

**COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA
NOVEMBER 15, 2005**

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COMMISSION CONFERENCE MEETING 1:30 P.M. NOVEMBER 15, 2005

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

Absent: Commissioner Hutchinson

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

I-A – Commission Auditor – Liaison to Interact with Executive Search Firm

Commissioner Moore suggested that Maxine Singh, Commission Coordinator.

Action: Maxine Singh, Commission Coordinator was selected to serve as liaison.
(CONSENSUS)

II-A – September 2005 Monthly Financial Report

Commissioner Moore asked how much money was spent in connection with the hurricane.

The City Manager said that a report will be given to the Commission, but millions of dollars were spent. Everything is not fully reimbursable.

Commissioner Moore asked if the City depleted their reserve and the City Manager said no.

Mayor Naugle said that there is a question regarding the percentage of reimbursement. They are attempting to have it raised to 90%. He believed it is presently about 75%. It may be possible to get the State to contribute 5%. The City needs to work with the Congressional Delegation. Everyone should work toward obtaining 90%.

The City Manager said that this is a good example of the importance of fund balance and why they need to be within the standards since disaster does happen. On the spectrum of disaster, the City was probably somewhere in the middle. Figures should be provided to the Commission by the next meeting, if not sooner. It will be a full report.

Mayor Naugle suggested working with the Broward League of Cities with respect to the reimbursement percentage getting raised to 90%.

III-B – Advisory Board and Committee Vacancies

Board of Adjustment

Action: Deferred.

Charter Revision Board

Action: Deferred.

Citizen Board of Recognition

Action: Deferred.

Community Appearance Board

Commissioner Trantalis appointed Dilbert Hatchett to the Community Appearance Board.

Vice Mayor Teel appointed Michael Cordts to the Community Appearance Board.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Education Advisory Board

Vice Mayor Teel appointed Michael Baciagalupi to the Education Advisory Board.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee

Commissioner Trantalis appointed Guido Teichner to the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee.

Action: Formal Action to be Taken at Regular Meeting.

Historic Preservation Board

Action: Deferred.

Insurance Advisory Board

Action: Deferred.

Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Redevelopment

Action: Deferred.

Unsafe Structure and Housing Appeals

Action: Deferred.

Utilities Advisory Committee

Action: Deferred.

IV – Commission Reports

Hurricane Preparedness

Vice Mayor Teel said that people are giving compliments to the City regarding their efforts in picking up trash and debris from Hurricane Wilma.

Vice Mayor Teel said that one of the biggest complaints she heard was that people felt they did not have enough contact with City Officials during the power outage. She suggested that possibly a set meeting place could be chosen for the future.

Mayor Naugle said that the chosen building might be damaged. Vice Mayor Teel said that she is going to choose buildings that have substantial parking lots; more of a landmark. The City needs to figure out how to get the word out when the normal means of communication are not available. Mayor Naugle said that portable antennas are available for the City's AM radio station which could be used for announcements. Vice Mayor Teel felt the radio station should be publicized more.

Commissioner Trantalis applauded staff's efforts in their quick and thorough response.

Code Advisory Committee

Commissioner Trantalis said that the Code Advisory Committee was sunsetted. There was a point in time when the Committee made recommendations for changes to the City Code, but because they were dismantled, many of the recommendations were left hanging. He asked about the status of such recommendations.

Stephen Scott, Assistant City Manager, said that a status report was given to the Commission. Four recommendations had gone through the process, four were pending decisions from the Planning and Zoning Board, and two were remaining. Due to the storm, the items did not get scheduled on the next Planning and Zoning Board, but they will now be placed on the agenda for their next meeting. Two of the recommendations have not been approved from a legal standpoint. He said that he wants to set up a meeting with some of the members to discuss those recommendations and possibly what could be changed to make them workable. This is in the works now.

Commissioner Trantalis asked if there is any merit to reinstating the Code Advisory Committee to let it continue and do additional work. Due to Hurricane Wilma, possibly they should rethink some of the practices that have been permitted in the past with respect to the building code.

Mayor Naugle felt those things have nothing to do with the Code Advisory Committee because those are enforcement matters. The building code is a separate organization by the Board of Rules and Appeals.

Commissioner Trantalis felt there are opportunities to discuss what is good and not good. He said that he is not referring to the structural integrity of skyscrapers, but rather what people should and should not do in their yards. There could be an ongoing analysis of how the City is being run. A lot of the debris sitting in yards is from things blown off houses or roofs.

Mayor Naugle felt the Code Advisory Committee was for code enforcement, but Commissioner Trantalis is referring more to Planning and Zoning matters.

Commissioner Trantalis said that they do not have a proactive agenda. Possibly the charge of the Code Advisory Committee should be expanded. The idea was for them to advise on the Code. They produced recommendations as to how the City's Code should be revised. He felt there is a need for this.

Mayor Naugle said that there is always a need to make changes, but that body was a result of the dissatisfaction of the handling of Code violations. They never touched things like awnings, or what could be placed in setbacks.

Commissioner Trantalis said that is the problem. The Commission needs to expand their jurisdiction to possibly address such issues.

Mayor Naugle said that the laws empower the Planning and Zoning Board to advise the City. The Commission could make a list of items for the Board to consider.

Commissioner Moore suggested that this item be placed on the Commission's agenda in January for further discussion.

Vice Mayor Teel agreed; some things may not result in Code changes, but common sense points regarding preparedness.

Mayor Naugle asked Commissioner Trantalis to develop a list. Commissioner Trantalis said that he does not have a list. Some of the former Committee members have spoken to him. He offered to talk with those individuals.

Fire Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee

Commissioner Trantalis referred to when the Fire Rescue Committee appeared before the Commission and made recommendations, and he asked about the status of such recommendations.

The City Manager said that a memorandum was distributed last week that outlines a response to each of the recommendations.

Commission Agenda Materials on City Web Site

Vice Mayor Teel said that it is now very easy to access the back-up material for the Commission meetings, along with the agendas, on the web site. She complimented the Information Technology Department.

Riverland Park

Commissioner Moore thanked the Parks & Recreation Director for the Riverland Park opening on Saturday. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Hurricane Wilma; Employee Assistance & Hurricane Preparedness

Commissioner Moore said that Hurricane Wilma created issues for employees causing stress. He asked if there is going to be some method of employee assistance made available.

Commissioner Moore said that for a number of years the City has escaped hurricanes, but Wilma woke everyone up. He hoped at the beginning of next year's hurricane season, the CERT Team, CVC, the Chamber of Commerce business community, the City's management team, along with the Commission, to meet and express how they are going to deal with emergencies. The communication and boundary of knowledge needs to be expanded.

Mayor Naugle said that for the first time, the City had a member of the CERT Team in the EOC, but he believed more preparation could be done ahead of time.

Commissioner Moore suggested an educational component next year so everyone understands and it is done upfront.

Mayor Naugle said that every June his message in the FOCUS newsletter is to focus on hurricane preparedness, but he agreed a workshop and getting out the word more would help.

Commissioner Moore felt that a number of people were not prepared, and therefore, many of the City's resources were used to help in the first two, three and four days. He was very concerned about how the Department of Children and Families worked in this City. The Sunrise Musical Center was used as an assistance center because it has 2,000 parking spaces. The people who are most impacted, the lower income people who may not even have a car or gasoline. The site must be closer to the people. Fort Lauderdale is the urban core of Broward County, yet every FEMA program or State program was way out west. It prevents low income individuals and families from getting to such centers. This is unacceptable. The City needs to begin working with the State on these issues. A point needs to be chosen in the City where people know they can go to, along with a second and third site.

Mayor Naugle believed the County selected the assistance sites.

Commissioner Moore said no matter who chooses the sites, they are dealing with placement of services and everything was out west, past University Drive.

Mayor Naugle said that the City lobbied for State Road 441 and Sunrise Boulevard location.

Commissioner Trantalis said the population center of Broward County is University Drive and Pine Island Road.

Commissioner Moore felt they should not ignore the urban core of Fort Lauderdale, especially when such individuals who cannot stock up on supplies are located in the most impoverished area and the site is put miles and miles away from them. Something needs to be done about it now.

Mayor Naugle said that one of the challenges is that they have little experience in these matters. Mayors are rotated every year, and there is an Acting County Administrator, and there is no Port Director. He hoped they would learn from this situation and be prepared to do a better job in the future.

Commissioner Moore said that the City has learned from this storm. The City should assist the County in understanding how such services need to be deployed. The City needs to make the entities delivering such services to the constituents more understanding of what is needed. He volunteered his time to work with staff on this matter.

Commissioner Moore thanked the CERT group and the volunteer core, along with the civic association presidents that worked.

Commissioner Moore said if the City is going to deal with the distribution of ice and water, they need to offer a site to the County instead of not having any input. He suggested that a site in the downtown area or near downtown be chosen. He wanted all services to be in that one location, including FEMA. Debris needs to be separated from services. It needs to be situated where a vehicle is not a necessity.

Mayor Naugle said the key is communication. It is great to plan a distribution point, but if it is not there, alternative sites need to be provided. Each disaster is different.

Vice Mayor Teel felt that radio station 1600 would be very helpful.

Commissioner Moore felt there should be an A, B and C plan, in case one site is not usable.

Commissioner Moore said that in regard to construction of the fire stations, the City may want to look at a method to house the radio system to provide a form of communication during such disasters.

The City Manager did not want people to think that the City did not have a plan. Substantial plans were implemented. What went awry was the consequence of outside agencies who made public statements without checking with the City first and coordinating. The distribution site announcement is a good example. The City's distribution site was the only one executed as planned.

Mayor Naugle noted that the City had garbage and debris collection, police officers out and cold water and ice distribution all on the first day.

Commissioner Trantalis said that they cannot rely on other agencies. The City Manager said that Broward County's EOC operation has every agency present, and all municipalities report their needs. The problem is that they could not deliver on the needs. Mayor Naugle said it is lack of experience. The City Manager agreed. The advocacy was present, but the implementation was the issue. The first lesson learned is to continue to be as self-sufficient as possible because clearly each and every storm is making the City less reliant on other operations. If the outside organizations can be more effective in delivering service that will be a benefit, but the City cannot rely on them for the first 48 hours.

Mayor Naugle said that Fort Lauderdale was the only city out during the storm assessing damage.

Commissioner Moore said he is not implying a plan is not in place, but only suggesting that they offer the other entities an idea of where the City would like the sites for services

to be located, rather than be told where they would be situated. It will help the City utilize the sites more advantageously.

The City Manager said that has been done. The reason that the One Stop Shop is on tonight's agenda is because the City steered them in that direction. In some cases, agencies still do their own thing.

Commissioner Moore wanted there to be discussion about parking; it should not be a factor in deciding upon a site for services.

The City Manager said that during Katrina Fort Lauderdale was distributing ice before anyone else, and it was done in three different locations. Mayor Naugle said that the City was admonished for doing that because it was the other agency's job. The City Manager said they should not be critical because they need all the help that they can get. The fact of the matter is that in the first 48 hours everyone is in a certain degree of disarray or disorientation. Because the City is smaller, they can operate faster.

Mayor Naugle said all of the department heads were making rapid decisions on all kinds of problems. All things cannot be pre-planned because each storm is different. Some mistakes are made along the way.

Commissioner Moore said mistakes were made, but people are making attempts to do the right thing. He thanked everyone. He was thankful that resources are available to address some of the holes in the process.

Commissioner Moore reiterated the need for employee assistance. Mayor Naugle said that financial planning might be helpful considering the overtime that was paid.

Mills Pond; Debris from Hurricane Wilma

Mayor Naugle said that the chipping operation at Mills Pond is going very well however the southern portion, where the debris is located, needs to be emptied. It is beginning to decompose and needs to be removed due to the nearby residential area.

Commissioner Moore agreed that the debris needs to be removed.

V. City Manager Reports

Hurricane Wilma

The City Manager said that City staff is family. Everyone needs to be proud of them. Everyone worked 24/7 until the work was done. There was no power, no water, power lines down, streets blocked, people trapped in highrises, need for food, water, ice, fuel issues, looting, significant public safety issues. This was a massive operation. It was an awesome opportunity to see everyone work at their peak performance. He thanked everyone for their hard work and efforts. The key is self-sufficiency. It is not possible to rely on anyone in the first 48 hours. In the future various matters will be discussed where things could be improved for the future. He thanked everyone for being available.

Bond Rating; Organization of America States Assembly (OAS)

The City Manager said that word has been received today from Standard & Poor's that they are lifting the City's negative outlook. Also the City received \$800,000 from the State for the OAS. Mayor Naugle indicated they are trying to get a breakdown on how it was divided amongst the recipients.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED DOOR SESSION AT 2:20 P.M.

CONFERENCE MEETING RESUMED AT 3:05 P.M.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was recessed at approximately 3:07 p.m.