

**CITY COMMISSION OF THE  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE WORKSHOP**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006 – 9:30 A.M.**

Present: Mayor Naugle  
Vice Mayor Hutchinson, Commissioners Rodstrom, Teel and  
Commissioner Moore.

Also Present: Kathleen Gunn, Assistant City Manager  
Maxine Singh, Commission Assistant Coordinator  
Mark Armiento, Consultant

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager – George Gretsas  
City Attorney - Harry A. Stewart  
City Clerk - Jonda K. Joseph

The meeting convened at 9:45 a.m. at the Fire Station located at 528 NW 2 Street, third floor conference room.

**Team Building**

A slide presentation was reviewed by Mark Armiento, Consultant. It is attached as part of these minutes. A team assessment profile was presented and used for team building purposes during the workshop. It is attached as part of these minutes

Mr. Armiento asked that the Commission complete five or so index cards, indicating their goals, prioritize them and send them to the City Manager in the next week.

Commissioner Moore recalled when he was first elected, the Commission did more socializing as a group. He felt that was helpful to the group.

Break

Mayor Naugle suggested the City's core values could be more publicized. There was consensus that they should be printed on the agendas.

There was Commission consensus that the Commission's commitment to these values impacts the staff greatly.

Mayor Naugle felt one of the important values is service, everyone tries hard.

Commissioner Rodstrom wanted a focus on creativity.

Commissioner Teel felt that they should work on respect, set an example.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson returned to Commissioner Moore's previous comments about socializing. Commissioner Moore felt that it builds trust.

Mayor Naugle suggested a group event would be to tour areas on the new trolleys. Commissioner Moore felt that is already done.

With respect to socializing, there was consensus that quarterly each Commissioner could decide upon a luncheon site and topic focus.

Break.

Mr. Armiento suggested and there was consensus to begin such outings in the next week. There was consensus for the first outing to be in District I, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on the trolley with lunch at the Greek Isles restaurant.

Mr. Armiento wanted to contribute his fee to a charity, preferably one related to addiction and one with which the full Commission agrees.

The workshop recessed at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at City Hall, 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, at 12:37 p.m.

### **Goal Setting**

The City Manager reviewed a slide, including a look back to challenges faced in the last couple years, results and major challenges for the future. It is attached as part of these minutes.

The City Manager presented a four-minute montage – the year in review.

Mayor Naugle said this part of the meeting is for the Commission to give direction to the City Manager to assist in preparation of the upcoming budget.

### **Building Department**

Regarding quality of life, Vice Mayor Hutchinson felt money needs to be invested in the Building Department. She felt employees are being lost because of the pay scale. This should be a huge priority in the upcoming year.

Mayor Naugle said this is the largest area of weakness. He expressed concern about staffing for a high volume when the volume goes down. Using an outside firm is a good idea. However, if the City is having trouble attracting individuals for core positions, possibly compensation could be increased.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson elaborated upon the significant increase in volume of work. It is vital that the Commission provide direction and provide for some ramping up. Now, they feel like it is a black hole that they are never getting out. Mayor Naugle felt there should be a way to empower the Manager to bring things to the Commission and do things quickly with respect to hiring. In addition, the business hours should be examined.

The City Manager cautioned if something is done for one area, others have an expectation. There are costs involved.

Mayor Naugle said that such costs could be recovered through building permits, but the test would be if they are able to attract qualified personnel with the compensation being offered. It is market driven.

Commissioner Rodstrom felt that stabilization of property taxes is a priority, before making spending decisions.

The City Manager said during the budget presentation, the Commission will see the total amount of revenues, expenses, and how the funds are proposed to be expended. There will be public input.

Commissioner Moore said he hears from many individuals their frustrations in dealing with the Building Department and the permitting process. Two things had been done recently that should have an impact in the next 30-60 days to improve the situation. One is outside consulting for inspections. He asked the status of the situation.

Valerie Bohlander, Building Department, said they are presently using an inspection service. There is an RFP out which is due on June 15th for plan review services. She is only able to get one inspector from the company because all building departments are in the same shape.

Commissioner Moore felt that needs to be corrected if the trough is empty and everyone is going to the same trough. If this company cannot provide what is needed, the City needs to seek another company now.

The City Manager said they are mixing and matching services. Two companies have been retained.

In response to Commissioner Moore, Ms. Bohlander noted that the second company cannot provide any inspector. The City Manager indicated that this is the first time he is hearing about this services being supplied by the company. Ms. Bohlander said that the situation was just discovered, two weeks ago.

Commissioner Moore was interested in seeking out former inspectors who have worked with the City and have them return on a contract basis. He asked if there is some way to deal with private property owners obtaining permits and contractors seeking permits because of the repair work that needs to be done due to the hurricane aftermath. He wanted to use the Reserve to address this problem.

Mayor Naugle suggested exploring employees from other governmental entities with proper qualifications that are interested in working additional hours.

Commissioner Moore suggested using the old One Stop Shop facility for roofing permits only. Vice Mayor Hutchinson objected to using that facility because it is in disrepair. Mayor Naugle suggested Saturdays. Commissioner Teel agreed.

Mayor Naugle asked the City Manager to solve the situation in the best way he sees.

The City Manager believed the short-term solution is the private sector because of the timeline involved in the hiring process. A recommendation will be brought forward to the Commission at the next conference meeting.

Commissioner Moore reiterated his desire to have another site for individuals and information available to them when they arrive (not after waiting in line).

#### City Hall

Vice Mayor Hutchinson felt the City needs to cut bait with the County because a new City Hall is needed. Commissioner Moore agreed. Mayor Naugle agreed. Commissioner Teel agreed. Mayor Naugle said there could still be cooperation. Vice Mayor Hutchinson felt that staff needs Commission direction so they can begin planning.

#### Southside School

Vice Mayor Hutchinson wanted to complete the work on Southside School on time.

#### Police Headquarters

Commissioner Teel said they need to look seriously at building a new police headquarters because this has been going on too long. It should be placed on the 2006 ballot.

Mayor Naugle said that July is the deadline for getting items on the 2006 ballot.

The City Manager was concerned with the cost and did not want to place on the ballot a half-baked project.

Mayor Naugle said that they need to be mindful that the County will also be placing some items on the ballot. He asked if the Chief of Police could assist in putting together a plan that could be sold to the citizens for the 2006 ballot.

Chief Roberts felt they would need additional time, but agreed they are in desperate need. In order to do this correctly, he felt they would need until 2008.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson said if they wait until 2008, it would provide staff the opportunity to look at the needs of all the facilities in the City, and then possibly do a comprehensive bond to see what the public would support.

Mayor Naugle said there could be multiple funding sources, including a bond.

Commissioner Teel said the important part of this is to make a firm commitment for the 2008 ballot.

#### Storm Water Master Plan

Commissioner Teel referred to a storm water master plan which turns into the problems with the canals and waterways. They need to look at this. Mayor Naugle said that they need to look at maintenance dredging. Commissioner Teel further said the property owners on the water might have to implement a small increment, perhaps a special district, so this is not dependent only on the General Fund. This is an amenity which requires additional attention and maintenance. Mayor Naugle suggested possibly matching funds.

### Shopping Carts; Medians; Newspaper Racks

Commissioner Teel noted that the shopping cart ordinance, medians and newspaper racks all require attention for better quality of life and she was happy to see them emphasized in the Manager's presentation.

### NEAT Program

Commissioner Teel said the NEAT program caused havoc, but it is a great way to solve long-term problems.

Commissioner Moore felt the City's job is to enforce the Code and that is what he wants done.

Commissioner Teel planned to poll citizens in her district as to their interest in NEAT. Commissioner Moore stressed it was not so much NEAT as it is enforcing the Code.

### Sign Ordinance

Commissioner Teel wanted the sign ordinance enforced and particularly mentioned all of the signs damaged in the hurricanes that have not been replaced.

### Baseball Stadium Plan

Commissioner Teel hoped the City can do the baseball stadium plan because more ball fields are needed.

### The Landings Entrance

Commissioner Teel noted that the The Landings main entrance was been severely damaged. They need to fast-track a solution.

### Waterways

Commissioner Rodstrom said the waterways are used by everyone, and possibly a portion of monies could be dedicated toward maintenance of the waterways.

Mayor Naugle said the City receives Florida Inland Navigation District grants for the main areas.

Commissioner Teel indicated that FIND monies are not allowed for what she is talking about.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson asked if the storm water fees could be raised.

Commissioner Rodstrom said they should look for other funding for these situations.

Vice Mayor Hutchinson pointed out Lauderdale Isles has an improvement district which is \$15 on the tax bill and allows canal cleaning.

Commissioner Rodstrom was not in favor of a tax increase, if the items being discussed mean that is being considered.

### Crime

Commissioner Rodstrom noted that crime is a concern for her district.

Chief Roberts said there is a constant evolution in connection with the hiring and training of officers. During the past year, 126 officers have been hired and approximately 65-70 are presently in the training process. It takes 6-9 months or a year for the officers to reach the street. Mayor Naugle said that retirements are also occurring.

Commissioner Rodstrom asked how many police officers are involved in special details that possibly could be redeployed to solve these immediate crime problems. Chief Roberts said that he would provide specific numbers. 95% of the force is in front line units. Commissioner Rodstrom further stated that in her district crime is at a crisis level and it is spreading to other parts. Chief Roberts said they are attempting to do what the Commissioner is saying in terms of redeployment and direct most resources to those particular neighborhoods. Officers are not assigned to bicycles full-time. Sometimes, for example, however, bicycles are effective in neighborhoods. He elaborated on specifics in dealing with chronic property crime individuals.

Commissioner Rodstrom questioned whether there are enough officers assigned to the tactical unit. Chief Roberts offered to discuss this further with her.

### Property Assessments

Mayor Naugle said this is going to be a tough year for the City's residents because there was a \$4 billion increase in assessments, and \$500 million in new construction. The City needs to show restraint and roll back a significant amount.

### Efficiency

Commissioner Moore referred to the City Auditor coming onboard and indicated that government efficiency needs to be examined to find out where they are losing money. He noted the deficit for the Swimming Hall of Fame. He asked that they look at all facilities operating at a deficit so the Commission could consider reducing the budget.

The City Manager said for the record almost everything runs at a deficit because they are a service industry. A park loses money. He wanted to narrow the scope of what is to be reviewed. Commissioner Moore wanted to talk with him individually. For example, he noted an empty park with a \$35 fee while the Police Chief indicated that most of the crime is by juveniles. He wants to see the budget moved in a manner where individuals getting into trouble are occupied in a more productive way.

Commissioner Moore wanted to know facilities that are losing money in a major way. Some past examples have been the jail and the stadium.

### Bond Issue; Ball Fields, Golf Course

Commissioner Moore discussed property acquisition for additional ball parks. He wanted to consider a bond issue on the upcoming ballot for this purpose as well as the golf course. He wanted this to be scheduled for discussion on July 6.

Commissioner Teel wanted to know if the Governor is going to sign for the Orioles which will provide ball fields. She questioned mixing the ball fields with the golf course. She said there is a three-hole golf course at Osswald Park, and she hoped that could be improved.

#### Transportation; Transportation Manager, Traffic Engineer, Transportation Planner

Commissioner Moore believed there is a necessity to address hurricane preparedness, and he was disappointed with the reaction and quality of service received from the servicing entity. He felt that same problem exists regarding transportation. The City needs to provide a very defined position of needs. He wanted the transportation positions to be filled and if necessary increase the salary level. He felt part of the problem is that people relocating to this area cannot buy a home. He referred to a booklet available from FIU at the recent MPO meeting and suggested the City Manager get copies for his entire management staff and the Commission. Mayor Naugle suggested recruiting from areas where the housing cost is higher.

Albert Carbon, Director of Public Works, said they received three applications. They advertised in the International Transportation Engineers Magazine and website, American Public Works Association Magazine and website, the local newspaper, and the City's website. One applicant is from southern California, and the other two candidates are local. The situation comes down to salaries.

Commissioner Moore felt the Commission would support increasing compensation if necessary.

#### Golf Course

Commissioner Moore said he does not necessarily desire a bond for the golf course, but there should have been appropriated money for cleanup when it was mandated. There are several funding options. There should not be 60 some acres in the City's ownership not being used.

Mayor Naugle asked about issuing an RFP to see if anyone would want to build a facility at the site. Commissioner Moore said he does not care what funding process. Incentives might be helpful. The City Manager indicated an RFP was sent out. There is some interest, but there is a gap in terms of cost. Commissioner Moore wanted to see the study from two years ago for the July 6 meeting.

#### Quality of Life Issues

Commissioner Rodstrom did not believe that a monetary amount could be placed on all quality of life issues. There are things running at a deficit, but if improved, could enhance the quality of life. Commissioner Moore concurred. Mayor Naugle said that possibly another entity would be interested in picking up some things.

#### Other Business

The City Manager said the Commission requested three items be raised today: (1) Commission budget, (2) advisory board appointment process, and (3) protocol, which was addressed this morning.

With respect to the budget, there was consensus to schedule it at a conference meeting.

Commissioner Moore suggested discussion of the Commission budget be scheduled for the Commission's next conference meeting.

Mayor Naugle said the Commission needs a list of outside boards and organizations on which members of the Commission serve. He asked the City Clerk to collect such information and provide it.

The workshop adjourned was concluded at 2:26 p.m.