantalis appointed Joe Holland to the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Insurance Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Marine Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board

Commissioner Trantalis reappointed Brice J. Lambrix to the Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Redevelopment Board.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Nuisance Abatement Advisory Board

Commissioner Hutchinson said there is an opening as an alternate on the Nuisance Abatement Board. She suggested Laurie A. Watkins since this is a consensus appointment.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Planning and Zoning Board

Commissioner Hutchinson said that the recommendation from staff is to place Frank Till on the Planning and Zoning Board as a non-voting member.

Marc LaFerrier, Director of Planning and Zoning, said naming the Superintendent of Schools assigns a member of his staff as an ex officio member who provides input but does not vote. In response to Mayor Naugle, Mr. LaFerrier offered to furnish that information to the Commission.

Unsafe Structures Board

Action: Deferred.

Utility Advisory Committee

Action: Deferred.

IV – City Commission Reports

CVC Project

Vice Mayor Teel thanked the City Manager and his assistants for helping with the CVC project.

Plane Landing

Commissioner Teel discussed the emergency landing of a DC-3 airplane, which lost power shortly after takeoff from Executive Airport and was forced to land on the street in the 1700 block of NE 56th Street. Vice Mayor Teel thanked the Police and Fire Departments for all their efforts. She complimented staff for the manner in which the accident was handled.

V- City Manager Report

None given.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.